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Because of its ability to develop and adapt educational and technical programs for specific workforce needs, the Alabama Community College System bears the responsibility of leading our state into economic recovery. It is a challenge we eagerly embrace, but we understand that with every new student enrolling in our associate degree programs, our GED preparation programs, and our workforce training initiatives, that responsibility grows exponentially. Record enrollment for the second year in a row offers opportunities to help students achieve their academic, professional and personal goals. It also offers challenges of being tasked to do more with less. I am convinced we will succeed in doing both.

“Community colleges are the unsung heroes of the American education system,” President Obama said in a recent White House summit on community colleges. “They may not get the credit they deserve or the same resources as other schools, but they provide a gateway to millions of Americans to good jobs and a better life.”

Once students enter our doors, we owe them our best efforts. We must work hard to ensure their ultimate success in obtaining a degree or certificate that can propel them into the next phase of their education or career.

During the most recent annual meeting of the American Association of Community Colleges, six national associations representing 1,200 community colleges pledged to increase graduation rates for our students to 50 percent, double the current 25 percent rate nationwide. Since 40 to 60 percent of our students arrive in need of remediation, that means we have a lot of work to do on the front end of their education before they can enjoy their commencement ceremonies.

In the Alabama Community College System, we are committed to student success at all levels. As evidenced in the personal stories you will find in this report, we know that getting an education is the single most important thing people can do to improve their lives and those of their families. If we can assist Alabamians in attaining the skills and the credentials they need to be productive workers, family members and citizens, we give everyone a stake in achieving success. That is our commitment.

Unsung heroes? Perhaps. Providing a gateway to good jobs and a better life for our students? Absolutely! I am proud that we, as educators, can, and are, making a difference in the lives of the people we serve — indispensable to Alabama’s economic and workforce development initiatives.

Dr. Freida Hill
Chancellor
Alabama Community College System
The Alabama State Board of Education plays a critical role in the education of millions of children and adults each year, overseeing both the Department of Education’s K-12 public schools and the Department of Postsecondary Education’s system of community and technical colleges, adult education programs, and workforce training initiatives.

The nine members of the Alabama State Board of Education serve as trustees, with the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education functioning as its administrative agency over the two-year community college system. The governor is president of the Board by virtue of his elected office and the other board members are elected from eight districts. The Board annually elects a vice president from among its members. Monthly public meetings are held in Montgomery and at times in the various Board districts to discuss and act on two-year college system business.

* Elected in November 2010 to serve on Alabama State Board of Education
Former Governor Led Board’s Vision to Develop a World-Class Education System

In his capacity as president of the Alabama State Board of Education and as a hands-on leader throughout his tenure from 2003 until 2011, former Governor Bob Riley remained steadfastly committed to improving public education for the benefit of students, their parents, and the citizens of Alabama, working to help advocate and implement important educational initiatives, leading him to be known as Alabama’s “Education Governor.”

Governor Riley’s vision to establish the Governor’s Office of Workforce Development within the Alabama Community College System created an efficient, effective, and responsive workforce development system that continues to foster successful collaborations between postsecondary education and business and industry.

Four Board Seats on Ballot in 2010

Incumbent State Board of Education member Betty Peters, District 2, was re-elected in November 2010. Mrs. Peters has served as a member of the Board since 2003. Three long-term Board members chose not to seek re-election in 2010. New boards members were sworn into office on January 17, 2011.

Dr. Ethel Hall, District 4, served as a State Board of Education member since 1987, serving as its vice president from 1994 – 2004. Fellow members honored her with the distinction of Vice President Emerita.

Dr. Yvette Richardson of Fairfield was elected to succeed Dr. Hall. “Having served as a superintendent, a principal and a teacher, I feel my experience will allow me to serve the students and the districts of this state,” said Richardson.

Mr. David Byers, District 6, has been a member of the Board since 1996, serving as its vice president from July 2004 – November 2004, and again from July 2007 to July 2008.

Dr. Charles Elliot, an anesthesiologist from Decatur, was elected to succeed Mr. Byers. “Alabama must provide strong support for its community and technical colleges,” said Elliot. “We must prepare our students for further educational opportunities and prepare our workforce for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.”

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, District 8, served as a State Board of Education member since 1996 and as its president pro tempore since July 2008.

Ms. Mary Scott Hunter, a Huntsville attorney, was elected to succeed Dr. Caylor. “The future isn't written yet;” said Hunter. “We can change our future. It is in our hands.”
ACCS: By the Numbers 2009-2010

Enrollment

Academic and Career Technical Education
146,205
- 91,367 Enrolled in Associate Degree Programs
- 54,838 Enrolled in Career Technical Education Programs

Adult Education
25,153
- 4,952 Adult Secondary Education (Grades 9-12 education functioning level)
- 17,967 Adult Basic Education (Grades 1-8 education functioning level)
- 2,234 English as a Second Language (ESL) Students

Workforce Development
102,203
- 102,203 People Served (Includes training and pre-employment services for individuals and employers)
- 1,396 Companies/Organizations Served

Student Profile

94.70% Alabama residents
26.47 average age
40.01% male
59.99% female
33.00% minority
55.00% attend full time
63.90% qualify for financial aid

Lifelong Learning

Our colleges offer lifelong learning experiences for Alabama’s citizens, even those not pursuing a degree.

▲ Continuing Education
Last year, our colleges served more than 14,000 individuals in Continuing Education programs, which include not-for-credit courses, seminars, and workshops provided to organizations, governmental agencies, and the general public.

▲ Community Education
Thousands of citizens statewide enjoy access to our facilities for community activities and enrichment programs. Courses that are non-vocational in nature are typically considered community outreach. Last year, 13,804 individuals participated in courses such as painting, calligraphy, ballroom dancing, summer camps, and other personal enrichment studies and activities.

▲ TRIO
Last year, 18,982 students were served by the Alabama Community College System’s TRIO programs, including Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Gear Up. TRIO is a set of federally-funded college opportunity programs that motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds in their pursuit of a college degree, assisting low-income individuals and first-generation college students through the academic pipeline from middle school to college. TRIO programs provide academic tutoring, personal counseling, mentoring, financial guidance, and other services necessary for educational access and retention.
Opening Doors – Opportunities for Everyone

“Success is not a destination to be reached. It is a process – a journey to be taken.”

— Chancellor Dr. Freida Hill

Getting an education is the single most important thing people can do to improve their lives and the lives of their families. Students who come through our doors are successful if they take a few courses to get a promotion, complete a short-term certificate or training program, complete an associate’s degree and get a job, or transfer to a four-year college or university.

The Alabama Community College System is essential to the future of our state. We are the most accessible, affordable means of higher education for the vast majority of Alabamians, with statewide geographic locations, open enrollment, and low-cost tuition. We offer a variety of programs and services that remove barriers to college, education and workforce development — bringing life-changing opportunities to the heart of communities.

More than 146,000 for-credit students were enrolled in Alabama’s two-year academic, health, and career and technical education programs in 2009-2010. Their needs — like their ages — vary. Traditional students, some looking to transfer to a four-year institution, others seeking a first career, sit next to adults, employed or not, who seek training that will help them find work or hone skills in a limited job market. Diplomas and associate degrees in arts, sciences and applied sciences give students the skills they need to enter the workforce with technical licenses and credentials or transfer to a four-year institution for a bachelor’s degree.

A System of Opportunities

The Alabama Community College System includes 21 community colleges, four technical colleges, a two-year military college, a senior university, as well as two workforce training initiatives. There’s something for everyone within our doors. Athens State University and Marion Military Institute provide two opportunities not found in every state.

▲ Athens State University

Alabama’s only upper division university, and one of only five such institutions in the country, Athens State offers coursework at the junior and senior levels toward a baccalaureate degree. Athens State has students enrolled from 56 of Alabama’s 67 counties, with 79% of new students for Fall Semester 2010 transferring from a community college.

- 52% of its semester credit hours were produced via online courses
- 34% of Athens State graduates are from the College of Education
- 97% of those graduates received their teacher certification in 2009-2010

▲ Marion Military Institute (MMI)

One of only five military junior colleges in the nation, MMI’s unique military training programs include the Army’s two-year Early Commissioning Program (ECP) through which qualified students can earn a commission as a Second Lieutenant after only two years of college; and the Service Academy Preparation Program (SAP), a freshman preparation program for entry into one of the branches of the armed forces.

- 94% of the cadets entering the Early Commissioning Program completed it. Upon earning an associate’s degree at MMI, graduates are commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and may enter the U.S. Army Reserve or National Guard unit of their choice while completing their undergraduate studies at the institution of their choice.
- MMI led the nation among 273 Army ROTC colleges that qualified students with lateral entry credit to enter the Army ROTC program by attending the U.S. Army Leader’s Training Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky.
- 96% of cadets sponsored by one of the U.S. Service Academies completed their service academy preparatory program.
More than half of all freshmen and sophomores in Alabama are enrolled in one of Alabama’s public two-year colleges. Nearly 15,000 community college students transfer yearly to a public four-year institution, and studies show that our graduates are at least as successful as the students who started there. A large percentage of students who transfer earn a 2.0 GPA or higher.

**Four-Year Transfer**
Our graduates are very attractive to four-year institutions. Various agreements and partnerships offer seamless transfer opportunities to four-year colleges and universities.

▲ **STARS** — Last year, approximately 36,000 students took advantage of the Statewide Transfer and Articulation Reporting System (STARS), an articulation agreement between two-year and four-year colleges that guides students through their first two years of coursework, ensuring that community college credits transfer toward bachelor’s degrees at public four-year universities in Alabama.

▲ **2-To-4 Transfer Program** — In 2009-2010, the Alabama Community College System partnered with Alabama’s Independent Colleges and Universities to offer transfer opportunities, similar to STARS, to attend selected independent four-year colleges and universities in Alabama.

▲ **Transfer Scholarship Program** — Beginning fall 2009, limited scholarships are available for our graduates to complete their four-year degree at Alabama State University or Alabama A&M University at no cost to the student.

▲ **BAMALink** — A partnership with the University of Alabama provides two-year college graduates direct access to online courses and programs leading to a bachelor’s degree.

▲ **eConnections** — Partnerships between 15 ACCS colleges and Troy University enable two-year college graduates access to online courses and programs leading to a bachelor’s degree.

▲ **UA Engineering Initiative** — The University of Alabama will now award credit to students who take the community colleges’ Foundations of Engineering I as one of the University’s Foundations courses. This is an important first step in creating an engineering pipeline that will produce engineers desperately needed by employers.

“I am performing just as well or better than my classmates who took their math and science basics at UA.”

— 2010 New Century Scholar Suzanne Kornegay

**New Century Scholar Suzanne Kornegay Ready for Success**

Suzanne Kornegay credits her instructors at Snead State Community College for her smooth transition last fall to The University of Alabama. A junior majoring in metallurgical and materials engineering, Kornegay says her instructors provided the strong background in math and science she needed to be successful as an engineering student.

“I am performing just as well or better than my classmates who took their math and science basics at UA,” says Kornegay.

Kornegay’s achievements while at Snead State were recognized last spring when she was named Alabama’s New Century Scholar during the 2010 All-Alabama Academic Team Recognition Program. The prestigious award program, administered by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the Coca-Cola Foundation, honors outstanding community college students from each of the 50 states.

Kornegay has immersed herself in college life on UA’s campus. She serves as a student research assistant in the Micro-Fabrication Facility, is a staff writer for New College Review magazine, and is a member of the Golden Key Honor Society and the student chapter of Metallurgical Engineering.
Career and Technical Programs

The Alabama Community College System offers more than 175 high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand programs such as welding, nursing and allied health, avionics and automotive manufacturing to students across the state. In 2009-2010, our colleges awarded:

▲ 2,665 associate degrees in Career Technical programs
▲ 1,213 long-term certificates
▲ 1,922 short-term certificates
▲ 4,500 students met their training objectives for employment, such as job promotions, required credentialing, and advanced certifications.

Health Programs
Nurses are in short supply, and many small towns and local hospitals depend on community colleges for highly-skilled health professionals. The Alabama Community College System is the state’s largest supplier of nurses. In 2009-2010:

▲ 1,773 Registered Nursing Program graduates — 49.3% of all RN graduates in the state
▲ 786 Practical Nursing Program graduates — 88% of all PN graduates in the state
▲ 214 Paramedic graduates
▲ 1,230 Basic EMT graduates
▲ More than 140 additional Allied Health Programs produce over 80% of the Allied Health workforce in Alabama

High School and Dual Enrollment
Dual enrollment programs allow high school students to complete some college courses and receive credit at both the college and the high school. In some cases, high school students can graduate with both a high school diploma and a two-year certificate or degree. In 2009-2010, more than 7,760 students received both high school and college credits through either the Dual Enrollment Program or the Early College Enrollment Program (ECEP) available through the ACCS. Nearly 700 high school students enrolled in courses offered through the system’s Accelerated Program for which they will earn college credit upon high school graduation.

SkillsUSA
SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industries working together to ensure the success of students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations. During local, state and national competitions, students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. At the annual national-level SkillsUSA Championships, more than 5,000 students compete in 96 occupational and leadership skill areas. Several students enrolled in the Alabama Community College System received medals during the 2010 National SkillsUSA Championship competition in Kansas City, Missouri.

GOLD MEDAL
- Bradley Wright, Wallace State Community College — Selma;
  Gold Medal — Masonry 2010 and 2009; Wright is expected to compete with the SkillsUSA World Team in the 41st International World Skills Competition in London, England, October 5-8, 2011
- Steven Sayers, Trenholm State Technical College
  Gold Medal — Job Interview

SILVER MEDAL
- Patrick Rouse, Calhoun Community College
  Industrial Motor Control
- Jessie White, Northwest-Shoals Community College
  Cabinetmaking
Many adults take their high school diploma for granted. But for thousands of Alabamians who never got to walk across the stage and shake the principal’s hand, earning a GED is their ticket to a new future.

Paul Johnson, for instance, dropped out of school during the eleventh grade. The 41-year-old truck driver wanted a job that would allow him to be closer to his family. He knew he would have to complete his education. In May 2009, five months after enrolling in Central Alabama Community College’s adult education program, Johnson earned his GED and began pursuing a career in nursing.

While volunteering at a local hospital, Johnson realized his passion for mentoring troubled teens. He changed his major to criminal justice and will graduate in May 2011.

Johnson continues to mentor other GED students encouraging them to stay focused, even providing transportation when necessary. “If it were not for the patience of my instructors, I would not have made it this far,” he said. “There were some days that were very difficult, but failure was not an option. Hard work and persistence pays off in the end.”

Because of his own troubled past, Johnson stresses the importance of education to his sons. “You’ve got to get an education if you want to have a good job. Either you can do it now or you will have to do it later,” he says.

Approximately 800,000 Alabamians ages 16 and older have neither a high school diploma nor a GED, which limits employment opportunities, even in the best of times. Last year the Department of Postsecondary Education promoted and funded $18,992,802 in adult literacy education programs and services state-wide, serving a total of 25,153 clients. In these difficult economic times, as Johnson and thousands more know, a GED paves the way to higher education and a more prosperous future.

2009–2010 PROGRAM YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

▲ Increased Participation
- 25,153 individuals enrolled — a 6% increase over last year; 25% increase since 2007–2008
- 17,181 students increased their Educational Functioning Level
- 4,333 students earned a GED, a 9% increase over last year, with a pass rate of 83%
- 27% increase in number of students earning a GED who pursued postsecondary education or training

▲ Career Readiness Credential
- 1,674 credentials issued to adult education students
- State-appropriated adult education funds reimbursed programs for administering WorkKeys assessments to students in 2006
- 7,761 credentials issued since 2006

▲ Strengthening Partnerships
- Department of Education and Department of Postsecondary Education partnership developed a system for referring high school dropouts to adult education programs
- New state law raises mandatory attendance age to 17, requires students leaving school to attend exit interview to inform them of training opportunities and adult education enrollment process

▲ Waiver of GED Testing Fee
- Testing fee was initially reduced to $25 for qualified first–time test takers enrolled in state–funded adult education programs
- 89% pass rate for students enrolled in Alabama’s adult education programs — well above general population’s 51% pass rate
- $50 full battery testing fee waived for students enrolled in Alabama’s adult education programs who meet certain qualifications, effective October 1, 2010

▲ Middle College Initiative
- High–performing GED prep students may complete GED and one to two career technical courses during one semester
- College fees, tuition, books, and equipment funded by Adult Education state funds
- Three local programs are currently piloting Middle College Initiative
CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION:
Providing Opportunities

J.F. Ingram State Technical College is the only 100% institutionalized educational service provider in Alabama. In addition, six other two-year colleges provide correctional education services to inmates statewide: Alabama Southern Community College, Calhoun Community College, Gadsden State Community College, Jefferson Davis Community College, Lawson State Community College, and Wallace Community College — Dothan.

Last year, more than 2,000 inmates were enrolled in one of the community college system’s correctional education or vocational programs. More than 900 inmates received educational and job training services from Ingram State at the Alabama Therapeutic Educational Facility in Columbiana. In addition to educating Alabama’s inmates, Alabama Southern Community College provided educational and job training services to more than 300 parolees at the Life Tech Center in Thomasville. During this period, 485 inmates enrolled in state-funded Adult Education Programs earned a GED.

The Alabama Community College System provides career and technical programs that lead to a short- or long-term certificate at several state correctional facilities. Students may participate in programs such as automotive collision repair, automotive service technology, carpentry, electrical technology, welding and horticulture. ACCS colleges provide students with educational services and vocational and job skills training — essential tools needed to obtain gainful employment.

Inmates who receive educational services and training during their incarceration are more likely to have the employability skills needed to enter the workforce and become productive citizens following their release, resulting in an ultimate goal of reducing our state’s recidivism rate.
Reshaping Alabama’s Workforce

Jobs, once plentiful in Alabama, began disappearing in 2010 due to the ongoing recession and devastating effects of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, forcing businesses to lay off workers or close their doors altogether. As unemployment topped 11%, increasingly frustrated job seekers turned to community and technical college campuses to complete their education, acquire additional training and certifications, or retrain for a new career.

The majority of the jobs and businesses lost during the recession are not coming back, at least not as we know them. Industries will be greener and businesses leaner. Increasingly, employers will seek out workers with highly sophisticated technical skills.

The primary provider of workforce training in Alabama, the ACCS hosts the Governor’s Office of Workforce Development (GOWD). GOWD coordinates and streamlines Alabama’s workforce development activities, including both state- and federal-funded programs, into a comprehensive, coordinated workforce development system tied to market-driven economic development. A State Workforce Planning Council, whose members are state agency heads and representatives of industry and education and which is chaired by the ACCS chancellor, manages the system to ensure resources and strategies are aligned to meet priority needs. Ten regional workforce development councils comprised of employers, economic developers, and elected officials work to identify and prioritize needs at the local level.

Never before in Alabama’s history has workforce development been more important. The state’s economic survival and turnaround depend on its ability to respond quickly to the training needs of employers and employees. Key to that effort is the cooperation and collaboration that come from partnerships among education, business, and industry.

Projects totaling more than $11 million were funded in 2009-2010:
- Dual enrollment programs in high-demand, high-wage occupations
- Career Coaches
- Ready to Work programs
- Job training for inmate populations
- Instructional and training equipment for aviation, automotive, manufacturing, maritime, construction, and healthcare industries
- Existing business and industry services
- Alabama Operations Management Institute and Continuous Improvement programs
- Modeling and Simulation
- Customized training

2009-2010 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

▲ Training for Existing Business and Industry (TEBI)
  Provides customized training, continuing education, Ready to Work services, WorkKeys job profiles, skills certification assessments, and short-term classes for existing companies for a fee
  • 44,290 individuals / 814 companies

▲ Ready to Work
  Provides a start to a career pathway for adults with limited education and employment experience and provides trainees the entry-level skills required for employment with most businesses and industries in Alabama
  • Offered at 47 sites by 19 community colleges
  • $1.23 million allocated for these programs
  • 1,881 enrolled / 54% entered employment

▲ Career Readiness Certificate (CRC)
  This credential, based on ACT’s WorkKeys assessments, gives employers and career seekers a uniform measure of key workplace skills. Testing sites are located throughout the state, primarily at two-year colleges
  • Total Certificates 8,778
  • 32,300 awarded since 2006

▲ Alabama Operations Management Institute (AOMI)
  A four-week training program for supervisors and managers in existing industries designed to help manufacturers maximize profits and sustainability by maximizing productivity. The 160-hour curriculum focuses on practical applications of modern principles and practices of efficient manufacturing
  • 3 companies participated as training locations
  • 11 companies and 6 economic development/ state agencies represented during the three sessions
  • Annual savings as a result of company participation in AOMI last year: $78,733,800
  • 12 jobs retained, 3 jobs created following process improvement implementation
Agencies and Community Colleges Join Forces to Assist with One of Alabama’s Biggest Disasters

The April 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill dealt a monumental blow to the already struggling economy in Alabama’s Gulf Coast region. While Alabama’s tourism industry in Baldwin County dried up overnight, sharp declines in the fishing, packaging and processing industries had a negative financial impact on Mobile County.

In response to this disaster, the Alabama Community College System was one of many state entities that headed south to support communities trying to recover from this devastating explosion. The Governors’ Office of Workforce Development (GOWD) was called upon to assist in oil spill clean-up employment efforts and to provide training to oil spill workers.

The Alabama Technology Network (ATN) provided training to more than 700 oil spill workers. Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response training was housed at Bishop State Community College and Faulkner State Community College. Career centers in these two coastal counties collected and provided more than 5,000 resumes to contractors seeking employees for clean-up. In addition, Faulkner State provided facilities and staff support to centralize the hiring of subcontractors and employee training.

The GOWD was awarded a $5 million Department of Labor National Emergency Grant to assist local residents and dislocated workers in businesses and industries impacted by the oil spill—especially tourism, food processing, and fishing. The first of the grant funds were used to create Business Support Centers in Gulf Shores and Bayou La Batre. These centers, managed by ATN, provide a one-stop office in each location for business and employment needs, and are staffed by a number of agencies including the Small Business Development Center, Alabama Career Center, Women’s Business Center of South Alabama, and the U.S. Small Business Administration. This multi-agency approach allowed more than 2,000 people to receive assistance in a few short months.

Bryon Dunn, who is coordinating ATN’s Gulf Coast operation, says the lingering effects of the oil spill will impact the area for years to come. “It is our hope that by putting these partnerships and resources together, the Business Support Centers will be sustained after this disaster is over,” he added.
Dual Enrollment: A Collaborative Effort

Clarke County recently landed Canadian-based Lakeside Steel, Inc. Thomasville Mayor Sheldon Day credits the decision to the pipeline of workers Alabama Southern Community College (ASCC) can train for the carbon steel pipe manufacturer. Lakeside had looked at numerous communities in neighboring states but liked what it saw in Thomasville — a successful workforce training program. Mayor Day credited the welding program at ASCC for its capacity to turn out welders through its dual enrollment program as the tipping point for Lakeside choosing Thomasville.

“The City of Thomasville, Thomasville High School (THS) and Alabama Southern are willing to open doors to those individuals seeking the training and opportunities to enter into a thriving workforce,” Vice President and General Manager of Lakeside Steel Alabama Chris Roik said. “As good corporate citizens, we collectively want to provide opportunities to develop these individuals and their skills to help them get ahead.”

Dr. Reginald Sykes, president of Alabama Southern, agrees. “It is extremely important for everyone to work together to provide the skilled workforce that is needed in our state. Dual enrollment is a win–win solution for everyone involved.”

“I have seen firsthand the positive results the program has brought to our school system and our community,” said Day.

“The program is very effective in Thomasville due to the tremendous cooperation and partnerships that have been established between Alabama Southern, Thomasville City Schools, the Governor’s Office of Workforce Development and private industries. Without a doubt, the program has been instrumental in assisting Thomasville in successfully competing with other cities all over the southeastern United States in attracting new good paying steel manufacturing jobs.”

“Lakeside is pleased to be involved with THS and ASCC. We have been very impressed with the quality of the program and the commitment of the staff to the program,” stated Lakeside Steel Corporation CEO and COO Ron Bedard. “Educational programs such as the dual enrollment program are critical to the success of communities like Thomasville in being able to attract and retain well-paying manufacturing jobs. Trades training will provide core competencies that will enable these students to enter the workforce with an advantage over most other students.”

DUAL ENROLLMENT BENEFITS

▲ Provide advanced academic options
Dual enrollment programs provide high-achieving students with academically rigorous courses beyond those offered at the secondary level.

▲ Increase college access
Students who participate in college courses are more likely to enroll in college and succeed once there, critical to students who would not otherwise be college-bound, including low-income, racially/ethnically diverse, and first-generation college attendees; students with middle–to low-academic achievement; and students at risk of dropping out.

▲ Prepare a skilled workforce for the 21st century
Dual enrollment provides a pathway for increasing the number of Americans prepared to compete in a global economy, building a workforce with knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the emerging job market.
AIDT Trainee Gains Great Career

Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama, LLC opened a state-of-the-art automotive manufacturing facility more than six years ago and is now home to more than 2,700 skilled, well-paid employees. Corey Burkette, engineering assistant manager, was one of the first to be hired at the facility.

Burkette had worked for another manufacturer for eight years when he saw a newspaper ad for AIDT pre-employment training for positions at Hyundai. Upon successful completion of training, participants are eligible to interview for full-time positions at the auto plant.

“The hands-on training provided the process discipline needed to achieve the expected quality level and the attention to detail in order to produce quality vehicles,” said Burkette.

Hired by Hyundai as a production team member more than six years ago, Burkette has been promoted from team leader to group leader to assistant production manager to his current position as assistant engineering manager.

“Being a part of the Hyundai team has provided me career advancement and a better lifestyle for my family. These days are very trying economically, and I’m very grateful to be a part of the growing success of the Hyundai Company,” Burkette stated.

AIDT SPELLS SUCCESS

AIDT identifies qualified potential employees for new and expanding businesses through recruitment, screening and training services; and offers job-specific pre-employment and on-the-job training programs, customized technical training programs, and leadership training programs. Since 1971 AIDT has trained more than 448,000 individuals and provided services to approximately 3,000 companies.

▲ In FY09-10, AIDT provided services to 43,335 people at 91 companies.
▲ $6.44 billion return on investment (ROI) in FY09-10

ATN Helps Birmingham Manufacturer Go “Lean”

Birmingham-based IBML — a 17-year-old company producing image-based document sorters for the U.S. Postal Service, banking and financial services, healthcare industries, airlines, government agencies and others — has 202 employees and recently underwent a change of ownership.

The new owners suggested that the company adopt Lean Continuous Improvement as a way to improve operational efficiency and processes.

ATN analyzed the situation and provided a broad training base to IBML employees, including Lean Continuous Improvement, leadership and sustainment processes, lean accounting, Kaizen (rapid improvement), and various other areas.

Additionally, ATN assisted IBML in the implementation of such processes as visual management control boards, implementation of the super market system to control inventory on the production lines, and the development of pull systems.

“We now are able to manufacture ‘just in time’ and not build too much of everything.” said IBML Vice President for Manufacturing Duane Smith. “I highly recommend ATN if you want to implement a continuous improvement program. The staff is very knowledgeable and cross-trained, so I know that anyone I work with is going to provide quality expertise and assistance.”

ATN: TRAINING MEANS JOBS

Alabama Technology Network (ATN) provides training and technical assistance to manufacturers on a cost-share basis. Twelve of its 16 centers are located at community colleges. Other sites are located at The University of Alabama, Auburn University, and The University of Alabama/Huntsville.

▲ In 2009-2010, ATN worked with more than 490 local, state, national and international companies on approximately 725 projects, with an economic impact of nearly $115 million.
▲ 754 jobs were created; 910 jobs were retained.
District I: Stories of Success

Bishop State Student Juggled Class, Job & Promotions

When Charles “Chad” Eubanks II arrived at Bishop State Community College as a full-time student in January 2008, he was employed with Robertsdale Heating and Air Conditioning as a stock person in the warehouse. Since starting class, he has been promoted twice. “The knowledge I gained at Bishop State has helped me to advance in my career,” he said.

Eubanks said he chose a community college because, “I had enough of doing nothing after high school for a year and a half, and I decided it was time for me to go back to school and pursue a degree. I have learned to have a ‘can-do’ attitude and will not stop short of reaching my goals.”

Eubanks is one of two Bishop State students who represented the college as a member of the All-Alabama Academic Team. His selection was based on his scores in the recent USA Today All-USA Community College Academic Team competition. Criteria included grades, academic rigor, leadership, and most important, the student’s essay describing his or her most outstanding intellectual endeavor while in college.

Avid Golfer Gets Dream Career with Faulkner State Education

Travis Frey never had his golf clubs far away as he was growing up. A star player on the high school golf team, his first job was as a ‘cart kid’ at a local golf course.

“Working at a golf course where I got a chance to somewhat interact with the members was a real treat,” Frey said. “I realized I wanted to work on a golf course as a career.”
He entered Faulkner State Community College’s Golf Course and Turf Management program under the instruction of Kent Schwartz. “Mr. Schwartz was a great instructor; he took the time and patience with us so we could learn each area of the golf course in great detail,” Frey said.

Frey spent the next two years learning about the care and maintenance of various grasses and plants and how to keep the course finely manicured. After graduating with an Associate in Applied Science degree in 2006, Frey entered the workforce.

“The biggest highlight for me so far in my career was getting to meet Arnold Palmer,” Travis said. “The second biggest highlight was working under Gary Players’ former golf course architect.”

Frey is employed as a golf course superintendent for the Capstone Club of Alabama.

Jessie Amerson grew up on the family farm in the Bratt-Walnut Hill area and quit school in the ninth grade, but he now has fulfilled a life-long dream by receiving his GED.

Amerson, 70-years old, led a pretty prosperous life, but learned the hard way that that piece of paper carried a lot of weight as he sought employment in his later years.

For more than 35 years, Amerson made his living doing odd jobs that included successful ventures in the oil field business. In 2007, Amerson moved to Flomaton and began looking for work. He said as he began interviewing for jobs, the same question came up again and again. He was qualified and everything looked good, but he didn’t have the education required.

“Everybody (from whom he was seeking a job) told me, get your education and then come talk to me,” he said.

Amerson decided it wasn’t too late to get an education and enrolled in the Adult Education Program offered by Jefferson Davis Community College (JDCC) at Flomaton High School. Sitting in a classroom with other students, some as young as the age of 17, was interesting to say the least, but Amerson said it was a rewarding experience.

For Amerson, it has been a long journey, but a journey he said has been very worthwhile.

“I think I cried a little bit,” he said when he learned he had earned his GED.

JDCC Adult Education Instructor Sharon DeWitt said Amerson was a great role model for younger students. “He showed them anybody can do it. If you have the desire, you can do it regardless of your age.”

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Vision Impaired Student Excels in Central Alabama Community College’s Dual Enrollment Program

Prior to his vision loss caused by optical neuropathy, Lonnie Bottke had mainly worked in the food service industry. In May of 2009 he was one of the first students to enter Central Alabama Community College’s (CACC) dual enrollment program at Gentry Technical Facility in Talladega, a unit of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind.

According to Sherry Davis, Coordinator of College Prep & Dual Enrollment at Gentry, the program provides an assessment for prediction of success for the student and the assigned vocational rehabilitation counselor.

Although he had not been in an educational setting since he received his GED about 20 years ago, his transition and progress were very positive. Vocational counselor Greg Richards said, “Lonnie took advantage of the opportunities available to him and demonstrated a good attitude.”

“College can be overwhelming, but this program provided a good stepping stone and I felt like I was on the right path,” said Bottke. “It was a challenge to adapt to the vision loss and learn computers, but attitude can make a big difference. I would definitely recommend this program to others,” he said.

After completing the program in May 2010, Lonnie moved to Texas. His goals include employment in journalism and landing his dream job: writing comedy.

Chattahoochee Valley: All in the Family

Howard Paris is one of the best known — and most highly regarded — people on campus. A member of the Auxiliary Services Department at Chattahoochee Valley Community College (CVCC) since 2000, he was inspired by the college atmosphere and encouraged his family to pursue their academic dreams.

Coming from a family of well-educated parents and siblings, Paris says he simply chose the wrong path. Drug dependent and homeless, Howard sought help from a Phenix City church. The pastor introduced Howard and his wife, Sherby, to a Christian counseling facility where they were able to get sober.

After leaving that facility, the couple decided they wanted more for their family.
“I wanted a college education for my wife and my four children. I never really thought about it for myself,” Paris said. But others saw his potential and suggested he enroll.

Paris graduated from CVCC in 2006 and earned his bachelor’s degree from Troy University in 2008, alongside his wife, his daughter, Sherieka, and his son, Eldrick. Sherieka and Eldrick both graduated from CVCC and earned their bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Business from Troy University. Sherby and Howard are both working on master’s degrees from Troy as well. Younger daughter Nastassia completed CVCC’s LPN program in 2005, and “baby of the family” Michael plans to follow the family tradition by attending CVCC.

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**Vegas Copywriter Gets Start at Enterprise State**

Glitz. Glamour. Star-studded floor shows. One-armed bandits. Great food. Poker. Luxurious hotels. All of these can describe only one place — Las Vegas. That is where Enterprise State Community College alumna Jill Spradley, formerly of Enterprise, accepted a job as copywriter at JK+G Advertising Agency.

With her creative spirit, Spradley says she finds her current niche satisfying with headline-making clients who “are mostly in the tourism/leisure sector as that’s what drives the economy in Vegas.”

In 1997-1998, Spradley attended what was then Enterprise State Junior College before transferring to the University of Georgia where she graduated summa cum laude.

“I started out as a magazine journalism major,” says Spradley. “While I knew I wanted to graduate from the journalism school at UGA, I soon discovered that a lot of the journalism (magazine and newspaper) options didn’t allow the sort of creativity I was looking for in a career. So I transferred into the advertising department, knowing I would still be required to attend a two-year portfolio school after obtaining my undergraduate degree.”

In Vegas, Spradley spends her days “thinking of funny headlines, or writing scripts, and solving marketing problems.”

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**Master Technician Before the Age of 20**

Jesse James Duke aimed high early in life and attended Lurleen B. Wallace Community College (LBW) during the summers following his sophomore year of high school. He enrolled in Automotive Mechanics at the MacArthur Campus in Opp, a National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) certified program.

After graduating from Samson High School in 2009, he completed the remaining 22 credit hours of the automotive program and graduated from LBW only six months after completing high school. He also passed all eight National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) exams.

According to Instructor Richard McCuistian, the ASE tests are the only nationally recognized credential for automotive technicians. “To put Jesse Duke’s accomplishment in perspective, as many as 45 percent of experienced professional technicians all over the United States take and fail ASE tests every spring and fall, and about 85 percent of students fail the tests. Many technicians are only certified in two or three categories, but Jesse is now certified in all eight categories.” Duke is currently employed with L&M Tires in Enterprise.
District II: Stories of Success

(Continued from page 17)

Unemployed Textile Worker Reinvents Himself, Inspires Others at Southern Union

James (Jimmy) H. Henry dropped out of high school and went to work at West Point Home when he was 16 years old to help support his family. Henry worked 33 years at West Point Home before he lost his job when the company moved operations overseas. While employed there, he met and married his wife who had worked for 16 years at West Point Home.

Dawn chose to enroll in the Office Careers class to gain secretarial skills. In December 2008, Jimmy Henry earned his GED and enrolled in the Automotive Mechanics Associate in Occupational Technology program. He graduated from Southern Union in December 2009 with a cumulative GPA of 3.45 and as a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Dawn completed the Office Careers class and is now employed as a secretary in a local company.

Jimmy Henry’s enthusiasm for learning influenced his daughter-in-law, Amanda Henry, to get her GED. She and Jimmy earned their GEDs together. Amanda is enrolled in classes at the Wadley campus and plans to transfer to Auburn University to earn a teaching degree. Jimmy also hopes to teach one day.

Jimmy’s niece was also inspired and said, “If my old uncle can do it, I can too.” She earned a GED at Southern Union and is planning to enroll in a college in the Montgomery area. Jimmy’s goal is to get a job in the short term and then enter Auburn University to earn a degree, perhaps in Adult Education. In Jimmy’s words, “If I could just teach someone to read... give back what I have been blessed to receive.”

Newly-Minted Citizen Sets Example at Wallace-Dothan

When Hoang Nguyen received the James Browning Allen Outstanding Student Award in May 2008, he accepted the honor with a special sense of pride — he had just become a naturalized U.S. citizen on March 12, 2008.

Hoang enrolled at Wallace Community College — Dothan (WCCD) with a career technical scholarship and a career fair essay scholarship and maintained a 4.0 grade point average. He devoted himself to student activities and community service, serving as president of the Wallace Campus Student Government Association, vice-president of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, secretary of the Society of Physics Students, and member of the Sigma Kappa Delta English honor society.

He also volunteered as a math peer tutor and was named the 2007-2008 Outstanding Math Student and the 2007 Outstanding Student in Drafting and Design Technology. In addition to his many academic activities, Hoang also participated in Salvation Army food drives, stocked items for the Wiregrass Food Bank, and helped home-schooled children with science projects. He participated in Read Across America and helped clean up after the devastating tornado in Enterprise.

In 2008, Hoang earned his Associate in Applied Science degree at WCCD and transferred to Auburn University to study computer hardware engineering.
KAREN CARR: “Committed to sharing my life to improve yours!”

Much of Karen Carr’s childhood is very vague — so many memories she has tried to suppress. Her father was an alcoholic and her mother did the best she could to raise Karen and her sister. Her mother burned the candle at both ends, always working two jobs to compensate for and supplement her father’s inadequacies. She had little time to comfort Karen and her sister, and they never received quality time with either parent.

As a young teen, Karen began looking to fill those voids in her life, only to find nothing. As the saying goes, Karen looked for love in all the wrong places. At the tender age of 16, she became a mother, and her story unfolds from there.

Fifteen years ago, while living in Birmingham, Karen became acquainted with individuals who influenced her to embark on a life of illegal activities. She became a victim of domestic violence, often fearing for her life, and it appeared there was no way out. The combination of these situations resulted in Karen finding herself in a Jefferson County courtroom with a stiff 20-year prison sentence, leaving behind four innocent children.

On a bus headed for Julia Tutwiler Prison, Karen says she felt as if her life was over and she would never see any brighter days.

During those first few weeks of incarceration, Karen realized that she did have hope for the future and began to look toward a day of release. She enrolled in Ingram State Technical College and took advantage of every self-help opportunity available. She realized that she had much to live for.

Maintaining a positive attitude was her greatest priority because she knew that this was her opportunity to get it together.

After serving five years in prison and community work-release, Karen was granted parole in May 2004. Since returning home Karen has surrounded herself with positive people and worked diligently to change her life. She used her prison experience as a powerful tool to keep herself motivated and now uses that motivation to help others.

In May 2006, Karen began working as an administrative assistant with Aid to Inmate Mothers (AIM) in Montgomery. After only a year, she was named Re-Entry Program Coordinator at AIM, and continues her commitment to assist incarcerated women in their transitions back into society at AIM today.

Since her release, Karen has continued her education and has achieved a Computer Applications Certificate, an Associate of Applied Science in Office Management, and is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Postsecondary Education at Troy University.
Lawson State’s Cleveland Debuts in National Concert at Kennedy Center

James Cleveland, Jr., a former Lawson State Community College (LSCC) student and choir member, was the selected voice to represent the college in the 2010 Historically Black Colleges and Universities Kennedy Center National Concert in Washington D.C. this past September. The National HBCU Concert Choir is comprised of students representing the 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Cleveland was mentored by LSCC Music Instructor/Choir Director Bessie Shelton, a world-renowned singer who by special request of Rome sang recently for the ordination of a Titular Archbishop.

At the concert, Bessie Shelton was recognized as the National Choral Director who presented the best Campus Health Walk package by a Historically Black College. Shelton and Cleveland were presented with the First Place Prize of $2,500 and a letter of recognition to be presented to the Lawson State Community College Choir. Each National Choral Director supervised the student from his/her college in organizing the Campus Health Walk as part of a leadership initiative.

The 105 Voices of History became the nation’s first national collegiate choral group, initiated with the support of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, corporate and federal agency partners. The vision and benefits for the 105 participating students included the opportunity to be campus ambassadors linking the arts to support social concerns, leadership development, exposure to a myriad of musical genres, rigorous training with multiple conductors at a national level, as well as the experience of performing at a world renowned venue, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

In 2010, Cleveland transferred from Lawson State to The University of Alabama in Huntsville where he is majoring in Special Education with a minor in Musical Performance. He hopes to become a teacher and plans to work on a music therapy degree.
A Mother’s Wish: Adult Student Earns Degree at Alabama Southern

Pam Hurst was 42 years old and had been in the workforce for 25-plus years when she became the secretary/cashier of Alabama Southern Community College’s Gilbertown campus, a new job that would help her restart her education and grant her mother’s fondest wish.

After graduating first in her high school class in 1976, Hurst had planned to further her education and earn a teaching degree. But those plans got derailed when she married and had a daughter. Over the ensuing years, she worked a variety of jobs and put college out of her mind … until her mother voiced disappointment.

“My mother felt she had failed as a parent because I was the only one of her children who did not have a college degree,” Hurst said. “This bothered me because my mother was anything but a failure as a parent.”

Hurst’s supervisor, Angie Williams, encouraged her to take classes. She enrolled in a computer class during the summer. “Then I started working through my business tech courses and found that I had plenty of brain power left. I was often the oldest student in the class but my much younger classmates always accepted me, even when I consistently made better than them on tests and projects,” Hurst said.

In May 2006, Hurst graduated summa cum laude from Alabama Southern with an AAS in Business Technology.

“I was 48 years old, but I had given my mother what she wanted: all of her daughters had a college degree,” Hurst said. “I wasn’t able to share the moment with her as she had passed away in 2005. But I know she celebrated with me when I walked across the stage of Nettles Auditorium and received my diploma.”
Student Defeats Childhood Disease to Excel at MMI

Jay Mitchell of Columbus, Georgia, has successfully dealt with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma he was diagnosed with at the age of nine.

Mitchell eventually made his way to Marion Military Institute and graduated after two years of academic success where he finished with a grade point average of 3.3.

His success, however, cannot be measured solely in the classroom. He was selected for participation in the Army ROTC’s Early Commissioning Program (ECP) and has served in several leadership roles culminating in his assignment to serve as the 450-member Corps of Cadets’ Command Sergeant Major, the most senior enlisted cadet position on the campus. He was also selected as one of only two cadets to attend the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Leadership Conference where he learned along with collegiate students from the most prestigious military schools in the country.

Many students excel not only in the classroom, but in extracurricular activities as well, and Mitchell is no exception. Even beyond his leadership within the Corps of Cadets, Mitchell excelled athletically.

As a wrestler he served as a team tri-captain, earned All-American honors in the 149-pound weight class, and was directly responsible for helping MMI win the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA) National Duals Championship, a first for a two-year school in an association comprised almost entirely of four-year schools.

This feat is believed to be the only time in history that a school from Alabama has won a national title in wrestling.

Mitchell completed the ECP requirements and has been commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Reserve. He is transferring to The University of Alabama at Birmingham to complete his bachelor’s degree.

Family Tragedy Prompts Reid State Student’s New Career

At the age of 45, Kim Whitman never thought of returning to school and continuing her education. This all changed when her mother was stricken with a rare form of cancer that took her life in 2005 and resulted in Whitman’s return to college. While feeling the nerves associated with college enrollment, Whitman jumped into the phlebotomy program and fell in love with this new career.

Whitman received a phlebotomy certificate at Reid State Technical College, and it opened doors that she never imagined. She began working for the American Red Cross shortly after graduation in May 2010. As only one of six in Alabama, her new position is working in the Montgomery Red Cross donor room performing Apheresis, the removal of platelets used for cancer patients, bone marrow transplants, as well as blood donations.

“The phlebotomy program at Reid State prepares you very well for the working world,” Whitman says. “Everything you see, hear, and do is taught in the program. Reid State, the phlebotomy program, director, staff and instructors are wonderful people and they are there for you 24/7. I would recommend starting your education and career with this wonderful group of educators. Thank you so much for being there!!"
In the Driver’s Seat: Trenholm Student Wins in National Competition

Omaha, Nebraska native Steven Sayers came to Montgomery in pursuit of employment in the automotive industry. Along the way, he enrolled in Trenholm State Technical College’s automotive manufacturing technology program on an academic scholarship and graduated with a 3.2 GPA and an Associate in Applied Technology Degree in Automotive Manufacturing Technology.

Sayers’ journey to a job in the automotive industry passed a major milestone last summer when he won a gold medal in the job interview category during the National SkillsUSA Championship competition in Kansas City, Missouri. He won the same competition at the state level.

“The quality education, support, and encouragement I received at Trenholm State laid the foundation for a lifetime of learning and career achievements. I am a better man and a more productive citizen. I encourage anyone who wants to improve their employment skills to consider Trenholm State,” said Sayers.

Sayers is currently enrolled as a full-time student at Alabama State University on a scholarship, majoring in Business Management. He is also employed full-time with PBR Systems, an automotive supplier to Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama LLC.

First Generation College Student Excels at WCCS

Jackson, an 18-year-old honor student from Selma, enrolled in the Wallace State Community College — Selma (WCCS) Drafting Technology Program after competing in the Academic Challenge for Excellence (ACE) Competition. The ACE competition is an academic and technical challenge competition held annually at WCCS for high school students.

“I’ve always had an interest in art which led me to my current educational field, Drafting and Design. My interest in drafting started in high school and it has blossomed since then. I’ve always wanted to go to college,” said Amanda. “I have two older brothers, but neither attended college. They are excited and very supportive of me. A big part of who I am and where I’m going is because of them,” says Jackson.

“I was unsure if I wanted to leave home right out of high school and that is why I chose to go to WCCS.”

Amanda works in the college’s Student Services Division and says their student support services have been very supportive in terms of counseling and providing information about transferring to four-year colleges.

Mr. David Hobbs, Jackson’s instructor, says “Amanda has maintained a 4.0 in her drafting technology classes for the past two semesters and is an ideal student with a great attitude and ability.”

Amanda plans on transferring to The University of Alabama and majoring in civil engineering.
Jefferson State Athlete Scores High on Academics

It was evident that as a student at Leeds High School, Heather Mitchell was an outstanding student and softball player. Mitchell has carried her talents on and off the field on to college, as she was recently named the recipient of the Allen Award.

The award is named for the late Sen. James B. Allen, who represented Alabama in Congress from 1969 to 1978 and served two separate terms as lieutenant governor. It honors the most outstanding student at community colleges across the state. The selection is based on the criteria of scholarship, service, high moral character, demonstration of leadership ability, and the completion of sufficient hours toward a degree.

Mitchell came to Jefferson State Community College softball from Leeds in the fall of 2007. It was clear that she would be a strong link on the team, according to coach Cammie Hallmark.

“Due to an injury in her freshman season, we were lucky enough to have Heather return for a third year,” Hallmark said. “She had a successful career at Jefferson State and is now currently being recruited by several four-year colleges.”

Mitchell graduated with an associate’s degree and plans to teach English at the high school level once she completes her education.

“When you are playing college ball, sometimes the ‘college’ part of it is forgotten,” Hallmark said. “The ‘student’ in student-athlete is sometimes overlooked and to some, what kind of athlete you have is more important than what kind of student you have. This young lady exemplifies the term student-athlete. At the Jefferson State awards ceremony recently, she was awarded the James B. Allen Award, which is the highest award any student can receive at Jefferson State. To have that award given to one of our softball teammates is such an honor.”

Snead State Students Form Cultural Partnership in Wake of Haiti Earthquake

Fourteen representatives from Snead State Community College (SSCC) boarded a plane at 6 a.m. on a cold winter morning, bound for Miami, Florida, as part of a new cultural partnership between SSCC and Miami Dade College.
The partnership was the idea of Snead State President Dr. Robert Exley, who served 10 years at Miami Dade and recognized the far-reaching potential of such a partnership. Eleven of SSCC's student leaders, accompanied by three employees, traveled to Miami to deliver the results of their fundraising efforts to aid Miami Dade students of Haitian descent who were adversely affected by the recent earthquakes in Haiti.

Their fundraising efforts were culminated in the Your Students=Our Students (YSOS) campaign. Proceeds from the campaign were to be donated to the MDC Foundation to be distributed as needed among students of Haitian descent who had lost their means of educational support and livelihood.

Tonya Bates was too old to go back to school, or so she thought. The 42-year-old Wallace State Community College student recently earned her culinary arts degree.

When she was young, Bates dreaded school days. She went just to get passed to the next grade level, but said she never applied herself until now. “I hated school when I was young, so I was afraid I couldn’t do it,” she said.

She had taken a few college courses after high school but quickly decided it wasn’t for her. After staying busy as a mom and working full time, she thought she was too old for college. But after encouragement from her daughter, they began together.

“My daughter was coming to Wallace and wanted me to come take some classes,” Bates said. “I thought I was too stupid to come back to school.”

She knew there was at least one thing she was good at, cooking. Bates enjoys cooking just about anything, but her specialty is desserts and pastries. “I am the pastry queen,” she said. “But I can cook anything.”

Owning her own restaurant has always been a dream for Bates, and she hopes to turn that dream into reality one day in the near future. She already has a name for it too, Kiss My Grits Cafe.

Bates said her experience at Wallace was great. “All the teachers are awesome,” she said. “They are laidback and willing to help. I think people should come up and give it one semester. All you have to do is ask for help.”

Reprinted with permission from The Cullman Times.
District VII: Stories of Success

Vandy Scholar Credits Bevill for Great Start

Calup Snider attended Bevill State Community College on scholarship for two years, graduating with an associate's degree and maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. Now Snider attends Vanderbilt University, where he is a participant in the senior year English department honor's program, holds a 3.89 grade point average, and is majoring in Literature.

Snider was fortunate to receive an exceptional financial assistance package to Vanderbilt that included grants in excess of $50,000. This past year he received another $50,000-plus in scholarships and grants. Snider credits Bevill State's faculty and staff for their commitment to students and the part the college played in his success.

“As a freshman entering college, I was undecided on my major. Bevill State allowed me the opportunity to explore my options and discover my passion for literature. The instructors provided guidance and direction through their unique approach to scholarship. The student-instructor dynamic was special in that it allowed the classroom to be transformed to a place of collaboration and learning that was not necessarily confined to the classroom.”

As Snider continues his studies, he still makes time to come back home to where it all began. He spent this past summer working as a tutor in the English lab at Bevill State assisting students so they will be successful as well.

Former Northwest-Shoals Carpentry Student Sees Getting Laid Off “. . . as a blessing”

Former Northwest-Shoals Community College carpentry student Paul Ryan never thought losing his job at Whitesell Corp. could lead to such a better life for his young family and him. “There was no other explanation; it was a blessing,” said Ryan.

According to Ryan, he could not see himself going to work and operating the same machine day after day for the next 30 years. “I was really tired of working in a plant and wanted to try something different,” said Ryan. He and his wife Nikki have a two-year-old daughter, Isabelle, with whom he rarely got to spend time. “I worked second shift (4 p.m.–2 a.m.) Monday through Thursday. I really didn't get to see my wife or little girl until Friday and the weekend,” stated Ryan.

At age 28, Ryan has gone from graduating from Muscle Shoals High School to working as contract labor with local engineering firms for the highway department to eventually working at Whitesell Corp. as the second shift lead operator in 2008.
Ryan was positive he did not want to go back to a similar plant work environment, but knew he needed to find another job soon. He then remembered how much he enjoyed taking carpentry while in high school at Muscle Shoals Center for Technology (MSCT) under current Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) Carpentry/Cabinetmaking Instructor Charles Hardy. “I had heard that Charles worked at the college (NW-SCC). When I came and talked to him, he told me what he could do,” said Ryan.

He began the Carpentry/Cabinetmaking program at NW-SCC in January 2009, and after two semesters Hardy was able to place him working at Five Star Enterprises, Inc. in Rogersville. According to Hardy, Ryan is a perfect example of a motivated and hard worker the Shoals area workforce needs. “Paul (Ryan) was one of those students you love to see come into your program,” said Hardy. “Students like Paul help us maintain a 100% job placement rate for all our students who stick with it.” Throughout Ryan’s Carpentry/Cabinetmaking courses at NW-SCC, he maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA.

According to Ryan, Hardy and NW-SCC gave him an opportunity to get out of the plant life for good. “I am so much happier now.”

In the Darkroom, Greg Carden Develops Unique Perspective

In a darkroom housed in the photography department at Shelton State Community College, Greg Carden perfects his art form, removing the imperfections of capturing still images. That darkroom also provides him with a laboratory to mend the imperfections of his own life.

In a piece composed of three photos, Carden sits on white stairs, propping up a body-length mirror with his left arm. The mirror is reflecting his right leg so that it appears he still has a left.

Carden, 37, was diagnosed with terminal bone cancer when he was only 5 years old. Radiation treatments beat the cancer, but the treatments caused a second cancer diagnosis. He beat that, too, but his left leg was amputated in the process.

Unable to work because of chronic and often intense pain, Carden began taking photography classes at Shelton State from fellow photographer Michael Thornton. Now an advanced photography student, Carden continues to attend the courses offered through the Community Education Division at Shelton and uses the school’s darkroom to develop his work.

In March 2010, two of Carden’s pieces were chosen for the Wounded in Action art show, staged by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. The series of photographs Carden took of himself holding the mirror, called ‘Body Image I, II, III’, was included, along with a photo of Carden standing with the help of a walking stick, facing away from the camera.

In that photo, titled ‘Phantom Footsteps’, he is standing on a dirt path and behind him are footprints leading to where he stands, with one footprint placed where his left leg would be.

“More than 2,000 artists submitted work from 17 countries and 45 states,” he said. Carden was among 100 artists chosen for the show, made up of paintings and photographs to honor American soldiers injured in battle.

Thornton, who is in his fifth year teaching his community photography course at Shelton State, called Carden very creative and said that although amputation is a major theme in his work, it hardly ever comes up in day-to-day conversation.

“You’d never know it because it’s not a thing that’s a big deal for him as far as doing things,” Thornton said. “I admire Greg very much to be in his circumstance and be able to do the things he does so well.”

While Carden would like to turn his photography into a source of income, he said his main goal is continuing his education in graduate school.

Story and photo reprinted courtesy of the Tuscaloosa News.
Athens State Grad to Join Teach for America

While Olivia Clayton Carter was an undergraduate at Athens State University, becoming a teacher was not her immediate goal. Then again, she didn’t realize that she would be tapped to be a part of one of the nation’s most prestigious post-graduate programs.

“Having a work-study job at Athens State’s Writing Center gave me my first opportunity to be in the role of instructor,” states Carter. “There, I learned that not only did I love to teach writing, but I also was good at it! There is a certain satisfaction in seeing a student ‘get it.’ I saw my first glimpse of this at the Writing Center, and knew I wanted more.”

Carter left Athens State in the summer of 2008 and relocated to Boston to attend graduate school at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. At Athens State, Carter focused on the study of English and Religion. While at Brandeis she completed a joint masters program in English and Women’s and Gender Studies.

Carter will join the forces of Teach for America, an organization whose mission is to build a movement to eliminate educational inequity by enlisting our nation’s most promising future leaders in the effort. Teach for America recruits outstanding recent college graduates from all backgrounds and career interests to commit to teach for two years in urban and rural public schools. They provide the training and ongoing support necessary to ensure their success as teachers in low-income communities.

“The process is very competitive,” explains Carter. “In 2010, Teach for America received more than 46,000 applications and roughly 10 percent of applicants were selected to join the program.”

Although the exact location of her placement has not been secured, Carter knows she will be teaching high school English somewhere in the Black Belt of Alabama, in or around Selma. “The Black Belt is the poorest region in Alabama and includes some of the most impoverished counties in the United States,” explains Carter. “Many of the high school students will likely be on a reading level that is five or, perhaps, six grades behind. I am tasked to cover a lot of ground in a short period of time.”

“Unknown Blessings” Lead Calhoun Student to Retool Himself

Charles McCulloch is a proud husband and father of two young sons who came to Calhoun Community College following the loss of his job after the 2008 closing of the Wolverine plant in Decatur.
McCulloch had gone to work at Wolverine after quitting high school, with plans of retiring from the company. “As I have come to realize,” McCulloch says, “devastating circumstances lead to unknown blessings.” After the plant closed, McCulloch realized he needed to earn his GED. “My sons were getting to the age where they would realize I had not finished my education, so how was I to explain the importance of their education to them?”

Having maintained a 4.0 grade point average throughout his time at Calhoun, McCulloch was recently selected as one of the college’s Top Ten Students from among more than 11,300 students currently enrolled. He is a member of the Sigma Kappa Delta national English honor society. Through his work in machine tool technology, he designed and created metal medallions as gifts for SKD officers. McCulloch also received the Keith Wiley Scholarship for Outstanding SKD member last year and has been listed on the President’s List at Calhoun for the last five semesters.

McCulloch’s goal is to use his skills to help create materials such as medical implants and space-related products. This May, Charlie will graduate with a degree in Machine Tool Technology.

In just two years, McCulloch went from being unemployed with no high school diploma to a 4.0 honor student on track to graduate from college this May with a degree in a high-demand field. Just as McCulloch retooled himself, so did Wolverine, and the company rehired him in a new position.

Drake Grad’s Motto: “Like Minds = Greatness”

“Like Minds = Greatness.” This is the favorite phrase of Drake State Technical College graduate and cosmetologist Toby Holloway. In his words it means, “When focusing on life’s challenges, a grouping of like minds will make it much easier to achieve the greatness one desires.” Holloway adopted this as the advertising slogan for Salon Elite 18/16 which he owns and manages, but it’s also an inspiration for his life.

Holloway describes himself as one who comes from meager means. He grew up in the housing projects of Huntsville. In 1996, he graduated from the cosmetology program at Drake State. Holloway returned to Drake State in 2009 to attain his Cosmetology Instructor Training certificate so that he could do something that he truly loves, which is teaching.

Holloway is an educator for McBride Research Labs, which markets the Design Essential line of hair products. Through this position, he has trained other industry professionals on proper use of the company product lines. He was a featured stylist for the “Rock the Runway” fashion show as well as “The Premier Show,” both in Birmingham. He was also featured at the “Proud Lady Hair Show” in Chicago, Illinois.

As an instructor in the cosmetology department at Drake State, Holloway is able to draw upon his industry involvement and ensure the students are learning about the most current products and styles. He says he feels a strong connection to his students as many of them are just looking for a better way of life, and he understands that completely. Holloway believes that if you have the right attitude and you surround yourself by people who share that attitude, you can overcome any of life’s challenges.

In addition to sharing his talents with students at Drake State, Holloway also spends time mentoring students from area middle schools. Through the college’s Summer Technology Institute, he speaks to educators about the opportunities available through technical education programs.
Ahmed Elbarbary, a former Egyptian exchange student at Gadsden State Community College, is enjoying a successful career at Schlumberger thanks to his college education. Schlumberger is the world’s leading services and technology provider in the oil and gas industry. Elbarbary works as a field specialist in the Artificial Lift segment. He is responsible for raising oil to the earth’s surface via electrical submersible pumps, sending them 7,000 feet below the earth’s surface, powering them to lift the oil, and assembling the pumps.

Elbarbary spends as much as three weeks at a time on site drilling in the Sahara desert. He applied for a position at Schlumberger before enrolling at Gadsden State, but was unable to get a job with them. However, when he re-applied after obtaining his Associate in Applied Science degree in Industrial Automation Technology, he was given a position with the company because of the advanced training he had received.

While at Gadsden State, Elbarbary studied motor control, programmable logic control, hydraulic and pneumatic systems, and pumps. Knowledge in all of these skill areas is essential in his current job. A particularly useful result of his academic achievements at Gadsden State was a certificate from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that he received in an industrial safety class, which helped secure his position at Schlumberger.

The family of a Northeast Alabama Community College student recently paid the college a visit to thank school officials personally for installing the NACC Mustang Cam. Marvin Standekar and his family set a time each week to talk through satellite telephone while he is standing in view of the Mustang Cam at Northeast. This way, Standekar’s parents can talk to their only son and see him at the same time.

The Standekars stopped by Northeast to personally thank Dr. David Campbell, NACC President, for the web cam connection and visited the location of the Mustang Cam in the Northeast Quadrangle.

“This is a great example of how advances in technology have made the world a much smaller place and has connected people from different countries and cultures,” Campbell said.

Standekar first came to the United States as an exchange student at Section High School. He liked America so much that he decided to continue his education here and he enrolled at Northeast Alabama Community College. After completing his studies at Northeast, Standekar plans to attend The University of Alabama Huntsville or Auburn University, majoring in aerospace or environmental engineering.
**Alabama Community College System**

**REVENUES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Appropriations</td>
<td>$335,479,541</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>$283,032,427</td>
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<td>Other Funding</td>
<td>$98,832,844</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Enterprises</td>
<td>$40,324,836</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
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**EXPENDITURES**

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Instruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Aid</td>
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<td>Institutional Support</td>
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<td>Student Services</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
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<td>Auxiliary</td>
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<td>Non-Operating Expenses</td>
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<td>Public Service</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,035,414,129</strong></td>
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</table>

Source: 2009-2010 Financial Statements

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**Community Colleges: Doing More with Less**

Given the declared 11 percent proration in 2008-2009, followed by an additional 9.5 percent in 2009-2010, dire economic projections, absence of federal stimulus funds for the future, and projections that state funds available to postsecondary education will continue to decline, the urgency of need grew exponentially in 2009-2010. The core mission of the Alabama Community College System was — and still is — endangered by the lack of adequate funding to support access for students most in need of the education provided by the system.

In October 2009, for the first time in five years, the State Board of Education authorized a tuition increase for community and technical colleges from $71 to $85 per credit hour for spring semester 2010, rising to $90 per credit hour effective fall semester 2010, with annual increases of $2 per credit hour thereafter. Athens State University was also granted a tuition increase ranging from $127-$153 per credit hour.

At a time when America's community colleges are called upon to serve as the engines of economic recovery for a nation in crisis, state funds have diminished significantly while enrollment demands are escalating. In fact, since 2007-08, back-to-back proration and budget cuts through 2010 have resulted in a total cumulative loss of state funding to the Alabama Community College System of $113,730,706.

As the primary training providers for people in the community who have lost their jobs, the Alabama Community College System bears the responsibility of leading our state out of a struggling economy. Despite the funding difficulties we face, our system remains committed to its mission of providing world class education, workforce training and services to our students, yielding a well-educated, productive citizenry and a better prepared workforce, ready and willing to expand and strengthen our economy.

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**Education Trust Fund Appropriations for the Alabama Community College System**

[Chart showing Education Trust Fund Appropriations from FY06-07 to FY10-11]
ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
2011 DIRECTORY

Community Colleges
1. Alabama Southern Community College
2. Bevill State Community College
3. Bishop State Community College
4. John C. Calhoun Community College
5. Central Alabama Community College
6. Chattahoochee Valley Community College
7. Jefferson Davis Community College
8. Enterprise State Community College
9. James H. Faulkner State Community College
10. Gadsden State Community College
11. Jefferson State Community College
12. T. A. Lawson State Community College
13. Northeast Alabama Community College
14. Northwest-Shoals Community College
15. Shelton State Community College
16. Snead State Community College
17. Southern Union State Community College
18. George C. Wallace Community College
19. Wallace State Community College
20. George Corley Wallace State Community College
21. Lurleen B. Wallace Community College

Technical Colleges
22. J. F. Drake State Technical College
23. J. F. Ingram State Technical College
24. Reid State Technical College
25. H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College

Two-Year Military College
26. Marion Military Institute

Senior University
27. Athens State University

Workforce Training
28. Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute
29. Alabama Technology Network

Administrative Offices
- Department of Postsecondary Education
- Governor’s Office of Workforce Development

21 Community Colleges
4 Technical Colleges
1 Two-Year Military College
1 Senior University
2 Workforce Training Institutes
Administrative Offices
ALABAMA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING INSTITUTE (AIDT)
Ed Castile, Director
One Technology Court
Montgomery, AL 36117
(334) 242-4158
www.aidt.edu
AIDT maintains four permanent training centers as well as project-based training facilities across the state.

ALABAMA SOUTHERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Dr. Reginald Sykes, President
2800 South Alabama Avenue
Monroeville, AL 36460
(251) 575-3156
www.ascc.edu
Thomasville Campus
30775 Highway 43 South
Thomasville, AL 36784
(334) 636-9642

ALABAMA TECHNOLOGY NETWORK (ATN)
Dr. William Michael (Mike) Bailey, President
500 Beacon Parkway West
Birmingham, AL 35209
(205) 943-4808
www.atn.org
ATN operates 16 sites strategically located throughout the state.

ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY
Dr. Robert K. Glenn, President
300 North Beaty Street
Athens, AL 35611
(256) 233-8100
www.athens.edu

BEVILL STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Dr. Anne McNutt, President
1411 Indiana Avenue
Jasper, AL 35501
(205) 387-0511
www.bssc.edu

Fayette Campus
2631 Temple Avenue N
Fayette, AL 35555
(205) 932-3221

Hamilton Campus
Post Office Drawer 9
Hamilton, AL 35570
(205) 921-3177

Sumiton Campus
PO Box 800
Sumiton, AL 35148
(205) 648-3271

BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Dr. James Lowe, Jr., President
351 North Broad Street
Mobile, AL 36603-5898
(251) 405-7000
www.bishop.edu

Baker-Gaines Central Campus
1365 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue
Mobile, AL 36603
(251) 405-4400

Southwest Campus
925 Dauphin Island Parkway
Mobile, AL 36605
(251) 665-4085

Carver Campus
414 Stanton Street
Mobile, AL 36617
(251) 662-5400
JAMES H. FAULKNER STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Dr. Gary L. Branch, President
1900 Hwy 31 South
Bay Minette, AL 36507
(251) 580-2100
www.faulknerstate.edu

Fairhope Campus
450 Fairhope Avenue
Fairhope, AL 36532
(251) 990-0420

Gulf Shores Campus
3301 Gulf Shores Parkway
Gulf Shores, AL 36542
(251) 968-3104

J. F. INGRAM STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Dr. J. Douglas Chambers, President
5375 Ingram Road
Deatsville, AL 36022
(334) 285-5177
www.ingram.cc.al.us

Fairhope Campus
450 Fairhope Avenue
Fairhope, AL 36532
(251) 990-0420

Gulf Shores Campus
3301 Gulf Shores Parkway
Gulf Shores, AL 36542
(251) 968-3104

JEFFERSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Dr. Judy Merritt, President
4600 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, AL 35242
(205) 983-5900
www.jeffstateonline.com

Jefferson Campus
2601 Carson Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35215
(205) 853-1200
Weekend Office
(205) 856-7962

GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Dr. William O. Blow, Interim President
1001 George Wallace Drive
Gadsden, AL 35903
(256) 549-8200
www.gadsdenstate.edu

Ayers Campus
1801 Coleman Road
Anniston, AL 36207
(256) 835-5400

East Broad Campus
1001 E. Broad Street
Gadsden, AL 35903
(256) 549-8600

Valley Street Campus
600 Valley Street
Gadsden, AL 35901
(256) 549-8671

T. A. LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Dr. Perry W. Ward, President
3060 Wilson Road, SW
Birmingham, AL 35221
(205) 925-2515
www.lawsonstate.edu

Bessemer Campus
1100 Ninth Avenue SW
Bessemer, AL 35022
(205) 929-3503

MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE
Colonel David J. Mollahan,
USMC (Ret), President
1101 Washington Street
Marion, AL 36756
(800) 664-1842
www.marionmilitary.edu
NORTHEAST ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Dr. David Campbell, President
138 Alabama Highway 35
Rainsville, AL 35986
(256) 638-4418
www.nacc.edu

NORTHWEST-SHOALS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Dr. Humphrey Lee, President
800 George Wallace Blvd.
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661
(256) 331-5200
www.nwsc.edu

Phil Campbell Campus
2080 College Road
Phil Campbell, AL 35581
(256) 331-6200

REID STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Dr. Douglas M. Littles, President
Intersection of I-65 and Highway 83
Post Office Box 588
Evergreen, AL 36401
(251) 578-1313
www.rstc.edu

SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Dr. Mark A. Heinrich, President
9500 Old Greensboro Road
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
(205) 391-2211
www.sheltonstate.com

C.A. Fredd Campus
3401 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
(205) 391-2611

SNEAD STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Dr. Robert Exley, President
220 North Walnut Street
Boaz, AL 35957
(256) 593-5120
www.snead.edu

SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Dr. Amelia Pearson, Interim President
750 Roberts Street
Wadley, AL 36276
(256) 395-2211
www.suscc.edu

Opelika Campus
1701 LaFayette Parkway
Opelika, AL 36801
(334) 745-6437

H. COUNCILL TRENHOLM STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Mr. Samuel Munnerlyn, President
1225 Air Base Blvd.
Montgomery, AL 36108
(334) 420-4200
www.trenholmstate.edu

John M. Patterson Campus
3920 Troy Highway
Montgomery, AL 36116
(334) 420-4200
Mission

The Alabama Community College System is dedicated to excellence in delivering academic education, adult education, and workforce development.