



TENNESSEE'S
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

COMMUNITY COLLEGE REPORT

FALL 2015 • ISSUE 37



A Chattanooga State student
celebrates the start of classes.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE REPORT

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the 37th edition of the Community College Report, a quarterly newsletter from Tennessee Board of Regents two-year college presidents. This issue features six themes: *Completion, Partnership, Science & Innovation, Success Stories, Arts & Culture* and *Workforce Development*. Each theme is identified by a distinctive icon.



COMPLETION



PARTNERSHIP



SCIENCE &
INNOVATION



SUCCESS
STORIES



ARTS &
CULTURE



WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

FALL 2015

ISSUE 37

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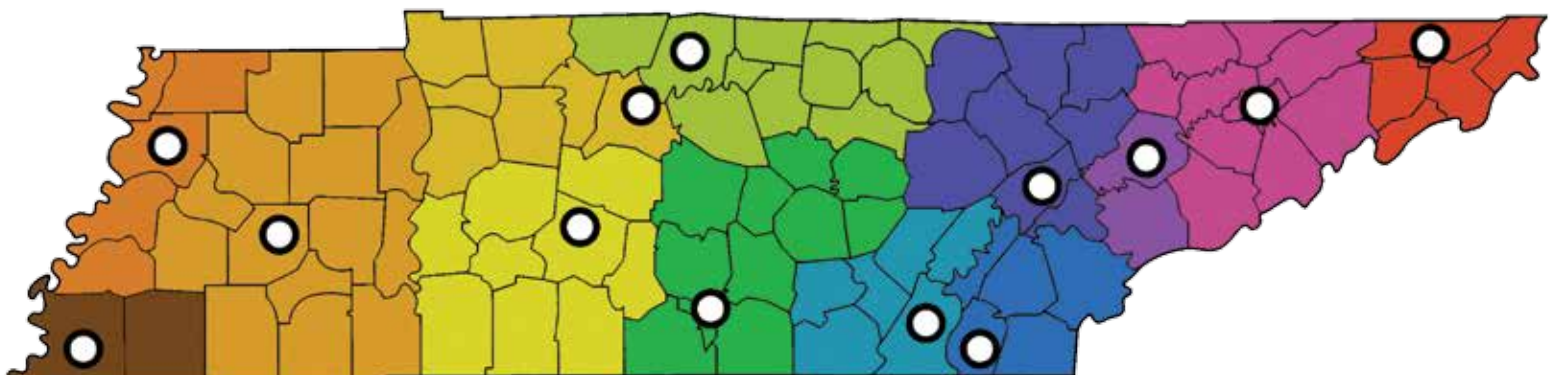
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Rewards School a three-peat for Collegiate High

Hamilton County Collegiate High at Chattanooga State has been named a 2014-2015 Performance Rewards School for the third year in a row.

Performance Rewards Schools rank in the top five percent of schools across the state by measuring overall student achievement levels. On Aug. 3, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam and Education Commissioner Candice McQueen announced 170 Reward Schools, encompassing 59 districts across the state.

"What super selective colleges in America are looking for and what they want to see is that high school students have challenged themselves as much as

possible during their high school career. There is simply no better way to do that than through Collegiate High," Collegiate High 2015 graduate Jake Brown said.



The Collegiate High staff includes Dr. Sonja Rich, principal; Amy Blazek, counselor; Angela Karnes-Eddinger, English teacher; and Adina Odom, math teacher.



Donation by Card-Monroe for specialized software

Dean Tim McGhee accepted a \$1,287 check from Brad Card, president of Card-Monroe Corporation, to help the college purchase new specialized software for the Engineering Technology division.

Card-Monroe produces very sophisticated, highly engineered products utilizing the latest in software technology.

"When we told our software supplier/partner that Chattanooga State did not deliver training in the exact software that we use, they offered to provide 50 student licenses if Card-Monroe would underwrite the investment," shared Jim Joyner, VP of Corporate Excellence. "We immediately responded to this opportunity and are happy to provide this gift."

Many Card-Monroe employees and several recent new hires have come from



Chattanooga State. Using the same software will benefit students in the engineering technology programs, as well as at Card-Monroe Corporation and other manufacturers that use this software as well.

"It will better prepare them to be productive sooner, or increase their value if they are already employed," stated Joyner.



Turning a passion into a career

Samantha Durkan said she was "kinda lost" on what her career path should be. Then she began looking into ChattState majors.

"It was like a light bulb went off," Durkan said. "All my life I had been obsessed with movies and TV, and it was then I realized I could turn that passion into a career path at ChattState with a Media Technologies degree."

As a background production assistant, Samantha makes movie and television scenes look like real life. After interning on the set of *42*, Samantha has since worked on *American Idol*, *Walking Dead*, *Resurrection*, *Red Band Society*, *Fast and Furious 7* and *Insurgent*.

After finding her passion, Durkan expressed gratitude for her time at ChattState.

"My experience with the Media Technologies program was everything I wanted it to be and more," she said. "All the teachers gave me so many opportunities that I never thought I would get out of a community college."



CSCC, Lee University partner on business symposium

Cleveland State and Lee University co-sponsored a two-day professional development symposium aptly titled, "Peak Performance: A Business Excellence Symposium." The conference theme was "Driving Organizational Efficiency & Effectiveness."



Cleveland State President Bill Seymour leads a workshop on change management at the recent symposium.

The keynote speaker was Denise Rice, director of Worldwide Manufacturing Effectiveness at Cormetech, Inc. Rice's 25-year career with Corning, Inc. has included plant management and engineering roles in environmental technologies in Cleveland, Tenn., and Durham, N.C.; telecommunications in Corning, N.Y.; and advanced display products in State College, Penn. She is known for her leadership in change management, new product introduction and extensive experience with lean manufacturing.

Rick Creasy, CSCC executive director of Workforce Development, stated, "We were very pleased to partner with Lee University to conduct our first-of-its-kind business excellence summit for our region. This will provide innovative ideas from successful businesses for increased performance."



Haslam visits Cleveland State

Governor Bill Haslam visited Cleveland State on the first day of school to welcome the first class of Tennessee Promise recipients as they begin their college careers. In addition to speaking at a press conference, he also visited with students enrolled in the First Year Seminar classes.

Haslam stated, "We could not be more excited about this day! This is the culmination of first, a dream, and then a vision and a plan to provide a whole different opportunity for a lot of people in Tennessee. What we want to do in Tennessee is make certain that we give everybody an opportunity to fulfill their whole potential."

Dr. Bill Seymour, Cleveland State president, said, "We are very fortunate to have Governor Haslam on our campus on this



Cleveland State President Bill Seymour presents Haslam with a t-shirt that was given to all Tennessee Promise students that reads "Thanks Gov" on the back.

historic occasion to celebrate the official commencement of a program that is changing higher education in our state for the better and leading the nation in a new movement."



Southeast TN Career Center now located at CSCC

Cleveland State and the Tennessee Career Center at Cleveland recently hosted an open house at the Career Center's new location in Room 130 of the Technology Building on the CSCC Campus.

"We are thrilled to have the career center relocated to our campus," Cleveland State President Bill Seymour said.

The Career Center is housed with several other agencies related to business and workforce development including the Cleveland State OneSource Workforce Readiness Center, the Tennessee Small Business Development Center and the entrance to the Cleveland Bradley Business Incubator.

According to Rick Layne, director of Career and Workforce Development for the Southeast Tennessee Development District (SETDD), the idea behind housing the Career Center on the CSCC campus



State Rep. Ron Travis, Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce CEO Gary Farlow, Tennessee Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development Burns Phillips, Bradley County Mayor D. Gary Davis, State Rep. Dan Howell, CSCC President Bill Seymour and SETDD Director of Career and Workforce Development Rick Layne.

came from conversations between SETDD, the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce and CSCC.

"We all felt this was a good idea and would be a win/win for the community, the Career Center and CSCC," stated Layne.



Columbia State's TRiO program renewed

The Department of Education recently awarded a \$219,942 grant to Columbia State for TRiO Student Support Services, which allows the college to continue serving at-risk students at its campuses in Maury and Lawrence counties.

Dr. Sherica Clark Nelms, TRiO director, said TRiO helps retain and graduate the most at-risk and vulnerable population of the college, while providing additional support and encouragement to students. In the past five years, TRiO has provided academic and other support services for more than 340 students.

The federally funded program seeks to increase the number of first-generation and low-income students and those with disabilities in order to help them successfully complete a program of study at the postsecondary level.



Lyric McGloffin, SGA president and President's Leadership Society member, credits TRiO for much of her involvement at Columbia State.

TRiO provides transfer assistance, career exploration, tutoring services, registration assistance, student success seminars and workshops, cultural and social engagement events and a number of other services that are specifically designed for students in the program.



Columbia State kicks off 50th anniversary with red carpet event, documentary film

Dr. Rebecca Hawkins, president emeritus, and Columbia State kicked off the college's 50th anniversary celebration on Aug. 11 with a red carpet event and documentary film that captured the untold stories of students, faculty and staff, and community members who were part of Columbia State's startup and dedication. The documentary highlights the college's startup between June 1965 and June 1967.



Dr. Rebecca Hawkins, president emeritus, talks with Bonnie Rodgers and Lil Moore as she passes out popcorn and copies of the documentary, "Red Letter Day in the Life of Maury County."

Hawkins noted that it took close to 100 people willing to share their stories in interviews, as well as share their memorabilia and other treasures to make the documentary possible. The film features Columbia State first-year students,

original faculty and staff, and community members who were present the day Lady Bird Johnson and President Lyndon B. Johnson visited Columbia and dedicated the college.



Dr. Janet F. Smith talks with students during a "Lunch and Learn" that featured guest speaker Mike Krause, executive director of TN Promise and Drive to 55.



TN Promise students attend summer bridge program, improve placement

For three weeks this summer, Columbia State hosted a summer bridge program for TN Promise students who had low ACT scores and were looking to improve placement or test out of learning support requirements altogether.

Shelley Manns, assistant director of learning support and associate professor of English, coordinated the program, making sure students were accurately placed and teaching positions were staffed.

Each day, students had the opportunity to participate in a "Lunch and Learn" session. Guest speakers included faculty and staff who encouraged students to get involved on campus and informed them of the different services available to them.

"Once you know more about the campus, you're more apt to get involved," Manns said. "Familiarity builds confidence, and confidence leads to success."

Out of 29 students in attendance, 41 percent tested out of some or all learning support requirements, while 45 percent improved their overall learning support placement, for an overall 86 percent improvement rating.



Dr. Karen Bowyer awarded Knox College Scroll of Honor

DSCC President Dr. Karen Bowyer was recently awarded the Knox College Scroll of Honor for 2015. This award is presented to members of the college's Fifty Year Club to recognize lifetime achievements in the service of their community, society or humanity.

Bowyer graduated from Knox College where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics. She received a Master of Arts in mathematics from Rutgers University and a Doctor of Philosophy in mathematics education from the University of Alabama.

Over the past 31 years at DSCC, she began the DSCC Annual Fund Campaign, raising approximately \$21 million. She also chartered the DSCC Foundation, creating



an endowment fund that now totals more than \$8 million. Enrollment has grown by more than 100 percent during her tenure, peaking at 3,751 in 2011.



DSCC's Skill Builder program helping students meet academic needs

Since its inception in the summer of 2012, Dyersburg State Community College's Skill Builder Program has been successful in improving student competencies in reading, writing and mathematics in order to test out of learning support courses.

The free, year-round program is offered to students that have less than ideal placement scores needed for college-level courses. This past summer, 72 percent of Tennessee Promise students took advantage of the program and went on to register for college-level courses.

The program also assists non-traditional students that need a refresher prior to taking the COMPASS placement test. To date, the program has helped more than 800 students improve their skills for the COMPASS.



Participating in DSCC's Skill Builder Program is student Angelo Smith of Memphis with DSCC student tutor Dina Wilson of Newbern.

The success behind the program is a blended approach to teaching and learning, using online software, one-on-one tutoring, group tutoring and a variety of resources including hands-on learning materials.



DSCC alumna named to Governor's Teacher Cabinet

Jessica Murray, a 2006 alumna of Dyersburg State, was recently selected to serve on Governor Haslam's first-ever Teacher Cabinet.

The cabinet was created to assist the Governor and Education Commissioner Candice McQueen in sharing real-time information from the classroom, review proposed policies and provide streamlined communication to schools and communities.

The cabinet consists of 18 teachers from across the state who represent varying years of experience with a diverse mix of backgrounds. Each member of the cabinet will serve a two-year term.

Murray attended classes at DSCC while still a sophomore in high school, before dual enrollment programs were even introduced there. Thanks to acquiring several college credits in high school, she attended only one additional year at DSCC before graduating with an Associate of Science degree in elementary education in 2006. Within two years, she earned a bachelor's degree followed by her master's degree.



Achieving the Dream National Reform Network continues to grow with addition of Jackson State

Jackson State Community College is one of 16 community and technical colleges selected this year into the Achieving the Dream National Reform Network. Faculty, staff and administrators from JSCC participated in the 2015 Achieving the Dream Kickoff Institute in Cincinnati on June 23-25.

"We realize that we are the only hope for many students in West Tennessee, especially first-generation, low-income, and non-traditional students who find their way to our door," stated Dr. Bruce Blanding. "It is our responsibility and moral obligation to help them navigate the maze that



college life can present to them by removing barriers and making that maze a straight line."

At the 2015 Kickoff Institute, JSCC worked in teams with coaches to increase its data analytic capacity to inform decision-making; learned how guided pathways can improve the student experience; identified opportunities to improve teaching and learning; and began understanding equity challenges on campus.

JSCC is joining a network of more than 200 colleges that are working to preserve access and ensure that students achieve their goals for academic success, personal growth and economic opportunity.



Kristine Nakutis, Veterans Affairs coordinator at JSCC.



JSCC receives veterans Reconnect grant

On Aug. 10, the Governor's Office announced that Jackson State Community College was one of 11 recipients of a Veterans Reconnect Grant.

The grant is an extension of the Drive to 55 initiative to increase degree and certificate completions in the state and create a more qualified workforce that will attract manufacturing and boost local economies. Up to \$100,000 could be awarded to any one institution. Jackson State received \$94,151.

In the grant proposal, the goals established were to create a veteran outreach program, an on-campus veterans' student center, transition programs to improve graduation rates and a veterans' student task force. One specific goal of the grant is to create an on-campus veteran's student center.

"[The student center] will allow older veterans who have served 10, 15 or 20 years to connect with the younger soldiers who are still serving in the Guard and the Reserve," said Kristine Nakutis, Veterans Affairs coordinator.

Ultimately, the goal is to connect with veterans the best way possible and stay connected throughout their college experience and beyond. Nakutis said she sees the grant as a great opportunity for Jackson State to provide increased support for veteran academic achievement.



Alexander leads roundtable discussions at JSCC

Tennessee Senator and former Governor Lamar Alexander held roundtable discussions on the JSCC campus May 29.

The senator is currently heading up legislation that will update and streamline two current educational initiatives: No Child Left Behind and FAFSA.

The roundtable discussion had panels that were made up of local school officials and board members, as well as state and local government officials. Those in attendance for the discussions included area parents, students and educators.

The primary purpose of the forum was to give the most impacted parties by the proposed legislation an opportunity to hear first-hand what is being proposed and also to give Alexander a



true sounding board for the ideas and how they are perceived in the field.

Dr. Bruce Blanding, JSCC president, noted that the FAFSA application often becomes a roadblock to admission.

"What we have to understand is that a lot of these processes and paperwork like FAFSA are completely alien to many first-generation students. We lose a lot of them before they can even get started," Blanding said.



Bridgestone presents Motlow College Foundation with Chancellor's Award

Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy at the biannual meeting of the Motlow College Foundation Board of Trustees on June 5. The meeting was at the Motlow College Moore County campus.

Bridgestone spent nearly \$4 million renovating and building the North American Manufacturing Education Center Building and BANDAG Training facility. As part of the construction process, they carved out 2,200 square feet of space for Motlow College to use.

Bridgestone also provides 'in-kind' support to the Motlow mechatronics program by coaching/mentoring Motlow students. In addition, Bridgestone Americas' tire manufacturing facilities in Warren County and LaVergne provide internship opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience while completing their degrees.



Motlow brings college message to Franke Foodservice in Fayetteville

It's never too late to advance your career opportunities by attending college. Motlow College representatives recently presented that message to more than 100 employees of Franke Foodservice in Fayetteville.

Sid Hill, academic specialist and co-chair of the access and diversity committee, Debra Smith, assistant director of Student Services for the Fayetteville Center, and Laura Jent, director of Human Resources and co-chair for the access and diversity committee, welcomed employees of the company to Motlow's Fayetteville Center.

According to Hill, the goal of the presentation was to recruit non-traditional



Sid Hill, academic specialist at Motlow College, speaks to employees of Franke Foodservice of Fayetteville.

working adults to study at Motlow. College representatives explained how to apply for Motlow, and discussed program options and how to receive assistance with financial aid. Each participant received an informational packet and Motlow marketing materials.



Motlow College ACE Program provides accelerated pathway for busy adults to earn a degree

Samantha, a single mother of two young children, came to realize that she must get a college degree in order to provide the quality of life for herself and her children. The problem was time.

The Adult College Express (ACE) program at Motlow College was the answer for Samantha, as it was for Amelia Marquez, Alex Erkkila, Brad Luna and many others. ACE has established itself as a premier avenue for non-traditional students to earn a college degree around their busy lives.

The program is for adults over 23 years of age who seek to earn a degree in a team-oriented environment. ACE provides a cohort-based "fast-track" completion plan for busy adults and working parents.



Alex Erkkila completed the Motlow College ACE program and is now a television producer. *Motlow College Photo.*

ACE students can complete a general studies degree within 24 months and can easily transfer to a four-year institution upon completion.



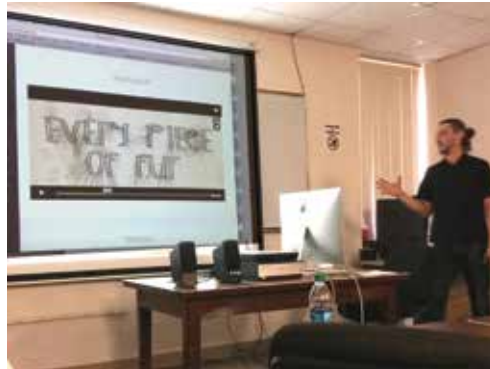
Nashville State multimedia, web design students partner with renowned poet

Assistant Professor Dale Rogers challenged his multimedia and web design practicum class with a project that connected the traditional with technology.

"I approached Dr. Stellasue Lee about transforming one of her published poems into a multimedia project," said Rogers. "Our goal was to make Dr. Lee's poetry more approachable to a newer, 21st century mobile audience."

Dr. Lee is a renowned poet and Editor Emeritus at *RATTLE*, a literary journal. She also currently serves on the editorial board at Curbstone Press.

The resulting project, which can be found at <http://honeybunch.dalerogers.me>, is mobile-compatible, responsive and presents the poem in written form, in animation, a recited version by Dr. Lee and a version in American Sign Language. There is also a video interview with Dr. Lee, a credits section and links to Dr. Lee's web site.



Vis Comm student Doug Fickel presents the animation portion of the multimedia practicum project.

During the spring semester, the students met with the client, created a proposal, established a project timeline, created the media assets, coded the web site, shot and edited the videos, created the animation, uploaded the project to web server and presented the final project to the client and an audience of students, faculty, and community stakeholders.



Nashville State names Ellen Weed Building

A building on Nashville State's main campus recently was named for Dr. Ellen J. Weed. Weed served as vice president for Academic Affairs at Nashville State Community College for 20 years.

Her career also included positions at Austin Peay State University and the Tennessee Board of Regents. Regardless of where she served, Weed was committed to the community college as a pathway to success for students of all ages and backgrounds.

During her tenure at NSCC, the college grew from 5,000 to 10,000 students, added two buildings on the main campus and opened satellite locations in Cookeville, Dickson and Waverly, Tenn.



Former VPAA Weed (seated, center) and NSCC colleagues gather in front of the Ellen Weed building.



Nashville State offers mechatronics classes at Fort Campbell's Army Education Center

This fall, Nashville State will launch a new Mechatronics Technical certificate program with mechatronics classes offered at Fort Campbell's SSG Glenn H. English Jr. Army Education Center.

"Our classes in the high-demand field of mechatronics will give students the knowledge and hands-on training in electronics, mechanics and computers for work in a variety of industrial and manufacturing businesses," said Dr. Reginald Gardner, dean of Computer and Engineering Technologies.

"Nashville State is pleased to partner with Fort Campbell to assist soldiers with their educational goals and offer a program which aligns with Governor Haslam's higher education initiatives."

Four courses in the program will be taught this fall. All class sections offered at the Army Education Center are at full capacity. Two sections also will be held in Clarksville at Kenwood High School.



Faculty, staff and students participate in National Walking Day.



Northeast State named 2015 Healthier Tennessee Workplace

Northeast State was named a 2015 Healthier Tennessee Workplace for its commitment to encouraging and enabling employees to live a healthy lifestyle both at work and at home.

Launched in 2013 by Gov. Bill Haslam, Healthier Tennessee uses a rewards-and-recognition program for participation and achievement including awards from the governor and a certification program for organizations. The designation is granted for one full year with an opportunity to renew on an annual basis.

Northeast State met the program's wellness criteria of encouraging physical activity, offering healthy dining options, providing a tobacco-free environment and helping with tobacco cessation.

The college also encouraged employees to monitor their own health through regular health risk assessments via on campus screenings or check-ups and recognized employees who participated in health and wellness activities.



iNortheast initiative issues iPads to qualified freshmen

For the fall semester 2015, Northeast State issued Tennessee Promise and other new full-time, degree-seeking freshmen who meet established criteria iPad mini 2 devices.

As envisioned, the iNortheast initiative will enhance the Northeast State educational experience, which includes transforming the learning, technological and social environment.

Integration of pilot iPad initiatives at Northeast State in various disciplines as well as other colleges and universities across the nation has shown a variety of positive educational impacts.

In addition to similar gains in student performance and retention, the iNortheast initiative seeks an overall reduction of textbook costs, enhanced technology skills needed for the job market and increased access to student support services.

The Northeast State Foundation approved a one-time investment of about \$340,000 from federal Title III funds to underwrite the project for 2015-16. Expansion of the iPad initiative will continue over the next two to three years until fully integrated.



Northeast State faculty members at a recent iPad training session.



David Haga earns 2015 Harold Love Award

Northeast State's David Haga earned the 2015 Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award. The award is presented by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) to recognize demonstrated success in public service. Five students and five faculty/staff members are honored statewide each year.

Haga, instructor of learning support mathematics, was cited by THEC for his work with the college's Student Needs Project, a program started in 2012 to address non-academic, socioeconomic factors impacting student success and retention.

Those factors include food security, transportation, housing, parenting issues and computer/Internet access. Initiative examples include a mobile food

pantry, emergency gas certificates, and a listing of over 100 Community Resource agencies.

Haga helped raise about \$65,000 to support the project through a combination of private fund-raising through the Northeast State Foundation and through a Tennessee Board of Regents access and diversity grant.



David Haga helps with supplies for the mobile food pantry at Northeast.



Keurig Green Mountain employees graduate from Pellissippi State

In late May, Pellissippi State celebrated its first cohort of students completing an industry-specific workforce development program.

The short-term certificate program was designed for Keurig Green Mountain Inc. employees to prepare them to install, troubleshoot and maintain industrial electrical systems.

Fourteen Keurig Green Mountain employees earned 10 credits toward an Associate of Applied Science degree in Engineering Technology with a concentration in Electrical Engineering. The specialized Keurig certificate is based on Pellissippi State's



Students included Kevin Anderson, Marshall Boyd, Stanley Burgin, Robert Coleman, John Fronczak, Damien Kerr, John LaForge, Tim Mabry, Daniel North, Teddy Phillips, Rodney Reynolds, Josh Sicotte, Stephen Strader and Jeremiah Williams.

Electric Systems Technology certificate. The Pellissippi State program serves as the model for similar partnerships Keurig Green Mountain is launching across the country with other community colleges.



Pellissippi State Community College students Kathryne Farris, left, and Gabriela Sabin, right, spent their summer interning at DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee. Pictured with Farris and Sabin is Josh Brady, DENSO section leader in the machinery and tools division.



Women at Pellissippi State find STEM internships

This summer, Pellissippi State provided three female students a jump-start on their careers with specialized engineering-related internships.

Kathryne Farris and Gabriela Sabin worked with DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee, while Makayla Edwards interned at Pellissippi State in the Engineering Technology labs.

"I would like to think that whatever I do in the future will impact the world in a positive way," Edwards said. "The internship has given me really useful experience."

The students' internship opportunities were funded through the Tennessee Space Grant Consortium, funded by NASA and made up of five Tennessee Board of Regents community colleges. In addition to internship opportunities, the grant also will fund scholarships for 11 students.



Pellissippi State awarded \$50,000 by DENSO

Pellissippi State is working with community partners like DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee to ensure that graduates from its Automated Industrial Systems concentration are prepared to enter the workforce.

DENSO North America Foundation recently awarded the Pellissippi State Foundation a \$50,000 grant to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for AIS students. AIS prepares students to operate automated manufacturing equipment, which is now the industry standard in manufacturing settings.

"No question, partnerships like these are what we're looking for in Drive to 55," said Mike Krause, executive director of the state's Tennessee Promise and Drive to 55 initiatives. "This initiative isn't just about getting students in school but encouraging them to graduate and then join the workforce. That's what it's all about."

Pellissippi State's AIS concentration was launched in 2013.



(L - R) Holly Burkett, dean of PSCC Blount County Campus; Emilie Denson, section leader of Human Resources for DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee; Melissa Smith, program manager of Community Affairs for DENSO North America Foundation; Ted Lewis, PSCC vice president of Academic Affairs; and Teri Brahm, PSCC executive director of Economic and Workforce Development.



Roane State helps student find focus for her career

The introduction to sociology course was a fill-in class for Roane State student Morgan Heatherly. "I loved it," she said. "It opened me up to new ideas."

One idea that took root was to major in sociology at the University of Tennessee, pursue a master's degree in counseling and become a school guidance counselor. Heatherly, a 2009 Campbell County High School graduate, is starting at UT this fall.

"It's like realizing a dream," Heatherly said. "The University of Tennessee has always been my dream school. Roane State helped me along."

"I had that mentality of 'I'm not good enough to do college,'" she said. "After being at Roane State, that went away. I don't have that mental block. I'm glad we have Roane State in this community."



Roane State launches Middle College in Anderson County

Nearly 40 students from Anderson County Schools will have a chance to graduate from high school with a diploma and a two-year associate degree through Roane State's new Middle College at RSCC's Oak Ridge campus.



Nearly 40 Anderson County Schools students are participating in Roane State's Middle College program.

Offered in partnership with Anderson County Schools, this is Roane State's second Middle College program. The first began last fall in Roane County.

"We're very excited to welcome Anderson County students to Middle College, and we greatly appreciate the support and partnership of Anderson County Schools to create this opportunity for students," said Dr. Diane Ward, Roane State vice president for student learning.

For years, high school students have been able to earn some college credit while in high school through Roane State's dual studies courses. Middle College offers students an opportunity to complete 60 hours (four semesters) of college credit, more courses than most students can typically take through dual studies alone.



Roane State selected as Center for Academic Excellence in geospatial sciences

Roane State, working in partnership with Oak Ridge Associated Universities, was selected as a designated Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) in Geospatial Sciences.

The college, which offers one-year and two-year programs in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), was the only community college chosen for the program and joins 17 CAE GS academic institutions nationwide. Organized by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the CAE GS program is a new endeavor designed to cultivate centers of academic excellence in geospatial sciences such as GIS.

"We are honored that our GIS program is recognized among several outstanding universities," said Dr. Diane Ward, Roane State's vice president for student learning.

Oak Ridge Associated Universities Senior Project Manager Desmond Stubbs added, "We are pleased to partner with Roane State to build a regional engine that grows the US Geographic Information Systems technical workforce."



Gov. Haslam makes historic visit to Southwest for TN Promise inaugural kickoff



Gov. Haslam engages Southwest Tennessee Promise students.

Southwest students, faculty and staff, along with public officials, lined the sidewalk and entryway of Southwest's Macon Cove Campus Academic Building on Aug. 25 with thank-you signs to greet Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam as he made his first visit to Southwest during his statewide Tennessee Promise inaugural kickoff tour.

The governor briefly addressed an academic success class and interacted with students about their

career goals and community service, pointing out that Tennessee Promise scholars had performed 180,000 hours of community service.

Capsulizing the significance of Tennessee Promise, Haslam remarked, "This is not about access to college. It's about success. So the goal I've told to students I've gotten the chance to talk with is not just starting school the first day. We were relatively confident you could pull that off. The main goal is to have them walk across the stage two years from now."



Southwest receives SACS re-accreditation

Southwest has received re-accreditation confirmation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees. SACS is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states. The "English as a Second Language" program is included in the scope of that accreditation.

"We were very confident that we would receive full accreditation," stated recently retired Southwest President Nathan Essex. "This accreditation visit was one of the finest that I have experienced since Southwest was created. SACS Team members indicated that this was one of



Southwest's Macon Cove Campus

the easiest reviews based on our thorough preparation and the quality of our programs. They were anxious to carry information gathered from their visit back to their own institutions."



New Whitehaven Center interior rendering



Southwest's new Whitehaven Center underway

Southwest started a \$4.4 million construction project to convert a former Kroger into a new site for its Whitehaven Center.

The supermarket transformation at 1234 Finley should be completed this fall. The former Kroger is a 31-year-old building with 44,000 square feet that can reportedly accommodate up to 1,500 students.

The new location will be more accessible to Whitehaven area residents traveling to the facility. The conventional academic programs for community college students will still be offered.

It will also provide an opportunity for high school students to use it as a vocational and technical learning center; to learn a trade at the same time they earn their high school diplomas.

The new Whitehaven Center will be ready for the start of the spring 2016 semester in January.



Prestigious doctoral fellowship for Vol State graduate

Vol State alumnus Paul Love was recently awarded a Newcombe Fellowship through the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

Love, a University of Michigan doctoral candidate in Near Eastern studies, was one of 22 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellows for 2015. The Newcombe Fellowship is the nation's largest and most prestigious award in the humanities and social sciences addressing questions of ethical and religious values.

"Vol State provided me with both the academic freedom and the support to decide what I really wanted to do. If I had launched myself straight into a four-year program elsewhere, I really doubt I would have had the same amount of success in my academic life or passion for my research that I have today," Love said. "My experience at Vol State not only led me to study what I do now, it helped me realize what I wanted to do with my life."



Love's dissertation focuses on networks of people and books that created the idea of Ibadis, a Muslim minority community. He is shown here on research assignment in Algeria.



Website ranks Vol State Top 50 for online education nationwide

Online education is growing in enrollment nationwide. A new ranking puts Vol State in the top 50 of community colleges in the nation for the best online offerings. Vol State was ranked 36 by the website BestValueSchools.com. Vol State has offered online classes for years. The biggest growth has been in academic programs and degrees offered entirely or mostly online.

Vol State offers online certificates, usually one year programs, in Sleep Diagnostics, Web Applications Development and Fire Science. There is also an associate of applied science degree program in Fire Science. Sleep diagnostics does require clinical work at a site near the student. Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees are taught online in several areas, including economics, history, political science, psychology, elementary education, English, and math and science, among many others. Several of the degrees also connect to universities for four-year degrees through Tennessee Transfer Pathways.



State of Tennessee Administrator of Adult Education Jason Beard; Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development for Tennessee Burns Phillips; Assistant Administrator of Adult Education for Tennessee Glenda Vanderveer; Teacher of the Year for Adult Education in Tennessee June Spears; and Volunteer State Community College Supervisor of Adult Education Dee Johnson.



Vol State educator Teacher of the Year

Macon County adult education teacher June Spears was recently honored as Teacher of the Year in adult education for the state of Tennessee. The award recognizes teachers of high school equivalency classes. Spears received the award at the Academy of Excellence Conference in Chattanooga. Vol State runs the local adult education program for Sumner and Macon counties.

"We are so fortunate to have Mrs. Spears as the adult education teacher in Macon County," said Vol State president, Jerry Faulkner. "She is dedicated to the mission of improving Macon County by increasing the educational attainment of the citizens. She routinely goes above and beyond to help student meet their goal of obtaining a high school equivalency."

"It's a big honor. When they said 'Teacher of the Year' I could not believe it," said Spears.

Adult education took on a personal note recently for Spears when her mother entered the high school equivalency program and graduated last year.



WSCC workforce facility trains over 750 for welding, manufacturing jobs



Walters State's new Workforce Training facility has trained 750 individuals in programs such as welding since officially opening in January 2015.

Since the official opening of the Walters State Workforce Training facility in Greeneville this past January, a total of 750 individuals have received training through either the welding program or the industrial skills assessment and training program. Individuals who have received training work for local companies such as John Deer, Delfasco, American Greetings, Worthington Industries and C&C Millwright.

The Walters State Workforce Training facility, which was partially funded through a \$337,000 state workforce development grant, provides training that leads to welder certification sanctioned by the American Welding Society. Also, through the industrial skills assessment and training program students are prepared for high-demand, skilled manufacturing jobs.

The program provides students with the opportunity to take emergency medical technician courses at the high school.

Students receive both classroom and lab training. Students are also given the opportunity to job shadow shifts on an ambulance. All 28 students who participated last year are enrolled in Walters State and are completing their degrees or earned certificates. For students that have completed the degree or technician certificates, the placement rate is 95 percent.



WSCC Claiborne Campus established through three-way partnership

Through a unique three-way partnership between the Claiborne County Industrial Board, Walters State and the Walters State Foundation, the college's Claiborne County Campus was officially transferred to the Walters State Foundation.

"We are very grateful to the Claiborne County Industrial Board, which purchased this facility in 2008 with plans to convert it to a permanent Walters State Claiborne County Campus," said Dr. Wade B. McCamey, president of Walters State Community College, at a press conference in July.

The Claiborne County Industrial Board also funded some of the needed construction to convert the former high school to a college campus. Now, the Walters State Foundation has reimbursed the board through funds obtained through a low-interest grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The campus has more than 10,000 square feet of usable space with more room available for expansion.



The Walters State Foundation recently purchased the Claiborne County Campus from the Claiborne County Industrial Board, which helped fund some of the renovations to the facility such as the natural science lab.



Connie Earls (standing), director of Retention Services, talks with Walters State Summer Learning Support Academy graduates (L-R) Kelsey Goins of Rogersville; Taylor Hopkins of Morristown; and Kaitlynn Alexander of Talbott.



Summer learning academy held to boost student success

Students from four counties graduated from Walters State's Summer Learning Support Academy held in July. The academy eases the transition from high school to college and offers sessions designed to improve student success in college.

The session meets for three weeks and is in its third year.

"The program helps students make a smooth transition from high school to college. We also have academic sessions that focus on reading, writing and math. Even though the academy is relatively short, concentrating on these three areas both increases the student's skill level and gives them a boost of confidence," said Connie Earls, director of Retention Services at the college.

TnCC focuses on student success as new year begins

As thousands of Tennessee Promise students begin their first semester at college across the state, the doors of higher education have opened a bit wider to high school seniors. Tennessee's Community Colleges are now turning their focus on what happens after classes begin.

"There's no doubt that Tennessee Promise has been a game changer for many students who might not have considered college a possibility before, and that is wonderful," said Warren Nichols, vice chancellor for community colleges at the Tennessee Board of Regents. "But what's even more critical is ensuring these students are successful in their studies and actually complete their degrees in a timely fashion."

To that end, Tennessee's Community Colleges have implemented a number of initiatives to help students navigate college-level courses and reach their educational goals.

Recognizing that many first-time freshmen need learning support, community colleges across the state started working with many students before they reached campus in order to prepare them for college-level courses.

The system took its award-winning SAILS program, or Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support, statewide last year, helping nearly 11,000 high school seniors increase their math competencies. More than 91 percent completed the program, allowing them to avoid any remedial requirements. In addition, more than 500 students attended a summer bridge program, a free three-week on-campus course designed to familiarize students with the campuses and available support services while providing an opportunity

to improve their English and math skills.

"Ensuring students are prepared for college is essential to student success," Nichols said. "Innovative programs like SAILS and the summer bridge demonstrate that our colleges aren't waiting for students to arrive on campus before reaching out to provide support."

In fact, community colleges are becoming more hands-on in a variety of ways. The undeclared major has become a thing of the past, as students are directed to select one of nine areas of study — like business, health professions, education — as they navigate their way through possible majors. Advisors are proactively monitoring students and implementing targeted interventions with at-risk students earlier. Many campuses have assigned students to success coaches to help with time management, study habits and other life skills.

Perhaps one of the biggest shifts, however, is the community college system's approach to remedial education. Students whose ACT scores indicated a need for remedial education will no longer spend their first semester in non-credit-bearing courses, spending time and money on classes that do not apply toward their degree. Instead, the students enroll immediately into the same credit-bearing courses as their peers, while also taking a co-requisite learning support class at the same time. Pilot programs have shown tremendous increases in course completion rates.

"Multiple studies have shown that the longer it takes someone to complete, the less likely they are to reach that degree at all," Nichols said. "By



embedding the learning support these students need in their classes, they start earning college credit immediately. This keeps them on target."

Timeliness also is a factor in other initiatives, such as Tennessee Transfer Pathways. With pathways, students may select one of more than 50 majors and follow a predetermined set of classes, which once completed are guaranteed to transfer seamlessly to any Tennessee public university, as well as many private universities who participate in the program. In addition, students on all campuses are strongly encouraged to take a minimum of 15 credit hours per semester, which puts them on a schedule to complete an associate degree in two years.

Nichols said there was no magic bullet that would guarantee completion, but Tennessee's Community Colleges were committed to supporting student success and would make adjustments as results were analyzed.

"The bottom line is there isn't one solution that will serve every student," Nichols said. "However, with the variety of programs Tennessee's Community Colleges has developed, our hope is that any student who needs that extra support will find it and be successful."



**TENNESSEE'S
COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

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