

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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*In the News*



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April 18, 2009 - May 13, 2009

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**POWER MOVE**

A student participates in backhoe training in Havana as part of Tallahassee Community College's grant-funded workforce redevelopment training, offered to new students and displaced workers.

A photograph showing a student wearing a white hard hat and a pink safety vest operating a yellow backhoe loader. The backhoe has "DEERE" written on its side. The student is in the operator's seat, looking towards the camera. The background shows a clear sky and some trees. The machine is positioned on a dirt mound.

# Workforce Renovation

Through the lens of a struggling economy, it becomes clear that a trained (or re-trained) work force is key to our region's prosperity

BY MARGIE MENZEL



**IN THE FACE OF RISING UNEMPLOYMENT** that some venture to say “crashes all models,” Floridians are rethinking what it means to be jobless — and what to do about it. Trained professionals are on food stamps. Retirees, their investments depleted, are back at work, or trying to be. For all, flexibility is a necessity.

“In my office, I look down at the entranceway to our One-Stop (Career Center), so I get to see who’s coming in,” said Richard Williams, executive director of the Chipola Regional Workforce Development Board in Marianna. “And that population has changed.”

Williams can even tell by the way they come in. Describing a person who had entered his office only a few minutes earlier, he said: “(They) grabbed hold of the door handle, stopped, looked at the sign on the door, backed up, read a little piece of paper that someone had given them that sent them here, then went back up to the door and took a deep breath before they opened it. Because they never thought that they would be out looking like this.” >>

## Workforce Renovation



### THEORY INTO PRACTICE

Interim University of West Florida president Judy Bense took research-based evidence and reconfigured the University's academic programming to better meet the needs of a new economy.

December 2008 saw a 16-year high in Florida's unemployment rate — 8.1 percent — with more than 255,000 jobs lost since December 2007. State economist Amy Baker has predicted a 10-percent unemployment rate by summer if the pace continues.

But there is good news for Northwest Florida, where unemployment is trending lower than the rest of the state. While joblessness is up here too, the majority of counties still are below the state average. Meanwhile, economic and workforce development interests in the region are working together as never before to turn the situation around, to help those who need jobs, to aid local businesses seeking trained workers and to find ways to attract new industry.

Andra Cornelius, vice president of Workforce Florida Inc., the state's workforce policy and oversight board, characterizes Florida's Panhandle counties as being "very ready" to meet the challenges of the economic downturn.

"They have laced together, very effectively, their educational partners, their workforce partners, their businesses, their economic development organizations — and

that 16-county area works together as a team," she said.

Bruce Ballister, director of economic development for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, agreed.

"There's a lot of interaction, and that is encouraging because it takes a regional approach, especially to bring in the bigger, more lucrative contracts," he said. Ballister points to a site in Jackson County recently considered by the Hyundai and Kia automotive companies. Both ended up selecting other places, but Ballister said the areas that had been short-listed worked incredibly hard on their sales pitch preparation.

In short, the region's economic and workforce development officials are working together on a weekly basis to see what business they can attract to the area and how they can then provide the trained workforce those enterprises need.

"We have figured out — across the region — that none of us can (individually) meet the needs of a community or an industry," said Kimberly Moore, CEO of Workforce Plus, which serves Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties. "So we're working hand in hand."

## REGIONAL APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

All roads lead to Florida's Great Northwest, the region's economic development arm, which is composed of county and local economic development groups that work with educational institutions, workforce development boards and businesses to create high-wage, high-skilled jobs.

"What Florida's Great Northwest wants to do as a region is to go from an economic base of tourism, military and government to what we call a 'knowledge-based' industry, which is white-collar and high-tech," said University of West Florida Interim President Judy Bense. "They want to get new businesses to locate here and employ people in those fields."

To do that, the organization conducted a study to determine whether local educational institutions — UWF, area high schools, community colleges and technical institutes — were meeting workforce needs. The conclusion: There are huge gaps.

"For example, annually there's a need for 235 software engineers, and we produced, like, 60," Bense said. "So where do the other software engineer positions go to? They go to

people brought in from outside the area.”

Research by Florida's Great Northwest has provided Bense with what she called “a road map” to the university's academic programming.

“They've done the studies,” she said. “So why don't we try to ‘plus up’ engineering, computer science and information technology? This is not rocket science.”

At Tallahassee Community College, a training grant from Florida's Great Northwest jump-started an industry-certified program in heavy-equipment operation last October. The grant is part of a \$15 million U.S. Department of Labor initiative to increase the quality and quantity of workers in the region. By studying industry trends, it was learned that the demand for heavy-equipment operators in the Panhandle was close to 190 new workers yearly.

“But there was only one training program,” said Pam Tedesco, the vice president of workforce initiatives for Florida's Great Northwest. “It had an enrollment of four.”

By the same token, the organization developed a list of industries it is targeting for expansion by conducting a 2007 study with SRI International to identify the best prospects for regional economic development. Tedesco said major assets range from research at military bases to life-sciences clusters in

Tallahassee and Pensacola and the new Panama City-Bay County International Airport.

“We see that as a great opportunity to expand the international trade that's being done in the region,” she said of the new airport, scheduled to open in May 2010.

Workforce Florida does, too, having inked a memorandum of understanding with Gulf Power, the St. Joe Company and Gulf Coast Community College to develop opportunities tied to the airport. The community college, the lead partner, will open a state-of-the-art Advanced Technology Center to meet workforce training needs.

“In an effort to spur economic development, we continue to talk to companies all over the world, and one consistent priority always rises to the top — a trained workforce,” said Britt Greene, president and CEO of St. Joe, when the agreement was signed on Dec. 16. “The historic workforce alliance announced today will prime the job creation machine for Northwest Florida.”

The strategic plan developed by Florida's Great Northwest identifies four target industry clusters for their growth potential: aviation, aerospace, defense and national security; health science and human performance enhancement; renewable energy and environment; and transportation and logistics services. Analysis also showed the value

of information technology and research and engineering services to all the target areas.

Thus the STEM disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — are in increasing demand.

### COLLEGES FOCUS ON RETRAINING

Having agreed on the workforce skills needed to attract businesses, Northwest Florida's educational institutions are adjusting their curricula.

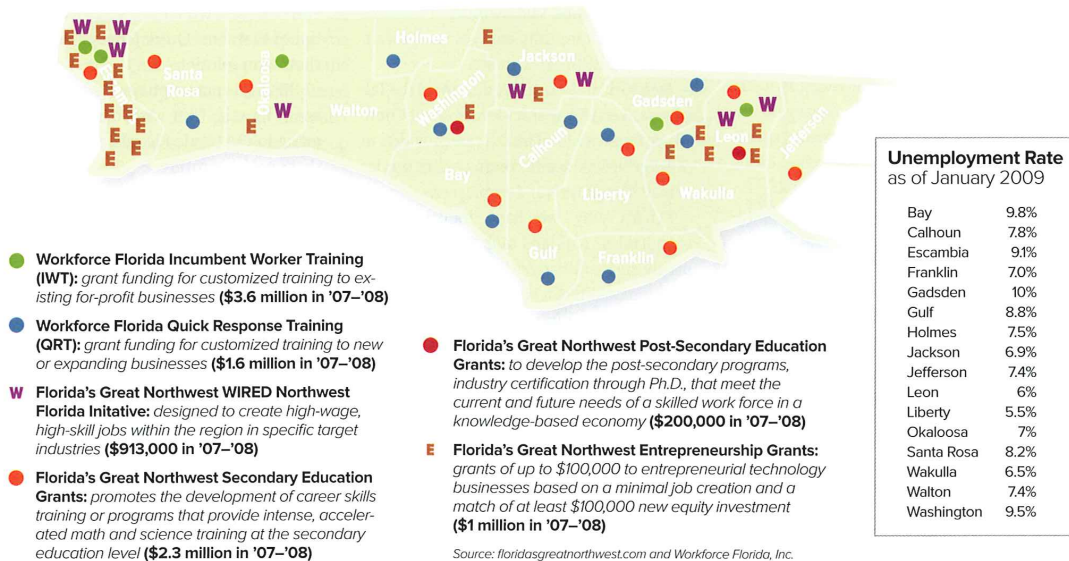
“We're applying more of a business model to academic programming,” UWF's Bense said. “That means we will prune and fertilize. In times of economic stress like we're in now, you prune the lower-performing and lower-productive programs and you fertilize the ones, for example, that are in the STEM areas, that there are workforce needs for.”

Lakeisha Norris, a junior majoring in pre-professional biology at UWF, hopes to earn her degree in dentistry, serve in the U.S. Air Force and open her own dental practice. Succeeding in a STEM discipline has boosted her confidence.

“It's opened a lot of doors,” she said. “You know you've accomplished something that's really complicated — even other students tell me that.” She also gave credit to the

## VALUABLE RESOURCES

How unemployment rates and workforce redevelopment grants are spreading across the region (2007–2008).



## Workforce Renovation

university for keeping it smaller and simpler. "They try to cater to students. It really helps."

The region's educational institutions have more students now. Enrollment is especially up at the community colleges, which is typical during an economic downturn.

"When the economy is good, people don't think about training or retraining," said Bud Riviere, dean of workforce development and continuing education at Chipola College in Marianna. "When the economy is bad and they realize they are skill-deficient, in a lot of instances — if they can afford to — they come to school or come back to school and get trained, retrained or upgrade their skills and competencies."

Workers in residential construction are especially upgrade-ready, Cornelius said.

"The skills that those workers have deployed with respect to home construction — with additional upgrades — could be transferred," she said. "What comes to mind is 're-skilling' those individuals to consider jobs in the energy sector and the alternative-energy sector."

### EXPANDING MARKETS

Energy and alternative energy are growing workforce concerns. Florida State University's Institute for Energy Systems, Economics and Sustainability recently announced \$6.5 million in research grants. Chipola College has a \$297,431 grant from Workforce Florida Inc. to train line technicians for four utility companies. The school also plans to open its own training center for line technicians serving Northwest Florida.

In February, Florida's Great Northwest announced a \$347,385 workforce training grant to Gulf Power for a renewable energy skills program; the utility company is putting up \$900,442. Last summer, Tallahassee Community College began partnering with the University of Central Florida's Banner Center for Alternative Energy to offer courses in Solar-Thermal Hot Water Heating Technician and Photovoltaic Solar Energy Technician. The Banner Center seeds such programs at universities, community colleges and workforce agencies statewide.

"Everyone can benefit from these classes," said Ben Bloodworth, who co-owns Sol Verde Renewable Energy Solutions in Apalachicola. He and three colleagues drove four hours for each class they attended, but he says the



### SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS

The region's educational institutions are taking advantage of workforce redevelopment grants and initiatives to amp up their adult education, career skills and vocational training programs in most all areas of the 850. *Clockwise from top left:* Students of all ages in Tallahassee Community College's Division of Health Care Professions learn needed-now skills in nursing, respiratory care and more; The Capital region's WORKFORCE plus offers computer and public speaking skills for those reentering the workforce; Students at Gulf Coast Community College's Surgical Technology course get apropos hands-on training.

certification and networking alone were worth it.

Health care is the only industry sector currently adding jobs, said Workforce Florida's Cornelius. Community colleges have a waiting list for health care courses.

Beth Kirkland, executive director of the Tallahassee/Leon Economic Development Council, worked with local health care providers to develop bigbendhealth.com, an online service to match employers and employees.

"That's why we have industry-sector roundtables," Kirkland said. "They predominantly create initiatives to help increase the workforce skills of a particular sector... They offer all the training to help people already involved in health care or those looking to be in health care to upgrade their skills."

Job training with a fast turnaround is spreading. In August 2008, Tallahassee Community College began Quick Jobs, affordable courses in 10 in-demand occupations to be completed within 90 days. In addition to alternative energy construction, they include Medical Billing and Coding, Medical

Transcription, Electrician Helper, Plumber's Helper and CNC Machining Operator.

But John Chapin, TCC's vice president for economic and work force development, cautioned that some Quick Jobs courses may be short-term solutions.

"Medical transcription is a hot job right now," he said, "but with medical facilities going to electronic records, that's not a job that's got a big future."

### PROFESSIONALISM PAYS

"(New employees are) coming with the technical skills, but not the soft skills," said Susan Nelms, executive director of Workforce Escarosa in Pensacola. "So we're trying to develop some programs that do nothing but work on work ethics and soft skills and interviewing — some of the things that have been forgotten, I think, in our current work force."

Generally, professionals can transfer their skills with a minimum of training. Cornelius said employers will hire on the basis of



attitude — being eager, ready to work and able to learn on the job.

“Those are very, very key,” she said. “Many employers have said to us, ‘If you can help us identify an individual that has a great work ethic, we will hire them and train them on the job.’”

Workforce development boards are partnering with educational institutions to boost those skills, including the skills that involve how to act in a professional setting.

“There’s a real dichotomy,” TCC’s Chapin said. “We have regions of the area where the work force is just outstanding: highly trained, highly skilled. Then there are other regions where the folks are woefully unprepared for work.”

In Gadsden County, for instance, Tallahassee Community College allocated \$50,000 last fall for a training program aimed at helping 500 people laid off by Quincy Farms, until then the county’s largest employer. Many of the displaced workers needed basic English and computer skills to compete for jobs, and TCC is picking up the tab.

“One thing we have discovered with the downturn is the lack of computer skills—across the board,” said Moore of Workforce Plus.

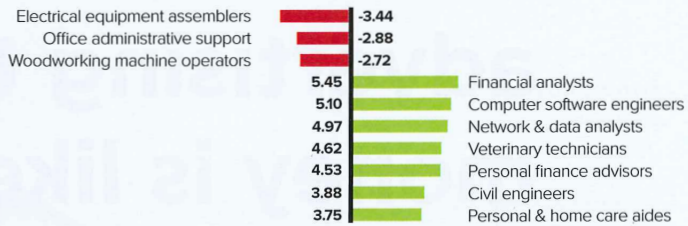
“The Information Age and the world market have changed the free market to such a fast-changing place,” said Gulf Coast Community College’s Stevenson. “Unless people are ready to adapt and adjust and cope with that, they’re going to have problems.”

But if they can adapt, they can have a bright future in Northwest Florida. As the region’s employers and employees discover the extent of their interdependence, they are learning to create a guaranteed magnet for business: a skilled, professional work force. ■

PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE DANIBSON, SCOTT HOLESTEIN AND COURTESY PAUL COOLEY, GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## LOW- AND HIGH-GROWTH OCCUPATIONS IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA

### WORKFORCE REGION 1: Escambia & Santa Rosa counties



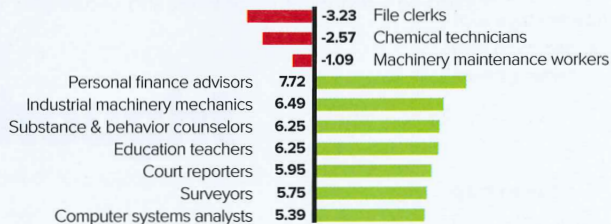
### WORKFORCE REGION 2: Okaloosa & Walton counties



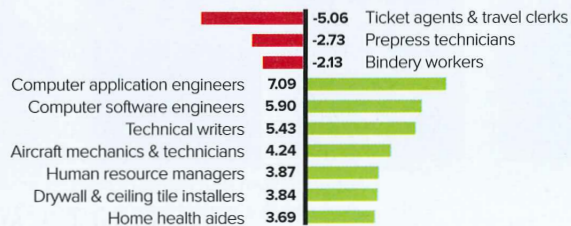
### WORKFORCE REGION 3: Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty & Washington counties



### WORKFORCE REGION 4: Bay, Franklin & Gulf counties



### WORKFORCE REGION 5: Gadsden, Leon & Wakulla counties



Source: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Center, November 2008





Coming from rural Gadsden County, I was very fortunate to receive a scholarship to TCC for being a first generation college student in my family. The faculty and staff at TCC were very caring and gave me a great deal of hands-on support.



Vanessa Jones, TCC Class of 2008

**WE ARE**  
the college experience

**Financial Aid and Scholarships available**

Tallahassee Community College | 444 Appleyard Drive | GoToTCC.com | 201-8555



The transition from Wakulla High School to TCC was trouble free. All of my classes were taught by professor's that knew my name. The warm caring environment at TCC allowed me to fully grasp the college experience and know what to expect when I transferred to FSU.

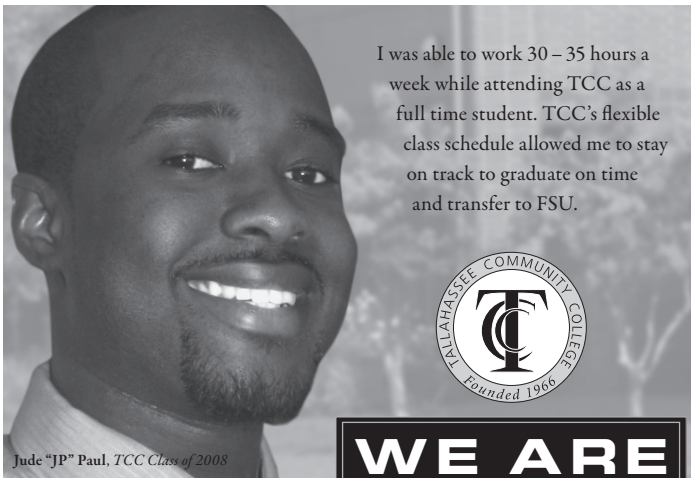
Heather Edwards, TCC Class of 2007

**WE ARE**  
the college experience

**High Quality Education Affordable Tuition**

Financial aid Scholarships Flexible schedules

Tallahassee Community College | 444 Appleyard Drive | GoToTCC.com | 201-8555



I was able to work 30 - 35 hours a week while attending TCC as a full time student. TCC's flexible class schedule allowed me to stay on track to graduate on time and transfer to FSU.



Jude "JP" Paul, TCC Class of 2008

**WE ARE**  
the college experience

**Flexible Schedules and Online Classes**

High quality education Affordable tuition Flexible schedules

Tallahassee Community College | 444 Appleyard Drive | GoToTCC.com | 201-TCC1



During my senior year the requirements to get in to Florida State became more difficult. I enrolled at TCC and got my two-year degree and then transferred to FSU. Going to TCC first was the perfect choice for me. Many of my professors made learning so interesting that I never missed a class!



Brittancy Johns, TCC Class of 2007

**WE ARE**  
the college experience

**#1 transfer school to Florida State**

High quality education Affordable tuition Flexible schedules

Tallahassee Community College | 444 Appleyard Drive | GoToTCC.com | 201-TCC1

## Florida jobless rate soars to 9.7 percent

*Unemployment in Leon fourth lowest; area expected to be hit hard by state layoffs*

By Paul Flemming

FLORIDA CAPITAL BUREAU

There were 893,000 Floridians out of work in March, up a tenth of a percentage point from February, but more than double the rate a year ago.

The 9.7 percent unemployment rate for the state is the highest since December 1975. Florida's jobless rate exceeds the national rate of 8.5 percent.

State economists project the employment outlook will worsen for nearly a year. The job picture is expected to continue to decline through the first quarter of 2010, with an unemployment peak of 10.2 percent expected for Florida.

State officials Friday said federal-stimulus money is helping those out of work.

"More than \$1.5 billion in federal stimulus funds are flowing into our state to assist unemployed Floridians," said Agency for Workforce Innovation interim Director Cynthia Lorenzo.

Gadsden County had 2,333 out of work, for a 10.8 percent unemployment rate. That's more than double the rate a year ago, when Gadsden had 4.9 percent unemployment.

Leon County had the fourth lowest rate in the state, at 6.2 percent or 9,084 people out of work in a labor force of 145,937. In March 2008, Leon County had a 3.4 percent unemployment rate.

Wakulla County's unemployment rate was 6.8 percent, with 1,041 reported jobless. A year ago, Wakulla's jobless rate was 3.5 percent.

Kimberly Moore, chief executive of Workforce Plus in Tallahassee, said the three-county area her agency serves — Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla — will be affected by government cutbacks, both with state layoffs and the county and city workers hit by budget cuts.

"A lot of what we are planning is geared toward what are other impacts that may not have been counted," Moore said.

Florida officials are swamped with people seeking unemployment benefits. There were 200,390 benefits claims made in March, a 226 percent increase from the same month a year ago. The Agency for Workforce Innovation has roughly doubled employees in its Unemployment Compensation division to 1,050.

The agency handles between 6,000 and 9,000 claims calls a day.

Lorenzo announced Friday a \$15.4 million, two-year contract with Faneuil Inc. to provide extra customer service at an Orlando call center. Faneuil is expected to hire 200 to staff the center, Lorenzo said. The new center is expected to open in August.

Liberty County had the lowest unemployment rate in the state, at 5.2 percent. Leon, Franklin and Wakulla counties were among the seven lowest March jobless rates in Florida.

Flagler County led the state in unemployment, with a 14.3 percent jobless rate. Lee County, at 12.2 percent unemployment, had the fourth-highest rate in the state.

### **Additional Facts**

#### **IF YOU GO**

Workforce Plus will host the Get A Job 102 Career Expo today, a chance for young workers to discuss career planning and employment prospects.

**When:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today

**Where:** Economic & Workforce Development Building, **Tallahassee Community College**, 444 Appleyard Drive

**Sponsors:** United Way of the Big Bend, Kaiser Group and Ingram Accounting & Consulting.

## Fallout from budget cuts to FSU, FAMU and TCC hard to fathom for Tallahassee

By Doug Blackburn

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

The numbers are staggering, and they lead to a question few want to even consider: Will Tallahassee still look and feel like Tallahassee a year from now after higher-education cuts?

While the Legislature has yet to produce a final budget, Florida State could have about \$40 million less for the upcoming school year. Current projections also show Florida A&M could have \$15 million less and **Tallahassee Community College** could have more than \$2 million less.

These numbers are far from a worst-case scenario. They represent a compromise between the House and Senate appropriations for higher education. Those two bodies will begin meeting in conference this week.

How will these multimillion dollar cutbacks play out, coming on the heels of two straight years of sharply reduced revenue for higher education? At FSU, with 41,000 students and 6,700 faculty and staff, this might mean closing 21 departments and laying off several hundred professors.

"I'm not sure this community totally understands what these budgets have," FSU President T.K. Wetherell said. "If we see cuts of this magnitude, I don't think you'll see FSU, FAMU and **TCC** bounce back for another five, six years.

"I think it's just overwhelmed the chamber and the economic development people in Tallahassee," he added. "I think it's so unbelievable many people don't understand it."

FSU administrators have been pleading with local officials to call legislators on behalf of higher education. The same message has gone out to FSU students and their parents.

Sue Dick, president of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, attempts to get daily updates on the budget process and how it may affect the local universities.

"This is tough. It's hard to watch," Dick said. "Not only are they existing employers, but they're a stimulus for us, too. They can generate economic development."

Tallahassee Mayor John Marks acknowledged he hasn't been involved in advocating on behalf of the two universities and one community college in his city.

"We're focused on what the Legislature may do in regard to local governments and our authority regarding revenues," Marks said. "I'm concerned about all three of my institutions of higher learning, and how it may impact the city of Tallahassee.

"Clearly the universities have an economic impact on the city," the FSU law school graduate added. "They're a significant part of our local economy."

Leon County Commissioner Bob Rackleff said he's waiting for directions from Wetherell as to how he and other local leaders can have an impact.

"I'm very disturbed by the actions of the Legislature, their failure to face up to their responsibilities to fund education and other vital services in Florida," Rackleff said. "A lot of people think the main industry in Tallahassee is state government. It's not — it's education.

"There may be some hyperbole involved but it's clear to anybody with a pulse that Florida State is being seriously damaged, as is FAMU and our public-school system."

*continued...*

## Fallout from budget... *continued*

If FSU is forced to lay off hundreds of faculty members, Wetherell said it will have a ripple effect throughout the region that could be felt for years to come.

"If I have to cut that much, I'll lose some students, I'll lose some tuition," FSU's president said. "If people get laid off around here, they leave Tallahassee, and housing rates go down even more."

Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda, a first-term Democrat from Tallahassee, is frustrated that a majority of her colleagues in the Legislature don't appear willing to make sure higher education is well-funded.

"We can't go forward as a state without good, high-quality education. I don't know how we're going to get out of this mess if we don't fund education well," she said. "Good, decent people make sure their children are well educated."

### Additional Facts

*At A Glance:*

#### **FSU**

**House:** Proposes cutting university's budget by \$77 million.

**Senate:** Proposes cutting the university budget by \$33.7 million.

#### **FAMU**

**House:** Would cut the university's budget by \$22.7 million.

**Senate:** Would cut the university's budget by \$6.9 million.

**TCC:** The school is expecting a \$2.2 million cut.

## Hot dog! It's been 25 years

By Vic Aderhold

SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT

April makes it 25 years that Dog Et Al has been serving hot dogs to Tallahassee.

Food-service provider Dave Taylor had the contract to operate the cafeteria at **Tallahassee Community College**, but in late 1983 **TCC** decided to go with another contractor.

Ever the optimist, Taylor looked on this as an opportunity to do something he had always dreamed of doing. He had a good staff that had worked for him for years, so, in April 1984 he opened a hot-dog place on South Adams Street next to a feed store. In 1989 he moved Dog Et Al to its present location, 1456 S. Monroe St.

"I wanted to have a hot dog place ever since Mutt & Jeff's closed in the 1970s. Many cities have famous hot-dog eateries, like New York has Nathan's, Atlanta has the Varsity, Thomasville has the Pool Hall, and for the last 25 years, Tallahassee has had Dog Et Al," he said.

Where did the name Dog Et Al come from? Well, for the uninitiated, "et al" means "and others" or "and other things." Dog Et Al means hot dogs plus homemade potato chips, French fries, corn dogs, onion rings, fried pies, sweet tea, soda and every topping that goes well with a hot dog.

One of the things Taylor is most proud of is that he can serve hot dogs 10,230 different ways. "We've got Down-To-Earth Dogs, Uppity Dogs and Puttin' On The Dog condiments (mustard, mayo, onions, etc.), so you can eat a hot dog a different way every day for 28 years and three days."

As for why his corn dogs taste better than the ones served at the fair, Taylor says, "That's because we make the batter fresh every day; we keep the frying oil fresh, and we don't cook the corn dogs until they are ordered."

In 2003 Taylor brought Tommy Holland on board as general manager and the two oversee a staff of six full-time employees. Holland brought with him more than 20 years experience in the food-service business.

"I have learned more about the restaurant business in the six years I have worked for Mr. Taylor than I learned in the previous 20 years," he said.

During these strenuous economic times, Dog Et Al is trying to hold down prices. They still serve a meal for less than \$6. This seems to be working — Dog Et Al is always busy.

Another thing Dog Et Al is noted for is its ever-changing sign out front. When driving on South Monroe, the sign might say, "We don't know how to split an atom, but as to hot dogs, let us at 'em." Or "Every day we do our part to make hot dogs a work of art."

*Vic Aderhold operates Vic Aderhold Concepts, a marketing firm in Tallahassee.*

## Update: **TCC banking on continued growth to offset potential budget woes**

Democrat Staff Writer

**Tallahassee Community College** administrators hope their trend for high enrollment will continue this fall. Without a 4-percent growth spurt, furloughs, a tuition increase and early retirement options may be used to balance the budget for the coming school year, President Bill Law said.

Law told trustees Monday that recommendations from the state House and Senate look dismal. The House proposed budget cuts that dip 12.6 percent below 2008-2009. The Senate recommends a budget filled with federal stimulus dollars.

"The House's position is horribly problematic," Law said. "The Senate's position is problematic in the long-term."

Law believed a 7.5 percent or \$2.1 million cut is likely. Administrators discussed boosting tuition from \$57.05 per credit hour to about \$61. Trustees agreed with the increase because **TCC's** tuition ranks 27th place among 28 community colleges.

Karen Moore, trustee vice chairwoman, said, "I believe we can no longer be martyrs."

Without enrollment growth, at least two furlough days would be proposed. Details have not been finalized about the early retirement option for 20 senior-level employees, Law said. However, the majority of the savings wouldn't be seen until 2010-2011.

"I'm going to do everything I can before I lay people off or take back paychecks," Law said.

### *Morning update*

**Tallahassee Community College's** trustee board will hold their monthly meeting today at 4 p.m. on 444 Appleyard Drive.

The meeting will be held in the Herbert F. Morgan Room in the Hinson Administration Building.

*Return to [Tallahassee.com](http://Tallahassee.com) for more details.*

## Amateur sleuths raise \$12,000 for health-care project

By Amanda Nalley

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

What do you get when you squeeze 96 people into 12 limos and loose them on one capital city of Florida? A rocking good time earning nearly \$12,000.

Sunday's second annual Capital City Caper is the **Tallahassee Community College** Foundation's biggest fundraiser of the year. Money raised will go to the Ghazvini Center for Health, a new building at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital that will house **TCC's** health-care programs.

Al James, the fundraiser inventor, came up with the idea in 2002 while working for Bryan's House Pediatric, a non-profit pediatric HIV/AIDS service organization. An avid reality television fan, he began marketing his idea to businesses across the nation.

"I was looking for something that wasn't another black-tie gala or walk," James said. "What is better than riding around in a limo?"

During the event, 12 teams of sleuths took a three-hour limo tour to six locations about town, including Capital Eurocars, the Tallahassee Democrat and Dillards. The keen investigators had to complete a different task at each location, gaining as many as 24 points per task.

Tasks included naming the ingredients in Fusion Cafe's Cheeseburger and Fries dessert, playing laser tag at Fun Station and solving a murder mystery performed by students of **TCC** Fine & Performing Arts Center.

The teams were separated into three categories based on how much their business donated: Inspector Gadgets donated \$1,000; Get Smarts \$2,500 and Scotland Yard's \$5,000. Each category is judged on its own.

"They've always supported our group and we wanted to come back and support them," said Carl Huang, chair of the Taiwanese American Association of Tallahassee.

Mainline Information Systems, who donned matching camouflage pants, dog tags and matching black shirts with Capital City Capers Special Ops Unit written on them, won the costume contest.

The top sleuths were the Capital Eurocars/Tallahassee Magazine team in the Scotland Yard division, Wakulla Bank in the Get Smart division, and a group of lawyers and lobbyists in the Inspector Gadget division.

## Florida State U. ROTC Cadet recognized nationally

By Kelly Falkowski

A Florida State University Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps officer joined prominent United States military leaders at a National Security Seminar April 15-17. Cadet Christian Ballester ventured to the event in Lexington, Va. alongside officials including Army Chief of Staff General George W. Casey and Secretary of the Army Pete Geren.

Ballester, a native of Oviedo, earned his place at the George C. Marshall ROTC Seminar by being selected as the top Army ROTC cadet at Florida State.

"Cadet Ballester is an exceptional cadet," said Lt. Col. John DeVillez, professor of Military Science at FSU.

He was also awarded the Daedalian Foundation Scholarship as one of the top three Aviation Branched Cadets. This year the Daedalian Foundation awarded \$2,000 scholarships to three Army MS IV Aviation Branched Cadets who were not on scholarship.

"He is the picture of military discipline, always maintaining his composure and treating others with courtesy and respect," said DeVillez. "He is a top performer in the academic portion of our course, taking the lead on quizzes, tests and both written and practical land navigation exercises."

Ballester is scheduled to be commissioned May 2 this year, when he will take up duties as an Aviation Branch lieutenant. He will attend Flight School at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker in Alabama.

"Based on his performance in our ROTC program, I had no doubt he would be branched Aviation," said DeVillez.

Ballester distinguished himself among the Army ROTC at FSU due to both his dedication and personal qualities, according to Major Figueroa, executive officer of the ROTC program.

"Cadet Christian Ballester is an outstanding young leader who has all the qualities and potential for greatness," said Figueroa. "He is a proven leader in our Army and will soon take the oath to become a Second Lieutenant in the Army."

During his time in Lexington, Ballester had the opportunity to interact with key leaders in attendance and discuss a variety of issues directly related to national security.

At the event, there were roundtable discussions led by scholars and experts in the indicated fields that provided attendees with the opportunity to speak about topics of national concern with fellow award winners. Areas studied included recent world events in the Middle East, Far East, Africa and Israel.

"The George C. Marshall Award is awarded to the No. 1 cadet for each ROTC program throughout the U.S.," said Figueroa. "Each school sends their award winner to the seminar where they receive information and discussion specializing in strategic areas of concern for the U.S."

Named in honor of George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff during World War II, the Marshall ROTC Seminar is now in its 32nd year. The Marshall Award is given annually to the top performing cadet from each program nationwide.

"Cadet Ballester was at the seminar with the No. 1 Cadet from each university Army ROTC program in the Nation, which there are 274 programs," said DeVillez.

FSU's Army ROTC is nationally recognized.

"Our ROTC program is very strong," said Figueroa. "Our cadets traditionally perform above average during a national level training camp that takes place every summer at Ft. Lewis, Wash."

*continued...*



## Florida State U. ROTC...

### *continued*

ROTC is designed to teach the decision-making, management skills, leadership and discipline that will enhance the students' future success.

"In ROTC, students learn leadership skills that will help them either in a military or civilian career," said Figueroa.

The program is home to more than 143 students, including those at **Tallahassee Community College**.

"Students join ROTC for many reasons, but the single most important one is that they have the desire to serve their country in a period where our armed forces are spread thin with commitments throughout the world fighting the war on terror," said Figueroa. "These young cadets will soon be part of the one percent of the U.S. population that serve their country in the Army."

Army ROTC at FSU is considered an elective, so freshmen and sophomores may try it out before making any commitments. Students may then complete the upper level ROTC courses in unison with their degree. At graduation, students are commissioned as an Army officer to serve on Active Duty, with the Army Reserves or the National Guard.

"I feel excited about the program and where we are heading," said Figueroa. "We have a strong team of dedicated cadets and staff that make coming to work fun."

## TCC hopes growth stalls budget woes

By Angeline J. Taylor  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

**Tallahassee Community College** administrators hope their trend for high enrollment will continue this fall. Without a 4-percent growth spurt, furloughs, a tuition increase and early retirement options may be used to balance the budget for the coming school year, President Bill Law said Monday.

Law told trustees Monday that recommendations from the state House and Senate look dismal. The House proposed budget cuts that dip 12.6 percent below 2008-2009. The Senate recommends a budget filled with federal stimulus dollars.

"The House's position is horribly problematic," Law said. "The Senate's position is problematic in the long-term."

Law believed a 7.5 percent or \$2.1 million cut is likely. Administrators discussed boosting tuition from \$57.05 per credit hour to about \$61. Trustees agreed with the increase because **TCC's** tuition ranks 27th place among 28 community colleges.

Karen Moore, trustee vice chairwoman, said, "I believe we can no longer be martyrs."

Without enrollment growth, at least two furlough days would be proposed. Details have not been finalized about the early retirement option for 20 senior-level employees, Law said.

## Technology to Help Businesses Thrive at TechExpo 2.0

TALLAHASSEE –

The Tallahassee Technology (TalTech) Alliance will showcase the latest innovations, applications and opportunities from the technology sector April 30 when it hosts its 2nd annual technology conference, TechExpo 2.0, at **Tallahassee Community College (TCC)**.

TechExpo will kick off with a networking reception at the University Center Club April 29 at 5:30 p.m. and continue April 30 with a full day (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) of educational content and business exhibits at **TCC**.

“With the current economic climate, there has never been a better opportunity for technology to make an impact—whether it is a tech company providing it, an individual working with it, or a business using it,” said TechExpo co-chair Bill Campman.

National, regional and local speakers will lead an array of topics, including social media and digital marketing, health informatics, green computing, secure networks and strategic management. Featured speakers include keynote Maggie Lake, CNN International Business Correspondent, and luncheon speaker Mike Russo, Chief Information Security Officer for the State of Florida.

“In addition to informative and enlightening presentations, TechExpo will provide outstanding opportunities for networking, exchanging best practices and business development,” said TalTech Chair Chet Hall. The TechExpo 2.0 Exhibit Hall will showcase many of the region’s most progressive technology-oriented professionals who will share their expertise. Some sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are still available; for more information please contact Sarah Fowler at (850) 228-7921.

Keynote speaker Lake joined CNN in January 2001. She anchors World Business Today and provides daily in-depth market coverage for Quest Means Business and many other CNN International programs. Before joining CNN, Lake worked for eight years at the news agency Reuters. In various reporting roles for Reuters Television in New York she provided coverage of U.S. bond, stock and currency markets, interviewed Fortune 500 CEOs

and reported on the 1998 global financial crisis. Moving to London in 1999, Lake anchored programs covering top business stories from around the world, including interviews with finance ministers and leading policy officials. Her keynote address at TechExpo 2.0 is expected to provide perspective and insight on the current business climate and what technology professionals need to know in order to survive and thrive.

Other speakers at the event include:

**Don DeLoach**, *CIO, City of Tallahassee*

**Don Northam**, *Senior Manager, North Highland*

**Tim Brown**, *Executive Director, Northwest Regional Data Center*

**Dr. Bill Law**, *President, Tallahassee Community College*

**Jonathan Lyons**, *Lyons Digital Media*

**Bill Vickford**, *idea integration*

**Nadia Kamal**, *Onyx Group*

**Josh Hallett**, *New Media Strategist, Voce Communications*

**Jacob Sanford**, *Senior Consultant, Resolute Solutions Corp.*

**Cyndi Loomis**, *COO, Information Systems of Florida, Inc.*

**Chris Lovell**, *idea integration*

TechExpo 2.0 registration and additional information is at [www.taltechexpo.com](http://www.taltechexpo.com). Full event registration is \$99 per person or \$85 for TalTech Alliance members. Students can take advantage of a special expo-only (excluding reception and luncheon) rate of \$50.

The Tallahassee Technology Alliance is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit alliance of businesses, academic centers, entrepreneurs and individuals invested in promoting technology-based entrepreneurship, business expansion and innovation in the Capital region. It continuously seeks to expand business opportunities and promote innovation in order to strengthen the region’s business community. For more information, visit [www.taltech.org](http://www.taltech.org).

## Florida's Great Northwest Supports Tallahassee Community College \$135,387 given to support Information Technology Training Program.

(Tallahassee, Fla.) –



(From left to right): Ms. Beth Kirkland (Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County), Mr. Larry McIntyre (Agency for Workforce Innovation), Ms. Pam Tedesco (Florida's Great Northwest), Dr. William Law (Tallahassee Community College) and Mr. Al Wenstrand (Florida's Great Northwest).

Florida's Great Northwest announces its support of **Tallahassee Community College** through a grant for the development of an information technology training program to provide workers the information technology skills needed for success in the workplace. This program will target the 47,000 public employees in the Tallahassee area, but will be available for anyone desiring these skills.

**Tallahassee Community College's** goal is to annually train 200 individuals through the information technology curricula. Successful completion of the program will lead to industry-recognized certification and degrees. Trainees who successfully complete the information technology training courses will earn Microsoft Business Certification, consisting of the Microsoft Certified Application Specialist and Microsoft Office Specialist credentials.

**Tallahassee Community College** will contribute \$135,399 in support of the program matched by \$135,387 in grant funds contributed from Florida's Great Northwest to develop the information technology training program.

"**Tallahassee Community College** is excited to launch its information technology training program, funded partially through Florida's Great Northwest, because it represents an important investment in Northwest Florida," said Dr. William Law, president of Tallahassee Community College. "Providing the training opportunities for developing the critical talent needs that will support the growth of our region's economy while, at the same time, giving workers added skills that will yield increased pay is key to moving our economy forward," he said.

*continued...*

## Florida's Great Northwest... *continued*

"Recent research by Florida's Great Northwest indicates that enhancing the region's workforce capacity in information technology is directly tied to the advancement of Northwest Florida's economy," stated Al Wenstrand, the organization's president. "The new information technology training program that **Tallahassee Community College** will be developing will help ensure Northwest Florida is generating the critical talent with the skills necessary to support a growing, diverse and successful economy," he said. The grant funds were awarded based on successful proposals submitted under Florida's Great Northwest's Workforce Innovation III program created to spur innovative training projects. These projects support talent development requirements that further the economic diversity and success in Northwest Florida and help transition Northwest Florida into a knowledge-based economy.

In addition, they are designed to create education and training programs that lead to new job creation or employee advancement in Florida's Great Northwest's four target technology-related business clusters: Aviation, Aerospace, Defense and National Security; Health Science and Human Performance Enhancement; Renewable Energy and Environment; Transportation and Logistics Services; and the two critical support clusters of Information Technology Services and Research and Engineering.

"The Workforce Innovation III Program is another successful initiative in addressing the region's demand for highly-skilled workers that can effectively assist in the continued growth and success of the region's economy," said Wenstrand. "Through the Workforce Innovation programs, Florida's Great Northwest has awarded a total of \$1,960,367 to 10 Northwest Florida training providers with matching funds totaling \$5,516,923."

Eligibility for the grants was limited to Northwest Florida educational organizations or businesses in the target industries where instruction is conducted and jobs are created in Northwest Florida. Additionally, the proposed training programs are required to address workforce needs as determined by the region's strategic plan and corresponding workforce demands, and have a direct impact on furthering the economic standing of Northwest Florida.

Florida's Great Northwest provides regional leadership in economic and workforce development, serving 16 counties in Northwest Florida from Pensacola through Tallahassee. Its primary mission is the creation of a diversified and sustainable economy in Northwest Florida that creates nationally and globally competitive advantages for the development of key industry clusters, increases the income and prosperity of workers and families and preserves the region's vibrant quality of life.

Florida's Great Northwest is the administrator and facilitating organization for the U.S. Department of Labor WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) Grant. Florida's Great Northwest's WIRED Northwest Florida Initiative, funded in part through the U.S. Department of Labor, is designed to create high-wage, high-skill jobs within the region in the target industries of Aviation, Aerospace, Defense and National Security; Life Sciences (Human Performance Enhancement, Medical Device Manufacturing, Medical Technologies, Health Services and Biotechnology); Information Technology; Engineering; Renewable Energy and Environment; Transportation, Logistics and Distribution; and Construction Products Manufacturing.

***Note:** This program is funded through Florida's Great Northwest's WIRED Northwest Florida Initiative which is funded in part through a U.S. Department of Labor Federal grant program and financed with Federal Funds.*

## TCC Receives Grant For IT Training For State Workers

**Reporter: Stephanie Salvatore**

Email Address: stephanie.salvatore@wctv.tv

State workers will soon be able to upgrade their skills without leaving the workplace.

**TCC** has received a \$135,000 grant from Florida's Great Northwest for IT training for state workers to upgrade their skills.

As part of the Wired Initiative, individuals will receive certifications and credentials to add to their resumes.

"We have been working very hard to get these programs in place so that we can offer them in a variety of formats. This is not credit course work 3 mornings a week for 50 minutes. This is meeting people where they are, and training them right in the workplace," says Dr. Bill Law, President of **TCC**.

Administrators say the grant will help at least 200 individuals in our area.

## TCC's Newest Graduates

**Reporter: Denise Wong**

Email Address: denise.wong@wctv.tv

More than three dozen students at **Tallahassee Community College** have a new reason to celebrate: they're the latest batch of **TCC** graduates.

This latest group was recognized at Thursday night's graduation ceremony, which honored students who began their academic careers in the school's Academic Support Programs Division. Administrators say these 2009 graduates have come a lot farther than most students at the college, since they started off taking college preparatory classes.

The teachers who attended Thursday's graduation ceremony say these new grads set a great example. "This is our opportunity to recognize all their accomplishments and to just let them know how proud we are of them," says Dr. Sally Search, the Dean of Academic Support Programs.

About 200 people showed up to the graduation which also featured a drum ceremony.

## Great Northwest grant will fund more IT training at TCC

By Dave Hodges

DEMOCRAT BUSINESS EDITOR

Job training in the Tallahassee area got another boost this week when Florida's Great Northwest, the economic-development organization, announced it is backing **Tallahassee Community College's** development of an information-technology training program.

The project will provide workers the IT skills needed for success in the workplace and is aimed at the 47,000 public employees in the Tallahassee area. The training, however, will be available for anyone, officials said.

**TCC's** goal is admirable. The college wants to train 200 individuals annually through the information-technology curriculum. Successful completion of the program will lead to industry-recognized certification and degrees, including Microsoft Business Certification.

The college will contribute \$135,399 in support of the program, matched by \$135,387 in grant money from Florida's Great Northwest.

**TCC** President Bill Law said the project represents an important investment in Northwest Florida.

"Providing the training opportunities for developing the critical talent needs that will support the growth of our region's economy while, at the same time, giving workers added skills that will yield increased pay is key to moving our economy forward," he said.

Al Wenstrand, president of Florida's Great Northwest, draws the link between the enhancement of the region's workforce capacity in information technology and the ability of its economy to advance. He couldn't be more correct.

These job skills are critical to numerous industries, and though the labor market is weak at present, this kind of resource must be prepared and ready when the economy recovers and businesses are ready to expand.

The grant funds were awarded based on successful proposals submitted under Florida's Great Northwest's Workforce Innovation III program. It is designed to foster innovative training projects, especially those that develop the kind of talent necessary for the region's economy to diversify and support technology-related business.

*Contact Democrat Business Editor Dave Hodges at (850) 599-2321 or dhodges@Tallahassee.com.*

## TCC Board Passes Resolution to Encourage Veteran Enrollment

**Reporter: Press Release**

Email Address: news@wctv.tv

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.--

**TCC** Board of Trustees voted unanimously Monday, passing a resolution to support returning veterans with a commitment to meeting their academic and support services needs.

"The purpose of this resolution is to make veteran enrollment a priority," said Dr. William Law, President of **TCC**, "We are extremely proud of the men and women who have continued to answer the nation's call. We want **TCC** to be the number one college destination in the country for them when they return."

Veterans returning home from active duty often face a perilous road integrating back to civilian life. Unemployment rates are particularly high among this group, and many need additional skills or education to succeed.

"The debt of gratitude we owe to our veterans is vast; helping them make the transition from soldier to student is one of the important ways we can begin to repay that debt," said Sharon Jefferson, Vice-President for Student Affairs at **TCC**, "We feel fortunate to benefit from the experience, skills and personal honor that they bring to our institution

**TCC** will provide support for enrolled veterans in all facets of the institution including maintaining easily accessible information on educational benefits, campus and community resources, and steps towards pursuing post secondary education. **TCC** will continue to advance a veteran friendly campus to effectively respond to the needs of service men and women.

Board Member Kathy Shirah expressed enthusiasm for the resolution. "I attended **TCC** on the GI Bill," she said, "I am proof of what a difference an education, especially at this college, can make in the life of a veteran."

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## TechExpo 2.0 set for Thursday

By Dave Hodges  
DEMOCRAT BUSINESS EDITOR

The TalTech Alliance will host its second annual conference and trade show, TechExpo 2.0, at **Tallahassee Community College** on Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event is the business organization's technical symposium designed for business owners, developers, analysts, project managers, IT personnel and others seeking to stay abreast of technology developments and their affect on companies and other organizations.

"We're doing pretty good," said TalTech board member and past chairman Rick Oppenheim of registrations to date, "but we are expecting a really big push right at the end."

"This year's expo is really more engaging for business people," he said. "There is a lot for the technologists as well. But we are striving to make this more accessible to business owners, managers and CEOs."

The keynote speaker will be Maggie Lake, business anchor and correspondent for CNN International. Lake joined CNN in 2001 and currently anchors the cable news program World Business Today.

Before joining CNN, Lake worked at the Reuters news agency for eight years, covering top business stories from around the world. Her background and her role at CNN position her as an authority on how technology and business work together, TalTech said.

This year, the conference portion of the program will focus on the rise of social networking and its increasing relevance at all levels. Sessions will also explore green computing and its potential impact on organizations, from the server room to the board room.

Another focus is "Strategic IT," which has become increasingly important.

"Technology offers opportunities for businesses, associations, and nonprofits to do so much more with so much less," Oppenheim said. "We want to provide the tools, tactics and strategies for these organizations so they can be as strong as they can be."

The luncheon address, given by Mike Russo, the state government's chief information security officer, will explore how the state is working to address the challenges and opportunities government faces during these times.

At the exhibit hall, local businesses and groups can demonstrate and discuss their offerings with session attendees, and TalTech is also planning various surprise giveaways during the day.

Registration for the event is \$75 for TalTech members and \$99 for nonmembers. Those in education will be admitted to the expo portion of the event for \$50. Registration includes an evening reception Wednesday night and continental breakfast and lunch Thursday at the Expo, which takes place at **TCC's** Workforce Development Center. For more details, visit [www.TalTech.org](http://www.TalTech.org).

## TCC to host builders workshop on C. & D.

By Staff

On April 29 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., the Center for Economic & Workforce Development at **Tallahassee Community College** will offer a free workshop for builders, contractors and government officials.

Find out what's in construction and demolition (C. & D.) debris, how much of it there is, and how it is handled and managed in Florida.

Learn also what a local C. & D. recycler does with this material, how much of this waste stream can be recycled and reused, and how builders and contractors can benefit economically by utilizing C. & D. materials in their projects.

*For more information, call Heather Bellamy at 441-7949.*

## FSU and TCC teachers vote for or against union representation

Tallahassee, FL (WTXL) –

Later this week and early next week, teachers at Florida State University and **Tallahassee Community College** will vote for or against union representation. David Taylor investigates.

Better pay and greater consideration. That's what some Florida State University employees want.

This Thursday around 3,200 FSU graduate assistants who work as teachers and researchers will vote yes or no for union representation.

United faculty of Florida works to increase salaries and benefits for teachers at Florida colleges and universities. Unionization would give Florida State graduate assistants the ability to collectively bargain for employment contracts with the university.

The conventional knock against unions is that they over-value labor and adversely affect an enterprise's bottom line.

Ballots will be cast Thursday and counted Friday afternoon.

## New union elections on tap at FSU, TCC

By Doug Blackburn  
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

This promises to be a busy week for United Faculty of Florida, the union representing faculty and staff at Florida's colleges and universities.

Graduate assistants at Florida State will be voting on Thursday and Friday to determine whether they will have UFF representation. It's the first time the estimated 3,000 graduate students employed by FSU as teachers, assistants and researchers have held a union vote.

The faculty at **Tallahassee Community College** will also be having a first-ever union vote when it holds a Public Employees Relations Commission-mandated election on Monday. There are about 180 eligible voters at **TCC**.

Coincidentally, the two union elections are taking place while the state budget appears to be in limbo and funding for higher education is of grave concern to everyone involved.

FSU graduate students expect to have the results of their election by late Friday afternoon, just a few hours before the first of three spring semester commencement ceremonies gets under way at the Civic Center.

Students eager to have UFF representation began circulating petition cards in November 2007.

"It's been a long process," said Danielle Holbrook, a doctoral candidate in the College of Communications and co-president of the FSU-GAU chapter. "You have to jump through a lot of hoops to get to the election."

Holbrook said she and other graduate students who teach classes at FSU are eager to have health-care insurance and other benefits as part of their contract with the university.

"We're in this sort of unique position," she added. "We're not only teaching classes but we're also taking classes."

Nancy Marcus, dean of the Graduate School at FSU, sent a memo to all students eligible to participate in the election urging them to learn about the issues and cast a vote.

Her e-mail notice also noted that "it is the philosophy of FSU that it is not necessary for employees to be represented by a union to negotiate wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment ..."

At **TCC**, UFF chapter president Frank Baglione said there are five issues that are behind the goal of unionization, including a structured salary schedule that would create a standard system of compensation.

The community college's board of trustees voted unanimously not to recognize the UFF chapter when it was requested at their January meeting.

"Our salary structure is very solid," **TCC** President Bill Law said. "I feel very pleased that I've been able to make the points that I think are important for the college to move forward."

Contact Doug Blackburn at (850) 599-2323 or [dblackburn@tallahassee.com](mailto:dblackburn@tallahassee.com)

## Area Graduates Have Mixed Emotions, Plans For The Future

Reporter: Stephanie Salvatore

EMAIL ADDRESS: STEPHANIE.SALVATORE@WCTV.TV



Kate Stewart

TCC Dean of Professional Programs



Cedrick Jones

Following in Family's Footsteps

Finals are finished and college students are packing up for the summer.

And the graduates are counting down until they can get their diploma and enter the real world.

But the rocky economy has many students wondering if heading back to school isn't a better option.

"I didn't take the job route just yet, I actually am expecting to enroll in law school in August. I've gotten a lot of acceptance letters and I haven't made up my mind," says Andrew Collins, who is graduating from FAMU.

"School actually looks like a great idea because it helps them from entering this market that's not helping anybody right now and they get to further their education," says Alyssa Orange, graduating from FSU this weekend.

Not the case for all graduates, though. Some have always known their career path and can't wait to get started.

"Well I have line up the police academy over at Pat Thomas. It's from July to December, and so I'll be one of Tallahassee's finest and after that hopefully somebody will pick me up as a police officer," says Cedrick Jones, who is graduating from **TCC** and following in the footsteps of his family in law enforcement.

School officials say even an internship after graduation can lead to a full time job.

"They can get out there, they can practice, they can learn some of the soft skills and really have a leg up on those who have not been out in the field," says Kate Stewart, dean of Technology and Professional Programs at **TCC**.

No matter what path students choose, their emotions are definitely mixed.

"I'm excited yet nervous at the same time," says Orange.

"Probably a combination of every emotion I could be having at this time, it's bittersweet," adds Collins.

Employers expect to hire 22 percent fewer new graduates than last year, according to a Cincinnati Times article.

## More than 400 students take part in TCC commencement ceremony

by Matt Gilmour

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

More than 400 of the 2,629 students graduating from **Tallahassee Community College** participated in a lively commencement ceremony Saturday night at the Civic Center.

"Ceremony is an important feature of culture," **TCC** President William Law said. "For community colleges, it's even more important. We still have so many students who are the first in their family to graduate."

One of those students is Shayna Seres, the student speaker at the ceremony. Seres, who came from a low-income, single-parent home, was also the first in her family to graduate high school and now has earned her associate in science degree in internet services technology with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

"I finally realized that college doesn't have to be a dream. Everybody can be afforded the same college education that I have," Seres said. "To be standing here in front of everybody today is just a spectacular feeling."

Seres will now be looking for an internship in Web development and hopes to start her own business one day. Others, like Dalan Eye, who plans to major in engineering, will be returning to school. Adrian Peoples and Shakillah Gordon said they will be majoring in elementary education at Flagler College.



*Student speaker Shayna Seres addresses her fellow students and their guests at Tallahassee Community College's Commencement Ceremony Saturday, May 2, 2009 at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center in Tallahassee, Fla. (PHIL SEARS/Democrat)*



*Nancy McKissock, a professor in the dental health program, gives the keynote address at Tallahassee Community College's Commencement Ceremony Saturday, May 2, 2009 at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center in Tallahassee, Fla. McKissock, who joined TCC's faculty in 1975, is retiring. (PHIL SEARS/Democrat)*

"It's an elegant ceremony and represents so much work and so much support by their families," said retiring professor Nancy McKissock, guest speaker at the ceremony. "I always come to them because I think it's so important and sends them out the door on the right foot."

**Tallahassee Community College** will hold its 43rd commencement ceremony at 7:30 p.m. today at the Civic Center.

**TCC** graduated 2,629 students during the 2008-09 academic year and more than 400 will participate in Saturday's ceremony.

**TCC** President Bill Law will preside over the ceremony. Retiring Professor Nancy McKissock, the College's senior faculty member, will serve as guest speaker.

*For more on this story, including a photo gallery, check back with Tallahassee.com.*

*To submit your own graduation photos, go to [Tallahassee.com/readerphotos](http://Tallahassee.com/readerphotos).*

## TCC Commencement

**Reporter: Kelsey Johnson**

EMAIL ADDRESS: KELSEY.JOHNSON@WCTV.TV

**Tallahassee Community College** held its graduation May 2nd, also at the Leon County Civic Center.

More than 2,500 students earned their associates degree, and about 400 walked.

Family and friends came to support the students and celebrate the occasion.

One **TCC** student, Heidi Fletcher, spent the last two years taking only online classes, so this is her first visit to Tallahassee, so she could participate in today's ceremony.

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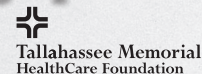
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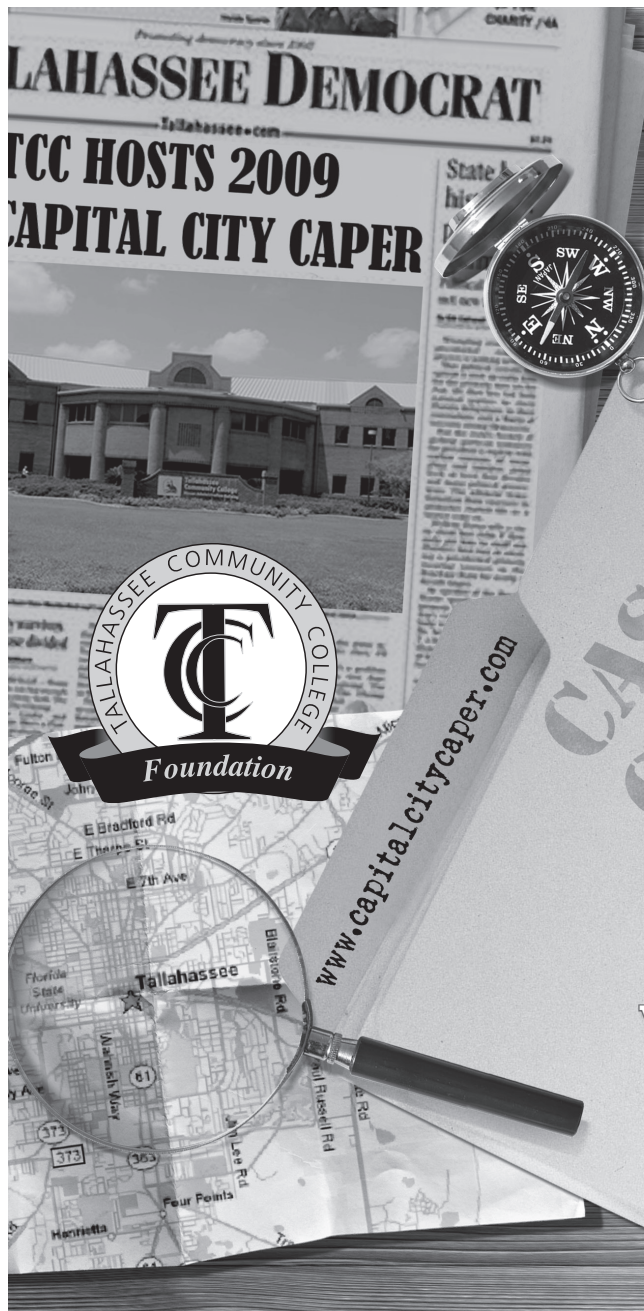
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## Ceremony important to TCC grads

*More than 400 participate in spring commencement*

By Matt Gilmour

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

More than 400 of the 2,629 students graduating from **Tallahassee Community College** this semester participated in a lively commencement ceremony Saturday night at the Civic Center.

"Ceremony is an important feature of culture," TCC President William Law said. "For community colleges, it's even more important. We still have so many students who are the first in their family to graduate."

One of those students is Shayna Seres, the student speaker at the ceremony. Seres, who came from a low-income, single-parent home, was also the first in her family to graduate high school and now has earned her associate in science degree in internet services technology with a 4.0 GPA.

"To be standing here in front of everybody today is just a spectacular feeling," Seres said.

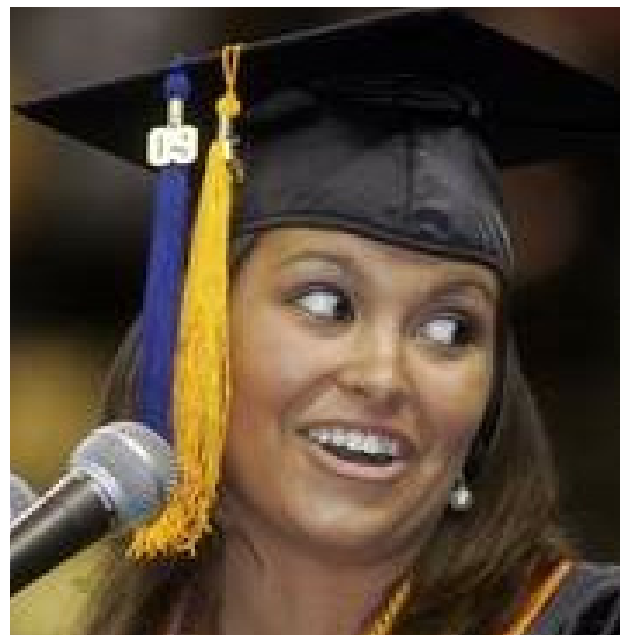
Seres will now be looking for an internship in Web development and hopes to start her own business one day. Others like Dalan Eye, who plans to major in engineering, will be returning to school.

"It's an elegant ceremony and represents so much work and so much support by their families," said retiring professor Nancy McKissock, guest speaker at the ceremony. "I always come to them because I think it's so important and sends them out the door on the right foot."

*Student speaker Shayna Seres addresses her fellow students and their guests at **Tallahassee Community College's** Commencement Ceremony Saturday, May 2, 2009 at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center in Tallahassee, Fla. (PHIL SEARS/Democrat)*



*Above, honors graduate Jamie Gajos celebrates as she moves the tassel on her mortarboard, and, below, student speaker Shayna Seres addresses her fellow students and their guests at **Tallahassee Community College's** commencement ceremony Saturday at the Civic Center. (PHIL SEARS/Democrat)*





## FSU and TCC graduates are ready to face the real world

TALLAHASSEE, FL (WTXL) –

Students at FSU walked across the stage on Saturday. More than 5,600 students graduated this semester, and at least 3,800 of them were at the Civic center today. After years of studying, it's now time to face the real world.

And with the tough economy, some new grads have found jobs, while others aren't as lucky. Many students even paid their own way through college, like Nicholas Graves, who worked a full-time job while in school.

"I have friends that haven't had a job and are about to graduate and have no idea what the real world's like and I feel like the greatest experience is actually working through school. It kind of makes it a little bit worthwhile, but at the same time, you know, its preparing you for a real job," said FSU graduate Nicholas Graves.

Later that evening it was **TCC's** turn to take the stage. More than 2,600 students graduated from **tallahassee community college**...400 of which participating in today's festivities. Some students even came from half the world away.



## TCC faculty says no to union

By Doug Blackburn  
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

By a more than 2 to 1 vote, faculty members at **Tallahassee Community College** have said no to union representation.

In the first union election in the college's history, United Faculty of Florida was rejected Monday by a 113-49 vote. Approximately 90 percent of the 183 eligible voters participated in the election.

The Public Employees Relations Commission-supervised election concluded a five-month campaign by TCC faculty members, who began circulating petitions in December.

"I'm very happy," said Barbara Sloan, **TCC's** vice president for academic affairs. "I'm pleased that there was a clear majority one way or the other so that we don't have to continue forward in a divisive manner."

Frank Baglione, a longtime history professor at **TCC** and the college's UFF chapter president, had stressed that no single issue had prompted the faculty's call for an election.

"I was disappointed," Baglione said. "I had obviously hoped we would have done better."

Tom Wazlavek, UFF liaison to **TCC**, said the issue is far from dead.

"I think the administration did a pretty effective job of intimidating people, implying that things were going to change drastically and not for the better if they voted for a union," he said. "In one year we'll come back and try it again."

**TCC** President Bill Law took umbrage with Wazlavek's comment.

"There was absolutely no intimidation," Law said. "The administration pointed out that the union had not been truthful in all of its statements. The results are pretty straight-forward."

## Graduation speakers cost FAMU \$23,000

By Angeline J. Taylor  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Florida A&M officials spent more than \$23,000 for three commencement speakers Sunday — former U.S. President Bill Clinton, CNN anchor/correspondent Soledad O'Brien and U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek, D-Florida.

Clinton and his advance team were paid \$17,836 for hotel accommodations, flights and fuel, FAMU spokeswoman Sharon Saunders said.

O'Brien was paid a \$3,000 honorarium, \$189 for hotel accommodations and \$1,499 for her flight. Meek's hotel stay was paid at \$189 a night. Travel costs were \$521.

Saunders said the costs came out of their "commencement budget and from foundation dollars." Earlier, FAMU reported Clinton waived his appearance fee. However, that did not include travel costs.

In comparison, **Tallahassee Community College** and Florida State University did not pay honorariums for commencement speakers this past weekend.

FSU spokeswoman Browning Brooks said FSU normally pays travel expenses but it hadn't received a bill as of Monday. **TCC's** retiring faculty member spoke at their ceremony. FSU's commencement speakers were retired Lt. Gen. Jay Garner and Circuit Judge Michael F. Andrews of Florida's Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Since 2007, state universities have been cash-strapped.

FAMU President James Ammons told trustees Monday that more of the same could be expected when he said, "It's going to be a tough year for us."

FAMU administrators could see \$13 million to \$15 million cut from their operational budgets in 2009-2010.forward."

## Conference to focus on disaster preparedness for disabled, seniors

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

Ability 1st will host the Disaster Preparedness Conference for people with disabilities, seniors and caregivers today from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The conference will take place at the **Tallahassee Community College** Center for Economic & Workforce Development.

The conference, sponsored by the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Disability Task Force, will serve as a meeting ground for government and voluntary officials, people with disabilities, seniors and caregivers to discuss ways to better prepare for and react to natural disasters.

"We're very excited to be a part of this," says Judith Barrett, executive director of Ability 1st. "This conference will give us the opportunity to interact with different groups dedicated to serving the disabled and elderly. We're going to really focus on how to empower these folks and keep them safe in the event of a natural disaster."

The conference is free and open to the people of Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla counties.

Lunch will be provided to those that pre-register at [www.ability1st.info](http://www.ability1st.info).

*Return to [Tallahassee.com](http://Tallahassee.com) for more on this story.*

## TCC hires executive director for Knight Creative Communities Institute

Special to Business Matters

After an extensive search, Laurie D. Hartsfield has been selected as the executive director of the Knight Creative Communities Institute.

Hartsfield brings to KCCI more than 15 years of fundraising and management experience for non-profit organizations, including the Children's Home Society of North Florida and the Trust for Public Land.

KCCI is a new institute at **Tallahassee Community College** that was created to attract and retain young professionals, and develop a more adaptable workforce through a \$570,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

"Thousands of college students love their experiences in Tallahassee, but then too many move away. We need to find out what these young professionals want and need from our community that will encourage them to stay. We also need to provide opportunities for them to fully engage in our city so they not only want to work here, but they want to call Tallahassee home," said Hartsfield. "KCCI is the vehicle to accomplish both."

The institute provides an opportunity for local leaders and advocates to get involved and help improve the sense of place and economic climate in the city by generating successful projects each year. In the coming months, the institute will select 30 community catalysts who will meet to devise new ways to help the city's economy grow.

"Catalysts from the Knight Creative Class pilot project produced the Tallahassee Film Festival, the environmental group Sustainable Tallahassee and the Get Gaines Going Initiative to turn the street into an arts and entertainment district," said Mike Pate, Tallahassee program director for the Knight Foundation. "We are looking forward to seeing the next wave of exciting projects that will be developed by the Knight Creative Communities Institute under Laurie's leadership."

## Mark Your Calendars: The Moving Closer to My Dreams Conference is Set for August 1 in Tallahassee

By Eunice Cofie

PRESIDENT OF ENSPIRING CONCEPTS, LLC

The nation's premier forum for young women expected to empower hundreds to realize their dreams! The Moving Closer to My Dreams: A Young Women's Empowerment Conference, hosted in conjunction with the international life empowerment firm, Enspiring Concepts, LLC, announced that the national conference will to be held on August 1, 2009 at the **Tallahassee Community College** – Center for Economic and Workforce Development.

The one-day event is the premier national conference to empower young professional women and recent graduates from across the nation to realize their dreams.

Inspired by the song Closer by the music artist, Goapele, the event was created to address the "Quarter-Life Crisis" – a time when many young women in their twenties and early thirties grapple with their fears of who they are, who they will become, and what lies ahead in their future. President of Enspiring Concepts, LLC and Conference Founder, Eunice Nuekie Cofie says, "Young women know that they have the capacity to make a positive impact in this world. But, it is just hard to figure out where to start the journey."

This year's conference theme, Discover Your Possibilities, will seek to inspire young women from across the nation to reach beyond themselves to move to the next level of influence. This conference will highlight workshops and sessions that are relevant to the lives of young women who desire to maximize their potential to become leading ladies. The conference will cover topics on professional development, leadership, business, health, beauty, financial management, travel, leisure and community involvement presented by experts in the fields.

The conference is an unprecedented movement to address the growing needs of twenty-somethings and thirty-somethings and has become the trademark of Cofie's vision. "Most of the established women's conferences out there are targeted to high-powered executives and C-suite level professionals which often leaves out young women who are just getting their feet wet," said Cofie. "I am humbled to be hosting such a ground-breaking event which will serve to positively impact the lives of young women for many years to come."

As a nexus for savvy and ambitious young women, the conference is set to attract hundreds from diverse backgrounds – these are rising professionals, budding entrepreneurs, up and coming leaders, and recent graduates - who have a common aspiration to achieve their goals and make a difference in the world.

Diana Bien-Aime, President of Dab Ink Publishing and featured Conference Speaker says, "Contrary to popular belief, dreams are important and are a major representation of a reality often forfeited by young women. We have been taught to dream while young, but to grow up and be realistic beyond our teen years. This conference is so important because it revives and restructures a young woman's perspective on what it means to live fulfilled; daring to dream and daring to succeed."

The Conference will also feature The Endless Possibilities Exhibit, an exhibition of a well-rounded range of products and services that will propel young women to accomplish their dreams. "The intention for the conference is to connect young women with resources that can support them in discovering their possibilities," said Cofie. "This is a great opportunity for young women to meet, network and build relationships to collectively enhance their personal and professional lives."

The conference is developing into a national gathering for young women. "My hope is that every young woman who attends this conference attains vision, faith, courage, and wisdom. We are investing in the dreams of young women who want to build a solid personal and professional foundation for the future," said Cofie.

For more information about the Moving Closer to My Dreams Conference including registration, program, exhibit, and sponsorship details, visit <http://www.movingclosertomydreams.com> or call 888-550-5916.

About Enspiring Concepts, LLC: An international Life Empowerment Firm which seek to inspire others to be their very best and to follow their destiny. Enspiring Concepts is the Executive Producer of the Moving Closer to My Dreams: A Young Women's Empowerment Conference. To learn more about the vision of the conference, please visit, <http://www.movingclosertomydreams.com>.

# Community is our Middle Name

Programs, courses and certifications offered at TCC are chosen to meet the in-demand needs of Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla Counties.

Investing in programs at TCC provides a great stimulus to the local economy.

To learn more about investing in programs at TCC, contact Robin Johnston, Executive Director, TCC Foundation, at (850) 201-6067.



## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

### TCC's QUICK JOB TRAINING PROGRAM

Get the skills for success *in 90 days or less.*



— OPEN HOUSE —

Tuesday, May 12  
3 – 6:00 p.m.

TCC's Workforce Development Building

Hosted by the Center for Workforce Development



(850) 201-8760 | [www.QuickJobTCC.com](http://www.QuickJobTCC.com)

## Stimulus funds offer some universities breathing room

*But federal money will run out in two years*

By Jim Ash

FLORIDA CAPITAL BUREAU CHIEF

Florida's universities dodged a bullet this year, but lawmakers bridged a \$6 billion shortfall with \$159 million in federal stimulus dollars, and that has administrators worried about the future.

After threatening cuts of as much as 25 percent, lawmakers managed a slight increase in the university system budget — \$22 million.

"We escaped what could have been a great budget crash," university system spokesman Bill Edmunds said Thursday. "Despite the train wreck we saw ahead, we missed it. And the governor and the Legislature deserve a lot of credit."

The universities will be putting their budgets together in the next few weeks, and administrators are already worried about using the stimulus dollars for salaries and other operating funds because they run out in two years, Edmunds said.

"At least the stimulus dollars give us two years of breathing room," he said.

But not all colleges and universities will see an increase after lawmakers cast a final vote on the \$66.5 billion budget on Friday.

Florida State University will see a \$4.8 million cut, or a little less than 1 percent, from the current fiscal year.

Florida A&M University will see a \$5 million cut, or 3 percent.

The recession and skyrocketing unemployment is pushing enrollment at some community colleges up as much as 20 percent. Faced with that pressure, lawmakers also avoided steep cuts to that system, decreasing the \$1.4 billion budget by slightly more than \$500,000.

**Tallahassee Community College's** \$29.8 million budget will fall \$196,207.

**TCC** President Bill Law breathed a sigh of relief.

"We're basically flat," Law said. "We're grateful that the community college's needs have been recognized even in this tough, tough year."

Gov. Charlie Crist considers it a triumph.

"I think it's phenomenal," he said. "Given the times, I'm extremely pleased."

Rep. Alan Williams, D-Tallahassee and a FAMU alumnus, has mixed feelings.

"Definitely, it could have been worse," he said. "However, I'm still troubled. Right now, we should really be fully funding our community colleges and universities because they give us the highest return on our investment."

Williams is urging Crist to use his line-item veto power to cut any pet projects he finds and redirect the money to education. Williams praises Senate President Jeff Atwater, R-North Palm Beach, for holding the line against House proposals for deeper cuts.

## Panel: Those with special needs should make disaster plans

By Amanda Nalley

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Seven panel members, all working in different facets of emergency management, listened intently as quadriplegic J.R. Harding asked "When should seniors or persons with disabilities evacuate?"

"If you want to beat the rush, leave early," responded Richard Smith, Leon County's director of emergency management. Smith and Harding were among those attending Thursday's Disaster Preparedness Conference at **Tallahassee Community College**.

"Only 3 percent of each hotel has accessible rooms," Harding said later, arguing his point about why early warnings are vital. Harding works for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

The conference focused on getting senior citizens and persons with disabilities talking about disaster preparedness.

More than 100 people registered for the event which included two panel discussions, lunch and several information booths featuring local senior and disability service organizations.

Topics included:

- Getting a plan by visiting FloridaDisaster.org,
- Making plans for pets such as figuring out what hotels are pet friendly,
- Being aware of shelter locations and hotel accessibility
- Making sure you have enough supplies such as oxygen and medication.

"Florida has a statute that requires pharmacies to supply 30 days of medication if a state of emergency has been issued or the local Emergency Operations Center activates to Level 1," said Chip Wilson, statewide coordinator for the Department of Emergency Management.

Wilson also said the most difficult task for senior citizens and persons with disabilities is transportation and that the best way to prepare is by creating a plan early, "during the blue-sky period."

"When Katrina went through New Orleans and Southern Louisiana, 1,800 died. Two-thirds were those with disabilities and seniors," said Judith Barrett, executive director of Ability First. A grant by the Department of Health disaster task force helped fund the conference.

Contact reporter Amanda Nalley at (850) 599-2299 or [abnalley@tallahassee.com](mailto:abnalley@tallahassee.com).

■ LOCAL

## TCC names institute director

Laurie D. Hartsfield has been named executive director of the Knight Creative Communities Institute. She has more than 15 years of fundraising and management experience for nonprofits. KCCI is a new institute at Tallahassee Community College that will focus on retaining young professionals and develop a more adaptable workforce through a \$570,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. "We are looking forward to seeing the next wave of exciting projects that will be developed by the Knight Creative Communities Institute

under Laurie's leadership," said Mike Pate, Knight's program director in Tallahassee.

**Green job workshop convenes this morning:** Business, economic development, and workforce officials will participate in a one-day workshop this morning on defining green jobs, organized by Workforce Florida's Sustainability & Infrastructure Committee. The meeting is open to the public, but seating is limited. The committee will also take public comments. The event is from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 101 S. Adams St. On the agenda are presentations by experts to help Florida define a green job and better position the state to advocate that definition with the U.S. Departments of Energy, Labor and others in response to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

## FYI Today

Local

■ INVESTMENT

## Local bank offers athletes financial tools

First Franklin Branch Manager Brett Ewing now offers a complete array of financial tools specific to NFL athletes as well as prospective athletes. As a registered investment adviser of the National Football League Player's Association, Ewing works with players in preserving the wealth they earn during their sports careers.

■ JOB TRAINING

**TCC hosts job-training open house:** Tallahassee Community College will host a Quick Job Training open house Tuesday from 3 to 6 p.m. on the main campus in the Center for Workforce Development. The Quick Job Training Program offers fast, affordable training for displaced and under-employed workers for seven in-demand occupations. The class schedule may be viewed in detail at [www.Quick-JobTCC.com](http://www.Quick-JobTCC.com). For information, call 201-8760.

## FROM AROUND THE BIG BEND

■ TALLAHASSEE

**TCC to hold Quick Job Training open house Tuesday:** Tallahassee Community College will host a Quick Job Training open house from 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday. Program coordinators will be present to answer questions. The program offers affordable training for displaced and under-employed workers for seven in-demand occupations, from medical coding to high-tech machine operation. Scholarships are available to those who qualify. The current class schedule may be viewed in detail at [www.Quick-JobTCC.com](http://www.Quick-JobTCC.com). For more information, call 201-8760.



## Campus Notes

■ FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

### Department chair awarded \$2.2M grant

Suzanne Johnson, department chair in medical humanities and social sciences at Florida State's College of Medicine, has been awarded a \$2.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study childhood obesity. Johnson and her research team will monitor children at 12 Leon County elementary schools that have a high percentage of ethnic-minority students. They will explore the impact of school-based screening on student fitness and parent behavior.

**Professor at FAMU-FSU College of Engineering honored with Fellowship:** M. Yousuff Hussaini, a

professor at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering and one of FSU's most eminent scholars, has been elected a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. "Fellow" is the highest grade of membership in ASME. Fellowship is conferred upon a member with at least 10 years of active engineering practice who has made significant contributions to the profession. Hussaini has mentored more than two generations of researchers and helped to establish FSU's School of Computational Science, now the Department of Scientific Computing.

**FSU's College of Information, College of Communication to merge programs:** The faculties of the College of Communication and the College of Information at FSU have voted to merge their programs. Provost Larry Abele approved the creation of

the new College of Communication and Information. The merger will take effect July 1. The merged college includes the School of Communication, the School of Communication Science and Disorders, and the School of Library and Information Studies.

### Saxophone quartet wins grand prize in ensemble competition:

A quartet of student saxophonists from FSU's College of Music has won the grand prize at the 2009 Coleman International Chamber Ensemble Competition, held April 25 in Pasadena at its home institution, the California Institute of Technology. The annual contest is one of the world's most rigorous and respected for ensembles of young, non-professional performers from the nation's top music schools. Collectively known as the Mana Quartet, the four FSU

students who comprise the graduate ensemble earned the competition's distinguished Alice Coleman Prize.

■ TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### TCC student wins first place at creative-writing conference:

Tallahassee Community College student Casey (Richard) Whitworth recently won the first place Undergraduate Fiction Award from the Gulf Coast Creative Writing Conference in Fairhope, Ala., for his short story "Plastic Bags Full of the Past." Whitworth won the award over submissions from many students currently attending four-year schools. In addition to his award-winning entry, four of Whitworth's pieces, both fiction and nonfiction, were selected for entry in the 2009 edition of Eyrie, TCC's literary magazine.

■ Democrat staff reports

## Budget cutbacks sting FSU, FAMU

BY Doug Blackburn

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

While the budget for Florida's State University System increased by \$22 million for the coming fiscal year, officials at the individual institutions are feeling bruised and battered.

Florida State will get \$43 million less in general revenue for the coming school year, while Florida A&M is looking at a \$16.2 million cut. These reductions come on the heels of two consecutive years of cutbacks from the Legislature.

Each school is scheduled to receive federal stimulus money — \$21 million for FSU, \$7.5 million for FAMU — provided the state's waiver is granted, but this leaves both universities preparing for major changes.

At FSU, 332 administrative, faculty and staff members are likely to be laid off during the next two years, according to Provost Larry Abele, while some departments or majors may be eliminated.

FSU President T.K. Wetherell has been holding one-on-one discussions with trustees, who are expected to review and approve a three-year budget when they meet June 17.

FSU is planning to use stimulus money to cover salaries of employees who have been given one year's notice.

"We're going to use it to spread the cuts over three years," Abele said. "It will be used to keep people employed in the hope that things turn around."

Stimulus money will also be used to give programs such as the Ringling Museum in Sarasota and FSU's campus in Panama City time to develop independent funding sources to prevent their closure.

"We need them to be self-supporting," Wetherell said. "We're going to go to Panama City and Sarasota and tell them we can get you three years down the road, but in three years it isn't going to be the same way it used to be."

The Board of Governors' budget increased because it includes money for two new medical schools and a new campus in Lakeland, among other items.

"When you add them in it looks like the universities got a lot of money, but there's no money there," Wetherell said. "The BOG is looking at the system and they're adding in tuition numbers that aren't accurate, and they know it."

BOG spokesman Bill Edmonds said the numbers the board uses are those provided by the Legislature. The Legislature's budget shows FSU bringing in \$21.4 million in tuition for the 2009-10 school year, while FSU's own tuition numbers total less than \$5 million.

This year's massive reductions in general revenue put FSU's cumulative cutback at \$81.5 million since the start of the 2007-08 school year.

"What's happening is, it's not one day 10,000 people are going to jump in a car and drive away," Abele said. "We're going to bleed little by little."

"It's not just us — it's the entire state."

At FAMU, President Ammons is preparing for an emergency session with the university's board of trustees later this month where options such as furloughs and layoffs will be discussed.

"We're going to be a little different university than we are today because of these cuts," he said.

There are already fewer course selections at FAMU, Ammons noted, with more students than planned in individual classes. Summer school, which begins on Monday, will operate on a four-day school week instead of the traditional five days.

"Our campus community is in ongoing discussions. We're all engaged in dialogue," Ammons said. "How we are going to realign our university to meet the demands we're going to have in the coming year weighs heavily on all of us."

Ammons also noted that, similar to at FSU, the Legislature's tuition figures for FAMU are far more generous than the university's numbers.

"They have projected full payment from every student," he said. "But as you know, when you do projections, sometimes they're different from reality."

Meanwhile, **Tallahassee Community College** was essentially spared in the budget the Legislature passed Friday. Its \$29.8 million budget was cut by less than \$200,000.

Contact Doug Blackburn at (850) 599-2323 or [dblackburn@tallahassee.com](mailto:dblackburn@tallahassee.com)

## Campus notes

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORTS

### FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

Professor named Fulbright Scholar

Peter Kalu, a Florida A&M University mechanical engineering professor at FAMU/Florida State University College of Engineering, has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar grantee to Nigeria. FAMU and the University of Abuja agreed last year to strengthen bonds between the institutions.

FAMU recognizes nurses: In honor of National Nurses' Day, FAMU's School of Nursing is holding a health fair from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday in the lobby of the Ware-Rhaney Nursing Building. Health screenings will be provided.

### FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Research wins \$2.8 million grant: A Florida State University researcher has won a \$2.8 million federal grant to study ways to increase school readiness and academic achievement of Spanish-speaking children. Christopher Lonigan, a psychology professor and associate director of the Florida Center for Reading Research, and a team of researchers will evaluate the benefits of an academically focused preschool curriculum they developed versus more traditional programs.

Professor named charter fellow for math organization: FSU professor Max Gunzburger has been named one of the charter fellows of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. Gunzburger, a Francis Eppes Professor and chair of the Department of Scientific Computing, is one of 183 members of the inaugural class of the SIAM Fellows Program. Fellowship is an honorific designation conferred on members distinguished for their outstanding contributions to the fields of applied mathematics and computational science.

Dean elected to research institution: Marcy Driscoll, dean of FSU's College of Education, has been elected to serve on the executive committee of the American Educational Research Association's Organization of Institutional Affiliates. Driscoll joins seven colleagues on the committee who are nominated and elected by the group's membership base.

### TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TCC hosts fundraiser for International Student Services: TCC's Office of International Student Services is hosting "An Egyptian Night," a fundraiser for International Student Services, at 6:30 p.m. Friday in the Center for Workforce Development Ballroom. Egyptian students will do presentations dressed in traditional costume, and audience members are invited to wear costumes.

## Grants News

BY CCTIMES

**Delaware County Community College (DCCC)** in Pennsylvania has received two grants: one from a local sheriff to fund scholarships and another from the federal government to preserve a collection of World War II posters donated to the college's library.

Sheriff Joe McGinn, an alumnus and former faculty member at the college, recently gave a \$5,000 check to the colleges for the Sheriff's Scholarships program. The awards are open to military veterans in any program at the college and to students majoring in emergency management and planning.

DCCC also received \$3,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which is the primary source of federal support for libraries and museums. The college will use the grant to preserve 19 original World War II posters produced by various government and civilian agencies to encourage enlistment.

**Anoka-Ramsey Community College (ARCC)** in Minnesota and Ultra Machining Co. received a \$269,088 grant from the state of Minnesota to train workers at the company.

The broad goals of the grant include training in process validation, automated machining, risk analysis and computer software, among others. Ultra Machining will match the contribution with \$328,449.

The grant will also allow ARCC to expand curriculum which, in turn, will provide additional potential training opportunities for the growing bio-medical industry and incumbent workers looking to advance their careers or seeking new ones.

**Hudson County Community College (HCCC)** in New Jersey recently received a \$10,000 federal College Access Challenge Grant.

The college will use the funds, which come through the U.S. Department of Education, to expand its financial aid workshops to inform more students and families about potential financial aid opportunities and to offer personal assistance with Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid forms.

**Palm Beach Community College (PBCC)** in Florida has received a \$545,471 grant from the National Science Foundation to launch a scholarship and mentoring program to boost the number of underrepresented minority students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

As part of the Math & Science Institute: Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM) Diversity Project, a cohort of 55 academically talented students with financial need will receive scholarships to cover the full cost of tuition, fees and books for their two-year associate degree at PBCC.

In addition, students in those programs who transfer to Florida Atlantic University (FAU) to pursue a bachelor's degree in STEM disciplines will receive full scholarships for their junior year. FAU, as part of a partnership with PBCC, will offer scholarships for students' senior year and provide some of the mentoring and support.

"Math and science are the toughest programs to retain students," said Scott MacLachlan, interim provost and dean of student services at PBCC in Palm Beach Gardens. "Students indicate the number one reason for dropping out of school is financial. If we can help them financially, they can concentrate on academic success."

**MassBay Community College (Massachusetts)** received a one-year grant from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education through its Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Pipeline Fund.

The grant will fund five new math curriculum modules that will fit into any course in a prescribed math sequence for pre-service elementary teachers at two-year colleges, four-year colleges or post-baccalaureate programs. The math modules will be developed by a regional team of faculty from MassBay Community College and Framingham State College, along with local elementary school teachers from the Natick and Framingham Public School Districts.

*continued...*

## Grants News *continued*

**Johnston Community College (JCC)** in North Carolina received a \$30,000 Project Skill Up grant to help local workers affected by changes in the tobacco industry.

The state grant was awarded through the North Carolina Community College System from the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission and is the second JCC has received to help retrain tobacco workers.

The goal of the project is to provide short-term occupational skills training and educational financial assistance to local growers, farm laborers, tobacco manufacturing employees and others whose jobs have been affected because of changes in the industry.

**Tallahassee Community College (TCC)** in Florida received a \$135,399 grant from Florida's Great Northwest to develop an information technology (IT) training program, which will target the 47,000 public employees in the Tallahassee area.

**TCC's** goal is to annually train 200 individuals in IT degree and certificate programs.

"Enhancing the region's workforce capacity in information technology is directly tied to the advancement of Northwest Florida's economy," stated Al Wenstrand, president of Florida's Great Northwest.

The organization provides regional leadership in economic and workforce development.

It is an administrator and facilitating organization for the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Grant program.  
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## Legislative Budget Cuts to Florida Higher Education

Reporter: John Rogers

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Florida lawmakers have finished cutting the state budget and now it's time for Florida's universities and colleges to do the same.

WCTV takes a look at how our local schools are being hit.

On Friday, the ceremonial drop of a handkerchief signaled the end of the legislative session.

And it also signaled a drop in funding to higher education in Florida.

FAMU is facing a \$16.2 million dollar cut in General Revenue.

"FAMU is gonna look different than it does today," says FAMU CFO Teresa Hardee. "We will have larger classroom sizes, less sections will probably be offered."

FAMU is looking at the possibility of cutting programs, layoffs, and hiking tuition by up to 15%...but over at **TCC** they planned for the worst long in advance.



**TCC** Chief Financial Officer Teresa Smith says, "We've prepared very heavily for these cuts. We had cuts in '08-'09, and we felt like we'd be getting deeper cuts in '09-'10."

**TCC** faces a 12% cut in general revenue, which comes out to more than \$3 million lost.

The college is currently looking at a modest tuition increase and not filling vacant positions, but they're not looking at layoffs.

Both schools have stimulus money coming in, and while it will help offset these cuts, it won't last long.

"That money we know will go away within the next several years, that's not recurring," says Smith.

Now, the schools are making plans to deal with the smaller budgets.

Officials say during this process, they're striving to ensure that students will not take the brunt of the cuts.

Florida State University's provost was not willing to comment on budget cuts at this time.

