



The Community Standard

NEWS FROM THE ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Two years of going the distance, light years ahead of where we began

At a certain age, time seems to fly for many of us. It is therefore a little surprising to realize all that the Alabama Community College System has accomplished since May of 2007, when the Alabama State Board of Education brought Bradley Byrne on board as Chancellor of Postsecondary Education.

Taking stock, we have clearly come a

long way to overcome the scandals and mismanagement perpetrated by a few but that sullied the reputation of the entire two-year college system.

Together, operating as a true system, we have ...

#1 Cleaned up our System and restored integrity by:

- Being completely transparent in all actions
- Making hard personnel decisions
- Revising System policies to institutionalize integrity standards
- Ending the practice of “double dipping” by Legislators
- Prohibiting the practice of “pass through pork” by Legislators
- Creating a Board Audit Committee and a System Internal Adult Division with real teeth
- Requiring criminal background checks for everyone
- Requiring ethics training for everyone

#2 Refocused our System on its core mission by:

- Adopting a clear Mission Statement which focuses the System on general education, adult education, and workforce development

- Requiring true oversight and accountability in all System programs and holding leaders accountable for performance
- Focusing funding and support on core missions
- Making significant, measurable improvements in adult education
- Creating a nationally recognized workforce development system based upon being responsive to business and industry needs

#3 Required our System to be better managed and more efficient by:

- Hiring a professional facilities director to review and advise on facility projects, saving millions of taxpayer dollars
- Requiring a new central operating system putting all colleges online with the Chancellor’s office
- Focusing System budget priorities so that the System’s core missions are preserved despite \$60 million in state budget cuts.

A message from the Chancellor ...

I cannot tell you how proud I am to review the stunning progress we have made as a System. The steps we have taken and reforms we have accomplished in just two short years have been noticed all over the state, and, indeed, the nation.

Now the time has come for a new Chancellor to take our System to the next level, and for me to take our reform efforts to a new arena.

Today, I have submitted my resignation, effective August 31.

In the meantime, I urge all of you to keep up the good work, don’t look back, and keep giving it all you’ve got.

Bradley Byrne