



COMMUNITY COLLEGE REPORT



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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the 25th edition of the Community College Report, a quarterly letter from Tennessee Board of Regents two-year college presidents. This issue focuses on four themes: *Completion, Partnership, Workforce, and Student Success*. Each theme is identified by a distinctive icon.



COMPLETION



PARTNERSHIP



WORKFORCE



STUDENT SUCCESS

The Community College Report is available also online at www.mscc.edu/ccr.

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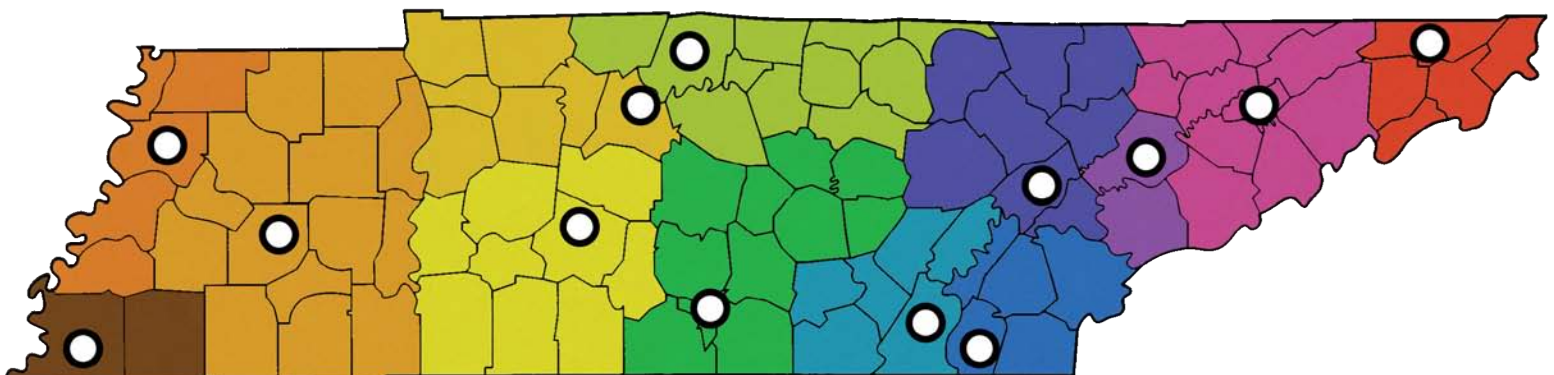
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SkillsUSA Postsecondary National Secretary

Mary Kamuiru, a Chattanooga State Technology Center student, was born and raised in Kenya. Over the past two years, SkillsUSA has become a way of life for Mary: Chattanooga State SkillsUSA President, 2011-2012;



Tennessee SkillsUSA Secretary, 2011-2012; Tennessee State Gold Medalist in "Job Interview" at the SkillsUSA State Competition and elected SkillsUSA National Secretary, 2012-2013

Mary is a remarkable public speaker, outstanding student, and inspiring mentor to fellow students. She will represent Tennessee well in her national leadership role.



Partnership Between ChSCC and WACKER Polysilicon North America

The WACKER institute at Chattanooga State (ChSCC) is a unique partnership between ChSCC and WACKER Polysilicon North America (WPNA). WACKER is building a \$1.8 Billion plant in the area to manufacture hyper-pure Polysilicon for the emerging photovoltaic industry. To operate the plant, WACKER requires a highly prepared workforce. Responding to this need, ChSCC benchmarked training objectives against the WACKER's training affiliate in Germany.

The results--a new degree program was developed in Chemical Engineering Technology with embedded certificates in Process Technology and Advanced Process Technology; and 100% of the program's graduates have been hired by Wacker.



This unique program of 43 semester hours completed in six months focuses on active learning where students apply theory in the real-world setting of the Chattanooga State Pilot Plant, and then reflect on what they have learned in teams.



Seventy-five Students Attend New STEM High School on Campus

Seventy-five ninth graders arrived on the Chattanooga State campus at the new Hamilton County STEM High School. This platform school, which will grow to 300 students by 2015, is an incubator for best practices in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. Students are engaged in problem-based learning in a real-world environment. All students use an iPad and the STEM high school is housed next to the Wacker Institute, soon the engineering technology division, for maximum exposure to technology.

The STEM Hub, a component of the Southeast TN STEM Initiative, marshals regional business, industry, and community resources to support STEM High School instruction through

internships, corporate sponsorships, and regional dissemination of curriculum modules.

"We are pleased to be part of this bold new educational venture that will

provide young people in our community a strong science and technology foundation as well as exposure to college life," said Dr. Jim Catanzaro, Chattanooga State's president.





CSCC Awarded Perkins IV Grant

Cleveland State's Anatomy and Physiology courses may look a bit different this fall thanks to some funding linked to the College's Perkins Grant. In an effort to increase student engagement, CSCC was able to purchase several interactive items for lecture and lab, including new muscular and ligamentous skeletons (shown in picture) in an attempt to integrate these three body systems, wet spirometers to allow students the opportunity to measure their own lung capacities, and new eye models. In an attempt to vary teaching methodologies, these models allow visual-oriented and kinesthetic-oriented students advantages in the classroom while providing a integrative approach to teaching these two systems. System integration, or studying the human body as one system, helps train students to think critically as they assess the overall health of an individual.



Jim Peters, biology instructor, shows CSCC students (L-R) Jessica Baker, Stacy Armstrong, and Brittany Derrick some of the new equipment purchased through the Perkins Grant.



CSCC Student Athletes Recognized with Distinguished Academic All-American Award

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) recently recognized Cleveland State Community College students Colin Sullivan and Casey Griffin with the Distinguished Academic All-American during the 2012-2013 academic year.

To qualify for this achievement, each athlete must complete three full-time semesters and a minimum of 45 semester credit hours of college work, must participate at the varsity level, and must have an accumulated GPA of 3.6 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Sullivan, a member of the CSCC Baseball team from LaVergne, TN, received the NJCAA Award for Superior Academic Achievement. Sullivan has maintained a 3.82 GPA. Griffin, a member of the CSCC Softball Team from Tunnel Hill, GA, received the NJCAA Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement. Griffin has maintained a 3.76 GPA.



Colin Sullivan



Casey Griffin



Cleveland State Wins Nature Hills Nursery's Green America Award

Cleveland State was recently awarded second place in Nature Hills Nursery's Green America Awards for plans to build a book-themed literacy garden at Taylor Elementary School (TES) and offer CSCC students the opportunity to read stories to the elementary students in the garden setting. TES is a rural elementary school in Bradley County, Tennessee, where 78% of students are classified as low income. National studies show a direct correlation between income and literacy.



The Cleveland State/Taylor Elementary School Literacy Garden Team meets to discuss plans for the literacy garden. (back row, L-R) Jennifer Norton, Director, The Greenway Table; Jill Kincaid, TES Library Media Specialist; Stephanie Rountree, TES Instructional Specialist; Sherry Holloway, CSCC Service-Learning Coordinator; and Suzanne Bennett, CSCC Horticulturist. (front row, L-R) Kelly Ormsby, CSCC Associate Professor of English and Developmental Studies, and Debbie Shroyer, TES Classroom Teacher/Literacy Garden Team Chairman.



Columbia State Film Crew Sweeps Regional Awards

Columbia State Community College's Film Crew Technology students swept the award ceremony with three awards for their submission in the Nashville 48-Hour Film Project. Competing against teams from all over the mid-state, the college's team took "Best Silent Film" and "Best Cinematography Overall," and in their division, the team was awarded "Best Film."

The Nashville 48-Hour Film Project gives teams 48 consecutive hours to write, script, cast, shoot and edit a movie. The teams are given random elements which must be incorporated into the finished video.

Columbia State's team competed in the "Silent Movie" category and had to incorporate a character named Fritz or Frieda Sinclair, a gym teacher, a blender and the line, "We need to get going."

"I think one of our best advantages was that our program carefully trains students to work as a team in a professional environment," said Read Ridley, Director of the Film Crew program.

The Award Winning Silent Film can be viewed at the following site:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fNJE1NfPY4&list=UUwt5v0d02cDzQietg5MNC6Q&feature=plcp>



READ AND FILM CREW – Read Ridley and his film crew technology students know they have a winner as they watch the final scene of their silent film. The passion of film-making flows through the veins of the Columbia State film crew director, and his students who are eager to learn the industry before embarking on their professional careers.



We Found Him First...

In the frenzy of spring commencement, Rob Diamond was honored by the faculty of Columbia State as the College's Outstanding Student. Citing his lively sense of curiosity, creativity and passion for learning as well as his devotion to exploratory and empirical applications in math and science, the faculty noticed this bright, funny creative guy.

As a Columbia State student, the Summertown resident found himself with a scholarship to Cal Tech's jet propulsion lab; in Guatemala to perfect his Spanish; published in the 2012 College Perceptions; and in a

Young Writers Workshop at the University of Virginia. And he gave back to the College that had given to him with Community Service, Peer Leadership and roles in PTK.

Columbia State found him first, but Stanford has him now. The Columbia State graduate is California bound, moving into a dorm he will share in graduate housing as he accepts his full scholarship to Stanford this fall. Look for his blog about his California experiences on the Columbia State Twitter feed!



It Takes A Village

Eric Creel was the first of his family to attend college – to even want to attend college. But during his



freshman year, his brother died. Eric's grief was compounded by financial realities as his working-class family struggled to pay medical bills. Eric found himself working full time at a restaurant. Classes took a back seat and grades nosedived into failures.

Eric readily admits he isn't sure what made him want to continue, but over the course of the next 5 years, he worked toward repairing his grades in order to finish a degree.

Last year, Eric found his passion. Ineligible for work study, he volunteered in the Marketing Office thinking he would like to do something to support the athletic program. There he learned to shoot games, draft news, upload scores, create digital signage, create advertising, brochures and flyers, shoot commercials, and upload web content.

He applied for and won the Nashville Predators Journalism Competition this past spring.

Eric graduated in May, returning the following week as a part-time staff member of the Marketing Office until he left for MTSU to start his new job in the Athletic Department's Marketing Office while he completes his 4 year degree.

Congratulations MTSU Athletics!
We've sent you our best!
Sincerely,
Columbia State Marketing
and Public Relations.



Perfect 4.0s

“Josh is the rare type of student who could learn anything he wanted to wrap his mind around,” said Dr. Billy Williams, Biology professor at Dyersburg State Community College.

Josh Caviness of Newbern began his post-secondary education at Dyersburg State. While at DSCC, he served as Student Government Association president. He received five different recognitions at Honors Convocation and was one of three in the DSCC class of 2009 to earn a perfect 4.0 grade point average (GPA).

Caviness' next stop was Vanderbilt University where he completed his Bachelor of Arts in History and graduated in 2011 summa cum laude, again with a perfect 4.0 GPA. This fall, Caviness began his master's work in History at the University of Memphis.



DSCC Offers CPT Certificates

With the closings of Briggs & Stratton, American Ordnance and Goodyear in the past 13 months, over 23,500 area workers now find themselves out of work and needing to update their professional skills. To answer these needs, Dyersburg State Community College will offer courses needed for Certified Production Technician certificates in safety, production processes, maintenance awareness and quality beginning in October. These certificates are nationally-recognized credentials from the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council under the auspices of the National Association of Manufacturers. They form



Nursing Partnership

Since its inception in 1982, the Dyersburg State Community College nursing program has held close ties to the hospital located only two blocks from its campus in Dyersburg. In 2011-12, Dyersburg Regional Medical Center (DMRC) served as the clinical site for 137 nursing students. Presently, over 130 DSCC nursing alumni work at the hospital.

“We are very proud of the relationship we have developed with Dyersburg State Community College. Our clinical

affiliation allows our community to educate and retain quality nursing graduates. This community is very fortunate to have such an accomplished, reputable community college located just around the corner,” said Ben Youree, chief executive officer for DMRC.

In 2009, nursing became DSCC's center of emphasis to help satisfy the shortage of registered nurses in the West Tennessee area. In 2011, 53 nurses completed the program and received their nursing pins DSCC. All 53 passed the National Council Licensure Examination and are working in the nursing field.



Ben Youree, chief executive officer for DMRC, stands with four DSCC nursing graduates. Shown from left to right are members of the DRMC staff: Nichole Dennison, RN; Amber Richard, RN; and Janie Bard, Medical Pediatrics and Medical Surgical Floor nursing director. Shown at the far right is Gina Seratt, DSCC nursing graduate and nursing instructor for the college.

part of the proposed Associate of Applied Science degree in Advanced Manufacturing Technology.

Several area manufacturers are giving preference to job applicants with CPT certificates.

The costs for instruction, textbooks and certification for workers laid off from Briggs & Stratton, American Ordnance (Milan Arsenal), and other industries will be covered by a grant from the Northwest Tennessee Workforce Board and the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.



DSCC Writing Lab Coordinator Jeannette Taylor and CPT Program Director Bob Hoguet greet participants and provide information about the new CPT Program at a job fair held at the DSCC Jimmy Naifeh Center at Tipton County in July.



Jackson State Designated as National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance 2-Year Education by National Security Agency and Homeland Security

Jackson State held a press conference on June 26 to announce that the NSA and the Department of Homeland Security have designated JSCC as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance 2-Year Education. JSCC is one out of 24 community colleges across the nation to be honored with this distinction out of over 1,000 community colleges nationwide. It serves as the only Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance 2-Year Education in the state of Tennessee.

Dr. Tom Pigg, Professor of CIS at JSCC said, "Jackson State is very well prepared. This is not just a CIS distinction, but an institutional honor."

Richard Harlow, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service, Memphis Field



Office, said, "Jackson State was the first academic partner in our Cyber Security Task Force."

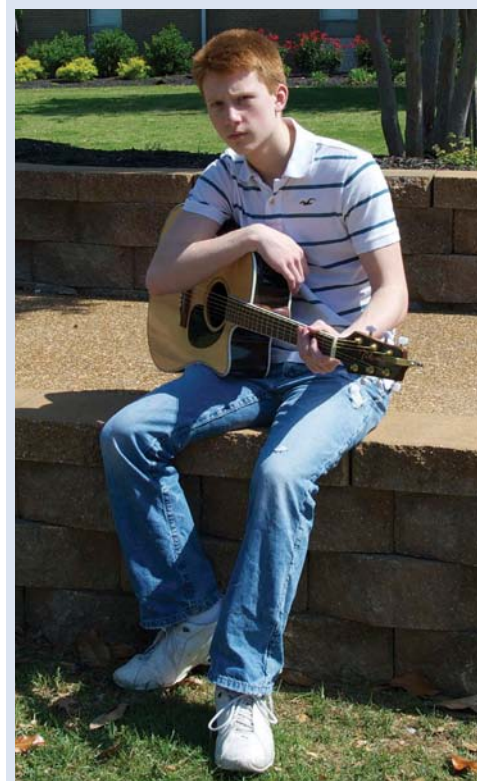
Community college faculty from across the state also attended a Digital Forensics Workshop hosted by JSCC on June 27-29.



Wall Maximizes Time in High School with Dual Enrollment at JSCC

Humboldt native now Milan resident, Luke Wall, is maximizing his time as a dual enrollment student at Jackson State. Wall said while challenging, "It hasn't been overly demanding and I love to write and both classes involve writing." He names English as his favorite class. "I have been writing books, screen plays and songs for as long as I can remember," he explained. Wall can often be found playing guitar in the campus quad.

He is pursuing his high school education via home schooling and getting a jump on college credits. "It has been great! Classes work with my schedule and I can get other work I have to do done between classes here," he said. "I plan to do this again and to knock out as many classes as possible. I would most definitely recommend it to other students."



Jackson State Served as Rally Point for Veteran's Services

Jackson State Community College served as a Rally Point in support of Tennessee veterans on June 5. Rally Point is a free event designed to provide veterans and their families with a one-stop shop to access local resources. Services include VA claim assistance, vocational rehabilitation, education, employment, mental health, housing, business loans and more.



The event was hosted by: the Offices of U.S. Senators Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander; the Offices of U.S. Congressman Stephen Fincher and Marsha Blackburn; Mayor of Madison County, Jimmy Harris; Mayor to the City of Jackson, Jerry Gist; Tennessee Department of Veteran Affairs; and Jackson State Community College.



Motlow College Athletes Take Top Honors in State with Highest Graduation Rate

Athletes at Motlow College work hard in their respective sports, whether it's practicing home run hits on the baseball and softball fields or honing their alley oop skills on the basketball court. Motlow's athletes also are persistent in reaching goals, according to a report from the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association.

For the fourth consecutive year, Motlow graduated a higher percentage of sophomore athletes than any other community college in Tennessee. This year, 32 of Motlow's 39 sophomore athletes (82 percent) graduated, with many earning academic honors. In addition, four were named National Junior College Athletic Association Exemplary Academic Achievement Honorees.



Motlow/Bridgestone Partnership Benefits Industry and Employees

Motlow College Mechatronics classes are under way for the first time this fall at Bridgestone's



Lavergne plant as a result of a partnership formed between the college and industry to provide Bridgestone with more highly qualified workers, and to offer employees the training they need to become more valued members of the workforce.

Students in the Mechatronics Program learn through classroom study and an automated assembly line systems approach that is tailored to today's industrial requirements. Mechatronics is an engineering science that integrates mechanical, electronic, and data processing components. Workers with knowledge of these processes are highly sought after in the automotive, defense, consumer product manufacturing, aerospace, renewable energy, and other industries. Motlow College is one of only 14 schools in the nation that offers the Siemens Mechatronic Systems Certification Program.



Young Students Inspired at Motlow College STEM Camps this Summer

Young students from rural and sometimes disadvantaged schools get the opportunity each summer to attend one of Motlow College's unique STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) camps, where they might build rockets, make coffee creamer blow up, or build heat shields to keep drops of glue from melting.

In addition to completing projects and experiments, STEM campers are given digital cameras and are taught how to download pictures and create PowerPoint presentations. But no matter what they are doing, students "are inspired to have ideas, form hypothesis, create drawings and blueprints and test theories," said Billy Hix, a member of Motlow's faculty and camp instructor.

"Some of the activities in our camp are modeled after the work that I have done with the Space Camp at the US Space and Rocket Center," Hix said. "However, the cost of space camp is prohibitive to many students."





Nashville State Moves Southeast Campus to New Facility

Nashville State officially opened the new location of its Southeast campus with a grand opening ceremony held on Wednesday, August 22. Metro Nashville Davidson County Mayor Karl Dean was joined by several council members, Tennessee state legislators, and area business owners for the campus dedication and ribbon cutting.

Wendy Tucker, Mayor Dean's advisor on education, stated "We are pleased with the partnership we have developed with the college. As the Mayor stated during the ceremony, this new campus in the Southeastern part of Davidson County perfectly complements the city's own investments...An expanded Nashville State also means more students will have opportunities to earn degrees, and increasing the number of college graduates in Nashville is important to me."



LaDonna Yarborough, Campus Director; Wendy S. Tucker, Mayor Dean's Senior Advisor on Education; and Elton Potter, Southeast Student, participate in the grand opening ceremony of the Southeast Campus of Nashville State Community College.

"We are excited to be here because of the location. It is the fastest-growing area of Davidson County," said Director Yarborough. "With science labs, smart classrooms, and video conferencing, the new facility provides a lot of opportunities for faculty and students. We can offer so many more courses at this location."

Students enrolled at the campus share Yarborough's enthusiasm. "I'm excited

to have Nashville State on this side of town," said Elton Potter, an NSCC Southeast student. "People that might not have thought about college until now will go here."

The new campus is located at 5248 Hickory Hollow Parkway in the former Dillard's building. The 220,000 square foot facility will also house the Simon Youth Academy, which is affiliated with Metro Nashville Public Schools.



Clarksville student Abeba Dickens, Director Steve Conklin, Senator Tim Barnes, and Montgomery County Mayor Carolyn Bowers cut ribbon to officially open the Clarksville campus of Nashville State Community College.



Nashville State Opens Clarksville Campus

On Thursday, August 16, 2012, the grand opening ceremony was held for the new Clarksville campus of Nashville State Community College. This event launched the Fall 2012 semester for the campus, located at 1760 Wilma Rudolph Blvd. The ceremony included a campus dedication, ribbon cutting, and campus tours.

"With Nashville State Community College having a presence here, we now have three Board of Regents schools represented here in Montgomery County, and that's an outstanding thing," said Tennessee Senator Tim Barnes in his remarks at the dedication. "These institutions are not in competition with each other. These institutions compliment each other, and that is a great benefit to the people that live and work in Montgomery county and surrounding counties."

"The two plus two partnership of having people that can get certain training here at Nashville State, and then move on to Austin Peay to complete their entire baccalaureate degree is wonderful," said Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillian. "We are going to open the doors to more educational opportunities for all of our citizens right here in Clarksville."



RCAM EXCEEDS GOALS... - A student and instructor work on a project at the Regional Center for Advanced Manufacturing.



Shane Roberts Makes Parts in America

If you don't think anything's still made in America, drop in on RMI in Blountville and ask for Shane Roberts. Shane, a former Northeast State student, owns a machining/manufacturing



business with a reputation for innovative CAD design and quality parts. RMI's list of clients includes Eastman Chemical Co., End Point Industries, and Google. Yes, Google. Last year RMI became an official Google vendor when hired to work on a research and development project. The specifics are proprietary, but RMI initially developed one prototype and then produced seven of the mechanical systems. Shane said RMI then redesigned the system and has 17 more in production.



RCAM Exceeds Goals for Course Sections

Through a recent Community-Based Job Training grant focused on retooling incumbent workers, Northeast State's Regional Center for Advanced Manufacturing offered 103 credit course sections for 26 different technical courses – about 150 percent of targeted goals. In addition, there were also 164 credit course sections for 23 different on-line/lab process operations courses and another 44 credit course sections

for 19 different on-line/lab maintenance courses. That is a grand total of 311 course sections for 68 different credit technology courses – about 400 percent of the stated goals. In addition, 353 of the 1,025 student participants in the grant program, representing 20 different area industries, benefited from the use of scholarship funds. These expenditures totaled \$441,883.



ONLINE CHEMICAL PROCESS... - Northeast State, Eastman Chemical, and the Department of Economic and Community Development have collaborated to develop 10 online chemical process operations courses.



Online Chemical Process Operation Curriculum Ready for Launch

A state-of-the-art online chemical process operations curriculum has been developed at the Regional Center for Advanced Manufacturing. With the availability and assistance of a vast supply of subject matter resources through Eastman Chemical Company and the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP), this curriculum provides 10 courses in chemical process operations. Some topics covered include materials handling, process equipment, distillation, instrumentation, and troubleshooting. With the increased demand for flexible content delivery, and the complexities of running a modern chemical process, the new chemical process operations curriculum is meeting the needs of the 21st century workforce. The work was funded through a \$15 million grant from the Department of Economic and Community Development in a partnership with Eastman, Northeast State, and ECD in response to Eastman's Project Reinvest. The curriculum will be launched in the fall 2012.



Dual Enrollment Student Accepted to West Point Military Academy

Matthew Waldrep, a home-school student in the Dual Enrollment Program at Pellissippi State, has been accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. To be considered for admission to West Point, candidates must meet certain academic, medical and physical requirements and must receive a nomination from an approved source. U.S. Rep. John Duncan nominated Waldrep.

The 18-year-old was enrolled in Pellissippi State's dual enrollment classes for the past two academic years, taking courses that gave him a good foundation in math and science. He earned 42 college credit hours with a 3.96 GPA.



Pellissippi State and AMTEC Boost Workforce Development in Tennessee

Pellissippi State rolled out an innovative workforce development program in August, the result of its participation in the Automotive Manufacturing Technical Education Collaborative (AMTEC).

AMTEC, which was formed in 2004, comprises 21 industry partners and 23 community colleges. AMTEC was awarded a \$5.5 million National Science Foundation grant in 2009 to improve the competitiveness of the U.S.-based automotive manufacturing sector and the automotive supply chain.

The general maintenance mechatronics curriculum covers 14 courses and 59 modules. Flexible and responsive to the needs of workers and East Tennessee companies, courses can be taken online while hands-on skills are developed at Pellissippi State's engineering technology labs.

The College's Business and Community Services and the College's Mechanical Engineering Technology faculty contributed to the AMTEC study. MET faculty developed about 10 percent of the curriculum. The curriculum articulates as 45 credit hours and workers may earn national certification.



Pellissippi State and Cherokee Millwright collaborate on apprenticeship program

Pellissippi State's Business and Community Services partnered with Cherokee Millwright and Mechanical to develop a new four-year apprenticeship program for the East Tennessee-based company.

Pellissippi State instructors teach Cherokee apprentices of all levels four nights a week at the College's Blount County Campus. Classes began in January at the campus' state-of-the-art Manufacturing Tech Lab.

BCS offers its services to area employers who need workforce training designed specifically for their needs. BCS provides affordable, short-term continuing education to individuals for professional and personal growth.

Pellissippi State's customized training for local industry meets an important need in post-secondary education, as Gov. Bill Haslam looks to make higher education

more effective in Tennessee and meet the demand for more skilled, educated workers.





RCSI 'Lab-in-a-Box' Pilot Program Boosts Student Interest in Science and Math

Seven East Tennessee school systems utilized Lab-in-a-Box kits provided by the Rural Communities STEM Initiative (RCSI), an Oak Ridge business and education partnership to improve science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills of K-12 students. Roane State is heavily involved in this effort.

Because of limited resources, teachers often do not have enough lab materials for students to conduct experiments individually or in small groups. The Lab-in-a-Box kits include ample supplies, enabling teachers to offer hands-on

learning experiences. The program was piloted in the 2011-12 academic year. An evaluation by Roane State found that:

- 70.9 percent of students responded that the labs increased their interest in science or math
- 91.5 percent of students reported that they liked doing the labs
- 85 percent of students achieved a high level (80 percent or greater) of competence in the state standards addressed with each Lab-in-a-Box.

For more information, visit www.ruralstem.org.



Tracy Such, a science teacher at Lenoir City Middle School, and her seventh-grade life and earth science class were happy to receive Lab-in-a-Box kits provided by the Rural Communities STEM Initiative.



TALS - Legal Professionals of Tennessee Awards Scholarship to Roane State Student

Roane State paralegal studies student MacKenzie King of Huntsville received a \$500 scholarship from TALS-Legal Professionals of Tennessee. TALS offers one scholarship per year, and applicants are solicited from 13 Tennessee colleges that offer an accredited legal studies program. A panel of one attorney, one legal administrator and one educator selects the winner. King is the first Roane State student to receive the scholarship.

"It's a huge honor," King said. "It means a lot because I worked really hard to get it."



Students Graduate from Roane State's AMTEC Program

Roane State's Advanced Materials Training and Education Center (AMTEC) program celebrated its third graduation as 34 students completed the job-training program. Based at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, AMTEC is the college's no-cost, high-tech training program for those who are unemployed or underemployed.

The program takes approximately 14 weeks to complete. Courses include OSHA safety certification, computer skills, basic lean manufacturing, basic machining and measuring, basic plumbing and basic computer-aided drafting and design (CADD). AMTEC participants also receive specialized instruction in composites and solar energy technologies. The training program is valued at \$4,000-\$5,000, and the program prepares trainees to work for a variety of companies and in a wide range of entry-level jobs.

The AMTEC program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor/ETA/OGCM.



AMTEC graduates include (front row from left), James Snodderly of Crossville, Michael Evans of Rockwood and Cheryl Stierwalt of Philadelphia; middle row, from left, Hannah Gann of Harriman and Tina Summers of Rockwood; back row, from left, Kelly Riley of Harriman, Jerry Randall of Rockwood and Eric Morgan of Knoxville.



Southwest Student Selected to Visit NASA and Plan Mars Exploration



Erin Mullinax was selected to attend a NASA Center last May to participate in a prestigious three-day on-site event. The recently-graduated engineering major was chosen as one of 92 community and junior college students across the nation to be part of the National Community College Aerospace Scholars program. Students completed four web-based assignments during the school year, maintaining an 88 average to qualify for the experience. Students interacted with NASA engineers and astronauts in learning more about careers in science and engineering. They formed teams and established fictional

companies interested in Mars exploration. Each company was responsible for developing a prototype rover and designing a line drawing of the rover.



Southwest Has Designed and Delivered an Effective Solution to the Industrial Skills Shortage in Memphis

Southwest Tennessee Community College has collaborated with Scientific Management Techniques (SMT), local manufacturers, and the Tennessee Career Center to deliver customized industrial skills training designed to solve the industrial skills shortage affecting local industry. "The industrial skills training program is performing beyond our expectations," stated John Churchill, director of Corporate Training and Continuing Education at Southwest. "Our eighth class was in training earlier this summer

and local industry eagerly anticipated their availability for employment. The hands-on training curriculum developed by SMT is an important component of our training program. With the extensive use of hands-on training aids and interactive exercises, we train to the specific skill sets required for students to become productive members of the manufacturing team day one. Our graduates are driving productivity for local manufacturers and the feedback from these employers in the Memphis area has been remarkable."



Industrial Readiness Training program session at Southwest



Memphis Grizzlies – Southwest Poetry Slam Contest: A Solid Partnership

Southwest Tennessee Community College was the presenting sponsor of the Memphis Grizzlies Poetry Slam contest, where 27 high school students from across the Mid-South presented their spoken word lyrics in front of a panel of five judges and an audience filled with supporters just before the first of the year. Tachele Anderson was the first place winner, representing White Station High School of Memphis. The Memphis Grizzlies awarded her with a trip to New York City. In addition, most importantly, Southwest gave Tachele Anderson a full scholarship to the College with a \$100 per semester book stipend. Her poem was simply called "I Believe in Myself" – but with a twist. Anderson said, "It's not just simply saying that you believe in yourself, you have to put some effort into it." She said that getting a scholarship to Southwest is "great, especially since money is a key issue for college." The Grizzlies of the NBA will again partner with Southwest in 2012 for this annual community service event.



Tachele Anderson, first place winner in the 2011 Poetry Slam Contest.



Vol State Part of National Undergrad Research Grant

Your drinking water comes from all sorts of sources, including hundreds of small streams and creeks. The water quality of those streams is important for determining the overall health of the water system. Students at Volunteer State Community College are contributing to the study of that water quality as part of a new research program at the college called REV. It stands for Research Experiences at Vol State. Hundreds of students from nine different classes this fall will be taking samples, charting measurements and compiling the

information in a database. That database will help environmental engineers determine area water quality. The Vol State program is one piece of a nationwide grant program funded by the National Science Foundation. The college is one of 26 community colleges in the nation to participate in the Community College Undergraduate Research Initiative. The classes cover a wide variety of science fields including biology, microbiology, chemistry, environmental science and geology.



Vol State students (left to right) Amber Behles, Elizabeth Goldtrap and Dillon Pauley analyze a water sample.



Vol State Launches New Medical Informatics Program

Medical Informatics is a hot job field that combines information technology (IT) and health care. Health care providers use increasingly complex computerized records. The Nashville Health Care Council and the Nashville IT Council joined together with Vol State to look for ways to train new workers. A new Medical Informatics Associate of Applied

Science Degree Program starts this fall. It's designed to provide students with the training they need to quickly get into the health care workplace. "There is a need and demand in the community for this skill set," said Valerie Bowling, Vol State director of Health Information Technology. "The move to electronic health records increased the



Student Receives Statewide Service Award

Jean Bildad Michel of White House has been awarded the Harold M. Love Community Service Award by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Michel received his VISA to study in the United States on the morning of Tuesday, January 12, 2010. Just a few hours later his country of Haiti was hit by a devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake. Friends and classmates perished in the quake. His sister was severely injured. He stayed at her side for days waiting for medical help. Michel did manage to make it to the United States to attend school at Volunteer State Community College. Michel took action and enlisted help from friends, supporters and students in Tennessee. He worked with First Baptist Church of White House and other donors across the country to build a school in Haiti.

"I went back to Haiti after being in the United States for a while and I couldn't even sleep," said Michel. "There was so much that needed to be done."



Jean Bildad Michel with the people who operate the Haitian school and his American sponsor (left to right) Patrick Jean, Jean Bildad Michel, Kimberley Reed-Bracey, Charles Ricardo and Edith Joseph.

need for health care professionals with an information technology background." The Vol State program will be the only community college program of its type in Middle Tennessee.



WSCC/Oak Ridge Partnership Provides Opportunities for WSCC Students

Walters State Community College and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory announced a collaboration on Aug. 30. The agreement provides Walters State students the opportunity to participate in joint research and enables the two institutions to submit joint grant applications. The college's Division of Natural Science facilitated the agreement. The partnership gives each institution very distinct benefits. ORNL officials will advise college administrators on workforce training needs as new technology is developed. Walters State will be able to provide unique opportunities for students and build awareness of the opportunities available in science, engineering and technology.



WSCC Nursing Grad to Complete BSN from ETSU through Dual Admissions Program

Meredith Cromer graduated in December, 2011, from Walters State's Nursing Program. Just two semesters later – this December – she'll graduate with a BSN from East Tennessee State University. She was able to do this through a dual admissions program between the two schools while raising two children. Still in a pilot stage, the program is already a major success if measured by student interest and student success. Students add a few more hours and clinical sections apply to both programs. Through ETSU online courses and courses taught at the Walters State campus, many never have to leave their community to earn two valuable nursing certifications. As for Meredith, she's on her way to earning her third – a master's in nursing from the University of Tennessee.



Job Loss Leads to Nursing Career

Throughout the recession, Walters State has served many nontraditional students who found themselves mid-career with no career. Many, like Thomas Talley, walked into work one day only to learn he had no job. With a family to support and a couple of decades until retirement, Talley talked to Walters State faculty members and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) career specialists. He decided he wasn't going to be a victim of the recession.

He enrolled in Walters State's nursing program and quickly became a leader among his classmates. Talley graduated near the top of his class and passed the licensure exam on the first try. His education and funds for his living expenses were paid with a combination of sources, but much of the funding came through WIA. Talley is now a nurse at Ft. Sanders Hospital – Jefferson City.





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