



UPDATE

*The best way to find yourself is to lose
yourself in the service of others.*
~Mahatma Gandhi

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APRIL IS NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

In recognition of April as National Community College Month in the State of Alabama, please consider these facts.

- The 26 public community and technical colleges, Athens State University, the Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute, and the Alabama Technology Network comprise The Alabama College System, providing a broad array of educational services for more than 260,000 persons each year.
- The two-year college system works in partnership with business, industry, and government to provide job-specific training assistance and economic development.
- The two-year college system enrolls 55 percent of all college freshmen in Alabama, and 96 percent of the students enrolled are Alabama residents.
- More than 53,400 students are enrolled in more than 90 career/technical and workforce development programs in Alabama's two-year colleges.
- Alabama's public two-year college system is the state's single largest system of public higher education and is Alabama's most affordable and accessible system of higher education.
- Alabama's public two-year colleges provide customized training and workforce services for 39,900 employees and more than 700 Alabama businesses and industries each year through their training efforts.
- Since 1996, Alabama's public two-year colleges have offered special transition services and assistance to nearly 50,000 employees adversely affected and dislocated by industrial downsizing and the closure of individual facilities.

GIRL SCOUTS HONOR WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

Gadsden State Community College President Renée Culverhouse is one of nine Alabama women named as a recipient of the Women of Distinction award, presented annually by the Girl Scouts of Cahaba Council. Dr. Culverhouse and the other recipients were among those honored at a recent luncheon at the Harbert Center in Birmingham. The award pays tribute to women who have made special contributions to their community through civic, academic, or professional involvement.

Dr. Culverhouse was nominated by Dr. Jim Jolly, Dean of Instructional Services at GSCC. In his letter to the Women of Distinction Selection Committee, Jolly said, "Ms. Culverhouse's personal commitment, never to make peace with oppression, has led her to be an advocate for abused women, children, and minorities." He pointed out she serves on many boards and has an active role in policy making and is committed to volunteer work.

Dr. Culverhouse has been president of GSCC since 2001. Prior to that, she served the Alabama College System for eight years as General Counsel and Vice Chancellor for Legal and Human Resources.

She is a Board member of the Gadsden Etowah County Chamber of Commerce, the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, Gadsden Regional Medical Center, the Gadsden-Etowah County Industrial Development Authority, United Way, and the Etowah County Department of Human Resources. She previously served on the Boards of Coosa Valley YMCA, Greater Alabama Council of Boy Scouts and Salvation Army.

This is the 12th year the Girl Scouts in the Cahaba Council have had the Women of Distinction Program. Proceeds from the Women of Distinction Luncheon provide direct support to the council which serves more than 13,000 girls in Blount, Cherokee, Etowah, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, and Walker Counties.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 5	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	M*A*S*H -- Fun, Exhibits & Food @ McClellan Center
April 6	12:00 noon	Celebration of Service Luncheon @ Cafeteria, Wallace Drive
April 8	6:00 p.m.	International Food Festival @ Cafeteria, Wallace Drive
April 13	10:00 a.m.	Honors Day – Gadsden @ Wallace Hall Auditorium
April 13	6:00 p.m.	Phi Theta Kappa Induction – Gadsden @ Wallace Hall Auditorium
April 14	6:30 p.m.	Honors Day – Anniston @ McClellan Center Auditorium
April 21	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	G Day – Fun, Exhibits & Food @ Softball Complex, Gadsden
April 25-29		Registration for Summer Semester

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Alabama State Board of Education met in a postsecondary business session beginning at 9:30 a.m. on March 24, 2005, in the Auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building in Montgomery, Alabama. The Board took the following actions of interest to Gadsden State Community College and The Alabama College System.

- (1) Authorized Gadsden State Community College to purchase equipment, computers, and computer-related equipment for instructional purposes. The equipment will upgrade instructional aids to enhance instruction in various programs. Fiscal Consideration: \$914,370 – Current Unrestricted Fund (Technology Fees)
- (2) Recognized April as National Community College Month in Alabama, urging all Alabamians and business and industry leaders who are committed to developing Alabama's work force for the 21st century to use and support their local two-year colleges.
- (3) Revised Policy 804.01 Fees: General, allowing colleges to charge the maximum amount allowed by state law as a returned check fee. The full text of the policy revision may be found on The Alabama College System web site at: www.acs.cc.al.us.
- (4) Revised The Alabama College System Policy Manual by deleting language referring to junior colleges and adding language referring to Alabama College System institutions as appropriate. There are no longer any junior colleges in The Alabama College System.
- (5) Revised the 2005 Alabama State Board of Education Meeting Schedule by changing the Postsecondary Work Session scheduled for May 12 to May 11. The work session will begin at 2:30 p.m. and, in addition to the usual proposed postsecondary action items, will include discussion of workforce development, Early College Enrollment Program, and college bookstores. The work session will take place in the Presidents Conference Room of the Alabama Center for Commerce in Montgomery, Alabama.

The next Postsecondary Work Session is scheduled for April 14, 2005, in the Presidents Conference Room of the Alabama Center for Commerce in Montgomery, immediately following the conclusion of the K-12 business meeting.

The next Postsecondary Business Meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2005, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in the Nettles Auditorium of Alabama Southern Community College in Monroeville, Alabama.

GSCC HOSTS INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

A capacity crowd is expected April 8th for the annual International Food Festival at Gadsden State Community College. It will be held in the GSCC Cafeteria, beginning at 6 p.m. It has been a popular tradition for many years, and it unites the local community, Gadsden State, and the international students.

Many of the students will be entertaining with dancing and singing from their native countries. The international students will also be in traditional dress and will have displays and exhibits, with artifacts from their homeland. The countries of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, India, Togo, and Brazil are among those that will be represented at the festival.

All of the proceeds go to the International Student Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$8.50 for students, with a table of 6 for \$75 and a table of 8 for \$100. Tickets are on sale at Room 106 in Naylor Hall on the Wallace Drive campus of GSCC.

Also, for the second year, rug dealer Victor Harb of Knoxville, Tennessee will be giving away a 3' x 6' Persian rug valued at \$500. Tickets are now available for the drawing, which will be held at the festival. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5.

LADY CARDINALS BASKETBALL TEAM HAS BANNER YEAR

Playing in their second consecutive Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) Championship, the Gadsden State Lady Cardinals basketball team defeated Shelton State Community College, winning the Alabama Community College Conference Division 1 Championships and earned the right to represent the ACCC in Salina, Kansas.

Making their second consecutive appearance in the National Junior and Community College Conference Tournament, the Lady Cardinals raised their status from last year by winning their second game, but ultimately losing to Moberly Community College of Missouri. The GSCC Lady Cardinals Basketball Team is now ranked 9th in the nation by the NJCAA.

Congratulations to Coach Kim Nails, Assistant Coach Charles Nails, and all of the members of the Lady Cardinals Basketball Team.

CARDINALS BASKETBALL PLACE 2ND IN STATE

In the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) State Playoffs, the Gadsden State Men's Basketball team won three games, advancing to the finals and losing to Shelton State. The team is ranked 2nd in the state by the ACCC.

Congratulations to Coach Hal Davidson, Assistant Coaches Todd Ginn and Glenn Norman, and all of the members of the GSCC Men's Basketball Team.

GSCC CROSS COUNTRY TEAM EXCELS

The Gadsden State Community College Women's Cross Country team has been named one of seven Academic Teams of the Year by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Cross Country Coaches' Association. Three members of the team were named as Academic All Americans. The GSCC squad had a joint GPA of 3.61, the sixth best in the country with two of the team members sporting a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Other Academic Teams of the Year were Colorado Northwestern Community College, El Paso Community College (TX), Yavapai College (AZ), Central Arizona College, Schoolcraft College (MI) and Spartanburg Methodist College (SC).

GSCC team members named as Academic All Americans were Elizabeth Mills of Gadsden, Lindsey Pearce of Springville, and Brittany Rashleigh of Ashville. This is the second time the Gadsden State team has been selected by NJCAA as an Academic Team of the Year.

The Gadsden State team also did well in Cross Country competition, winning the Alabama Community College Conference Championship meet last fall and competing in the NJCAA National Championship in El Paso last November. The fall 2005 team will have four returning members along with some promising newcomers.

ACBSP ACCREDITATION TEAM VISITS

The Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) conducted an accreditation site visit of the Business and Information Technology Divisions March 13-16, 2005. The two divisions had submitted a self-study report for 2003-2004 on January 31, 2005. While on campus, the visiting team had meetings with many college administrators, interviewed faculty and students, evaluated the facilities, and analyzed numerous documents and reports. On March 15th, the team conducted an exit interview to report their findings. At the exit interview the chair of the visiting team, Dr. Laverne Ulmer, said they found the Business and IT Divisions to be exemplary. She made wonderful comments about the faculty and facilities of the two divisions.

Since the visit, ACBSP has sent a copy of the visiting team's report. All accreditation standards were met. The Business and IT Divisions will submit a follow up report to ACBSP, and the Board of Commissioners will vote on the reaffirmation at their April meeting. All accreditations approved by the Board of Commissioners at the April meeting will be presented at ACBSP's National Conference in Washington, D.C. in June.

NCRA ACCREDITATION TEAM VISITS

The Realtime Reporting Program at GSCC was visited by officials from the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) on March 9, to renew program approval. The visitation team consisted of Bonni R. Shuttleworth, CPE, CRI, CLVS and Teresa A. Kordick, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CBC, CCP, CRI, CPE.

The site visit went well, with the program receiving numerous positive remarks regarding the curriculum. The facility received a commendation from the team for its optimum learning environment set up to enhance the students' educational experience. The faculty was noted as being supportive and knowledgeable and very dedicated to the students and the program. In addition, the students were noted as being polite and well groomed due to the faculty's exhibition of these qualities.

The visiting team's report will be reviewed by the Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) at their June 2005 meeting, when the accreditation will be officially re-approved for five years.

PHI THETA KAPPA CHAPTERS WIN AWARDS

The Beta Delta Rho Chapter on the Ayers Campus has achieved the Pinnacle Silver level in the 2004 Pinnacle Scholarship Award Program. The Chapter will also receive a \$100 Pinnacle Silver Scholarship Award in recognition of the accomplishment. To earn the Pinnacle Silver Chapter designation, a chapter must increase its membership acceptance rate by 10 percent over the previous year. Cindy Goggans and Todd Hamilton are faculty advisors for the Beta Delta Rho Chapter.

The Rho Rho Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa on the Gadsden Campuses has received the Pinnacle Bronze level in the 2004 Pinnacle Scholarship Award Program. This award recognizes chapters that increase their membership acceptance over the previous year. Dale Hill is the faculty advisor for the Rho Rho Chapter.

GADSDEN STATE TRIO PROGRAMS IN DANGER

Administrators at Gadsden State Community College are expressing concern over a possible end of funding for programs aimed at encouraging middle and high school students, those enrolled in Adult Education, and veterans to continue their education.

President Bush's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2006 would eliminate most of the TRIO programs. The endangered TRIO programs comprise six GSCC programs – Upward Bound on the Gadsden and Ayers campuses, the Educational Talent Search program on the Gadsden and Ayers campuses, and the Veteran's Upward Bound program on the Gadsden and McClellan campuses.

The Upward Bound program has been on the campus of Gadsden State for more than 30 years and has worked with hundreds of youths, encouraging low income and first generation high school students to complete high school and then earn a postsecondary degree. It provides instruction and enrichment activities throughout the calendar year and also makes information available on postsecondary education opportunities. Last year, 89 percent of the Upward Bound seniors at GSCC enrolled in college.

The Educational Talent Search (ETS) program, funded in 1991 in the Gadsden-Etowah area and in 2000 in the Calhoun County area, has had similar success. It serves participants in grades six through 12 and those in adult education, and identifies those with the potential for education at the college level. At least 80 percent of past participants, about 3000 from the middle and high schools and adult learners, have enrolled in college.

The Veteran's Upward Bound program is the only one of its kind in the state and has served about one third more students than the 120 for which it was set up. The program is aimed at providing eligible veterans with numerous educational and counseling services no matter how long they may have been away from the classroom.

Also facing a loss of funding is the GEAR UP program. It is in its sixth year and has been working with high school students in the city of Gadsden. GEAR UP uses a whole grade approach when working with students. It has involved over 400 students, offering services such as tutoring, mentoring, college/cultural trips, and summer enrichment activities. Professional development activities have also been offered for the teachers serving the students. When the program started, participating students were in the seventh grade in middle school. They are now seniors in high school.

STUDENT ALABAMA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (SAEA)

Gadsden State Community College student Malena Wells of Boaz recently helped to celebrate Dr. Seuss Day on March 2, by reading to Ms. Reeve's first grade class at Eura Brown Elementary School. Ms. Wells, president of the GSCC SAEA (Student Alabama Education Association), is majoring in Early Childhood Development and is committed to the future development of the SAEA at Gadsden State.

Gwen Ford, coordinator of the Child Development program and sponsor of the GSCC SAEA, has worked with students including Ms. Wells by encouraging them to participate in community functions such as this. The newly formed organization is open to Gadsden State students majoring in education. For more information contact Gwen Ford at 256.549.8335.

GSCC ADULT EDUCATION REPORT CARD

The Adult Education Program at Gadsden State received an "A" on its Annual Academic Performance Summary recently distributed by the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education.

Gadsden State's program exceeded the 2004 State Goals for Adult Basic Skills Completion and English as a Second Language. Basic demographic data from the summary revealed more than 30 percent of individuals entering the program begin with an education level between the 6th and 9th grade, and the largest population of participants was males between 16 and 18 years of age.

HEART FOCUS

Gadsden State Community College has kicked off a new program aimed at reducing the risk factors for heart disease and restoring the health of individuals who already have heart disease. Cindy Mullinax, MS, RN, Wellness Instructor at GSCC with considerable experience in the field of cardiac rehabilitation, is working with local physicians to make the public aware of the new program known as “Heart Focus.”

The program is housed at Beck Field House on the GSCC campus and consists of two one-hour exercise sessions per week with each one designed to meet the specific needs of individual participants. This could involve exercise sessions with the use of free weights, weight machines, treadmills, stationary bicycles, group exercise, and/or walking in the gym. The overall goal is to assist residents of the Gadsden area in making the needed lifestyle changes to improve their overall health—physically and mentally.

Participants in the program should be those persons who have risk factors for heart disease such as being overweight, a smoker, or a person who is generally inactive or has high blood pressure or cholesterol. It is also for those who have heart disease and may have undergone a heart procedure.

Heart disease is the number one killer in America with more than 17,000 deaths in Alabama from cardiovascular disease last year. The number of deaths and the large number of cardiac procedures carried out locally are both indications that the program is needed.

The program cost is \$30 per month, and participants may enroll and begin classes at any time during the month. For more information, contact Cindy Mullinax at 256.439.6802 or 256.549.8310.

REPRESENTATIVE TOM BEVILL LEAVES LEGACY AT GSCC

For thirty years, Rep. Tom Bevill (D-Jasper) served his constituents from the Fourth District in Congress. From 1967 until 1997, Bevill steered millions of dollars in Federal monies to the state, and in doing so created a legacy that will live on at Gadsden State Community College. The impact he made as a Congressman remains visible on the Wallace Drive, East Broad Street, and Valley Street Campuses at GSCC. His position as a ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee gave him considerable control over the federal purse strings, and he was able to use that power to enhance Gadsden State.

In the eighties, after Gadsden State became a community college and Bevill gained seniority, that partnership began paying dividends. In 1986, Bevill helped secure over \$2 million from the Tennessee Valley Authority to help build the Bevill Center for Manufacturing Technology, which later served as a model for similar facilities in other parts of the state. An additional \$1.2 million grant was also appropriated to finish the building and purchase training equipment. The center offers training for employees of a large number of businesses, including Alabama’s growing automotive industry.

The addition of the Gadsden Job Corps Center to the Valley Street campus of GSCC was another of Bevill’s significant contributions to Gadsden State. The Job Corps Center was announced in 1989 and began operation in 1991. It was the first one to be housed on a college campus and has provided job training for thousands of youths throughout the Southeast since it opened.

The GSCC Aquaculture Educational and Development Center was made possible through funding obtained by Tom Bevill and the late State Representative Joe Ford. The quest for funding began in 1989, with the ground breaking for the Fishery Science Diagnostic Lab in 1992. This department includes a diagnostic lab, hatchery, classrooms and offices, a four acre reservoir pond, and 12 one-fourth acre grow out ponds. The building housing the aquaculture program was named in honor of Don Smith, Bevill’s long time Chief of Staff and former head of the GSCC radio television department.

Bevill was extremely interested in the economic growth of Alabama. He compared the state’s catfish industry to the poultry industry, which Alabama was second in the nation at this time. He had a vision of Alabama becoming first in the nation in catfish farming and felt quality training was the highway to success.

Like most educational institutions in the Fourth Congressional District, GSCC has a building named in honor of the long time Congressman. Bevill Hall was established in 1975 as an occupational education building. This building was designed for technical and health care classes. Currently GSCC students attend classes that include English, clinical lab technology, radiology and phlebotomy in Bevill Hall.

Tom Bevill was respected throughout the South. He was a man whose vision was ahead of his time. He was truly a friend to community colleges and proved his dedication throughout his career.