

*I am still determined to be cheerful and happy, in whatever situation I may be; for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances.*

*~Martha Washington (1732 - 1802)*

# GSCC UPDATE

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## GSCC HOSTS EVENTS IN MARCH

Gadsden State will host the North Alabama JAG Competition on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Bevill Manufacturing Center. JAG (Jobs for Alabama Graduates) is an affiliate for Jobs for America's Graduates, and is a program designed to assist high school students through graduation and into postsecondary education or the world of work. Students will compete in three areas: Public Speaking, Job Interviews and the JAG Bowl. Winners in this event will advance to the state competition which will be held in Montgomery in April. For more information contact Marian Haynie, Job Placement Director, at 256.549.8606.



The Etowah County Sheriff's Department and Gadsden State are offering four sessions of Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.), a viable option in self-defense. The Rape Aggression Defense is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women. It is a comprehensive, women-only course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training. The sessions are open to WOMEN ONLY ages 15 and above, and will be held March 1, 2, 4 & 5, at Beck Field House, Rooms 141-142, from 5:30 - 9 pm. For more information call 256.549.8329 or email [jhill@gadsdenstate.edu](mailto:jhill@gadsdenstate.edu).

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HOST FOOD FESTIVAL

The Office of International Student Affairs and the Sodexo Marriott Food Service presented the 20th International Food Festival on February 20.

GSCC international students provided an opportunity for guests to experience diverse cultural exhibits, savor international cuisine, listen to music from around the world, and enjoy international entertainment. Students representing various cultures took pride in displaying artifacts typical of their native countries and dressing in traditional attire. Guests were able to visit the exhibits, to meet and talk with students, and to find out how their name is written in a different language.

The various international recipes were provided by the students and perfected by Sodexo Marriott Services. Guests enjoyed flavors from South America, Asia, Europe, and the Mediterranean. The entertainment has always been a highlight of the evening, and this year included among the various acts were songs and dances from Japan, Colombia, Brazil, and Togo.

This Food Festival helps to promote understanding, friendship, and unity among students, employees, and members of the community. Proceeds from the festival go toward the International Student Scholarship Fund.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

March 2	Mini II Registration Mini I Final Exams
March 3	Mini II Classes Begin
March 4	Last Day to Drop/Add Mini II
March 8-12	Lifelong Learning Reg. Gadsden Campus
March 22-26	Spring Break
March 27-28	No Weekend Classes

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1-2 4-5	Rape Aggression Defense Seminar Beck Field House, 5:30-9:00 pm, Rms. 141-142
March 9	Phi Theta Kappa President's Tea Inzer Cafeteria, 2:00 pm -- Faculty/Staff invited
March 10	Nursing/Allied Health Career Fair 10:00 am-1:30 pm, Helderman Hall
March 11	Beach Party, Beck Field House Swimming Pool, 7:00-9:00 pm
March 16	SGA 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Talent Show East Broad Auditorium, 6:30 pm

## GADSDEN STATE OFFERS GED PREP ONLINE

Adult students seeking a GED can receive education preparation for the GED Test at Gadsden State over the Internet. The Alabama College System and the state of Alabama are the first to launch GED Integrated Online Solutions, allowing Gadsden State and other System colleges to deliver the GED classroom where and when it best accommodates the busy schedules of their students. GED Integrated Online Solutions provides the educational content needed to prepare for the GED Test and also connects students to a professional GED instructor. Students can access the program wherever there is an Internet connection. For more information on the GED Integrated Online Solution, please contact the Gadsden State Adult Education and Skills Training Division at 256-835-5463.

### ALABAMA FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE PROVIDES HELP

The Alabama Fatherhood Initiative began in September of 2002 as a pilot project in The Alabama College System through a cooperative arrangement with the Department of Human Resources, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, and the Administrative Office of Courts, designed to provide job training to unemployed and underemployed non-custodial fathers so that they could play an active role in the lives of their children. Gadsden State was the pilot college for the pilot project.

In Etowah County, approximately 50 non-custodial parents have received help with short-term skills training and/or employment, and child support payments have increased. In Calhoun County, the program is assisting approximately 40 non-custodial parents. Other colleges are in various stages of implementing this successful program. For information about the program in Etowah and Calhoun Counties, please contact David Collins (Etowah) at (256) 8638 or Jason Hurst (Calhoun) at (256) 835-5484.

### ON-LINE SERVICES AVAILABLE AT GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

It has been more than two years since Gadsden State Community College became one of the first institutions in the state to implement online registration, and it continues to grow in popularity. Approximately 80% to 90% of students take advantage of the online system. This includes everything from checking to see what courses are available to filing their actual application. Other students use it to add or drop courses, to make payments, or to check grades.

The online procedure has definitely reduced the long lines that used to symbolize the start of registration each semester. While GSCC was one of the first schools to have online registration, it has now become common throughout Alabama. Many of the schools used Gadsden State as a role model before they began offering the new service. Although more students are registering on-line, there will always be a certain number of students with needs that must be taken care of in person.

Online registration for the summer semester will begin April 5.

### NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Local teachers are finding the GSCC Distance Learning Program to be beneficial in helping them to meet the new requirements of the "No Child Left Behind Program". Gadsden State offers a variety of online and video courses. Sandra Wells, Computer Science instructor, coordinates many of these courses. A number of students are already enrolled. To be qualified, teachers must have 12 hours in each of the following: Social Sciences, Science, Math and English/Arts. Those who did not have all of the courses while obtaining their Bachelor of Science Degree can take some of the classes at Gadsden State. These courses are flexible and can fit into the schedule of most educators. The 300 - 400 level courses the teachers are required to have must be obtained at a four-year institution. In many of the online courses, only the mid-term and final exams require the presence of the student on campus. For more information visit the website at [www.gadsdenstate.edu/dl/index.html](http://www.gadsdenstate.edu/dl/index.html)

## ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

At its postsecondary meeting in Montgomery on February 26, the Alabama State Board of Education took the following actions of interest to The Alabama College System and Gadsden State Community College.

- (1) Authorized and directed each System institution to purchase professional legal liability insurance from the carrier Landmark American Insurance Company through the insurance brokerage firm of Cobbs, Allen and Hall, Inc. of Gadsden. The named insured are the Alabama State Board of Education and its members, the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education and its employees, and all institutions operating under Board authority and their employees. Coverage began March 1, 2004, and ends February 28, 2005. Fiscal consideration is \$750,000 for the annual premium. The premium is allocated among the named insureds based upon the number of full-time employees.
- (2) Revised State Board of Education Policy 712.01 Degrees and Awards to define short-term certificate programs as less than or equal to 29 semester hours in programs designed for completion in less than one academic year (2 semesters) of full-time study or the equivalent. This definition is consistent with the Guidelines set forth by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for such programs. The term "short-term certificate" will be used when referring to the degree program ranging from 9 to 29 hours. Full text of the policy may be viewed on the web site of the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education at [www.acs.cc.al.us](http://www.acs.cc.al.us).
- (3) Approved the expenditure of funds by Alabama College System institutions through interagency agreements between the Department of Postsecondary Education and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and subsequent memoranda of understanding between the colleges and the Department of Postsecondary Education for the establishment and operation of Focused Industry Training. Three Focused Industry Training (FIT) agreements will serve 30 sites in the Black Belt of West Alabama, the Hyundai development effort along Interstate 65, and the Honda development effort along Interstates 59 and 20. At each of the sites, colleges designated by the Chancellor will operate intensive pre-employment training programs according to national skills standards. Successful completers of the programs will receive certification as an "Alabama Certified Worker." All funds will be provided through the *Workforce Investment Act* and will be expended by the colleges through their Current Restricted Fund. Total fiscal consideration is over \$3 million. Gadsden State has been designated by the Chancellor as a part of the I-59/I-20 Corridor Project. Sites for FIT to be directed by Gadsden State are located in Gadsden, Rainbow City, Anniston, Pell City, and Heflin.
- (4) Provided tuition waiver of 50 percent for displaced workers who will become unemployed as a result of the closing of Werner Company in Anniston and who are in need of re-training. Because the closing will affect many residents of the Anniston area, Gadsden State will be able to act with flexibility to meet the skills-emphasis training needs of those workers throughout its service area.

## NORTHWEST-SHOALS PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE SELECTS SEMI-FINALISTS

The Presidential Search Committee for Northwest-Shoals Community College met recently and selected 5 semi-finalists for the position. The semi-finalists will tour the college on March 9, attend a reception that evening, and interview with the search committee on March 10. The search committee will select 3 finalists to interview with the Chancellor, Department of Postsecondary Education senior staff, and members of the Alabama State Board of Education on March 11. The Chancellor expects to make a recommendation to the Board for a president at the Postsecondary Board Meeting on March 25. The semi-finalists are:

Dr. Glenda Colagross, Dean of Instruction, Northwest-Shoals Community College  
Dr. William Findt, Vice President for Development, Mitchell Community College in Statesville, North Carolina  
Dr. Theresa Hamilton, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services, Calhoun Community College  
Dr. James Jolly, Jr., Dean of Instructional Services, Gadsden State Community College  
Dr. Humphrey Lee, Interim President, Northwest-Shoals Community College

### SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

- Gadsden-Etowah Talent Search is having a financial aid workshop for its 2004 senior participants on Monday, March 1, in the Inzer Hall Career Center at 6 pm.
- Circle K members will conduct Poison Prevention & Animal Safety programs for area Kindergarten students on March 5, 12 and 19. Members will serve as Administrative Assistants at the Annual Northeast Alabama Kidney Association Cadillac Party Fundraiser on March 5.
- Wacky Weather Camp for K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade on March 22-26, from 7:30 am - 5:30 pm. The cost of the camp is \$65.00 per child for the entire week, with a 10% discount for siblings. For more information contact the Lifelong Learning Center at 256.549.8305.

### SERVING OUR STUDENTS

- Student Government Association 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Talent Show at East Broad Campus Auditorium on March 16, 6:30 pm. Categories may include vocal, instrumental, dance, comedy/drama, and open. A cash prize of \$100 will be awarded to the Best Individual Performer, and \$200 to the Best Duet or Group.
- AWARE (Adults Who Are Returning for an Education) a support group for adult learners (24+) held its first meeting on February 23. The mission of the group is to assist students with emotional, educational, and informational support, and to increase student retention.
- Pre-Spring Break Beach Party at Beck Field House Swimming Pool on March 11, from 7:00–9:00 pm. Admission is free with student ID.
- RTET/Radiologic Test on March 1, at 5:00 pm at Helderman Hall Auditorium
- Realtime Reporting Aptitude Test on March 18, at 9:00 am & 1:00 pm at Helderman Hall Auditorium.
- Phi Theta Kappa President’s Tea to honor students with a 3.5 + GPA at Cafeteria on Wallace Drive Campus at 2:00 pm.
- Spring Mini II Bookstore charges begin on March 2, at 8:00 am and end on March 12, at 4:00 pm.

### GADSDEN CAMPUS STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES WORKSHOPS

- March 3            Note Taking
- March 10        Financial Aid
- March 11        Visit to JSU
- March 17        Computer - Scrap Booking
- March 30        Disability Services

### TRIO UPDATE – AYERS CAMPUS

The Ayers Campus Student Support Services students have a variety of field trips on the horizon. On March 13, the students will attend a play “How the Other Half Loves”. On March 18, students interested in transferring to JSU will tour departments of interest to them. On April 1, students and staff will tour the Titanic exhibit at the McWane Center in Birmingham. On April 7, students will tour Alabama A&M.

Field trips are also on the calendar for the students served by the Ayers Campus Educational Talent Search. This federal TRIO program serves 700 students in grades 6-12 in 17 local schools. The freshmen students journeyed to Birmingham on February 19 to visit the Titanic Exhibit at the McWane Center, attend an IMAX movie and eat at the Olive Garden. The seniors traveled to Atlanta for a tour of CNN Studios, the World of Coke and a tour of Clark University on February 26. Upcoming trips include a trip to Birmingham for the juniors on April 22 in which they will travel back by Amtrak; a trip to Chattanooga to the aquarium for the sophomores on April 27; a trip for the eighth grade students to Huntsville to the Space and Rocket Center; and finally, a trip for the sixth and seventh grade students to Birmingham on June 22.

## TWO NOMINATED FOR ALL-ALABAMA ACADEMIC TEAM RECOGNITION

Gadsden State Community College is proud to recognize Kevin Lee Baker and Brittany Paige Godfrey as its nominees for the 2004 All-Alabama Academic Team Recognition Program to be held April 15 2004 at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham.

Kevin Lee Baker is majoring in Radiology and plans to pursue a B.S. in Radiologic Sciences upon graduation from GSCC. Baker is a former All-Conference/All-State athlete—lettering in football, basketball, and baseball—who began his college career with an academic scholarship. When asked to describe one significant endeavor while attending GSCC, he responded that by applying his leadership and academic knowledge he has helped others. Whether “in a biology lab, human anatomy class, or just to provide notes, I believe it [helping] makes everyone better because the person I help today, hopefully, will help someone else tomorrow.”

Brittany Paige Godfrey is majoring in Nursing and plans to complete her nursing program at UAB before entering school to become a nurse/anesthetist. Ms. Godfrey received an academic scholarship to attend Gadsden State but transferred to an athletic scholarship to play women’s basketball for GSCC. In 2002 and 2003, she coached girls’ (12 and under) softball teams, junior high school volleyball, and community basketball camp. Ms. Godfrey is a member of Gadsden State’s International Club and Phi Theta Kappa..

## SERVICE LEARNING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Recent test results indicated that in the *Alabama First Reading Initiative* Donehoo Elementary School ranked **twelfth** overall out of 74 schools around the state. First graders at the school placed **third** out of the 74 schools.

Where does Service Learning fit in? Three years ago Gadsden State made a commitment through its Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) grant to this elementary school that had been placed on academic alert for low test scores.

Meredith Tumlin, GSCC reading instructor, assumed the task of training the *America Reads* tutors and a number of service learning students interested in tutoring reading. During the past four semesters, approximately 15 students have served as reading tutors at Donehoo.

According to Principal Cynthia Woods, having Gadsden State students work one-on-one with our children has helped to make a difference. Those of us in education understand that reading is gold.

Sheryl Holtof, Cilia Wise, Dennis Dolan, Jr., and Ebony Knight are currently *America Reads* tutors. Soila Staten is a Service Learning tutor.

## GADSDEN STATE PARTICIPATES IN REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM

Facing ever-increasing budget reductions but recognizing that employees must continue to receive quality professional development programs, the presidents of Gadsden State Community College, Calhoun Community College, and Wallace State Community College-Hanceville have formed a regional consortium to provide professional development opportunities for the three colleges’ employees. Representatives from each college serve on a Professional Development Team to design and plan professional development workshops.

Gadsden State’s representatives on the team are Kim Cobb, Director of Human Resources, and Jennie Dobson, Administrative Assistant to the President. If you have suggestions or requests for professional development workshops, please contact Kim Cobb at (256) 549-8236 or Jennie Dobson at (256) 549-8230.

## ALABAMA LANGUAGE INSTITUTE EXPANDS ESL SERVICES

The Alabama Language Institute is Gadsden State's intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) program. For 30 years ALI has served international students from all corners of the world and sent them on to classes at GSCC. However, the face of ALI is gradually changing, especially in light of the growth in the Hispanic/Latino community over the last several years.

ALI student population has expanded to include local residents, Job Corps students, residents from Fort Payne and Albertville, and even some from as far away as Rome, GA. In addition, ALI has teamed with Continuing Education to offer night classes in basic and intermediate English as a second language. ALI also teamed with Training for Business and Industry to provide English instruction for Japanese-speaking managers at KTH Industry in Leesburg.

Finally, many of the high schools in our target area now have Spanish first language students who want to continue on into college. Even though these students will be high school graduates, they may still need help with academic English for college-level work. Some counselors and liaisons who visit schools with these students are informing high school counselors, English teachers, ESL teachers, and students themselves that the ALI classes are pre-college courses specifically for ESL. Classes in grammar, reading, composition, and conversation can help prepare students for the courses at GSCC.

Anyone who wants more information or materials to distribute in the community and high schools may call Dr. Paula Ross at (256) 549-8419.

## GSCC PARTICIPATES IN AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROPOSAL

Those with ties to the automotive manufacturing industry are excited over a proposal to create a regional automotive technology education center within the state. Gadsden State is part of a consortium of System colleges created to formulate a full grant proposal for submission to NSF with the ultimate goal of creating the regional center.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded Gadsden State and two other colleges within The Alabama College System a *Planning for Regional Center for Automotive Technology* grant. Funding from the planning grant makes it possible for leaders from Gadsden State, Wallace State Community College – Hanceville, and Trenholm State Technical College—under the guidance of the Department of Postsecondary Education—to develop a full grant proposal for submission to NSF with the ultimate goal of creating an Automotive Technology Education Regional Center.

Valerie Richardson, Dean of Institutional Advancement and Community Services at Gadsden State, is the point of contact for the consortium. Tim Green, Dean of Technical Programs and Campus Director, along with Cassie Harp, a grants writer under contract to Gadsden State, and other consortium members from the participating colleges are developing a plan that, once it is funded and the ATE grant becomes a reality, promises to produce highly skilled technicians which will qualify for high paying jobs in the rapidly growing field of automotive manufacturing technology.

Enthusiastic support has been offered by representatives of the Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association, the Alabama Business Council, and representatives from automakers such as Hyundai and Honda. The final proposal is scheduled for submission in October 2004. Also participating as partners in the Consortium are Central Alabama Community College and Jefferson State Community College.

## EFFICIENT PURCHASE ORDER DISBURSEMENT

The Financial Services Department is working with the Computer Center to update the purchase order disbursement process. The goal is to expedite the purchase order process with less paper and handling time while eliminating maintenance costs of a piece of equipment that is only used to print purchase orders.

This will be achieved by imaging approved purchase orders and emailing them to the budget manager. Approved purchase orders will be faxed or emailed to the vendor. In the case a fax number or email is not available, the purchase order will be mailed. No longer will the budget manager need to wait to receive purchase orders in the hand mail. Budget managers and vendors will receive purchase orders the day they are approved.

This process is expected to begin by April 2004.

## SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

-- Coming soon in your Email --

Information on the new Gadsden State  
Community College Leadership  
Development Institute.