



**ALABAMA COMMUNITY
COLLEGE SYSTEM**

**Department of Postsecondary Education
Bradley Byrne, Chancellor**

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Chancellor releases final costs of ACCS employee background checks

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Community College System Chancellor Bradley Byrne today released the cost of obtaining background checks on the system’s employees. The total cost of \$432,771 was nearly \$40,000 less than was budgeted for the project. The background check contract was awarded to The Integrity Group because its bid of an estimated \$472,500 was the lowest of the 17 proposals the system received.

“We conducted the system-wide criminal background checks to ensure the safety of our students and employees. It was a worthwhile investment of our resources, and we are very pleased that this project came in significantly under budget,” said Chancellor Bradley Byrne.

System-wide, there are about 10,500 full-time and part-time employees. From June through September, The Integrity Group conducted national background checks on 9,349 employees, as some employees had already undergone recent background checks for specific professional requirements or through other means and thus were counted as cleared.

Each college was billed individually for their employees’ criminal background checks. Standard background checks cost \$45 per employee, while health worker screens cost \$58, which included reviews of their licenses as well.

Background checks were conducted on the basis of each employee’s name and date of birth, and where provided, Social Security numbers.

A bill introduced – and killed – this past spring would have required background checks to be conducted by the Alabama Bureau of Investigation (ABI), which conducts checks on K-12 employees, using fingerprints. However, federal rules that allow ABI to perform national checks on public school employees do not apply to postsecondary employees. They can only check for crimes committed in Alabama, therefore they did not respond to our request for proposals.

Less than one percent of system employees – a total of 73 – were confirmed to have felony records in a three-month round of background checks.

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