

Alabama Community College Association

# Journal

Volume 40 No. 1

Spring 2013

**Alabama Community College System:**  
*Celebrating Golden Opportunities for Excellence*



# ACCA President's Message

The Alabama Community College Association always celebrates opportunities. However, this year, we are celebrating the special golden opportunities that come with a fiftieth anniversary. When the Alabama Community College System was founded 50 years ago, few could have imagined the system that we have today. It is a system that changes lives for the better, improves business and industry, and supports the communities it serves. Our system is filled with opportunities that deserve to be celebrated.

This year we are also celebrating the people who make our system golden. There is no better way to observe this than through ACCA. Submitting a workshop proposal for the 2013 Annual Conference in Birmingham is a great way for ACCA members to mark the golden anniversary of the System. I encourage you to share your gifts and knowledge with your system colleagues by submitting a proposal.

Thank you for taking the time to review this edition of the Journal and for supporting ACCA. Throughout the year, we invite you to celebrate with us. Tell your story about being part of the System's 50 years on ACCA's Facebook page, submit a workshop that highlights your talents, and be sure to join us in Birmingham to celebrate all the golden opportunities professional development brings.



*Barbara Anne Spears,  
2013 ACCA President*



## Call For Conference Presentation Proposals

Presentations should relate to one of the following areas of interest:

- Teaching and Learning
- Student Success
- Staff Development
- Leadership Development
- Workforce Development

*Suggested Topics include:*

*Best Practices - Developmental Education - Distance Learning -  
Managing Classroom Behavior- Student Learning Outcomes  
Partnerships with Business and Industry -  
Work Ethics - Soft Skills Development*

An online submission form has been created for your convenience on the ACCA website. If you would like to submit a proposal, please visit:

[www.alabamacca.org/accaproposals](http://www.alabamacca.org/accaproposals)

For additional information, contact ACCA First Vice-President

Dr. David Campbell at [acca@nacc.edu](mailto:acca@nacc.edu)

***Deadline for submissions is July 8, 2013***

# 2013 ACCA Annual Conference

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Visit [www.alabamacca.org](http://www.alabamacca.org) for all conference deadlines,  
updates, and speaker information

## Tell Your ACCS Story...

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Alabama Community College System, ACCA wants you to tell your "ACCS Story" via its social media resources. Post your memories, anecdotes, and photos to the ACCA Facebook page or Twitter feed and share how being a part of the Alabama Community College System has positively affected your life. Throughout the year, ACCA will give you the opportunity to share your story and reminisce with colleagues as we plan for the continued future success of our System. If you haven't yet liked the ACCA Facebook page, or begun to follow us on Twitter, just click the links below.



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## Bishop State President Receives Prestigious Award

Bishop State Community College President **James Lowe, Jr.**, was awarded the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society's prestigious *Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction* during the Society's 96th Annual Convention in April in San Jose, CA.



Named in honor of Phi Theta Kappa's (PTK) longest serving

Board Chairperson and a founder and longtime President of Highline Community College in Des Moines, WA, the award is based on the recipient's outstanding support of Phi Theta Kappa. Lowe was nominated by Bishop State's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter.

During the convention, Lowe attended a special recognition luncheon held in his honor. He received his award before an audience of nearly 3,600 students, chapter advisors, and college presidents.

The *Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction* recipients will be featured on the Phi Theta Kappa website and in several Phi Theta Kappa publications.

## Vrocher Appointed Acting Executive Director of ATN

**Dr. Mark Heinrich**, chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, recently appointed **Chester Vrocher** the Acting Executive Director of the Alabama Technology Network. Vrocher takes over for **Dr. Mike Bailey** who retired as president of ATN on March 31.



Before his appointment, Vrocher had been the Director of Workforce Development and External Relations for ATN, a position he has held since December 2011 since his retirement from Boise Inc. A native of Mobile, Vrocher began his career in the restaurant supply business. After relocating to Clarke County in 1979, he began a career in the paper industry with SCM Allied Paper. After 15 years as an hourly production operator and union official he moved to a salaried position in the human resources department. Vrocher held several positions of successively increasing responsibility including Labor Relations Coordinator, Recruiting Coordinator, HR Manager and Organizational Development & Training Manager. He has worked within the fields of workforce development, governmental and community affairs at the local, regional and state-wide levels.

"I am honored to be asked to serve as the Acting Executive Director of ATN," said Vrocher. "There are some very positive opportunities on the horizon for ATN and I am looking forward to working with ATN's employees in providing the excellent services that we are known to deliver."



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## NACC Wins Three Advertising Awards

Northeast Alabama Community College won three awards in the national 2012 Collegiate Advertising Awards competition.

The Collegiate Advertising Awards, based in Sylva, NC, is an elite program designed to recognize today's most talented educational marketing professionals for outstanding excellence in all forms of advertising, marketing and promotion.

The College's App won a top gold award in the Mobile Apps category. The NACC App was designed by **Zach Jones** of Warehouse Media in Fort Payne. It is maintained at NACC by **Angela Stewart**, assistant to the Vice President/Dean of Instruction.

"We are extremely proud of our mobile App," said **Debra Barrentine**, director of Promotions and Marketing at NACC. "Mr. Jones developed it from the ground up and customized it to meet the needs of the college. The App has been well received and we were excited to be the first community college in the Alabama Community College System to launch one."



The NACC Theatre won a silver award in the Poster/Display—Series. Theatre Office Manager **Regan McClung** designed the posters. The College's 2012-2013 Catalog/Student Handbook won a bronze award in the Catalog category.

"These awards reflect the talent, creativity, and dedication that characterize the staff here at Northeast," stated NACC President **Dr. David Campbell**, "Mrs. Barrentine, Mrs. Stewart, and Mrs. McClung are to be commended for their outstanding work and the positive way this reflects on Northeast."

## Drake State Receives Accreditation From SACS

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges has granted initial accreditation to J.F. Drake State Technical College. SACS accreditation recognizes the quality of education provided to students, the high level of faculty credentials, and the overall effectiveness of the institution. It signifies that the institution has a mission appropriate to higher education; has resources, programs, and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain that mission; and maintains clearly specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission and appropriate to the degrees it offers and that indicate whether it is successful in achieving its stated objectives.

Drake State President **Dr. Helen T. McAlpine** said of the SACS accreditation, "This is an important milestone in the life of our college, and I am so grateful to our faculty and staff who worked as an incredible team to make this a dream realized."

The major significance of accreditation is the transferability of general education courses. Students will be able to transfer their general education courses to any regionally accredited four-year college throughout the United States.



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## Lawson State and Walter Coke Graduate First Training Class

Participants of the newly established Walter Coke Industrial Multi-Craft Training Program graduated in a ceremony that signified the completion of a year-long training program. The training program focused on welding, electrical, robotics and industrial mechanics. Each training participant received a Certificate of Completion at the graduation and was recognized by company officials for dedication to Walter Coke. Workers identified for the next training class were also in attendance.

"We are ecstatic about this graduation and the opportunities being provided to the workers," said **Dr. Perry W. Ward**, president of Lawson State Community College. "This partnership of education and industry is a perfect example of workforce development in action and supplying workforce needs."

Walter Coke, formerly Sloss Industries, is one of the oldest industrial companies in Birmingham, dating back to 1881.

## Trenholm Awarded Grant

Trenholm State Technical College has been awarded \$1,744,976 by the U. S. Department of Education. The College received \$1,244,976 for its five-year grant under the *Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities* program. This grant will support activities designed to increase or expand program offerings, improve physical plant deficiencies, enhance information technology, increase library resources, and improve student retention.

Under the Student Aid and Financial Responsibility Act, the college was awarded \$500,000 to support the expansion of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program; improve professional development opportunities for faculty, staff, and administrators; and enhance instructional facilities.

"These grants will help our students with a quality education and the skills they need to compete in the global economy as well as help area employers meet their workforce development needs," said **Sam Munnerlyn**, president of Trenholm State.

## The Alabama Master Teacher Experience Scheduled

The Alabama Master Teacher Experience is scheduled for July 14 through 18, 2013 at Northeast Alabama Community College in Rainsville.

Faculty from participating colleges will work to ensure that each participant may maximize the personal and professional rewards of the Alabama Master Teacher Experience. Organizers are seeking instructors who may benefit from participation; the process of selecting suitable candidates is at the discretion of each individual college. Presidents and Deans will receive nomination paperwork soon.

Colleges may select two faculty members and one alternate. The participation fee of \$500 each covers the seminar, lodging and meals; therefore, no per diem will be required. The only additional expense may be travel and meals. If you have questions, please call AMTE Director Kristy White at 334-488-1770 or e-mail her at [kwhite@lbwcc.edu](mailto:kwhite@lbwcc.edu).

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## Jefferson State Helps Provide Physicals to Athletes

Jefferson State nursing students recently assisted Lemak Sports Medicine in providing more than 4000 physicals to area middle and high school student athletes.

“It is amazing to see thousands of athletes receive their physicals in such an efficient manner,” said Jefferson State Director of Community Relations **David Bobo**. “Our nursing students and the Lemak Sports Medicine personnel are very capable and have provided these physicals for several years now. The process is well-organized and they know what they are doing.”

“This is a fantastic way for local athletes to get their physicals at a lower cost, and it provides convenience for working parents by not having to miss work. Area schools like it because their athletes get all their physicals done in such a short amount of time. It is also a fantastic opportunity for the nursing students to put into practice the skills they have learned,” said Bobo.

## Former Gadsden State Student Returns as Instructor

Becoming an instructor at Gadsden State Community College appears to be **Jana Vallejo’s** destiny. An adjunct Psychology instructor since 2006, she is now a full-time instructor. However, her journey to this point was not easy. It began when she made the difficult decision to drop out of high school.

Eventually, she began a family and any idea of returning to school was overshadowed by the desire to be a great wife and mother.

“I always knew I had more potential than I demonstrated,” she confessed. “But my children and husband needed me.” When her children were in kindergarten, however, Vallejo felt the needed nudge to start thinking about her educational opportunities.

Vallejo obtained her GED certificate and at age 29, she enrolled in Gadsden State. Over the next few years, she earned an associate degree from Gadsden State and both Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Psychology from Jacksonville State University.

Vallejo said her journey has taken her “full circle” and sees this as her dream job. She credits much of her success to Gadsden. “Gadsden State has changed my life and it has made me happier. I feel like anybody could find their way and find their happy journey here because Gadsden State will work with everyone.”



# Wallace State Chosen to Join AAC&U Roadmap Project

The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) recently announced the names of ten community colleges chosen in Phase Two of the Developing a Community College Student Roadmap Project. The Roadmap Project is made possible by a grant from MetLife Foundation as part of MetLife Foundation's commitment to increasing the success of community college students.

Part of its Liberal Education and America's Promise initiative, AAC&U's Roadmap Project assists community colleges in creating robust and proactive programs of academic support—tied to expected learning outcomes—that engage students at entrance and teach them, from the outset, how to become active partners in their own quest for educational success. The project seeks to “connect the dots” among the varied student support programs on community college campuses and create roadmaps for success applicable at multiple institutions. These roadmaps will be anchored in a set of expected learning outcomes essential for all students to succeed in life beyond college.

The Roadmap Project has been working intensively over the past two years with a select group of twelve leadership institutions that are developing institutional models in support of community college student success. Collectively, these leadership institutions are taking what are often isolated and independent student success efforts and creating an integrated roadmap to support both student persistence and higher levels of academic achievement.

Funding from MetLife Foundation has enabled AAC&U to expand this initial group of institutions and add another ten community colleges to the project. Wallace State and the other nine colleges went through a rigorous application and evaluation process. National leaders chose community colleges with constructive plans designed to improve student learning outcomes and create pathways to student success through evidence-based interventions and programs. They were chosen because they are poised to become national models in supporting and advancing community college student success. Since their selection in January, they have already begun developing and implementing their plans.

“It is quite an honor to be selected, and we are excited about the contributions to and benefits of participating in this project,” said Wallace State President **Dr. Vicki Hawsey**. Through the Roadmap Project, Wallace State will work to identify high-impact practices that engage both faculty and students in collaborative, innovative, and meaningful learning experiences leading to student success.

Wallace State's Roadmap Project will be headed by English faculty member **Dr. Kathy Buckelew** and Social Sciences Division chair **Dr. Rebecca Reeves**.

Each Roadmap institution will work to ensure that its student success programs are integrated with, and reinforced by, its own educational culture. Institutions will develop and coordinate practices and policies that support engaged learning, provide meaningful assessment data about student learning outcomes, and help build a community of support for high achievement.



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## LBWCC's Hudson is Innovations Champion

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College's **Mary Ann Hudson** is the first recipient of a newly-established *Innovation Champions Award*.



This new employee recognition program provides an opportunity to showcase innovations employees have successfully designed and implemented which positively impact the college.

The award recognizes Hudson, chair of the LBWCC's mathematics/science division, coordinator of distance education faculty development, and biology instructor, for her role in the creation of a new program for math students.

"We are very proud of the leadership provided by Ms. Hudson in the creation of the math emporium, which has now been implemented at all our campus locations," said LBWCC President **Dr. Herb Riedel**.

The math emporium allows students to progress at their own speed through each component within a course, providing an opportunity for some students to complete multiple math courses within a semester and pay only one fee for more than one course.

"The success of the math emporium is due to the hard work, dedication and teamwork of our math instructors and the support of administration," said Hudson.

## ESCC/AAC Wins Award

The Alabama Aviation Center (AAC), a unit of Enterprise State Community College, won a Silver ADDY award from the American Advertising Federation in the Regional/National Television commercial division for the Women in Aviation Commercial.

"It's always an honor to win an award from your peers, and I am grateful," said Deidre P. Frith, ESCC Director of Marketing and Media Relations. "But I have to say that I could not do my job without the amazing support that I receive from our President and College Administration. It's their progressive thinking that allows me to create and execute campaigns that stretch the boundaries of marketing within the Alabama Community College System and the aviation industry."

The state-wide 30-second spot was a part of a large campaign to encourage women to choose aviation maintenance as a career field.

Frith partnered with Mosley Studios of Elba, Alabama, in making the commercial. The funds for the campaign were made possible by the Carl D. Perkins Act 2012. The commercial may be viewed on the ESCC YouTube channel: [.EnterpriseStateCC](https://www.youtube.com/EnterpriseStateCC).



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## Reid State and Local Business Partner to Meet Industry Needs

Evergreen Transport, LLC and Reid State Technical College began a 2013 partnership with an objective to prepare drivers to meet specific industry needs. The locally owned (Evergreen) business was in need of CDL drivers with cement and lime haul skills for the Calera terminal. The partnership was developed by Evergreen Transport employees **Randy Watson**, Director of Safety & Compliance; **Ronnie Kent**, Vice-President of Operations and **Dr. Alesia Stuart**, Associate Dean of Workforce Development at Reid State.

The partnership was designed for industry and education to work in tandem to increase qualified CDL applicants. Evergreen Transport screens and recruit students in the Birmingham area. Students are housed in a local Evergreen hotel during the eight week course. The partnership provides students an opportunity to gain skills at a nominal cost with a guarantee of employment upon completion. Participants are required to invest \$250 into the eight week training program.



Reid State provides CDL preparation on the Evergreen campus. Specialized skills are taught on the site of Evergreen Transport. Specialized instruction includes pneumatic operations for lime/cement hauls loading, unloading, and resolving clog issues, operation of working valves on pneumatic tanks and valve adjustments for pneumatic tank operation. Students attend class four days a week.

The first group of drivers completed the eight week program in March 2013 and had a 100% completion and placement. The class will be offered every eight weeks.

## Jefferson State Speech Team Wins Top Honors

The Jefferson State Speech Team recently earned first place honors in their division at the Novice Nationals Speech and Debate Tournament at Berry College.

In addition, Jefferson State students **Ryan Hill** and **Amber Pope** won fourth place in Duo Interpretation while Pope and **Kiara Sanford** placed third in the same event.

Sanford also placed sixth in Extemporaneous Speaking and third in Impromptu Sales, and sixth place in Individual Sweepstakes, making her the sixth highest point winner in the tournament.



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## Drake State Receives Grant From National Science Foundation

J.F. Drake State Technical College has received an award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the amount of \$899,792 in Advanced Technology Education funds to implement a nationwide program to develop digital systems technicians.

The grant provides two-year colleges with the curriculum, faculty professional development, and laboratory kits to enhance the teaching of digital systems to electrical engineering technology students. The grant also provides for digital summer camps for middle school and high school students and teacher training for high school technology instructors.

Drake State President **Dr. Helen T. McAlpine** said, "This grant will enable students across the nation to prepare themselves for exciting careers being created by technology breakthroughs in electronics that enable engineers and designers to develop innovative new products in a variety of fields."

## CACC Hosts Tour of Honda

Central Alabama Community College recently hosted a plant tour of Honda Motor Manufacturing of Alabama in Lincoln for secondary education faculty. The tour had great participation from schools throughout CACC's service area. It was initiated by CACC's Manufacturing Technology degree faculty. The program is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation called CARCAM. The degree program focuses on advanced manufacturing.



Honda regularly hosts tours open to the public, but this tour focused on the technical issues of Programmable Logic Controllers, machining, robotics, diagnostic skills and other technical topics not normally addressed in the public tours. The goal was to communicate the needs that companies have and where the skill shortages and deficiencies are.

Honda Technical Training Manager **Scott Haywood** stated that the most demanding skills involved Programmable Logic Controllers and general machine diagnostics / problem-solving. He also stated that manufacturing problems could be electrical, mechanical, software or combinations of the three in nature and that was why a multi-craft multi-skilled technician was so valuable.

The tour included a stop at Honda's technical training center where participants visited a class on "motor controls". The class was conducted by **Isaac Queen**, a project engineer with the Alabama Technology Network.

CACC's Manufacturing Technology degree is a multi-skilled, multidisciplinary degree that includes machining, mechanics, pneumatic hydraulics, electronics/electrical, robotics, OSHA, Lean, and Programmable Logic Controllers.

This tour was a joint venture between Central Alabama Community College, Wallace State Community College, and Honda, and was funded by the NSF.

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# Snead State Sets the Example for Finishing What You Start

For almost two years, Snead State Community College has encouraged students to set a goal of finishing what they start with their education. Now, SSCC has set its own example of “finishing what you start.”

Snead State implemented a campus-wide campaign encouraging students to achieve the goal of earning an associate’s degree. The Finish What You Start campaign was embraced by all departments within the College, ensuring the campaign’s success. Since 2009, the College has increased the number of degrees awarded by 56 percent.

The success of the Finish What You Start campaign has earned Snead State recognition as a “Best Practice” by the National Council of Instructional Administrators (NCIA). NCIA is a professional organization affiliated with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Each year, NCIA accepts “Best Practices” submissions as part of the Exemplary Initiatives Awards competition.

Snead State placed first in the Student Access, Persistence and Completion Initiatives category for the Finish What You Start Campaign. The College will be recognized at the NCIA Conference on April 8-12 in Florida.

“This is a significant accomplishment. The NCIA Awards is very competitive among community colleges throughout the nation. This award is well deserved by our entire faculty and staff because it has taken all of us working together, sharing the same message, and helping students achieve their goal,” said Snead State Community College President **Dr. Robert Exley**.

The Finish What You Start campaign came about at the same time as a national initiative to respond to a challenge by **President Barack Obama** to increase the number of degrees and certificates awarded by two-year colleges.

Aspects of the Finish What You Start campaign include marketing pieces that spotlight Snead State alumni who speak about the value of an Associate degree, information distributed to students through recruiting, orientation, registration and graduation processes that provide statistics supporting the value of earning a two-year degree and opportunities for students to sign the College Completion Pledge to earn the credential prior to leaving Snead State. Advisors and faculty also work closely with students to monitor the number of credit hours they need to complete each semester to earn their Associate degree within two years, keeping students on track to accomplish their goals

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# Calhoun Students Honored



Calhoun Community College students **Karen Conn** and **Andrea Williamson** have received national recognition for their academic accomplishments by The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.

Conn is among the 50 community college students from the United States, Canada, and the Federated States of Micronesia to be named 2013 New Century Scholars – receiving a total of \$100,000 in scholarships. New Century Scholars are the highest scoring students in each state, plus one student from Canada and one additional student chosen from among one of the remaining seven sovereign nations where Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is represented internationally. Selection is based on the score earned by the students in the All-USA Community College Academic Team competition, for which more than 1800 applications were received this year. Judges consider grades, leadership, activities and most importantly, how students extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom.

Conn is a Nursing student at Calhoun with a GPA of 3.985. After graduation, she plans to continue

her education at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She aspires to be an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.

Williamson was named a 2013 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Silver Scholar. The Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program recognizes 50 Gold, 50 Silver and 50 Bronze Scholars. Each Silver Scholar receives a \$1,250 scholarship and a special medallion. Williamson holds a 4.0 GPA at Calhoun. Following graduation, she plans to transfer to the University of North Alabama to pursue her Bachelor's degree in public communications.

"The recognition earned by both Karen and Andrea adds to the growing list of Calhoun students who have been honored on the national level for their academic accomplishments," commented Calhoun President **Dr. Marilyn Beck**.



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## Northeast's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter Earns Honors

Northeast Alabama Community College's Psi Epsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was recently recognized with five awards at the Phi Theta Kappa Regional Convention held in Brewton.

Besides being recognized as a Five-Star Chapter at the event, the chapter's Honors in Action project, "The Many Faces of Human Rights," received two awards, the Honors in Action Distinguished Theme Award and the Honors in Action Project Award. The Psi Epsilon chapter was also recognized as a Distinguished Chapter in the Alabama Region. In addition, Northeast was awarded the Most Distinguished Chapter Award, 2nd Finalist. This award places the Psi Epsilon Chapter in the top five distinguished chapters in the state of Alabama.

Phi Theta Kappa officers **Kristen Allison** and **John Clements** attended the convention accompanied by Chapter Advisor **Brad Fricks**.

"I am extremely proud of all of the hard work that our officers and chapter members did over the last year as they have demonstrated a sincere desire to better our campus and our community. We are extremely happy to bring this recognition to the college, and we could not have been as successful without the support and encouragement of **Dr. David Campbell** and the other administrators here at Northeast," commented Fricks.

In addition to overall recognitions, Clements, the chapter's vice president for scholarship, was elected as one of the vice presidents for the Alabama Region. He will serve as the representative for District I which covers all of North Alabama.

## Bishop State Student Named Coca-Cola Scholar

**Taylor Singletary** of Mobile, a student at Bishop State Community College, has been named a 2013 *Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Bronze Scholar*. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver and 50 Bronze Scholars, and providing nearly \$200,000 in scholarships annually. Each Bronze Scholar receives a \$1,000 scholarship and a special medallion.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society administers the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Program and recognizes Coca-Cola Community College scholars during All-State Community College Academic Team Recognition ceremonies held in 38 states. Student scholars also receive recognition locally during ceremonies held on campus and internationally for those who are able to attend Phi Theta Kappa's Annual Convention.



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## Lawson State Instructor Elected as MLA Delegate

Lawson State Community College English instructor **Harold E. Higginbotham** has been elected to serve a three-year term on the Modern Language Association (MLA) Delegate Assembly. His position as a special interest delegate for two-year institutions additionally calls for him to represent the interest/point of view of two-year colleges on all issues coming before the Assembly.

"I was happily surprised to learn that I was selected for nomination and then election to the national position," Higginbotham said. "The voices of not only two-year institutions but Alabamians aren't always heard. As a first generation college student, I think it is a real opportunity to also represent these concerns as well."

The MLA formally convenes once a year, however, committee work for the Assembly continues throughout the year.

Founded in 1883, the MLA is a respected leader in the national education community with nearly 30,000 members in 100 countries. The MLA offers programs serving English and foreign language teachers and hosts an annual convention with meetings on a wide variety of subjects.

## Gadsden State Celebrates Gateway Ceremony

Gadsden State Community College recently celebrated the opening of the new Cardinal Gateway, which was designed to improve safety for students, staff and visitors, alleviate a traffic hazard, and connect the East Broad and Wallace Drive campuses.

The campus gateway features a new road with a four-way traffic signal and is designed to better accommodate students and visitors. The new intersection provides a "push to walk" convenience for students or pedestrians to allow easy access to both campuses. As a result of the new design, additional parking spaces will accommodate students and visitors at the Wallace Hall Fine Arts Center.

The festivities began with an open house to welcome the community at the Automotive Services Technology building, the newest instructional building located on the East Broad Campus of Gadsden State. The facility is equipped with four new vehicle lifts, eight bays for student instruction, and classroom space. The event culminated with entertainment by the Ensemble and remarks from dignitaries, and an open house at the newly renovated Beville Center.

GSCC President **Dr. Raymond W. Staats** remarked, "We are excited about the completion of this project as the first step in revitalizing our Gadsden State campuses. The Gateway greatly improves student and employee safety and access."

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## Snead State's CAO Part of Inaugural Cohort



Snead State Community College's Chief Academic Officer **Dr. Jason Watts** recently participated in the AACC John E. Roueche Future Leadership Institute (Roueche-FLI) in Phoenix, AZ.

Dr. Watts was among 18 community college leaders, comprising the inaugural cohort, from around the country selected to participate in the institute, hosted by GateWay Community College.

The week-long institute is an innovative leadership seminar designed for mid-level community college administrators who are ready to move into a higher level of leadership. These individuals typically have the title of dean, associate dean, or director and are responsible for multiple employees on their campus.

Dr. Watts has been with Snead State since 2003, beginning his career as a math instructor only to later serve as the Associate Dean of Academic Planning and Research and currently as the Chief Academic Officer. He received his education through The University of Alabama, obtaining a Bachelor and Master degrees and Ed.S. in Mathematics and a Doctorate in Secondary Curriculum.

"This was by far the best professional development program I have attended. The opportunity to learn from people nationally recognized for their excellent work in our community colleges was fantastic, and the topics we covered are directly relevant to our work here at Snead State," said Watts.

## ACCA Conference Proposals

Submit your conference proposals by July 8 to be considered for the 2013 conference. The online submission form can be found on the ACCA website.

To submit a proposal, go to:

[www.alabamacca.org/accaproposals](http://www.alabamacca.org/accaproposals)

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## AAC Partners to Expand Courses

The Alabama Aviation Center (AAC), a unit of Enterprise State Community College (ESCC), recently announced a partnership with the Baldwin County Public School System.

AAC currently offers one dual enrollment course in Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) for high school students in Baldwin County. AAC and Baldwin County Schools are working together to expand dual enrollment offerings beginning Fall 2013 by providing up to four classes. Plans are to offer two classes at the North Baldwin County Career Tech Center in Bay Minette and two additional classes at in the South Baldwin Technology Center located in Robertsdale.

In addition, AAC will soon offer classes in Fairhope. New construction at the Fairhope Airport will allow AAC to provide AMT dual enrollment courses to high school students, as well as offer courses to adult learners.

Currently, dual enrollment courses in aviation maintenance are free for high school students due to funds made available by a grant from the Department of Postsecondary Education (DPE). AAC anticipates the funds to continue to be available for the dual enrollment courses; however, the tuition free courses are dependent upon continued availability of funds.

## Trenholm Adds New Board Member

At a recent meeting, **Gilbert F. Darrington** was unanimously chosen to join the Trenholm Foundation Board. Darrington is Director of Human Resources at Jackson Hospital & Clinic in Montgomery.

"As a certified Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), he brings a wealth of experience to the Foundation about emerging healthcare opportunities for graduates of Trenholm State," said **Dr. Mimi Johnson**, executive secretary to the Foundation.

The Trenholm Foundation enhances the academic vision and priorities of H. Council Trenholm State Technical College and is governed by a Board of Directors, whose members serve as advocates and ambassadors of goodwill for the College.

## Calhoun Receives \$1M Donation

**Bill Propst, Sr.** and his wife **Eloise** recently donated \$1 million to Calhoun Community College. The donation, which represents the largest cash donation in the college's history, came with only one restriction: since the Propsts are Huntsville residents, they requested that the money be used to support continued growth and enhancements at Calhoun's Huntsville/Cummings Research Park campus.

"Words truly cannot appropriately express our appreciation for the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Propst. Their support of Calhoun, and most importantly of the students attending our Huntsville campus, will continue to make an impact for many years to come," commented Calhoun President **Dr. Marilyn Beck**.



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