

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*

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November 15, 2014 - January 16, 2015

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## *In the News*



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# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## Electronic Media

- November 17 - WTXL - TCC partners with universities in Project on Accountable Justice
- November 17 - WCTV - Gadsden Center groundbreaking ceremony takes place in Quincy
- November 19 - WTXL - TCC men's and women's basketball start season on unbeaten streaks
- November 19 - WTXL - Dirk Williams signs with UAB basketball
- November 24 - WTXL - TCC professor Frank Baglione featured in JFK retrospective
- November 26 - WTXL - TCC hosts Capital Courtyard Classic basketball tournament
- December 5 - WCTV - Applebee's Men's Classic basketball tournament held at TCC
- December 10 - WTXL - Men's basketball rises to #11 in NJCAA poll
- December 13 - WTWC - Heather Mitchell coming on as Director of TCC Foundation
- December 22 - WTXL - TCC hosts Capital City Classic tournament for high school boys basketball
- December 27 - WTWC - TCC dental hygiene/assisting students get hands-on work experience
- January 7 - WCTV - Spring 2015 semester begins at TCC and other Tallahassee colleges
- January 9 - WTXL - Kimberly Moore comments on President Obama's free college proposal
- January 10 - WCTV - TCC baseball holds its first practice of the 2015 season
- January 13 - WCTV - Turner Auditorium to host homeless panel discussion and fundraiser
- January 14 - WCTV - TCC students react to President Obama's free college proposal
- January 15 - WCTV - Entrepreneur Johnny Earle of "Johnny Cupcakes" speaks at TCC

## International students in spotlight at TCC

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

TCC kicks off International Education Week with the International Parade of Nations at 12:30 p.m. today.

Students create a display around the campus flagpole, each filing in with his or her country's flag, followed by an introduction in the student's native language.

The event will feature remarks from Asra Nomani, author of "Standing Alone in Mecca: An American Woman's Struggle for the Soul of Islam." Nomani will speak on international women's rights at 3 p.m. in the Student union. She teaches journalism at Georgetown University and is co-director of the Pearl Project, named for her fellow reporter Daniel Pearl, who was murdered in Pakistan in 2002.

For a schedule of TCC International Education Week events, visit [www.tcc.fl.edu](http://www.tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC earns awards for marketing, communications

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

TCC recently earned top honors at the state and regional levels for its communications and marketing messages.

TCC brought home a total of 21 awards from the latest Association of Florida Colleges (AFC) and National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) southeastern district conferences.

The NCMPR District 2 Medallion Awards recognize outstanding achievement in communications at community and technical colleges in District 2. It is the only regional competition of its kind that honors excellence exclusively among marketing and PR professionals at two-year colleges.

For information, contact Katie Williams at 850-201-6217 or [williak@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:williak@tcc.fl.edu).

## **TCC groundbreaking today in Quincy**

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

A public groundbreaking ceremony for TCC's new, permanent home in Gadsden County will be held from 4-5:30 p.m. today.

The college invites community members to help celebrate and learn more about TCC's plans for the new facility in Quincy.

Food and entertainment will be provided at the event. There will also be a drawing for two \$500 scholarships to TCC.

Attendees should enter on West Clark Street off Pat Thomas Parkway. TCC plans to build a 4,700-square-foot building on the site, a 1.42-acre parcel of land that was donated by the City of Quincy.

The new Gadsden Center will continue to offer the programs and services currently provided at the TCC Quincy House.

## TCC basketball remains undefeated

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (LOCAL BRIEFS)

No. 1 Tallahassee Community College improved to 7-0 with a 97-71 victory over Gordon (Ga.) State College on Tuesday evening at the Bill Hebrock Eagledome.

Four players scored in double figures for Tallahassee led by Elmo Stephen's 18.

Earlier on Tuesday, Stephen was named NJCAA Region 8/FCSAA Men's Basketball Player of the Week after averaging 29.0 points in the Eagles' two weekend victories at the Applebee's Okefenokee Classic, hosted by South Georgia State College.

Cameron Smith scored 17 and pulled down nine rebounds. Eric Nottage added 14 and Dirk Williams chipped in with 13.

The Eagles outscored the Highlanders in the second half 48-33 on the strength of 55.6 percent (20-of-36) shooting from the floor. Tallahassee hit 40-of-76 shots (52.6 percent) for the game.

The Eagles also dominated the glass, outrebounding Gordon State 43-23.

## TCC basketball

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (LOCAL BRIEFS)

Tallahassee Community College's Elmo Stephen on Tuesday was named NJCAA Region 8/FCSAA Men's Basketball Player of the Week.

Stephen, a sophomore forward from Tallahassee, led the FCSAA No. 1 Eagles to a pair of victories at last weekend's Applebee's Okefenokee Classic, hosted by South Georgia State College.

In two games, Stephen averaged 29.0 points and 3.0 rebounds while shooting 46.7% (21-of-45) from the floor and 45.0 percent (9-of-20) from the three-point line.

He also hit all seven of his free throw attempts.

## TCC breaks ground for new campus

BYRON SPIRES  
HAVANA HERALD

The groundbreaking ceremony for Tallahassee Community College's new, permanent home in Gadsden County was held Monday afternoon at the corner of Clark Street and Pat Thomas Parkway.

The new Gadsden Center will be a 4,700-square-foot building on a 1.42-acre parcel of land that was donated by the City of Quincy.

The Gadsden Center will continue to offer the same programs and services currently provided at the TCC Quincy House.

TCC Trustee Eugene Lamb, who has been a longtime advocate for building a new facility, praised the City of Quincy for its donation of the property.

Lamb represents Gadsden County on the TCC Trustee Board.

The Quincy House Service Center for TCC has been located on Adams Street in Quincy for ten years.

This new location and state-of-the-art building, Lamb explained, will allow TCC to have a permanent home in Gadsden County.

"This should make it clear to everyone that TCC is deeply committed to having a meaningful presence in Gadsden County," Lamb said.

Lamb explained that not only would the new facility have the same programs, but will add a well-equipped lab to train HVAC technicians.

"It's a great opportunity for us to grow our partnership," Lamb said.

Trustee Randy Pople, who also represents Gadsden County, said that he had seen life-changing experiences from students at TCC.

"I'm excited about watching this facility change lives," he said.

"This is an incredibly exciting moment," TCC President Jim Murdaugh said of the groundbreaking.

School superintendent Reginal James said TCC had played an important part in the success of the school

district's improvement with programs like dual enrollment and the corrections officer programs.

The new facility, James said, was "a great step forward for Gadsden County."

"I welcome this metamorphosis from the Quincy House to the Gadsden Center," Quincy Mayor Derrick Elias said.

County Commission Chairman Eric Hinson said this is another way that Gadsden County was now open for business.

"This facility is in the perfect location to be seen by everyone," County Commissioner Sherrie Taylor said.

County Administrator Robert Presnell stated the county commission was serious about economic growth and development and the new TCC Gadsden Center was a part of that.

Lee Garner, chairman of the Gadsden County Development Council, said he had confidence that "through this asset we are celebrating today we can all work together."

Gadsden County Chamber President Richard May said the Chamber was looking forward to working with TCC to meet the county's needs.

Jim Pattillo, plant manager of Coastal Plywood Company, said training offered at TCC has benefitted his company and he praised TCC for the new facility.

Roger Milton, school board member and manager of the TCC House, talked about the importance of the facility and the endless possibilities it will offer.

## Aiming for opportunities

KENDRICK BROWN

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

Tallahassee Community College symbolically broke ground for its Gadsden Center on Monday in Quincy at an event attended by commissioners and officials from different municipalities across the county.

The 5,000-square-foot facility is set to be located across from the Conference Center off Pat Thomas Highway on land donated to the college by the city of Quincy and will cost approximately \$1.4 million to build. About 2,000 square feet of the campus will be dedicated to HVAC training, as TCC President Jim Murdaugh said many people in the community expressed interest in that type of program. He also said TCC intends to make the facility a “showpiece,” like the facility in Wakulla County, that aesthetically represents the college well.

The center was described by Gadsden County Commission Chairman Eric Hinson as something that will improve the ability and knowledge of Gadsden County’s workforce. Hinson said one of the main concerns he hears from companies considering a move to Gadsden County is whether there is a workforce that can keep up with the company’s demands.

“The missing link for young people with the ability to succeed is training and education,” said TCC Trustee Randy Pople. “I’m excited to watch the facility and instructors who work at the facility change the lives of students in Gadsden County.”

At the end of the event, the results for a drawing for two \$500 scholarships to TCC were announced. 14-year-old Shy’Javious Eutsay, an East Gadsden High student who plans to study medicine in college, won one and Murdaugh won the other.

## TCC wins award for communications, marketing

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

Tallahassee Community College recently earned top honors at the state and regional levels for its communications and marketing messages.

TCC brought home a total of 21 awards from the latest Association of Florida Colleges (AFC) and National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) southeastern district conferences. TCC won the third-most awards out of 128 schools in the district for NCMPR.

### ----- NCMPR District 2 Awards

#### Gold

Successful Recruitment Marketing Program – TCC2FSU

College Video Program – Channel 22's "The SKiNNY: What's Your Story With Bomani Jones"

Video Advertisement – TCC2FSU commercial

Online Newsletter – "Around the Campus" newsletter

Banners and Outdoor Media Advertising – TCC Eagles Banner

Poster – "Party/Crash" Poster for TheatreTCC!

#### Silver

Social Media Messaging/Campaigns – TCC2FSU

Logo Design – Brighter Day and Virtual Learning Commons

Student Handbook

TCC2FSU postcard

Print Advertisement – "Register Now" ad

College Promotional Video – "TCC Strategic Plan"

College Video Program – "The SKiNNY: Paying for College" and "TCC Report: 2014 Graduation Special"

#### Bronze

Feature Article – "Student Veteran and Purple Heart Recipient Finds Support at TCC"

Blogs – "Providing Equity of Opportunity for Our Students"

The NCMPR District 2 Medallion Awards recognize outstanding achievement in communications at community and technical colleges in District 2. It is the only regional competition of its kind that honors excellence exclusively among marketing and PR professionals at two-year colleges.

### ----- AFC Communications and Marketing Commission Awards

#### First Place

Social Media – "Countdown to Commencement" campaign

Newsletter – "Around the Campus"

#### Second Place

Single Sheet Flier – "Resumania"

Video/Electronic Promotion

The AFC Awards recognize excellence among Florida community college marketing and communications professionals. Since 1949, the AFC has become the most inclusive higher education organization serving any college system in the nation.

## Inspiration

GREGG STANTON

WAKULLA NEWS (UNDERWATER WAKULLA)

With 95% of the planet's surface covered by water, how can students safely experience this underwater world and find inspiration to pursue a career there? For the past year, several of us have been offering glimpses of this world through a Tallahassee Community College Wakulla Environmental Institute (WEI) course called Introduction to Professional Diving. Yes, of course, the WEI is all about preparing students for aquatic jobs, but basic skills and inspiration are pre-requisites.

We began with weekly lectures opening as many black boxes about working underwater as possible. The basics included topics in oceanography (wind, waves and currents), physics (environment density), human physiology (cells under pressure), marine life (hazardous and otherwise), and the tools (Nitrox breathing mixtures, & management of decompression stress) needed to avoid the harmful effects of an aquatic existence. We offered skilling in buoyancy control in a three dimensional environment, trim with improved propulsion, and underwater sight. By adding stored breathing gasses, our intrepid students stayed underwater longer than ever before, at first with one cylinder on their back, then two, then one on each side, then gasses supplied from the surface. With each improvement came a realization that working in this alien world was not only possible, it was exciting! They began by building structures underwater, then surveyed creatures underwater, performed rescues and ultimately conducting work without sight.

Last week we finally introduced commercial diving, both in lecture discussing the nature of underwater employment as a diver, and in the pool, diving the hard hat called the Superlite 17. We were able to rebuild several surplus hard hats and a Dive Control Station (DCS) for surface supplied communications and gasses delivered through a 4-cable umbilical to the Superlite rigged divers underwater. Students rotated through the role of DCS manager, Tender, Diver and Standby such that by the end of the day, they experienced the full potential of the technology. Yes, they talked underwater to and from the surface, through 150 feet of umbilical.

Several days later they were conducting checkout dives off the St. Andrews Jetties in Panama City, part of the required exposure to the real underwater world, to

become a certified diver. But the best is yet to come. This week, with the assistance of the Leon County Sheriff's Dive Team, these same students will be asked to solve an underwater (sham) crime scene, using the tools they have been provided, and a new tool called the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). Dr. Joerg Hess from Rebreather Solutions will discuss Underwater Criminology and the tools used by that discipline, before turning the pool over to the students to resolve their next challenge. FAMU's Criminology Department is expected to participate since the (mock) crime scene is in their pool!

This exciting WEI course winds up with lectures on Closed Circuit Rebreathers and pool dives using the latest Rebreather technology (5 hour bottom time and no bubbles!). The final pool session is actually a visit to the Hyperbaric Chamber located at the Capital Regional Medical Center, under the direction of William Kepper, MD.

Every step of the way, students are exposed to employment opportunity, from a Dive Technologist, to Recreational Leader (AI, Dive Master & Instructor), to a Diving Scientist, to a Commercial Diver, to an Underwater Criminologist, to a Hyperbaric Specialist, just to name a few. Our motive is to inspire these students to seek a career underwater.

## TCC students, staff excel at ACU conference

WCTV

TCC students and staff received top honors at the Association of College Unions International Region III conference in Atlanta.

TCC student Kylie Bryan-Vertz, the vice president of the college's Student Government Association, participated on the first-place-winning team in the Facility of the Future contest at Georgia State University, in which participants from different schools were required to collaborate on a design for a futuristic student union to meet the needs of students. TCC SGA president Delaitre Hollinger and his team received second-place honors in the contest, which was the culmination of the conference's Student Experience: Challenge Project.

In addition, Campus and Civic Engagement director Michael Coleman was honored with the Smith-Steele Award, ACUI Region III's highest honor for a college staff member.

"Campus and Civic Engagement's mission is to give students the skills to become student leaders that stand out in the community and represent TCC well," said Coleman. "It was a great experience to see how engaged our students were and how they stood out among other institutions."

The College sent a delegation of eight students and three staff members to the ACUI Region III conference, a leadership and professional development symposium. Out of 20 schools from seven states and two countries, TCC was the only school to place students on each of the top two teams.

## TCC women open Capital Courtyard Classic with win

BRAD DALTON

WTVL

Wendion Bibbins recorded a double-double – 11 points and 10 rebounds – and three other players scored in double-figures as Tallahassee Community College scored an 87-37 win over Southern Union State (Ala.) Community College on Tuesday evening in opening day action at the Capital Courtyard Classic.

Marija Pacar led all players with 17 points. Aiyannah Peal added 12 and Jeremica Edwards scored 10.

The Eagles dominated the second half as they put 50 points on the board and dominated the glass, outrebounding Southern Union 54-25.

Tallahassee will continue play in the Capital Courtyard Classic at 4 p.m. Wednesday against Daytona State College.

## TCC knocked from ranks of unbeaten

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (LOCAL BRIEFS)

Top-ranked Tallahassee Community was knocked from the ranks of the unbeaten on Thursday in men's basketball.

No. 11 Southwest Tennessee Community College rebounded from its first loss of the season and beat the Eagles, 84-76, in the final game of the Capital Courtyard Classic.

TCC dropped to 9-1.

The Eagles trailed by as many as 22 points in the early stages of the second half before mounting a late charge.

Dirk Williams finished with 17 points to lead Tallahassee. Elmo Stephen and Eric Nottage added 15 each and Norbertas Giga scored 13.

The Eagles return to action next weekend, when they host the Applebee's Men's Basketball Classic.

In the women's game on Thursday, No. 3 Tallahassee Community College got its biggest win of the season on Thursday, knocking off No. 13 Walters State (Tenn.) Community College 46-28 during the final day of the Capital Courtyard Classic.

TCC finished the Classic a perfect 3-0 to improve to 9-1 on the season.

On Wednesday, TCC raced out to a 27-point halftime lead over Jefferson Davis (Ala.) Community College and was never threatened, defeating the Warhawks 79-52 in its opening game of the Capital Courtyard Classic.

Elmo Stephen scored 14 points and Jahvaughn Powell matched the point total in a reserve role to lead the Eagles offensively. Powell also had three rebounds, four assists and two steals.

Rysheed Corbin and Williams added 11 points each. Stavian Allen narrowly missed a double-double, scoring nine points and pulling down eight rebounds.

In the women's game on Wednesday, No. 4 TCC picked up a 65-54 win over No. 6 Daytona State College. En route to the victory, the Eagles overcame a dismal start and an early nine-point deficit.

Tallahassee forced 34 turnovers for the game, which resulted in 31 points.

## It's the people! Thanks to friends and colleagues

KELLY OTTE & ALYCE LEE STANSBURY

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (NOTES ON NONPROFITS)

Kelly: We hope you have enjoyed your Thanksgiving and that you have had the opportunity to be warm and safe and to spend time with people you love. This week we'd like to share with you what we are grateful for in our work with nonprofits.

I love the season of thankfulness. I hope that I live my life showing my gratitude but it's also nice to spend time contemplating the gifts in my life during this holiday season. And while this column is devoted to nonprofits I have to steal a moment and publicly appreciate the people closest to me. I am grateful my sister Shannon and my nephew Josh came in from Nevada and we had our first Thanksgiving meal together in 38 years. I'm thankful for my husband Scott and our two entertaining children, Alex and Samantha. I'm grateful we were all together for an early Thanksgiving meal, along with Haley, Andie, Barby, Justin, Lydia & Shaeley.

I'm thankful for the people I work with in the nonprofit world, both past and present. I'm always amazed at the level of commitment and conviction they bring to changing and saving lives. People like Debbie Klein who turned tragedy into determination to help battered women find peace. And LaShawn Gordon who will do whatever it takes to help girls in need get what they need. I could tell stories all day long about the determination of colleagues and the joy I have had in working with them.

I'm grateful to quality board members I've worked with over the years. I won't name names because I'll get myself in trouble but you'll recognize who they are by my descriptions. They are the board members that ask questions before they say yes to serving, read board packets before board meetings, leverage resources to get things done for the organization, make personal sacrificial financial contributions and do exactly what they say they will do when they say they will do it.

I'm thankful for the volunteers who give time to nonprofits in a million different ways. Volunteers like Fanne Smith, who sadly passed away recently. Mrs. Smith donated her time two days a week at ECHO and two days a week at PACE Center for Girls for more than 15 years. While not everyone is able to give that kind of time, I'm grateful for every volunteer who commits to helping and then shows up consistently.

Alyce Lee: Like Kelly, I am incredibly grateful for my family and friends who bring joy and happiness to my life. In my work, I am very thankful for my amazing clients and the tremendous privilege of serving them. I see the work they do every day to change lives and consider it an honor to help such a wide range of nonprofit organizations, led by dedicated staff and volunteer leaders, accomplish their important missions. I'm thankful for them and the absolute pleasure of doing what I love.

**I'm thankful for the newly established Institute for Nonprofit Institute for Innovation and Excellence (INIE) and all the people who helped bring it to life. This includes many nonprofit and business leaders (you know you are!) who worked behind the scenes for years to build interest, consensus, and support for the "one-stop shop" concept of helping nonprofits thrive and strengthen the community as a whole. More recently, I am thankful for Jim Murdaugh and Kim Moore at Tallahassee Community College for supporting and breathing life into INIE this year. It wouldn't have happened without you.**

As a fundraiser, I'm thankful for people who give a part of themselves to help propel a nonprofit organization forward so it, in turn, can make Tallahassee a better place to live and work. When asked for a gift, I'm thankful for every person, organization, foundation, and business who says yes.

Kelly and I are both thankful to Bob Gabordi, Martha Gruender, and the Tallahassee Democrat for the privilege of writing this column. We are lucky to have this forum for discussing the challenges and opportunities of a robust nonprofit sector and its impact on and benefit to the community. We're thankful for Dave Hodges and will miss working with him.

Finally, we're thankful for the readers of this column who contribute greatly to its content and quality with your comments, questions and feedback. You make us better by pushing us to know more and share more. So keep on pushing and asking; we're thankful for you!

## United Way CEO Mitchell off to TCC

Fundraising veteran, community leader is the “right fit,” president says

DOUG BLACKBURN

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Heather Mitchell, president and CEO of United Way of the Big Bend for almost three years, is stepping down to be vice president for resource development at Tallahassee Community College. She will also be executive director of the TCC Foundation.

Mitchell’s move was announced during a UWBB board conference call Monday morning.

“I just think it’s the right time. We’ve accomplished so much in the past three years,” Mitchell said. “I think people now see United Way as a catalyst, as a place that creates solutions for the community.”

TCC President Jim Murdaugh, who is also on the UWBB board, described Mitchell as “the right fit” for TCC. She fills a vacancy created earlier this year when Robin Johnston’s contract was not renewed at TCC.

“I think it’s a coup for the community. One of the things that certainly I find quite appealing about Heather joining the team is that she understands we’re more than a community college – we’re a community institution,” Murdaugh said. “She has demonstrated a real heart for the community in what she does. She has a history of raising funds to help people’s lives.”

Mitchell, 43, graduated from Marianna High and earned an associate’s degree at Chipola College before getting a bachelor’s at Florida State.

She has deep roots in the Leon County community. Mitchell is a former executive director of the Tallahassee Ballet and also had served as executive director of Florida Trust for Historic Preservation in Tallahassee.

Ron Sachs, UWBB board chair, praised Mitchell for her leadership during the past three years. A committee will be formed to conduct a national search, Sachs said. It will also consider local candidates.

Mitchell rose to the occasion when there was a crisis involving the Shelter about 18 months ago, Sachs said. She made sure that UWBB, the primary funding source for the overnight facility for the homeless, stayed involved as the Shelter hired a new director and established new rules for its employees.

“I have to give Heather a huge compliment for the way she led with restraint, wisdom and passion,” Sachs said. “Someone will succeed her but it will be very difficult to replace her.”

UWBB recently was awarded the largest grant in the organization’s history, a five-year \$3 million grant to fund a partnership between UWBB and Leon County Schools that would enhance after-school programming.

Mitchell will start at TCC on Feb. 3, three years after she was promoted from vice president for resource development to CEO at UWBB. She joined UWBB in 2006.

Mitchell will earn \$135,000 in her new position at TCC. At UWBB, she made \$110,901, the non-profit’s federal tax filing from last year showed.

UWBB is a non-profit social services hub that coordinates funding for non-profits throughout the eight-county Big Bend region. It was founded in February 1943.

## TCC takes two wins in Classic

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (LOCAL BRIEFS)

No. 2 Tallahassee Community College jumped out to a 42-25 lead at the half and cruised to an 81-47 win over TAAG (Fla.) Academy on Saturday at the Applebee's Men's Basketball Classic.

The Eagles are now 11-1, their best start since 2007-08 when they began the season 14-1.

Saturday's game was never in doubt.

Tallahassee shot 51.6 percent (16-of-31) from the floor in the first half en route to a 17-point lead and limited the Ambassadors to just 27.7 percent (13-of-47) shooting for the game.

The Eagles also had one of their best nights from beyond the arc, knocking down 14-of-31 (45.2 percent). Dirk Williams did most of the damage from long distance, connecting on 5-of-8, part of a 20-point night for the UAB signee.

He was the only Eagle in double-figures but 11 total players broke into the scoring column. Elmo Stephen, Rysheed Corbin and Brandon Cheeks had nine points each.

In play on Friday, TCC needed a rally in the closing minutes to defeat Faulkner (Ala.) State Community College 90-82.

The Eagles had to rally on two different occasions in the final 20 minutes to claim the victory. They erased a 44-39 halftime deficit by scoring the first 12 points in the second half. Then, trailing 78-76 with 4:56 remaining, Tallahassee closed the game on a 14-4 run to nab the win.

Elmo Stephen finished with 23 points, leading five players in double-figures for Tallahassee.

Eric Nottage was next with 13 and finished one rebound shy of a triple-double. He recorded nine rebounds and ten assists.

Regan Eubanks scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half to pace Faulkner State.

Tallahassee will break for final exams then return to play December 13-14 at the annual Florida College's Men's Basketball Shootout in Ocala.

## Radio show, bank raise \$8,000 for TCC Foundation

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

WFLA-FM Morning Show host Preston Scott has partnered with Prime Meridian Bank to raise funds for the Working For Limitless Achievement scholarship benefitting the TCC Foundation.

Scott's morning show listeners raised nearly \$5,000 for the scholarship. Prime Meridian Bank matched the first \$3,000 in donations for a total just under \$8,000.

The TCC Foundation awards the scholarship to students who work and go to school, or those who require financial assistance to complete their education but do not qualify for traditional scholarship programs.

The scholarship was created for students who are working and do not qualify for Pell grants, but do qualify for and need loans. The aim is to reduce the amount of debt for students.

## Crappie USA returns to Lake Talquin for \$10K event

THE FISHING WIRE

"America's Premier National Crappie Fishing Tournament Organization" will return to Florida's Lake Talquin January 16 - 17, 2015 for a 2-day \$10,000.00 Super Event. This is the opportunity for local anglers to compete for cash, prizes and a chance to advance to the 2015 Cabela's Crappie USA Classic. This year's Classic event will be October 7 - 10, 2015 on Patoka Lake at Jasper, Indiana. Be sure to check out our website at: [www.crappieusa.com](http://www.crappieusa.com) and like our Crappie USA Tournament Trail Facebook Page. Both sites contain new and exciting information on our events along with special information for crappie anglers everywhere.

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Registration and Seminar

**A pre-tournament seminar will be held on Thursday evening January 15 at the Florida Public Safety Institute (Suite 203), 75 College Drive in Havana. Sign up will begin at 5:00pm with the meeting and a National Sponsor Field Test Product Drawing starting at 7:00pm local time. This seminar is open to the public. For those not fishing the event, we encourage you to come out to this meeting and meet the top crappie anglers in the region.**

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The Weigh In Site

The tournament weigh-ins will be held on Friday the 16 and Saturday the 17th at the Whippoorwill Sportsman's Lodge, 3129 Cooks Landing Road, Quincy beginning at 3:00pm. This is the perfect opportunity for non-competitors to come and learn how the big ones are caught. Interviews of the top 5 teams will be conducted after the weigh in.

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(Note: This article truncated for relevance to TCC.)

## Nonprofit tip of the week

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Strategic planning is not the most riveting discussion topic, but it is nonetheless important for nonprofits to understand.

Strategic planning allows for a nonprofit's board and staff to commit to measurable goals by realistically looking at the particular organization, the demographic of the county and the impact the organization will make now and in the future.

Here are some questions to assist you through the strategic planning process:

How will stakeholders be engaged?

How will the leaders translate all of the content into coherent strategies? How will the approved strategies be implemented?

For content: What is our vision for the future of the organization? What is our mission and does it describe our reason for continued existence? What values define and drive the organization's culture?

It is important through this process that the members of your board and other key stakeholders remain mission-driven.

## TCC men's basketball

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (LOCAL BRIEFS)

Tallahassee Community College climbed three spots to No. 11 in the new NJCAA Division I Men's Basketball Poll, released on Tuesday.

The Eagles improved to 11-1 with wins over Faulkner (Ala.) State Community College and TAAG (Fla.) Academy at last weekend's Applebee's Men's Basketball Classic.

## TCC men's, women's teams nationally ranked

JORDAN CULVER

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee is home to two nationally-ranked basketball teams, and neither team is from one of the city's two universities.

Both of Tallahassee Community College's basketball teams are in the middle of successful seasons, and so far both the men's and women's teams are picking up national attention.

TCC's men's basketball team (12-1) is ranked No. 11 by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). The Eagles were ranked as high as fourth in the nation before the team lost its first game against Southwest Tennessee Community College on Nov. 27.

TCC's men's team will return home on Dec. 30 after a three-game road trip to face Garrett (McHenry, Md.) Community College. Head coach Eddie Barnes, who is in his 14th and final year of coaching the Eagles, said he's pleased with the season so far.

"We're 11th in the country," he said.

"We're No. 2 in the state. We've come out of the chutes really fast and we've done a really good job. We have three players back from last year. Those three sophomores have done a really good job leading and playing. I can't argue with our sophomores and the freshmen have followed the sophomores."

Not to be outdone, the women's team (11-2) is ranked No. 14 in the country. Franqua Bedell, called "Coach Q" at TCC, is in his second year coaching the women's team. He said the season is going "fairly well," and is pleased with his team's place in the nation.

Before this weekend's games, when the team was 9-2, Bedell said he was happy with the team's record.

"I would have expected us to be 11-0," he said on Thursday.

"This is my first full class I was able to recruit to get players in. We're getting players to mesh. We've got three Division I transfers, four sophomores who returned from last year's team and we've got a bunch of freshmen. I would take 9-2 right now."

Both teams won Saturday games. The women beat Miami-Dade College 64-54 in a game where 11 different players scored, and the men beat State College of Florida 87-60. The teams return home on Dec. 30, but both groups still have multiple away games before coming back to Tallahassee.

The men are back on the court Sunday against No. Eastern Florida State College.

Barnes and Bendell said if fans come out to see the teams at the Vill Hebrock Eagledome on TCC's campus, they'll be treated to exciting and athletic games.

"We're definitely in a college town," Barnes said.

"With all of the high school and supposedly being the third spoke on the wheel in the city, sometimes it's hard (to get fans to come out). But I think once people come out and they see the level of ball we're playing, it becomes exciting. I've seen the gym packed with standing-room only and people on the outside trying to get in."

Bendell agreed with Barnes and said fans who come out might get a chance to see future Division I superstars.

"I think what's enticing is the next player at Florida State might be playing here and leading us to something special," he said. "There's a lot of different talent here. We've got kids getting recruited all across the country. There's a high level of basketball being played here."

## TCC Women's History Month nominees sought

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

TCC's Women's History Month Committee is now accepting nominations for its annual Women's History Month Celebration.

Nominees must have lived in Leon, Gadsden or Wakulla counties for at least two years and achieved significant success in areas related to women's issues, transforming culture or society, history or politics, or as leaders, writers, scientists, educators, artists or other areas related to the 2015 Women's History Month theme, "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives."

Nominations are due by Monday, Jan. 5. The Women's History Month Ceremony will be held on March 25. Nominations can be submitted online or download a nomination form to return by Jan. 5 at [www.tcc.fl.edu/whm](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/whm).

## TCC to host Leadercast 2015

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

TCC will be a host site for Leadercast 2015, broadcast live on Friday, May 8, 2015, from Atlanta to more than 100,000 leaders around the globe.

Leadercast features world-renowned leaders speaking straight to local leaders about issues that impact their organizations and communities. The Leadercast Tallahassee site will be TCC's Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education.

Speakers include Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai and Rudy Giuliani, 107th mayor of New York City. For full speaker line up, go to [leadercast.com/live](http://leadercast.com/live).

Cost: \$79 until Jan. 8, \$89 Jan. 9–Feb. 28, \$99 March 1–May 6. Group rates are available. To purchase tickets, visit: <https://www.xorbia.com/e/lc454/Leadercast-2015>.

For information, contact Marissa Mainwood at (850) 201-8760 or [mainwoom@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:mainwoom@tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC receives high marks from military magazine

ELIZABETH WHITE

WTVL

Tallahassee Community College received high marks in Military Advanced Education magazine's 2015 Guide to Colleges and Universities.

The magazine says the high marks come because of the school's commitment to educating current and former members of the armed forces.

The magazine specifically ranked TCC among the top schools in the country for military culture. It also ranked highly in flexibility and on-campus support.

Nearly 600 schools participated in the survey.

Meanwhile, Florida State was ranked among the top ten schools in the nation earlier this week in Military Times magazine as a best college for vets.

## TCC's Fire Academy: Class raises money for two causes

CHRYS IVEY GOODWYNE

CHRONICLE

Students in Recruit Class 016 of Tallahassee Community College's Tallahassee Fire Academy are proving that an education is about more than coursework.

Beyond their required 450 hours of coursework, the soon-to-be graduates have also learned the importance of giving back to the community.

"We require the students to develop a community service project in order to instill a strong sense of servant leadership and civic responsibility," said Melvin Stone, TFA director. "The project reinforces the meaning of community involvement, raises awareness regarding those who are less fortunate and it allows them to be actively engaged in a humanitarian initiative."

Under Stone's leadership, each class is required to organize a class project in which it raises money to present to a local charity. While Stone serves as a guide throughout the project, the students have final say in what the fundraising event will be and where the proceeds will go.

On November 16, Class 016 held a car wash at Cody's Restaurant in Tallahassee and raised \$1,462.14 to support two initiatives.

The students will present \$750.00 to the American Red Cross at 11:30 am on Monday, December 15 at Cody's Restaurant. The remaining \$750.00 will be presented to the TCC Foundation/FPSI Legacy Walk at the TFA graduation ceremony on Tuesday, December 16.

According to Stone, the recruits are advised that "the best gift you can give someone is your time because you're giving them something that you'll never get back" and "true heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but to serve others at whatever cost."

"In short, we put the 'serve' back in 'service,'" Stone said.

For information, contact Melvin Stone at (850) 558-4366 or [stoneme@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:stoneme@tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC offering introduction to professional diving course

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute, in conjunction with the Wakulla Diving Center, will again offer a semester-long Introduction to Professional Diving course in Spring 2015.

The training will be held at the Florida A&M University pool, in cooperation with the Florida A&M Aquatics Program. The class meets on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 6 p.m. in room 006 of the FAMU Rattler Aquatics Center.

In addition to in-state or out-of-state tuition, as appropriate, the three-credit-hour course will have a lab fee of \$303. Applicants must take a swim test before beginning the course.

The 16-week multidisciplinary course will train students in the fundamentals of basic diving, with the opportunity to learn the elements of professional diving. Students will learn basic and advanced diving skills and receive training in life support tools, hose diving, side-mounts, closed-circuit re-breathers, and remotely operated underwater vehicles (ROVs). Upon course completion, students will become qualified as SCUBA open-circuit air and nitrox divers.

"This is an exciting, unique opportunity for students and will be the first of many yet to come at our Wakulla based Environmental campus as it continues to grow," said Bob Ballard, executive director of the TCC Wakulla Environmental Institute.

This introductory course targets students who wish to extend their skills in compressed-gas diving and have a desire to work underwater, with an appreciation of the underwater environment, its inhabitants and the life-support technology that enables workers to perform meaningful tasks. Career opportunities in this field include dive technologist, assistant dive instructor, dive master and dive instructor. Future courses are being developed to facilitate these career fields.

Among upcoming opportunities in Wakulla County will be the eventual diving exploration of the natural cave system and sinkholes that run under the TCC Wakulla Environmental Institute campus, possibly linking the campus to the Gulf of Mexico.

"As our courses continue to develop and our students become more professionally trained, the cave systems may prove to be ideal for the training of cave divers," said Ballard.

For information, contact Kate Stewart, dean of the Division of Technology and Professional Programs, at (850) 201-8352 or [stewartk@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:stewartk@tcc.fl.edu).

## **TCC lauded for educating student veterans**

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College received favorable marks for its commitment to educating current and former members of the armed forces in Military Advanced Education magazine's 2015 Guide to Colleges and Universities.

The magazine specifically ranked TCC among the top schools in the country for military culture. The College also showed well in flexibility and general, online, and on-campus support in comparison with the more than 600 schools that participated in the survey.

Military Advanced Education's school guide, which is available in print or online, specifically lauds the College's VetSuccess program for its efforts in counseling, job placement and other vital endeavors for student veterans.

TCC serves about 500 student veterans a semester.

For information, contact Alice Maxwell at (850) 201-6049 or [maxwella@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:maxwella@tcc.fl.edu).

## Higher ed thought leaders forecast 2015 trends

Presidents and other thought leaders look ahead on cost, technology and learning

UNIVERSITY BUSINESS STAFF

UNIVERSITY BUSINESS MAGAZINE

Donald Farish

President, Roger Williams University, Rhode Island

Topic: Tuition and financial aid

Trend: Well over half of the nonprofit private colleges failed to meet either their enrollment or revenue targets this fall. Despite this, I predict that the overwhelming majority of these schools will continue to increase both tuition and discount rates next year, and even more of them will fall short of their enrollment and revenue targets.

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Rene Cintron

Assistant dean of business and technology, Delgado Community College (New Orleans)

Topic: Academic affairs/prior learning assessments

Trend: People learn skills on the job and often have to change careers. These skills can be assessed and transcribed as college credits using various formats of evaluation (industry-based certifications, credit exams, live demonstrations, etc.). I see an increase in changes of policies to accept these types of nontraditional credits and provide a grade based on the course and program outcomes.

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Ben Nelson

Founder and CEO, Minerva Project

Topic: Academic affairs

Trend: I believe that at least one major college or university will declare a series of introductory courses (such as Calculus 101 or Psychology 101) to no longer confer college-level credit at that institution. The rationale would be that these courses are freely available online and that awarding credit and charging for the privilege will be deemed immoral.

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Darrow Zeidenstein

Vice president, development and alumni relations, Rice University (Texas)

Topic: Fundraising

Trend: Total university fundraising revenue will continue to climb in 2015, primarily due to the overall rise in the stock market and the large number of public campaigns taking place after the low number of such efforts from 2008-12. Fundraising increases will spur a lot of innovation in the academy and, unfortunately, another arms race for faculty and student talent.

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**Bill Spiers**

**Director of financial aid, Tallahassee Community College (Fla.)**

**Topic: Prior-Prior Year to determine financial aid eligibility**

**Trend: With the move toward simplification of the aid process and the FAFSA, prior-prior year is a tool that will be on the table. Recent analysis indicates there would be little, if any, cost associated with this change. A majority of families would be able to use the IRS match, significantly reducing the number of FAFSA questions most families would need to complete and providing schools with better data for determining need.**

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(NOTE: This article truncated for relevance to TCC.)

## TCC Eagles drop conference opener

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (LOCAL BRIEFS)

Despite an early first-half lead, Tallahassee Community College's men's basketball team fell 85-78 to the No. 2 Northwest Florida State Raiders.

The Eagles (14-4) jumped out to an early nine-point lead over the Raiders--who are ranked No. 1 in the Panhandle Conference--but eventually fell behind 45-33 before halftime. TCC managed to cut the lead to five after halftime, but couldn't close out the game.

The Eagles were led by Elmo Stephen, who was named TCC Eagle of the Game, with 27 points on 10-of-16 shooting and 4-for-6 from three-point range. The Raiders were led by Jalen Jackson (22 points, seven rebounds).

TCC will travel to Pensacola for an 8:30 tipoff against Pensacola State College next.

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TCC's women's basketball team defeated the No. 4-ranked Northwest Florida State Raiders 64-59 at home, snapping a 13-game losing streak against Northwest Florida State in the conference opener for both teams.

The No. 14-ranked Eagles (16-3) fell behind by 16 early, but cut the Raiders' lead to nine before the half. Down 42-38 with just over 17 minutes left in the game, the women stormed back and rattled off 13 unanswered points to take the lead. Cat Wells led all scorers with a career-high 28 points.

"They had us on our heels but we finally calmed down and played the way we needed to play defensively," said Bedell.

Next, the Eagles play Pensacola State College on the road at 6:30 p.m.

## Commissioner of education honors Florida first responders

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

As Florida First Responder Appreciation Week kicks off, Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart today commended Florida first responders for their bravery and sacrifice every day. There are more than 125,800 total first responders currently serving in Florida, which includes law enforcement, fire fighters, paramedics and emergency medical responders. Last week, Governor Rick Scott proclaimed the week of Jan. 5 – 9 Florida First Responder Appreciation Week.

“These selfless men and women are the first to be there for us and our communities, often times in the face of danger,” said Commissioner Stewart. “We owe them our gratitude and admiration for their service in these critical roles.”

As the week gets underway, Commissioner Stewart urges K-12 school teachers and principals, college presidents and all parents and families to send encouragement and gestures of gratitude to their local first responders. There are a number of ways student and families can be involved and show support during this week: cards or letters of appreciation; poems or songs that express gratitude; individual drawings of a first responder helping someone; class posters or other art projects that can be displayed in schools and/or given to local first responders.

**The education and preparation first responders receive is crucial to the emergency situations that these men and women are often faced with. “I think it is important that our society realizes what first responders do for them and the training that it takes to achieve entry-level positions,” said Bill Bierbaum, Director of Certificate Programs with Tallahassee Community College’s Florida Public Safety Institute. “When you’re running away from an emergency, first responders are the ones running toward it.”**

Keeping the importance of these first responder roles in mind, Commissioner Stewart has asked superintendents and college presidents to help students and their communities celebrate Governor Scott’s call to action regarding the newly proclaimed Florida First Responder Week. For additional ideas on what you and your student(s) can do to show appreciation for a first responder visit the Florida Department of Education’s Pinterest page at <http://www.pinterest.com/floridadoe/thank-our-first-responders/>.

## Hanna steps down as Florida College System chancellor

DOUG BLACKBURN  
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The Florida College System, the board that oversees the state's 28 four-year and two-year colleges, including Tallahassee Community College, is in the market for a new chancellor.

Tallahassee attorney Randy Hanna, who was named FCS chancellor in October 2011, stepped down last month in order to return to the law firm where he started his career, Bryant Miller Olive.

"I think the timing was right. I wanted to pursue some other opportunities in higher education, including a potential college presidency or university presidency," Hanna told the Tallahassee Democrat. "It was hard to do that as chancellor."

Pam Stewart, Department of Education commissioner, is charged with naming Hanna's replacement. The FCS website still listed Hanna as chancellor on Monday morning.

Hanna, 56, came to the position with considerable experience in higher education in Florida. The Gadsden County native was appointed to TCC's Board of Trustees in 1991, and served on it until 1995 when he was named to the State Board of Community Colleges. He also was a member of Florida A&M University's Board of Trustees (2002-06) and was a board member at University of West Florida when he was named FCS chancellor.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh said Hanna's experience served the system well.

"I think it gave him an understanding and an appreciation for what the system needs. I think it was extremely helpful to have someone in that role who had credibility among the colleges as well as at the Capitol," Murdaugh said.

The FCS chancellor also sits on the board of the state's Higher Education Coordinating Council as well as the Florida College Prepaid board.

Hanna succeeded Will Holcomb as FCS chancellor. He had led the system since Oct. 1, 2007 until his retirement in 2011. There are more than 800,000 part-time and full-time students enrolled in the FCS.

## Inaugural guests came to say "Thank you, Rick Scott; Well Done"

NANCY SMITH

SUNSHINE STATE NEWS

Floridians gathered by the hundreds in front of the Old Capitol in Tallahassee Tuesday, watching with genuine admiration the governor they supported take the oath of office for a second term.

While event preparation was still under way -- while the 13th Army Band of the Florida Army National Guard played and people were being seated, while snipers popped up and down and into place on rooftops on the Old Capitol and across Monroe Street and the governor's staff answered questions for VIPs and media -- guests at the inauguration shared their reasons for loyalty to Florida's 45th governor.

Here is some of what they told Sunshine State News:

-- "I never expected Gov. Scott to help me out, but he did. When he came around on one of his tours, I told him some of the trouble I was having to get insurance. He spent just a few minutes with me, but in two weeks my insurance company called and everything was straightened out. I couldn't believe he did all that for me. Wow." Janet Casey, retail clerk, Kissimmee.

-- "A shame he's term-limited. I wish he could run for another four years after this term, that's how good I think he is." Bill Guillette, retired business owner, Celebration.

-- "He's the American dream. He's what America is all about. A self-made man. What's not to like?" Ardian Zika, banker, Land O' Lakes.

-- "I am so thrilled he won. Rick Scott has shown he really cares about seniors, he's helped us a lot. I felt Charlie Crist was an untrustworthy candidate." Sam J. Sugar, M.D., founder, Americans Against Abusive Probate Guardianship, Aventura.

-- "The governor has done exactly what he said he would do in 2010. There's more to do, certainly, but I'm convinced he will continue on the right path, and I feel very good about the way things are going." Daniel E. Nordby, attorney and partner, Shutts & Bowen LLP, Tallahassee.

**-- "I support Gov. Scott in all his efforts. He reappointed me to the board of trustees of Tallahassee Community College, and I believe it's**

**my duty to be here, to stay involved in government and help all I can. We've held down tuition at our school, so I'm proud of the accomplishment." Eugene Lamb Jr., Gadsden County commissioner 2002-2012, Quincy.**

-- "I'm tickled that Rick Scott is creating jobs, and though he might still have a long way to go, he's removing a lot of regulations and streamlining bureaucracy. It's really improving Floridians' ability to do business." Danita Thomas Heagy, DC, LLC, chiropractor, St. Augustine.

-- "Gov. Scott got spending under control. He's created a business-friendly environment and it's really turned the state around." Bob Golding, career Navy man, retired private consultant, Port St. Lucie.

-- "I'm here because this is history. This is the place to be and I'm a Republican. I'm also a huge Jeff Atwater fan and I hope he runs for governor in four years." Daniel Herbert, insurance claims industry, Wellington.

-- "Gov. Scott inherited a bad time in Florida. The state had been fiscally irresponsible, and on his watch look at the improvement. He is good for the people of Florida." Earl Barnett, Marion County commissioner, Ocala.

-- "Gov. Scott has been so amazing to our organization. He really helped us. He's just been so different from other politicians. He gives money to small businesses and finds ways to encourage them to prosper." Mikaela Nix Esq., attorney and vice president of the Orlando Republican Women Network, Orlando.

-- "I like a governor who doesn't try to BS me and who says what he's going to do and does it. If he doesn't get it done, he never makes excuses. Rick Scott might have faults but he has been pretty honest and I like that." Kevin Arquette, history major at Florida State University, Tallahassee and Miami.

-- "You need a serious governor like Rick Scott in a big state like Florida. It is about 57 degrees this morning here and it's like 83 degrees in Naples. The temperature difference alone tells you what a big state this is. I'm so happy Rick won and he's our governor. God bless him." Carla Fairley, retired high school math teacher, Naples.

## President Obama suggests making first two years of community college free

ALEX CORDERO & TAYLOR ANDERSON  
WTXL

In a video posted from Air Force One to Facebook and Vine, the President makes the pitch that it will help the American economy.

The program will be modeled after one already in place in Tennessee that picks up the cost of tuition for students who don't have the help from grants or scholarships. The students must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA, have a mentor, and perform eight hours of community service a week. The White House says it could mean a savings of up to \$3,800 a year for the average full time student.

"To put simply, what I'd like to do is to see the first two years of community college free for everybody who is willing to work for it", said President Obama on the uploaded video.

What we don't know yet is how much this will cost. The White House said the cost will be split between states and the federal government. States could decide to opt out if they choose.

"The opportunity for everyone to have access to education at an affordable rate...the opportunity to have everyone live out their dream, it starts with education", said Vice President of Workforce Development at Tallahassee Community College, Kimberly Moore. She added that the proposed action would give TCC the chance to continue to improve its job training programs.

## Awesome ideas? Bring 'em on

TAMARYN WATERS

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Starting in January, \$1,000 every month is up for grabs for Tallahassee groups or individuals, and the top requirement is all ideas must be awesome.

Sound like a joke? Not at all. Ten influential professionals, dubbed Awesome Tallahassee, are doling out no-strings-attached grants toward projects that benefit Florida's Capital City (go to [www.AwesomeFoundation.org](http://www.AwesomeFoundation.org) to apply).

The first deadline is Thursday; the 15th of each month will be the deadline for consecutive \$1,000 pools.

How it works: Coffers of 10 or more put in \$100 per month and the only requirement is that projects provide a benefit to improving Tallahassee and its residents. However, if someone or group in surrounding counties has an idea that benefits Tallahassee, those proposals will be considered, too.

It's a new approach for Tallahassee that will likely spark entrepreneurship, innovation and civic duty while other communities already reap the benefits from diverse and unique ideas.

In 2009, the Awesome Foundation for the Arts and Sciences launched in Boston. It has more than 106 chapters, including Orlando and Miami, in 25 countries. More than \$1.3 million has supported approximately 1,305 projects ranging from technology, the arts, social services and others, according to the foundation's website.

Other projects include a free library system in Chicago using birdhouses as mobile libraries; The Giving Back Packs project in Miami donates nearly 2,000 back packs with school supplies to under served children and The Street Waves mentorship program, providing free surf lessons to at-risk youth in Miami.

"All of the projects were very diverse and aimed at making the community better," Spellman added.

Also, the group isn't interested in taking ownership of ideas. Spellman and others with Awesome Tallahassee don't know what ideas may come out of this, but they're open to the possibilities.

Kevin Cate, owner of CateComm, said that's part of the fun.

"We don't know what we're going to get," Cate said, "but we know it's going to be awesome."

Ten micro-trustees are providing financial support for Awesome Project:

- Kevin Cate, owner of CateCom; a public relations and advertising firm based in Tallahassee and St. Petersburg.

- Tim Center, executive director at Capital Area Community Action Agency and Sustainable Florida organizations.

- Adam Corey, 101 Restaurant and Mint Lounge and "The Edison" in Cascades Park, currently under construction.

- Jon Costello, government consultant at Rutledge Ecenia and an adjunct Florida State University political science professor.

- Tamara Demko, serves as principal of Health Policy Advisors LLC, a full-service health research and government consulting firm.

- Kimberly Moore, vice president for Workforce Development at Tallahassee Community College (TCC).**

- Ryan D. Richetti, co-founder and managing partner of Strategic Information Consultants, Paladin Capital and Hivapresco Holdings, LLC.

- Steve Schale, Democratic political and government affairs consultant.

- Chester Spellman, CEO at Volunteer Florida.

- Erin VanSickle, external affairs director of Volunteer Florida.

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(Note: This article truncated for relevance to TCC.)

## TCC women improve to 18-3, beat Gulf Coast

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (LOCAL BRIEFS)

No. 2 Tallahassee Community College picked up its seventh straight win on Saturday evening, defeating No. 13/No. 4 Gulf Coast State College 82-63 in Panhandle Conference women's basketball action.

Tallahassee is 3-0 in PC play for the first time since 1997 and heads into Tuesday's showdown at No. 1 Chipola College with an 18-3 overall record.

Cat Wells continued her strong play, scoring a career-high 30 points to lead four players in double-figures for Tallahassee. Eboni Watts and Benedicta Makakala scored 12 each and Jeremica Edwards added 10.

The Eagles used an attacking full-court defense to force 25 Gulf Coast State turnovers, which it promptly converted into a 26-11 advantage in points off turnovers.

The Eagles led by as many as 27 before Gulf Coast State scored the final eight points of the game.

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The Tallahassee Eagles fell to 1-2 in Panhandle Conference play with a 67-61 loss to Gulf Coast State College.

The Eagles struggled offensively, shooting 30.9 percent.

Dirk Williams led all scorers with 27 points on 8-of-17 shooting and 5-of-8 from three-point range. Norbertas Giga also scored in double figures in his first game back since Dec. 17. Giga had 11 points on 3-of-6 shooting and went 5-for-7 from the foul line.

Rysheed Corbin led the team defensively with seven rebounds and a steal. The Eagles' next game will be on the road as they travel to take on Chipola College on Tuesday.

## INIE workshop this Wednesday

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence will kick off its spring 2015 training sessions with a legislative-themed workshop Wednesday, January 14.

"Tools for Your Toolbox: Preparing for the Legislative Session" will take place from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the TCC Capitol Center. The workshop will cover examples of how to take on critical public issues that appear to be intractable challenges using principled strategies that achieve better results for both the public interest and the affected private sector interests.

Dominic Calabro, president and CEO of Florida TaxWatch, will present.

Tickets for the workshop are \$25 for INIE members and \$45 for nonmembers. Interested parties may register at [www.theinstitutefor nonprofits.com](http://www.theinstitutefor nonprofits.com).

For information, contact Lisa Powell at (850) 201-9436 or [powelll@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:powelll@tcc.fl.edu).

## International players thrive for TCC's women

JORDAN CULVER

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Little by little, Gina Cerezuela Robuste is learning to speak English.

At least the Barcelona native is getting plenty of practice. She's a center on Tallahassee Community College's women's basketball team, and every day she's learning new words and phrases on the fly.

Cerezuela Robuste has been in the United State for four months. In that time, she's had to pick up conversational English, learn an entirely new city and discover the rules of American basketball.

She's not alone — there are two other players on TCC's team getting used to English, the city of Tallahassee and a 30-second shot clock.

"We're a family," Cerezuela Robuste said.

"We I came here I could only say, 'Hey.' That was it. I'm happy with that team and with everybody. I like America. The first month was super hard. All of my teammates have a translation app on their iPhone. When I can't say something, they try to translate on their iPhone."

Cerezuela Robuste is joined on TCC's team by Benedicta Makakala (from Sweden) and Marija Pacar (Croatia). The three international players decided to travel to the U.S. to fulfill their dreams of playing basketball. And Makakala said TCC head coach Franqua Bedell — known as "Coach Q" — provided her with an opportunity to shine.

Makakala has been with TCC's team for two years since moving to the U.S. from Sweden. She said prior to coming to the States, she had to watch hours of U.S. basketball to learn the differences in the rules.

For instance, in Sweden a player must wait for a deadball to call a timeout.

"It was different, but you get used to it," Makakala said.

"Coach Q is a really good coach. I like his style and how he is as a person. He's not just about coaching and basketball. It's about life in general."

Perhaps most importantly, these three women are getting the chance for a team that could compete for a Division I National Junior College title by season's end.

And that means larger colleges are keeping an eye on their performance.

"I have some schools that want to give me scholarships," Pacar said. Pacar has the most U.S. experience — she spent two years at a North Carolina high school before coming to TCC.

"I need to go visit the other schools and see the best options and the best fit for me. Honestly, being on this team helps me. There are people who understand my situation. They know what it means to be far from home for 10 months. It helps to know I'm not alone in this situation."

Tallahassee Community College's women's basketball team has enjoyed success this season thanks to the contributions from its three international players.

Both Makala and Pacar have seen significant playing time this year — Makakala has started 21 of the team's 22 games and Pacar averages 7.8 points off the bench — and Cerezuela Robuste is gaining experience as a first-year player.

The Eagles are 18-4 and off to one of their best starts in more than a decade in Panhandle Conference play at 3-1. The group started the week ranked No. 10 in the National Junior College Athletic Association's rankings, but fell to conference rival (and national No. 1) Chipola College 64-58 on Tuesday.

Wednesday, the Eagles battle Northwest Florida State College.

"I've been doing this for years," Bedell said.

"It's kind of what I look for. I think it brings diversity and it brings camaraderie. It's a game inside of a game. In the game of life, we're learning from another culture and we're learning from another background. They're also learning from us. We all try to be family members."

Bedell's leadership has kept his multicultural family together. Cerezuela Robuste said at one point, she lost faith in her ability to adapt to the U.S.

## International players thrive for TCC's women....

*continued*

"During my first month I went to his office crying," she said.

"I said, 'Coach I can't do it.' He pushed me. He said, 'Gina, I know it's hard for you but you're doing everything right. You're going to be a good player.' He's always pushing me and I like that. Some coaches in my country, they don't take care of you. They only see the basketball player. Coach Q sees the person."

All three players agreed on one thing: Florida's heat takes some getting used to.

"In Sweden it snows," Makala said. "It's really cold right now so I like the weather here. The sun and all that is good."

Croatia and Spain are getting hit with temperatures in the high 50s. By Wednesday, temperatures in Tallahassee are supposed to get back into the low 70s. Makakala added it also took her a little while to get used to southern hospitality when she first arrived Florida.

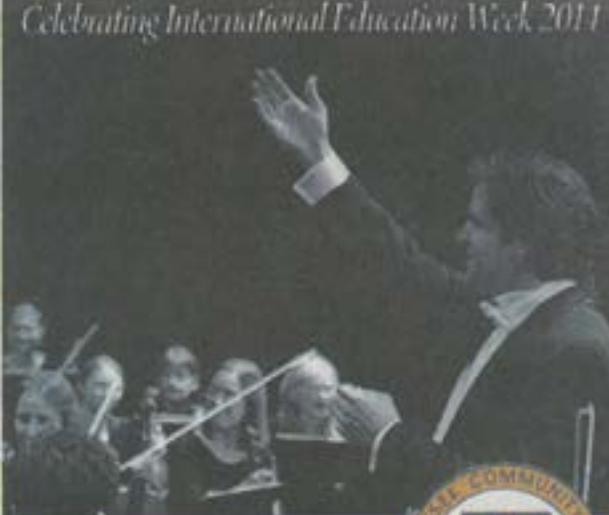
"Everyone is really outgoing here," she said. "In Sweden people stay more to themselves. They're not out talking to strangers and stuff."

Pacar said despite the occasional homesickness, she knows TCC is the right place for her to be – for now.

"I have a better opportunity to improve myself here," Pacar said.

"We grow as a family together here. Everybody comes from different places. Everybody has different attitudes but somehow we manage to stay together, no matter what."

*Celebrating International Education Week 2014*



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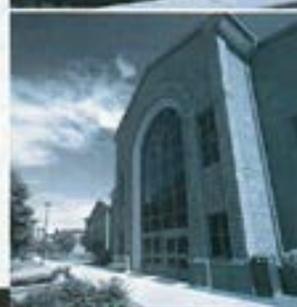
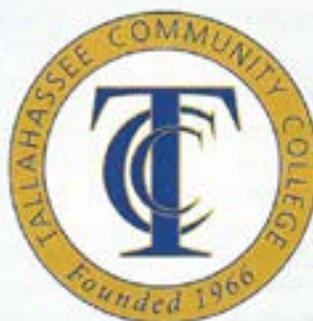
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