

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



September 19, 2015 - October 16, 2015

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- Tallahassee Democrat 4-6, 9-13, 19-20, 23, 27, 31-33, 36-37
- Capital Soup 7-8, 25-26, 30
- Financial Buzz 14-15
- Keys Info Net 16
- Havana Herald 17
- WCTV 18
- San Antonio Express News 21
- CampusTechnology.com 22
- WTXL 24
- Chronicle 28
- Wakulla News 29, 34-35

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TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



Electronic Media

- September 27, 2015 - WJXT - President Murdaugh comments on campus-carry proposal
- October 4, 2015 - WCTV - Community colleges from three states play in TCC jamborees
- October 4, 2015 - WTXL - Instructor Training Seminar held at FPSI
- October 6, 2015 - WTXL - Concerns raised over WEI aquaculture program
- October 9, 2015 - WTXL - Business students visit TCC from Tianjin, China
- October 12, 2015 - WCTV - Visiting Chinese business students tour Florida Capitol with TCC
- October 14, 2015 - WTXL - Congresswoman Gwen Graham holds roundtable with TCC students
- October 15, 2015 - WTXL - TCC alum Lorenzo Cain advances to pennant race with KC Royals

TCC joins promotion of future entrepreneurs

Murdaugh one of 200 presidents to sign pledge for entrepreneurship

Byron Dobson

Democrat senior writer | @byrondobson on Twitter

Tallahassee Community College, which promotes itself as offering a vast curriculum to meet current and future workforce needs, is adding entrepreneurship to its focus.

This week, TCC announced that President Jim Murdaugh joined more than 200 of his colleagues around the country in signing the Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge, meaning they are committed to promoting programs in their classrooms and in the community that engage discussion and initiatives on new enterprises.



DEMOCRAT
Murdaugh

Nine other community colleges in Florida also are involved.

"This is an exciting new endeavor for TCC and our community," Murdaugh said. "Promoting entrepreneurship among our students is a uniquely effective way to provide them with the tools they need to succeed."

Murdaugh also is chairman of the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County, which also offers an Entrepreneurial Excellence Program.

The President's Pledge is an initiative of The National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship, an organization that connects colleges to the business community.

As part of the added focus, TCC will be launching TCC Spark!, an initiative aimed at building an entrepreneurial culture among students at the college and increasing TCC's involvement in the



Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh has committed to promoting programs on campus that engage discussion and initiatives on new enterprises.

TCC

local business community.

"Entrepreneurs are often defined as starters, initiators and drivers and when they're exposed to an environment that nurtures and supports their passion they thrive," said Kimberly Moore, TCC's vice president for Workforce Development, who will oversee TCC Spark!

"Through TCC Spark! students will receive training and support using an integrated network of entrepreneurial programming and strategic part-



DEMOCRAT
Moore

nerships designed to spur economic growth one new business at a time," Moore said.

TCC is using existing resources to launch the program, Moore said. It will include a combination of free events and workshops coupled with classes offered that will have a cost attached.

Rebecca Corbin, president and CEO of The National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship, said a study was conducted of

community colleges across the country to identify practices that have been used to advance creative thinking and new business development.

By signing the pledge, presidents commit to five action steps on campus:

- » Develop transparency of community college and community assets
- » Create internal and external teams dedicated to entrepreneurship
- » Increase entrepreneurs' engagement in community colleges

See TCC » 6A

TCC

Continued » 3A

- » Engage in industry cluster development
- » Create broad exposure to their college's commitment to entrepreneurship
- "The five action steps were developed

based on NACCE's observations of what was working best on member campuses," Corbin said. "After observing the entrepreneurship-related activities of our members over a period of years, we started to see commonalities among the more successful institutions.

"One of the major things that clearly makes a difference is the commitment by leadership to entrepreneurship," she said.

TCC celebrates Bright Futures students

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

TCC and the Florida Lottery recently celebrated Bright Futures scholarship recipients at an ice cream social in TCC's student union.

Jim Murdaugh, TCC president, Tom Delacenserie, Lottery interim secretary, and Madeline Pumariega, chancellor of the Florida College System, spoke at the event.

TCC receives retail grant

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College is one of four community colleges nationwide to receive a \$120,000 grant to strengthen its short-term middle-skill retail career preparation pathway.

The Achieving the Dream Retail Pathways Initiative, funded by the Walmart Foundation, also aims to support the colleges in developing strong partnerships with local retail employers so graduates can successfully enter the job market.

The pathway will incorporate career training, volunteer and internship opportunities, and a retail incubator component that will allow select students to run businesses after they have earned their credentials.

Jay Revell, executive director of the Downtown Improvement Authority, will serve as TCC's partner for the incubator initiative.

TCC trustees vote to begin negotiations with law firm

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (BIG BEND NEWS BRIEFS)

Tallahassee Community College's District Board of Trustees voted to negotiate a contract for legal services with the firm Andrews, Crabtree, Knox & Andrews on Monday.

The firm has represented TCC for the past five years, having its contract renewed each year. The firm's bid called for a flat annual fee of \$195,000, for unlimited hours.

The firm Rumberger, Kirk and Caldwell also was a finalist out of four firms being considered.

Tallahassee doctor honored by TCC Foundation

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (BIG BEND NEWS BRIEFS)

The surgical tech lab at Tallahassee Community College's Ghazvini Center for Health Care Education will be named the Al Elias Deeb, MD and Family Surgical Services Lab, trustees decided on Monday.

The naming of the lab is in honor of Deeb's contribution of specialty surgical instruments valued at nearly \$260,000 to the center.

TCC receives statewide awards

CAPITAL SOUP

For the third year in a row, Tallahassee Community College has won the Student Affairs Partnering with Academic Affairs Award from Florida Campus Compact. The award is open to the 28 institutions in the Florida College System.

TCC won the award for the Peer Leader Program in the Division of Developmental Communications and College Success. Through that program, the Student Leadership, Involvement, and Civic Engagement office works with the division to place peer advocates in developmental classes to help students with their transition to college and to help the faculty engage their students outside the classroom.

Florida Campus Compact also recognized two TCC faculty members. Patrick McDermott, assistant professor of college success and career planning, received the Community Engagement Educator Award and Lindsey Smitherman-Brown, assistant professor of humanities, received the Engaged Scholarship Faculty Award, both in the Florida College System division.

According to Michael Coleman, TCC's director of campus and civic engagement, McDermott and Smitherman-Brown have been instrumental in many of TCC's service initiatives and are an important resource for other faculty who are considering implementing service learning in their classes.

"They have really assisted with guiding our focus on service and engagement in the community," said Coleman.

The College was also selected as one of only three finalists for the Engaged Campus of the Year Award, which recognizes exemplary commitment to "advancing the public purposes of higher education, improving community life, and educating students for civic and social responsibility." The other nominees are the University of South Florida and Eastern Florida State College. The winner will be announced at the Florida Campus Compact 2015 Awards Gala, held on November 5 at Lynn University.

For information, contact Michael Coleman at (850) 201-6140 or colemanm@tcc.fl.edu.

Three Signature Artists to feature in TCC gallery

CAPITAL SOUP

The Tallahassee Community College Fine Art Gallery will host an exhibit featuring the works of three of the Tallahassee Watercolor Society's Signature Artists.

Esther Tubbs, Rosemary Ferguson and Nina Freeman will display their paintings beginning with an opening event Thursday, October 8, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the Fine Art Gallery, located in the Fine and Performing Arts Center. The event is free and open to the public.

The realist, abstract and nonobjective paintings will remain in the gallery from October 9 through December 10. The TCC Fine Art Gallery is open weekdays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

For information, contact Barbara Cohenour at (850) 201-9889 or cohenoub@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC is recertified as an Achieving the Dream Leader College

CAPITAL SOUP

Tallahassee Community College has been recertified as an Achieving the Dream Leader College.

In a September 9 letter, Achieving the Dream National Reform Network president and CEO Karen Stout praised the College's commitment to improving student success and equity.

"Leader Colleges embody the goal of Achieving the Dream: lasting change that helps more students achieve their goals," Stout wrote. "Your college has increased student achievement and made student success central to its mission."

"This is a great honor," said TCC president Jim Murdaugh. "Our strong leadership and informed approach to institutional improvement are directly responsible for Achieving the Dream's recognition."

Schools given the Leader College distinction must show commitment to and progress on the five principles of Achieving the Dream: committed leadership, use of evidence to improve programs and services, broad engagement, systemic institutional improvement, and equity.

Leader Colleges must also exhibit three years of sustained improvement in student success rates. TCC has been certified as a Leader College since 2009.

Achieving the Dream National Reform Network-certified institutions raise student retention and graduation rates, close achievement gaps, and change lives nationwide. The network helps address the needs of over four million community college students each year.

For information, contact Sally Search at (850) 201-8490 or searchs@tcc.fl.edu.

Oysters off to market

TCC's harvesting program teaches students hard industry lessons

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The persistent rain showers that provided a reprieve the day before were nowhere in sight on a recent Sunday morning as aquaculture studies students donned wet suits and other protective gear to work offshore in Franklin County's Alligator Harbor.

By boat and on foot, they finally reached what appeared to be endless rows of black baskets that are growing between 150,000 to 200,000 oysters, a potential gold mine of an experiment that could become a catalyst of economic growth and development for nearby Wakulla County.

The oyster farmers are nine students who signed up a year ago for this class offered by Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute. The students include men and woman of all ages who eagerly share a commitment to putting in long hours on the water and under the blazing sun, as they tend growing oysters for harvest.

It's like planting and nurturing acres of tomatoes, but rather than digging on land, the crop is raised on the water.

This Franklin County site is the institute's first oyster farming location, where it subleases submerged land. It has since leased an additional 5 acres of its own in Wakulla County's Oyster Bay, to grow more than 800,000 oysters. The site is close to where a 9,335-square-foot main building is being constructed on the 158-acre WEI campus.

The first class of nine students includes enthusiasts who are involved for all kinds of reasons: Being on the front end of revitalizing the seafood industry along Florida's Forgotten Coast, doing their part to protect Wakulla County's environment, creating a potentially lucrative business for themselves, and it beats spending time in an office.

"We hope this will generate new jobs and revive the oyster industry in our area," said Deborah Keller, who is known as "Oyster Mom," the name given to the limited liability partnership she formed. "This is our main goal, to provide nature-based jobs that work with natural resources."

The interest in oyster farming is obvious. Bob Ballard, executive director of the WEI, says classes are limited to 10 students, and already there is a six-year waiting list. The program is regulated by the Florida Department of Agriculture and the Florida Commission on Fish and Wildlife.

The program, however, has not been without controversy.

In February, John Taylor, one of the original 10 students in the first class sued TCC, claiming breach of contract, negligence and fraud. Taylor said he was dismissed from the class after missing two classes, and ordered to repay \$18,000 for materials. Taylor said his two absences were excused.

The contract calls for a student to be dismissed if three classes are missed. Students are required to have a backup person to sit in if they're unable to attend class.

Ballard said Taylor actually missed five classes. He said the suit is still pending and will likely be heard in the next year. Until it's resolved, Ballard is advised not to comment on the litigation, but he offered that Taylor's brother and niece also are enrolled in the class and are doing well.

Across the country, oysters are a delicacy, enjoyed by those who enjoy them roasted, fried, baked, included in dressings or slurped down with a cold one. But getting a talked-about salty tasting oyster to the table takes plenty of hard work, not to mention skill and patience.

On this Sunday morning, Ballard stands waist deep in water, detaching baskets filled with oysters from lines in the harbor. The next few hours prove to be intense.

"You have to be vigilant in cleaning the cages," Ballard said, explaining that barnacles cling to the cages in July through September and algae is an issue around May. That's in addition to the byproducts of what's growing inside.

All of this introduces a threat to how many oysters will survive. And, since the students benefit financially from the number of oysters they grow, each oyster saved is money in their pockets.

Oysters off to market....

continued

"We have a lot of life in the Gulf of Mexico; it's a great body of water," Keller said. "A lot of biodiversity in the water attaches to the outside of the basket and could reduce the oxygen getting to the oyster."

It is important to raise the baskets holding the oysters, clean them and let them air in the sun for about 24 hours before returning them to the water.

"In 24 hours, we drop them again and let them back in the water," she said.

The operation resembles an assembly line, as Ballard and others hoist baskets onto the "Saucey Lady," a newly built boat owned Tim Jordan and Walt Dickson, two students in the class.

Built in Perry, the 30-foot by 9-foot boat is large enough for a small crew to get around, and there's enough space to clean the baskets. The boat also includes a "tumbler," a device purchased by the institute, that separates the oysters by size and cleans their shells.

But on this day, the crews were doing it manually. Opening the cages and dumping the bounty on a long table.

Those with shells that were opened, were tossed overboard, no good. In many cases, the culprits were still visible, as fingernail-sized stone crabs and blue crabs scurried from the baskets. Crabs love to feast on oysters, so students must remove the baskets as often as possible. And, with the potential of selling oysters for 50 cents each, it's a matter of protecting an investment.

Ballard explained that these farm-raised oysters are triploids, which means they don't spawn, but instead grow all year, getting plumper and meatier by the day. This is unlike oysters commonly found in Apalachicola, which are wild oysters, known as diploids and are wild-harvested, employing the use of tongs to scoop them up from the bottom.

"In New England, the Chesapeake and other places, it takes 18 months or longer (to grow oysters)," Jordan said. "They just don't have the growing season we do."

Once the baskets are cleaned, the undisturbed shells are placed back in baskets, which are retied and returned to the holding line. The students are careful not to fill the baskets, but load them about halfway. This allows for the oysters to grow easier and not suffocate because of overcrowding.

The oysters also were separated by size. This is because the larger oysters will eat all the nutrients, depriving the smaller ones and hindering their growth.

"I used to grow tomatoes and I love farming and I love being on the water; it's a great combination," said Jordan, who turns 70 in October. He recently sold his interest in a successful coastal real estate business to devote time to oyster farming.

"Down on the coast, we need a (financial) lift and I think this is the lift we need," he said. "I can see a lot of jobs being created by this."

For instance, their boat was built in Perry, but maintenance and repairs are done in Wakulla County, he said.

Dickson, 71, has been in the real estate, land development and construction business for years. He and Jordan are both graduates of Florida State University. They not only love being on the water, joking and teasing like recent graduates, but they share a commitment to growing the economy.

"The oyster program is the first step in building our seafood business back in Wakulla County," said Dickson who shares leases with Jordan.

The two men already look at marketing what they hope will become an independent business under the "Saucey Lady" label, selling T-shirts, hats and even bottling up a hot-sauce recipe they created years ago.

Working nearby was Sharon Fitzgerald, owner of Playing Hooky Enterprise, LLC. Fitzgerald, 49, grows and sells clams, and is a student in the WEI oyster farming class. She inherited the business from her father, Capt. Ed Bradley, who opened a charter fishing business when the family moved to Wakulla County from Chicago in 1979.

Oysters off to market....

continued

Bradley, who died last year, was instrumental in getting the submerged land leases opened in Alligator Harbor. He taught his daughter everything about the seafood business. Fitzgerald grows clams in the Harbor and sells 200,000 or more a year.

Like many in the once lucrative seafood business, she is hoping that oyster farming will take off, helping her to complement her clam business.

WEI is subleasing the space in Franklin County from Fitzgerald, who is being followed in the business by her grown daughter and grandson.

"I'm all for trying to benefit Wakulla County," she said.

"I want to be part of it," she said. "I want to do what I can do. It can benefit me and it can benefit my daughter (Jessica Scarborough) who came home from Georgia. She realized what a gold mine it could be."

Fitzgerald was critical to helping the institute in getting the oyster harvesting program going. The nine students, including Fitzgerald, who are enrolled in the class, paid nothing up front, but they are expected to pay back their tuition and other costs that WEI initially absorbed through the sale of their harvest in Alligator Harbor.

Here's how it works:

The class is responsible for growing the 150,000 oysters they have been tending for the past year at Alligator Harbor.

WEI already has sold its first batch of 5,000 oysters at 60 cents each to Buddy Ward and Sons Seafood in Franklin County. The company marketed the oysters through its retail store, 13-Mile Seafood Market in Apalachicola, and it also sold them to restaurants in Franklin and Gulf counties.

That yielded about \$3,000 for WEI and now Franklin County seafood wholesaler has a "handshake" agreement to buy the rest of the crop at 50 cents an oyster, Ballard said.

That will generate approximately \$75,000 for the 150,000 oysters, which will nearly cover each student's cost of about \$9,000, including tuition, equipment, materials, leases and additional state costs.

"They would only have a few thousand (dollars) to completely pay us off," Ballard said.

"The vast majority will be sold after Oct. 1," Ballard said. After the last oysters are sold, we will leave Alligator Harbor for good."

But at the same time, members of the first class already have been working on the oyster farming operation on 5 acres in Wakulla County known as Oyster Bay.

The Oyster Bay operation already has 800,000 oysters in the water, and 13-Mile Seafood is interested in buying that crop, Ballard said.

The students also will have their own leases issued by Florida Department of Agriculture to begin their harvest, and if successful, starting their own businesses.

Fred Crum is past president of the Wakulla Fisherman's Association and owner of Crum's Mini Mall in Panacea. He said the seafood industry once thrived in Wakulla and Franklin counties, until several years ago when many left for jobs in construction. The lack of available workers, he said, eventually led to the closing of several wholesalers. Today there are no major seafood wholesalers operating in Wakulla and only two in Franklin County, and many who left for construction have since lost their jobs.

At the same time, rainfall and other conditions have improved, resulting in a return of fresh fish, crabs and shrimp. But getting the items to the public takes work.

"Since seafood has returned, there's no infrastructure to get it to the people, the consumers," Crum said. "You can't make a living because you can't move your product. What we need is the shoreline infrastructure, the facilities that will handle the product."

This calls for a major plan of action to create businesses that employ people repairing equipment, processing seafood and working in unloading facilities, he said.

Oysters off to market....

continued

Earlier this month, about 20 people gathered in the institute's current operations at Centennial Bank in Crawfordville. The class will be made up of 11 students, including Wakulla County Commissioner Jerry Moore. Each student also must have a designated partner, who agrees to attend classes if the primary student can't make it, and who must agree to rolling up their sleeves and participating in the grueling work of cleaning cages and growing oysters.

"You will learn how to grow oysters, you will know how to assemble cages, you will know more (about oyster harvesting) than you ever wanted to know," Ballard told the class, and then explained that WEI would provide the up-front equipment. The students must have access to the use of a boat, not miss more than three classes in the next year and take care of any personal expenses.

Each student gets 100,000 oyster spat. Those that grow to maturity could be sold for 50 cents each, depending on the market a year from now, which could generate \$50,000. The students will pay WEI \$15,400 for the class and equipment and use the balance to start their own business.

"We'll provide you with just about everything you need. You will pay us back with oysters," he said.

Moore, who will be backed up by his wife, Virginia, in the project, paid WEI \$15,400 up front to avoid any appearance of favoritism.

The owner of real estate and land development interests, Moore said the possibility of creating new jobs motivates him.

"It has the potential to be a prime employer and I wanted to understand the process," he said. "WEI is going to be a job creator in this county. This has the potential to rejuvenate the coast."

TCC receives awards from Florida Campus Compact

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

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TCC won the award for the Peer Leader Program in the Division of Developmental Communications and College Success. Through the program, the Student Leadership, Involvement, and Civic Engagement office works with the division to place peer advocates in developmental classes to help students transition to college and become more engaged outside the classroom.

Florida Campus Compact also recognized two TCC faculty members. Patrick McDermott received the Community Engagement Educator Award, and Lindsey Smitherman-Brown received the Engaged Scholarship Faculty Award.

The college was also selected as one of only three finalists for the Engaged Campus of the Year Award. The winner will be announced on Nov. 5.

TCC is again an Achieving the Dream Leader College

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

TCC has been recertified as an Achieving the Dream Leader College in recognition of the college's commitment to improving student success and equity and demonstrating measurable gains on student success metrics over a three-year period.

Around the nation, Achieving the Dream colleges are raising persistence and graduation rates, closing achievement gaps, and changing lives.

Workday delivers student admissions

MARKETWIRED LIVE FEED
FINANCIAL BUZZ

Workday, Inc. (NYSE: WDAY), a leader in enterprise cloud applications for finance and human resources, today announced Workday Student Admissions, a new application that helps higher education institutions meet targeted enrollment goals through data-driven insights related to a potential student's academic success at their institution.

Seamlessly unified with Workday Human Capital Management (HCM) and Workday Financial Management, Workday Student Admissions is the second application available in the full Workday Student system. Incorporating feedback from more than 20 higher education institutions, Workday Student is a mobile-first system that provides end-to-end student and faculty lifecycle information to help colleges and universities advance their institutions and enable student success.

The growing popularity and ease of submitting applications online combined with the ongoing use of paper-based submissions has resulted in students applying to more colleges and universities. As a result, the task of processing and evaluating individual applications to ensure student fit has become increasingly labor-intensive, time consuming, and prone to errors. Colleges and universities need a more effective way to address the changing landscape of application processing and admissions.

Workday Student Admissions extends the benefits of Workday Student Recruiting, enabling colleges and universities to:

Easily Establish Admissions Requirements: An eligibility framework allows higher education institutions to easily define a set of application requirements that can be further configured for various academic divisions, departments, and programs of study. For example, an engineering school within a university system could easily set up a requirement for students to have taken additional math or science courses in order to qualify for a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) program.

Streamline Application Processing: Higher education institutions can create applicant pools based on categories such as program, region, and standardized

test scores, enabling counselors to analyze the data and identify admissions trends. Additionally, because Workday Student Admissions is unified with Workday HCM, applicant pools can be assigned to admission counselors. Counselor workloads can then be managed through real-time insight into applicant pool assignments, helping ensure an efficient review process. For example, a student applying to a specialized program could be put in an applicant pool based on the program and eligibility requirements. Admissions counselors can then communicate with and track the students as a group throughout the application process.

Quickly Evaluate Student Eligibility: Colleges and universities are able to automatically assign applicant rating values based on different categories including readiness, demonstrated interest, and applicant interviews. For example, an applicant could be evaluated and given a score based on grades in prerequisite coursework, standardized test scores, and interactions with the school that were documented early in the process through Workday Student Recruiting.

Accurately Communicate and Convey Admissions Updates: Higher education institutions can communicate ongoing admissions updates and decisions individually or in a group. Institutions can set multiple safeguards to help ensure every applicant is notified of the correct admission decision electronically or via mail. Additionally, applicants can leverage an external website to view the status of outstanding items related to their application. For example, an applicant could be admitted with conditions and notified of additional coursework that must be completed in order to be admitted.

Better Align Admissions Goals to Performance: Unified with Workday HCM, Workday Student Admissions helps establish and assess organizational goals in the system, and track admission counselor performance appraisals against admissions goals. For example, a director of admissions can determine admissions targets for a team in Workday HCM and track against those goals -- all in one system.

Workday delivers student admissions....

continued

Workday Student Admissions is available as part of the company's latest release, Workday 25, which also includes new features for Workday Financial Management, Workday HCM, and Workday Student.

Following Workday Student Recruiting and Workday Student Admissions, future components of Workday Student are planned to focus on curriculum management, student records, academic advising, financial aid, and student financials. The full suite of Workday Student is expected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2016.

"A record number of student applications combined with outdated systems are making it challenging for higher education institutions to effectively and efficiently meet their enrollment goals in an increasingly competitive academic world," said Liz Dietz, vice president, student strategy and product management, Workday. "Workday Student Admissions builds on our Workday Student Recruiting application to provide a complete view into applicant data so colleges and universities can make quicker, smarter decisions regarding applicant fit to help ensure their admissions' strategy aligns with academic goals."

"Student success is at the core of what we do. We take that responsibility seriously, with more than 12,000 students selecting our college each year with the goal of transferring to a university or moving directly towards a career," said Shanna Autry, director, student success and retention, Tallahassee Community College. "It's invaluable to be part of the design process for Workday Student, because it helps us ensure that we have a system that supports future efforts, and enables our faculty and staff to efficiently and effectively recruit and admit the best students for our program."

"Our academic curriculum is extensive -- we have more than 60 undergraduate programs, accelerated bachelor programs, and 50 graduate programs across nine different schools. This -- combined with rolling admissions and a growing number of applicants -- makes our recruiting and admissions processes very complex," said Yvette Brown, vice president, technology and chief information officer, Barry University. "Workday Student Admissions helps us manage this complexity. We have

a unified system that helps automate our admissions process, and provides real-time insight into trends, applicant fit, and admissions goals, so we can track our success at any given time."

Former sheriff and judge DeFoor gets another calling in Episcopal Church, is named advisor to the bishop

KEYSINFONET

As a politician, J. Allison DeFoor accomplished many things: He was a Monroe County judge and sheriff, then-Gov. Jeb Bush's Everglades czar, the 1990 Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, a top official of the Republican Party of Florida.

He's been a member of the board of trustees of Tallahassee Community College, a land-use consultant and chairman of the Florida Water and Land Legacy, which got Amendment 1 to the state Constitution on the ballot in 2014. It passed overwhelmingly and is designed as a way to finance protection of Florida's water and environmentally sensitive land.

But his life mostly is dedicated to the Episcopal Church and ministering to prisoners these days; he's officially known as The Rev. Dr. Allison DeFoor. And he can now add another title to his impressive resume: Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Florida -- the top counsel to Bishop Samuel Johnson.

The Jacksonville-based Diocese has 62 churches in the North Florida area plus a main cathedral. It's separate from other Florida Episcopal diocese, for example, the Keys Episcopal churches are part of the Episcopal Dioceses of Southeast Florida.

DeFoor will join the Florida diocese bishop's staff on June 15. In addition to being the chief council to the bishop, he will help coordinate with the ordination process and deployment of clergy, work with clergy and laity on continuing education, help lead diocesan events and works closely with congregations in the areas.

"I am deeply humbled and anxious to get to work," DeFoor said in a prepared statement.

"I am delighted that Allison will be working closely with me as Canon to the Ordinary. I am convinced that he brings a variety of gifts and insights to this position, which will contribute to the up-building of the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Florida and to its renewed energy and growth," the bishop said in a prepared statement.

DeFoor's passion for ministering to prisoners is evident: For 10 years, he's been the prison chaplain at the Wakulla Correctional Institution in Crawfordville, south of Tallahassee. It can house 1,397 inmates and is an official Florida "character-based" prison.

DeFoor earned a bachelor's degree and a master's in criminology at the University of South Florida, and his law degree from Stetson University in Deland. He has a master's in divinity from the Florida Center for Theological Studies.

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the Dream's recognition."

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Eagles open preseason practice, host jamborees Saturday & Sunday

WCTV

Tallahassee Community College's men's and women's basketball teams opened preseason practice on Thursday, the NJCAA's official start date for the 2015-16 season.

Both teams will open the regular season with road games Friday, October 30.

Before the regular season openers, however, both squads will host its annual jamboree events on Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4.

The Eagle men, under first-year head coach Mark White, will tip things off on Saturday by hosting the Southeastern Jamboree, which will feature 18 of the top NJCAA men's basketball teams in the Southeast.

The Southeastern Jamboree will feature teams from Florida and Georgia, all of whom will play in front of coaches representing a who's who of four-year schools nationwide. Each of the 18 teams will play three games, which consists of two 23-minute halves with a running clock.

Three games will be played simultaneously, starting on the hour, beginning at 10 a.m. The Eagles' first action comes at 11 a.m. against 2015 NJCAA Tournament participant and Region 8 Runners-up Eastern Florida State College. Tallahassee will also play at 2 p.m. vs. Palm Beach State College and 4 p.m. vs. State College of Florida.

The following day, the women will take center stage in the Southern Challenge Jamboree. Head coach Franqua "Q" Bedell and the Eagle women will welcome 19 other teams from Florida, Georgia and Mississippi for a day full of games beginning at 9 a.m.

Sunday's games will also be the first opportunity for women's teams to implement several new rules in live action, most notably a shift from two 20-minute halves to four ten-minute quarters.

The Eagles will split their squad into two teams and, thus, play a total of six games beginning at 10 a.m. vs. East Central (Miss.) Community College. Other games featuring Tallahassee will take place at noon vs. Miami Dade College, 2 p.m. vs. Hillsborough Community College, 4 p.m. vs. Central Georgia Technical College, 6 p.m. vs. South Georgia Technical College and 8 p.m. vs. Ft. Benning (Ga.) Military Academy.

All games both days will take place in the Bill Hebrock Eagledome and the Lifetime Sports Complex.

General admission is \$10.

Spend a night in Texas with 'Laundry' and 'Lone Star'

NEIL COKER

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (LIMELIGHT)

"Yee-haw" was the first thing to come to mind when I attended Wednesday's final dress rehearsal of James McLure's "Laundry & Bourbon" and "Lone Star."

Set in 1970s rural Texas, the one-act plays, double-billed at TheatreTCC!'s Turner Auditorium this and next weekend, are an example of exceptional talent that surpasses the quality of the material itself.

"Laundry & Bourbon" begins with a woman, Elizabeth (Courtney Medina), commiserating with her friend Hattie (Megan Preston) on the minutia of daily life while doing laundry and, you guessed it, drinking bourbon. Elizabeth reveals that her husband Roy hasn't been home for two days. From there, we learn more about the men in their lives and the disappointments of marriage and family as well as the small measures of contentment they find in it.

Enter Amy Lee (Katrina Erwin), a social-climber and a Baptist, who arrives with a package for Elizabeth. The conflict between the values of Amy Lee and the other women drives the rest of the play to its conclusion.

The play is followed up by its companion piece "Lone Star," which reveals the lives of the men who were so frequently referenced in "Laundry." Roy (Alex Fabrega) is a troubled Vietnam veteran. He loves three things in this world: "My wife, my country, and my car" (a pink 1959 Thunderbird). Set outside a bar, he starts the play off drinking copious amounts of the second-rate beer, from which the show gets its name.

His younger brother Ray (Daniel Santillana) joins him and they spend much of the show reflecting on Roy's past, though a fair amount of discussion is also devoted to women and female anatomy. Then, as in "Laundry," they are interrupted by Amy Lee's husband Cletis (Carter Richeson), also known as Skeeter, much to his disliking. Spineless and nerdy, Cletis has wanted to be like Roy his whole life, even as he is routinely mistreated by him. When Roy retreats inside, Cletis reveals to Ray a disastrous secret, which along with his own dirty indiscretions Ray attempts to keep from Roy.

The acting is excellent. The Texan twang of the cast is as believable as it is thick, and casting on the whole fits each character type. Most of the laughter comes from the predictable crassness of the plays' rougher characters, played by Preston and Fabrega.

Despite humor that is more "Blue Collar Comedy Tour" than Mark Twain, there is still a heart that beats within the plays, one that pulses with a longing for the past and a hope to see the present changed. Beyond that, its sentiments seem no deeper than its characters, who regardless of their starry-eyed ambitions are complacent in not reaching them. Life in a small Texas town doesn't seem to offer much beyond sunsets, roaming space and a constant flow of alcohol. Even the coyotes have been killed off, Roy laments.

Does it sink or does it swim? It depends on how much enjoyment one derives from Texan nostalgia and redneck comedy. Since these make up the backbone of the works, it'll either make for an evening of riotous fun or two hours you won't get back.

Best & Brightest Awards program gears up for 2016

AMANDA CLAIRE CURCIO
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The 2016 Best & Brightest Awards program, which honors the area's highest-performing and community-minded high school seniors each year, kicked off Thursday with its annual breakfast.

Educators met with sponsors to discuss bringing the scholarship to more students, program requirements and how applicants can be more successful throughout the entire selection process.

"Best & Brightest is a community education effort," said Laura Rogers, head of World Class Schools of Leon County, a partner with the program. "It continues to offer new opportunities to our students who are doing outstanding work."

Founded 11 years ago by Ron Sachs, president and CEO of Sachs Media Group, the program will award \$55,000 in scholarships, mostly sponsored by Envision Credit Union. Nearly \$450,000 in awards has been granted so far.

Students from public and private schools in Leon County can apply in 15 categories of academic achievement, excellence in the arts and civic service. Awards are reserved for well-rounded candidates. Another competition, the eighth-grade essay contest, asks students to respond to a writing prompt about community service.

Students must submit applications by Jan. 29 to their schools' Best & Brightest coordinators. Homeschoolers and students enrolled in virtual school can apply through sponsors listed on the program's website.

Finalists — students selected by coordinators — then sit before a panel of three judges in March to discuss their work and efforts in the community. Winners, runner-ups and honorable mention recipients are recognized during a ceremony at Ruby Diamond Auditorium in May. The Tallahassee Democrat will feature finalists in the paper leading up to the event.

Winners are awarded \$1,500; runner-ups \$750; and honorable mention \$500. All other finalists receive \$100. Awardees may also be eligible for tuition scholarships at Tallahassee Community College and paid housing through the Southern Scholarship Foundation.

Last year, more than 140 finalists were acknowledged; 45 were winners, runner-ups or earned an honorable mention.

For more information about the Best & Brightest Awards program, visit www.thebestandbrightestawards.com.

Author and leadership expert Dr. Lynn Wicker speaks at upcoming leadership program hosted by Tallahassee Community College

MYSA.COM

The Leadership Institute program is a quarterly series offered mid-day to allow participants an opportunity for professional development training over their lunch break. The session will be facilitated with group discussion and presentation of various leadership topics, many of which were suggested by previous program participants as areas of interest for success in business today. Facilitators have diverse leadership backgrounds from a variety of fields including education, business, and government.

There is no cost for participants, and a healthy lunch will be provided.

World-renowned leadership expert John C. Maxwell says, "If you want to succeed, you must learn how to connect with people." While it may seem like some folks are just born with it, the fact is anyone can learn how to make every communication an opportunity for a powerful connection. "Can You Hear Me Now?" will focus on Five Principles and Five Practices to develop the crucial skill of connecting.

Participants will learn how to get their message across by building a bridge to others. Cultivating relationships is every bit as important to effective communication as crafting the message. Participants will also learn that the insightful principles are critical to understand if you desire to forge a lasting bond with those around you. They will be able to better prepare to apply these principles and practices in private conversations or group presentations. Learning these principles and connecting practices will give audience members an edge as a leader.

Part I: Connecting Principles

Connecting Increases Your Influence in Every Situation

Connecting Is All About Others

Connecting Goes Beyond Words

Connecting Always Requires Energy

Connecting Is More Skill Than Natural Talent

Part II: Connecting Practices

Connectors Connect on Common Ground

Connectors Do the Difficult Work of Keeping It Simple

Connectors Create an Experience Everyone Enjoys

Connectors Inspire People

Connectors Live What They Communicate

For more information on this and other sessions part of this program this year, participants can go here <https://www.tcc.fl.edu/Current/Academics/WorkforceDevelopment/Leadership-Institute/Pages/Lessons%20Over%20Lunch.aspx>

New cloud entrant in student admissions ties to financial and HR

DIAN SCHAFFHAUSER
CAMPUSTECHNOLOGY.COM

Workday, a company better known for its cloud-based HR and financial systems software, is releasing Student Admissions, an application to help institutions with enrollment. This comes just about a year after the company kicked off its first "mobile-first" application for higher ed, Student Recruiting. Both programs integrate with Workday's Human Capital Management (HCM) and Financial Management software.

The announcement came during the company's user conference, which took place last week. During the same event, Workday also unveiled a learning application for managing career development.

Workday Student Admissions, as it's being called, is the second application available in the Student suite.

Functionality includes an eligibility framework that lets schools define a set of application requirements that can be further configured for specific academic divisions, departments and programs of study.

Institutions will be able to create "applicant pools" based on categories such as program, region and standardized test scores to allow admissions advisors to analyze data and identify trends.

With a tie-in to Workday HCM, applicant pools may also be assigned to specific counselors and their workloads managed. For example, those applicants for a particular program could be pooled and assigned to a set of advisors, who could coordinate response and track students as a group. That same integration would allow administrators to track admission staff performance against admission goals.

The program will enable automatic assignment of application rating values based on criteria such as readiness, demonstrated interest and the outcome of applicant interviews, including prerequisite coursework and standardized test scores derived through data from the Student Recruiting module.

Applicants will be able to view the status of outstanding items tied to their application. And the program includes features to help schools communicate with individuals or groups of applicants electronically and by mail.

The student admissions program is available as part of the company's latest release, Workday 25, which also has enhancements to its financial, HCM and recruiting modules.

The company said future components of the Student suite would address management of curriculum, student records, academic advising, financial aid and student financials. The portfolio in its entirety is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

According to the company, 20 colleges and universities have provided feedback for the design of the program, which is also mobile enabled.

Florida's Tallahassee Community College, which was part of that feedback process, noted that participation was "invaluable." "Student success is at the core of what we do. We take that responsibility seriously, with more than 12,000 students selecting our college each year with the goal of transferring to a university or moving directly towards a career," said Shanna Autry, director of student success and retention, in a press release. "It's invaluable to be part of the design process for Workday Student, because it helps us ensure that we have a system that supports future efforts, and enables our faculty and staff to efficiently and effectively recruit and admit the best students for our program."

Workday's new Learning program will use data taken from Workday HCM to understand where a person resides in the "employee lifecycle" — new to the organization, recently promoted or lacking specific skills for a current position — and make recommendations for training. The program was expected to be available in the second half of 2016.

Other higher education customers of Workday include New York's Cornell University, California's Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District and Vermont's Champlain College.

(NOTE: Article truncated for relevance to TCC.)

Florida Public Safety Institute to host training seminar

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Florida Public Safety Institute, part of Tallahassee Community College, will conduct its seventh annual Instructor Training Seminar Monday through Friday. This year's theme is "Training for Survival is No Option."

Opening ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m. Monday in the Conference Center at FPSI off Highway 90 in Havana. The guest speaker will be Jared Reston of Reston Group Critical Solutions in Jacksonville.

Throughout the week, approximately 300 trainers from Florida, Georgia and Alabama will participate in hands-on training sessions relating to firearms, defensive tactics, driving and medical first responder.

Lamb reappointed to TCC board

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (BIG BEND NEWS BRIEFS)

Gov. Rick Scott on Monday announced the reappointment of Eugene Lamb Jr. to the Tallahassee Community College District Board of Trustees.

Lamb, 68, of Midway, served on the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners from 2004 to 2012 and currently serves as a member of the Governor's Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding. He received a bachelor's degree from Dillard University.

He is reappointed for a term beginning October 5, 2015, and ending May 31, 2018.

Oysterman concerned with TCC program

ABBIE MAURER

WTXL

Tallahassee Community College (TCC) responds to claims that their oyster-aquaculture leases in Wakulla County's Oyster Bay are only benefiting established business people.

Wakulla County oysterman Shorty Robbins claims the TCC Wakulla Environmental Institute oyster program is denying struggling oystermen access to class benefits, such as oyster-farming leases in Wakulla County waters, oyster growing equipment, seed and permits.

He says he was barred from TCC's class.

TCC, however, says the program selects participants on a first come, first served basis and they welcome anyone to sign up.

"We only have enough for 10 students a year to get into the program and they just have to wait like everyone else," said a TCC spokesperson, "but if they are on the waiting list, then eventually they will get into the class."

This is not the only complaint about the program. A lawsuit was filed earlier this year, in which a former student claimed the program did not deliver promised results.

The student claimed the college said they would be able to harvest oysters by the summer and they could expect \$150,000 in revenue, which never became a reality.

The program began in January 2014.

TCC welcomes business students from China

CAPITAL SOUP

Tallahassee Community College will soon welcome four visiting students from Tianjin Foreign Studies University in Tianjin, China. The group will arrive in Tallahassee on October 9.

Guo Meiting, Zhu Wenting, Xing Yurong and Zhang Yihong were selected for the trip through a process that began last spring when TCC professor Lee Kitchen led a course in international business and business plan development for a combined group of Tianjin and TCC students.

From March through mid-June, 120 Chinese students participated in an online certificate program through TCC. Then Kitchen and a group of TCC students spent six weeks of the summer at the university in Tianjin collaborating with their Chinese peers. The students formed teams of 10 Tianjin students plus a TCC student to create a business plan for a real product or service that could be exported to China or developed in China from Florida. Some teams worked on a plan to recruit students from Tianjin to study at TCC, while other teams prepared a plan for importing alligator meat and skin from Florida growers to Tianjin. Four students who received awards for their presentations were invited to visit Tallahassee.

The students will present their winning business plans to TCC President Jim Murdaugh on Monday, October 12, at 10 a.m. in the boardroom on the second floor of the Administration Building. That afternoon, the students will present the plan to executives and staff of the Florida Department of Agriculture. After that meeting, they will tour the Florida House of Representatives and possibly meet with Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel-Vasilinda.

Students will also present the winning business plans for importing alligator skins and meat to several commercial alligator growers.

For information, contact Lee Kitchen at (850) 201-8336 or kitchenl@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute receives mine safety grant

CAPITAL SOUP

Tallahassee Community College's Florida Public Safety Institute has been awarded a \$130,239 grant from the United States Department of Labor for the Florida Mine Safety and Health Training Program.

The goal of the program is to increase awareness of safety and occupational health hazards in Florida mining environments and, through training, to help make them safer and healthier workplaces for miners and contractors. Program staff also provide safety audit training (workplace examinations and inspections) for miners and contractors as part of their training and training plan development.

Program staff will conduct mine health and safety training classes in order to eliminate fatal injuries and reduce the frequency and severity of mining accidents. All miners and contractors of any size can benefit from the assistance in training plan development, new and updated training materials, specialized training, and information provided by the program.

TCC has operated its Mine Safety and Health Training Program since October of 2011.

For information, contact Karen Miller at (850) 201-7689 or millerka@tcc.fl.edu.

Grifol, Cain back in playoffs with Royals

JIM HENRY

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Major League players – and coaches, for that matter – can feel slighted, too.

As Pedro Grifol burned away calories on an elliptical exercise machine, a slow burn could probably be felt on his brow.

The Kansas City Royals advanced to the World Series last season, but not many outside their clubhouse thought they would return to the playoffs in 2015.

One national blogger penciled Kansas City fourth in the five-team American League Central, finishing with a losing record behind Cleveland, Detroit and the Chicago White Sox.

“Oh yeah, we were picked to finish fourth in the Central,” Grifol said. “So it has been a pretty good year; a really good year.”

Grifol, 45, a former All-American catcher at Florida State (1989-91), is in his third season as an assistant coach with the Royals.

Kansas City has returned to the playoffs for the second consecutive year, winning 95 games and winning the AL Central by 12 games over Minnesota, Cleveland, Chicago and Detroit.

The Royals open the ALDS Thursday at home against the Houston Astros, who beat the New York Yankees 3-0 Tuesday night in the American League wild-card game.

It expects to be a high-energy series, one Grifol plans to embrace. They are the only 2014 American League playoff team that made it back to the postseason.

“Every day you get to spend up here you get the chance to learn the big-league game and just get better,” Grifol said.

The Royals, who went 8-0 in the AL playoffs last season but lost to former Seminole catcher Buster Posey and the San Francisco Giants in the World Series, believe they are better from a year ago.

Their starting lineup also features former Madison County High and Tallahassee Community College standout Lorenzo Cain, who has blossomed into one of the game’s top players.

Cain, 29, is likely to finish in the top five in American League MVP voting after batting .307 with a career-best 16 homers. He has been slowed by a bruised bone in his right knee but is expected to play Thursday.

“He’s awesome,” Grifol said of Cain, who won the MVP award for the American League Championship Series last year and lives in Oklahoma in the offseason.

“He has come a long way. He’s put himself on the map as one of the top center fielders in the game, both on the offensive side and defensive side. He has package of leadership and production.”

Despite the lack of respect directed at the Royals entering the season, Grifol says the team also enters the playoffs with a target on its back because of its 2014 success. Kansas City is determined to prove last season was not a fluke.

“It has made us better in many ways,” Grifol explained.

“Our preparation has to be impeccable and the performance has to be impeccable as well. It (projection) has been motivation and the guys in here have stepped up. There’s no pressure. They go out and play the same game every day.”

Grifol, a Miami native who helped FSU reach the College World Series in 1989 and 1991, has not been back to Tallahassee in more than 10 years.

Though baseball and family have kept him busy - Grifol lives in Phoenix with his wife and three daughters – he remains in touch with former FSU teammates around the country and friends in Tallahassee.

Grifol is not the only Seminole connection in Kansas City either. The organization won its only World Series 30 years ago under manager Dick Howser, a former FSU player and coach.

Some may not have thunk it, but the Royals are back in the postseason.

“It’s all worth it,” Grifol said.

“I wouldn’t change a day of it.”

Local model United Nations conference marks 20 years

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE
CHRONICLE

The Tallahassee Southern Model United Nations (TSMUN), a middle school and high school conference simulating the United Nations, enters into its 20th Annual Conference this school year.

As one of the very few organizations in North Florida able to connect students to extracurricular academic activities, TSMUN aims to grow students abilities in public speaking, writing, leadership skills and diplomatic decorum.

"Students from around the North Florida region travel to our conference after months of extensive preparation in international relations and diplomacy, said Truitt Wilson, the 2015 TSMUN Secretary General.

"Our conference offers student the opportunity to earn scholarships to Tallahassee Community College and network with collegiate leaders."

Tallahassee Community College Model United Nations (TCC Model UN) program has led TSMUN in student led staffing, preparation and development. Throughout TCC Model UN's various engagements students have been able to meet with diplomats, community leaders and a wide network of political figures.

Alumni of the TCC Model UN have recently established the Olive Branch Network (OBN) that merges networking, alumni and community partners. OBN is comprised of former TCC Model UN alumni who aim to support professional networking, internship and job opportunities for current TCC students.

This year on October 9th at the Four Points Sheraton in Tallahassee, FL the OBN will be holding a networking and fundraising opportunity. This second annual event aims to bring together alumni from TCC Model UN and its community partners to raise scholarship funds.

"This year OBN is looking to raise funds through members and its various networks in order to contribute to TSMUN Scholarships, Leadership Scholarships, TCC Model UN travel and various Model UN related activities," said Bugra Demirel, former TCC Model UN President and current TSMUN Board President.

TSMUN will be hosting an International Silent Auction. Introductions, presentations and bidding on silent auction items will start at 7 p.m.

TCC is recertified as an Achieving the Dream Leader College

Three signature artists to feature in TCC gallery

WAKULLA NEWS

Tallahassee Community College has been recertified as an Achieving the Dream Leader College.

In a September 9 letter, Achieving the Dream National Reform Network president and CEO Karen Stout praised the College's commitment to improving student success and equity.

"Leader Colleges embody the goal of Achieving the Dream: lasting change that helps more students achieve their goals," Stout wrote. "Your college has increased student achievement and made student success central to its mission."

"This is a great honor," said TCC president Jim Murdaugh. "Our strong leadership and informed approach to institutional improvement are directly responsible for Achieving the Dream's recognition."

Schools given the Leader College distinction must show commitment to and progress on the five principles of Achieving the Dream: committed leadership, use of evidence to improve programs and services, broad engagement, systemic institutional improvement, and equity.

Leader Colleges must also exhibit three years of sustained improvement in student success rates. TCC has been certified as a Leader College since 2009.

Achieving the Dream National Reform Network-certified institutions raise student retention and graduation rates, close achievement gaps, and change lives nationwide. The network helps address the needs of over four million community college students each year.

For information, contact Sally Search at (850) 201-8490 or searchs@tcc.fl.edu.

The Tallahassee Community College Fine Art Gallery will host an exhibit featuring the works of three of the Tallahassee Watercolor Society's Signature Artists.

Esther Tubbs, Rosemary Ferguson and Nina Freeman will display their paintings beginning with an opening event Thursday, October 8, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the Fine Art Gallery, located in the Fine and Performing Arts Center. The event is free and open to the public.

The realist, abstract and nonobjective paintings will remain in the gallery from October 9 through December 10. The TCC Fine Art Gallery is open weekdays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

For information, contact Barbara Cohenour at (850) 201-9889 or cohenoub@tcc.fl.edu.

2016 African-American History calendar nomination window opens

CAPITAL SOUP

The 2016 calendar, "Tallahassee Community College: 50 years of African-American Memories," will recognize groups and organizations in the tri-county area for innovation and excellence in the community demonstrated by distinction in two categories: Exceptional Service to the Community and Commitment to Coalition Building. Nominations may be entered [HERE](#).

WHAT: 16th annual Cherry Hall Alexander African-American History Calendar nomination period

WHEN: Now until Sunday, October 31, 2015 at 11:59 p.m.

WHERE: Tallahassee Community College

WHO: Tallahassee Community College's African-American History Month planning committee

CONTACT:

Gregory Williams

(850) 201-6070

williagr@tcc.fl.edu

State heading off campus shootings

Students laud university, law enforcement responses in past; officials look to future

JOE REEDY (AP)

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

With recent shootings on college campuses in Oregon and Arizona, Tallahassee Community College president Jim Murdaugh has received plenty of questions from staff and students about Florida's plans to deal with such incidents. The main thing he has stressed to them is that everything has been well planned.

"I would say Florida has been progressive in these areas," Murdaugh said. "We have had a heightened sense of awareness the past couple weeks but we have always been prevention-oriented."

Florida has had active shooter situations on campuses the past two years. There was one in January 2013 at the University of Central Florida and another one at Florida State last November. In both cases the gunman died. Also in both cases students lauded university and local law enforcement departments for their quick response, which prevented more injuries and a widespread loss of life.

The State University System has also held two conferences the past couple years to address further issues.

"We have a memorandum of understanding and know exactly who is in charge and who is going to respond," said Murdaugh, who is a former law enforcement officer and official. "A student that comes to college preoccupied with safety is not in the best position to learn. We take a lot of time to talk through issues and head those off."

A bill has been introduced in the Florida Legislature to allow those with conceal carry permits to carry guns on campuses. Murdaugh spoke before House and Senate criminal justice subcommittees in September against it but the measure passed through both.

With the recent events Murdaugh thinks both sides will dig in deeper.

"It is such an emotional issue but there is no evidence to make either sides' argument. You can't argue about what didn't happen. It will cause an ideological divide to be strengthened," he said.

Lamb appointed to Board of Trustees

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Gov. Rick Scott has reappointed Eugene Lamb to the Tallahassee Community College District Board of Trustees.

Lamb's new term began October 5 and runs through May 31, 2018. A member of TCC's District Board of Trustees since 2007, Lamb served as chair in 2010-11 and 2013-14.

He also serves as a member of the Governor's Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding.

TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute grant renewed

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College's Florida Public Safety Institute was awarded a \$130,239 grant from the United States Department of Labor for the Florida Mine Safety and Health Training Program.

The goal of the program is to increase awareness of safety and occupational health hazards in Florida mining environments and, through training, to help make them safer and healthier workplaces for miners and contractors. TCC has operated its Mine Safety and Health Training Program since 2012.

Flagler College-Tallahassee celebrates 15 years

Organizers plan a Wednesday ceremony to mark the community college's milestone year

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

When the Florida Legislature issued a mandate to provide more opportunities for returning students seeking college degrees more than 15 years ago, former Tallahassee Community College President T.K. Wetherell knew where to find a solution.

Wetherell reached out to William "Bill" Proctor, former president and current chancellor of Flagler College in St. Augustine.

Proctor was the assistant football coach at Florida State under Bill Petersen who recruited Wetherell to play for the Seminoles. Both men went on to successful careers in the Legislature and higher education.

On Wednesday afternoon, Wetherell will join TCC President Jim Murdaugh and Flagler College President William Abare to celebrate Flagler's 15 years of existence in Tallahassee. The 4:30 p.m. ceremony also will celebrate the fact Flagler-Tallahassee now has more than 2,000 graduates. Its first class of 56 graduates received their degrees in 2002 in a ceremony at Chiles High School.

"We are delighted to commemorate 15 years in Tallahassee and awarding bachelor's degrees to 2,000 students," Dean Donald Parks said. "We have a strong partnership with TCC, one that we believe will grow only stronger in the years to come, and we hope the community and our graduates will come join us in the celebration."

Today, there are 433 students enrolled at Flagler. The student population evenly split — 50 percent are over 25 years of age and 50 percent under 25. The private, not for profit college offers both evening and day classes with 60 percent of students enrolled in night courses and 40 percent attending daytime classes.

Parks explained that 90 percent of its students are graduates of TCC who wish to continue their education and earn a bachelor's degree at the Appleyard Drive campus. Students enrolled in Flagler have full access to TCC's facilities, classrooms and services, and even can participate in intramural sports programs.

"Our bread and butter is TCC, that is why we exist," Parks said. "But we're reaching out to the greater Tallahassee market, students all over the Big Bend area."

Parks said if a student wants to earn a degree from Flagler, the college will help advise the student in getting an associate's degree from TCC and then apply to Flagler.

"It's a partnership in the truest sense of the word," Parks said.

It offers degrees in accounting, education (elementary education and elementary education/exceptional student education), business administration and its newest degree offering, strategic communication.

The largest majors are business administration and education. The college strategically offers majors that are in demand in the Tallahassee market and are competitive for admission at Florida State University, Parks said.

"Our bread and butter is folks who want to work in Tallahassee," he said. "Our majors are designed with that in mind. Business majors and accounting majors can get a minor marketing and very soon we'll be offering them the minor in finance."

"I think strategic communications is going to be a big hit," said Terry Cox, who became assistant director at Flagler following his retirement from 28 years at TCC. "It's a high quality program and one of the most limited at FSU."

Another factor is that Flagler won't offering competing degrees that also are offered at the other four-year satellite campuses at TCC: Saint Leo University, Barry University and Thomas University.

In a town dominated by FSU, Florida A&M University and TCC, Flagler purposely promotes its smaller class sizes and a well-connected staff of 12 full-time faculty and 30 adjunct professors.

Susan Strauss, an education professor was the first full-time faculty member when the campus opened in Tallahassee and is former department chairman.

"I have a lot invested in this program. I helped to grow it," she said. "I'm surprised that 15 years has passed. I think what it says is that we are filling a need in the community."

Oyster class controversy

Oyster farmers question county commissioner's spot in TCC program

NICOLE ZEMA
WAKULLA NEWS

As the TCC Wakulla Environmental Institute's Oyster Aquaculture program enjoys success in its first harvests, some of the county's oyster farmers are questioning why they do not have a seat in the class.

At the Oct. 5 county commission meeting, WEI Executive Director Bob Ballard presented updates on the Oyster Aquaculture program and construction of the new campus. Some local oyster farmers were present to ask why the program intended to help their industry has not accommodated them.

Ballard said 800,000 oysters are growing right now in Wakulla waters, and 200,000 growing in Franklin County.

The second class is underway with 10 students benefitting from the program's micro-loan of equipment and training. One new student paid his own way – Commissioner Jerry Moore.

Citizen Dana Peck made note of this at the meeting, and said, "He has joined the oyster class to become an oysterman, thereby preventing a real Wakulla County oysterman from having access to all the things the class is supposed to offer."

Peck motioned to the four local oyster farmers present at the meeting. She said the program was intended to help them after the regional collapse of the industry.

"The question is, what is (Moore) going to do with all of that once he gets it?" Peck asked. "Hire real oystermen to work for minimum wage, and get out there and deal with the oysters as he sits on dry land and counts his money?"

Moore is not bumping anybody out of this class, Ballard said. "We only have enough money to have 10 (micro-loan students) a year, and they pay us back through the Oyster Aquaculture program," he said.

A letter signed by nine oyster farmers detailing these grievances was sent to Gov. Rick Scott, the Cabinet, legislators and TCC trustees. It said, "WEI is filling its 10 seats, and the opportunities the class offers, with hand-picked politically connected business people, including a major land developer, a retired real-estate broker, a videographer, and this fall, a Wakulla County commissioner."

One class can actually accommodate up to 25 participants, Ballard said, if the walk-on students pay the \$15,400 cost like Moore did. He said right now there is a six-year waiting list, and students are added to each new class according to when they signed up.

The letter went on to say, "We can only believe that WEI has selected the business people so that one day they can offer us struggling oystermen minimum-wage jobs to farm-raise their oysters while they sit on dry land." The letter concludes with a request to give struggling oystermen the leases in Oyster Bay, "So we can support our families doing what we and our ancestors have done for generations."

Commissioner Howard Kessler asked how WEI has reached out to the oystermen.

"The program, I thought, was a promise to the local oystermen," Kessler said. "It seemed it was your intention to help these fellows, but now I'm hearing some concern that the actual class composition might not be oystermen."

Ballard said the students have a mix of backgrounds, and about half are oyster farmers.

"We've got oystermen who have brought very strong skills to the table, and we've also had people who helped engineer and invented different things..." Ballard said. "We have a good mix of oystermen and others – all bringing something to the table."

He said as the program grows to a potentially global market, students with many different skill sets and areas of expertise will be essential.

Shorty Robbins said he has oystered for almost 20 years in Franklin and Wakulla County. Robbins said he was originally on the waitlist for the class, but was never notified. He asked for an explanation, and questioned why the class sign-ups are not advertised.

Ballard said the program has not been advertised because the wait list is so long. Commissioner Randy Merritt asked what can be done to reduce the long wait list. Ballard said he asked the Florida Legislature for \$600,000 a year to serve more students.

Oyster class controversy....

continued

"They gave me half of that," Ballard said. "If they ever decided to give me more, we could expand that." Commissioner Moore said, "We'll look back five or ten years from now, and this quite possibly will be the largest employer in the county." As he spoke, the oyster farmers stood to leave.

"Mr. Moore, you're so wrong," said John Taylor, a former student who is now suing the TCC Board of Trustees for fraud, negligence and breach of contract. "Half of us have lost our houses because of this damn oyster thing." Kessler urged caution to students not to go into debt to participate in the class, no matter how good it sounds.

"Especially since there hasn't been an economic feasibility study," Kessler said.

Ballard said the program started with a call from a struggling oysterman in Wakulla County, who said the industry has collapsed and asked if WEI help in some way.

Initially they expected perhaps 25 cents per oyster, but now they're going for 50 cents.

"We've got (a handshake agreement with) somebody who wants to take everything that we're growing," Ballard said. "Even though we haven't done a feasibility study on this, it's far outstripping our wildest imaginations on how successful this is becoming. The biggest problem is that the oysters are growing so fast, we weren't prepared for it.

"This is an outstanding place to grow oysters, and they're some of the finest-tasting oysters on the planet."

The roof and drywalling are done at the new campus located off U.S. 319 south of Crawfordville. A photo showed where the solar panels will be placed, which are expected to produce more energy than the building uses. A cistern will be installed on the property for bathrooms. The walls are made of cement sandwiched in styrofoam for insulation and reinforcement. Ballard said come a category 5 hurricane, the building could withstand it.

The location will also serve as a Capital City to the Sea Trails trailhead.

TCC enhances mobile connections for students

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College has joined an impressive lineup of colleges and universities across the country positioning themselves to meet the expectations of today's generation of students who almost solely rely on smartphones to conduct business.

In addition to using their phones for booking flights, buying text books and downloading music, students also want information on their admission status, financial aid resources and what courses they need to complete their studies, graduate and get a job.

This week, more than 100 people have been brainstorming at TCC as partners of Pleasanton, California-based Workday, a leading software company that has tapped into institutions from community colleges to Yale in bringing its cloud-based technology to higher education campuses around the country.

Staff from TCC are among the Workday Student Design Partners who are helping the company to brainstorm on Workday's existing software and what the company needs to offer next.

"Students want access to their services and they want interaction with these colleges at their fingertips," said Liz Dietz, vice president of strategy and product management for Workday's student systems division.

TCC began using Workday's student recruiting software last October and it will begin using the company's student admissions applications on Nov. 16.

"They will be the first in the world to use that product," Dietz said. Beginning early next year, the company will introduce software that colleges can use on smartphones to track student records, academic advisement and financial aid.

Other colleges in Florida partnering with Workday include Barry University, Broward College, Florida Atlantic University and Indian River State College. Nationally universities include Yale and the University of Texas-Austin.

The goal is to transform how colleges and universities meet the needs of a generation increasingly dependent on smartphone technology. Companies like Workday are

reaching out to those colleges to get feedback on their existing software and suggestions on what students and colleges need in the future.

"TCC can sit at the same table as Yale and UT-Austin and talk about recruiting students," Dietz said. "We're replacing the legacy student system," Dietz said, explaining that many student-information systems are 20 years old.

"In the 1990s, you didn't go to Amazon for books, Netflix, or use a smartphone," she said.

Alice Maxwell, TCC's director of communications and marketing, said Workday's vision provides what the college was looking for in connecting with its students.

"Workday was the most forward thinking," she said. "It was all mobile compatible."

Maxwell said TCC administrators and staff also have converted to the system for scheduling, expense reports and other office duties.

"It's making us more efficient," Maxwell said, "but more importantly, it's making us more effective."

Employers invited to register for job fair at TCC

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College is seeking employers to participate in its Fall Part-Time Job Fair on Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. to noon. Employers seeking to fill part-time positions or internships are encouraged to attend.

The fair will be held on TCC's main campus in the Student Union Ballroom.

Details and registration are available at www.tccfuturelink.com/events or by calling 850-201-6172. Space is limited.