

SACAD 2025 Annual Membership Luncheon Scheduled

The SACAD board of directors is pleased to announce information regarding its annual membership luncheon. The event will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2025 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Omni Nashville Hotel in Legend Ballroom D in Nashville, Tennessee. The session is entitled: "From Hype to Hire: How Mississippi is Building a Smart AI Workforce." The presentation is described as follows: As artificial intelligence (AI) rapidly transforms the workforce, community colleges and universities must move from adaptation to leadership. This session highlights how Mississippi is taking a statewide approach through the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN), the nation's first statewide AI initiative.



Dr. Kollin Napier

The speaker for the luncheon is Dr. Kollin Napier, Director of the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN), the nation's first statewide AI initiative and a model for how Mississippi is leading in technology innovation. Based at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. (MGCCC), he drives efforts to expand AI literacy, workforce development, and economic opportunity across the state. Through MAIN, he has forged partnerships with global tech leaders such as NVIDIA, Amazon Web Services, and Intel while delivering

free, cutting-edge AI training to Mississippi's students, educators, and workforce. Named 2024 Mississippian of the Year, Dr. Napier is recognized as a driving force in positioning Mississippi at the forefront of AI education and economic growth. Dr. Napier received the AACC Award of Excellence in the Spring of 2025 as a Rising Star-Manager.

Dr. Napier holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Mississippi State University, where his research focused on artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and software engineering. He has contributed to peer-reviewed journals and conferences and holds a master's and bachelor's degree from MSU, along with an Associate of Applied Science in Information Systems Technology from Jones College.

Before assuming his current role with MGCCC, Dr. Napier worked as a software applications developer and later as a software architect for the MSU Extension Service. With a

unique blend of academic expertise and industry experience, he is a driving force behind advancing computer science education, applied research, and workforce innovation in Mississippi. Through MAIN, Dr. Napier is shaping a technology-driven future—empowering communities across the state and fostering a national dialogue on the transformative potential of AI.

The session is designed for presidents, vice presidents, deans, department heads, and directors in two-year degree granting institutions.

The Silver Level Sponsor for the SACAD luncheon is EdAmerica, a company that delivers innovative, high-touch, NIST-compliant solutions that span the student life cycle. Representatives from EdAmerica will be participating in the luncheon meeting.

The SACAD luncheon cost is \$40 and interested parties may register and pay by check or by credit card through PayPal. Please make checks payable to SACAD for \$40 and send to:

SACAD
P. O. Box 942
Verona, VA 24482

The deadline for registering and paying for the luncheon is December 1, 2025.

For more information, please contact Dr. George D. Edwards, SACAD Executive Secretary-Treasurer at gdedwards930@gmail.com or by phone at (606) 424-8867.

CURRENT MEMBERS RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

The SACAD Board invites current members to renew their 2025-2026 membership with SACAD. Institutional membership dues are \$150.00. Dues may be paid by check or credit card.

Please contact Dr. George D. Edwards, Executive Secretary-Treasurer at gdedwards930@gmail.com, 606-424-8867, or see the SACAD website at www.sacad.org for more information.

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR SACAD

The SACAD board is pleased to announce that Raegina Scott will serve as the executive secretary treasurer beginning in January 2026.

Before retiring from higher education in 2022, Raegina served in numerous positions with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System including Grant Accounting Specialist, Executive Assistant to the President, Administrative Coordinator and retired as Director of Advancement at Madisonville Community College.



Ms. Raegina Scott

Prior to coming to KCTCS in 2012, Raegina spent 17 years in technical education with Kentucky Tech as well as 5 years in the banking industry. She is a graduate of Madisonville Community College, earned a B.S. in Business from Murray State University and completed the College Business Management Institute offered by University of Kentucky. Raegina and her husband Mark live in rural western Kentucky and enjoy their 4 grown children and 14 grandchildren.

EDAMERICA LEAD SPONSOR

Edamerica is singularly focused on advancing student success. They have a long-standing reputation for exceptional quality support services in higher education with solutions that are founded on their expertise in federal financial aid programs, enrollment support and student counseling.

The products and services offered by Edamerica were developed based on feedback gathered during college administrator focus groups and span the full lifecycle of the student – from the point of application through student loan repayment.

Today over 200 colleges and universities partner with Edamerica to improve the student customer experience, drive completion rates, enhance operational efficiencies and prevent student loan default.



SACAD LUNCHEON AGENDA

Omni Nashville Hotel
Legend Ballroom D
Nashville, Tennessee

December 7, 2025 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

PRESIDING

Dr. Cynthia S. Kelley

President, Madisonville Community College, KY

WELCOME

Dr. Cynthia S. Kelley

INVOCATION

Dr. Patricia Lee

President, Williamsburg Technical College, SC

BUSINESS SESSION

Financial Report

Dr. George D. Edwards

SACAD Executive-Secretary Treasurer

Recognition of Sponsors

Dr. George D. Edwards

Recognition of Board Members and Officers

Dr. Cynthia S. Kelley

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Dr. Brent Gregory

President, East Central Community College MS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Dr. Kollin Napier

Director of the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network

"From Hype to Hire: How Mississippi is Building a Smart AI Workforce"

DOOR PRIZES

Dr. James David Campbell

President, Northeast Alabama Community College, AL

ALABAMA

Dr. Kathy Murphy Named WCCD President



Dr. Kathy Murphy

Recently, the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Board of Trustees approved Chancellor Jimmy H. Baker's recommendation to appoint current Gadsden State Community College president Dr. Kathy Murphy as President of Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD).

"We've made a decision that I believe will be proven to be a very good decision because we had an applicant that

we already know what they can and will do," said Baker. "Dr. Murphy's heart, energy, and will to do a good job are second to none."

Dr. Murphy's move to WCCD will end a 4-year stint as President at Gadsden State, a role she accepted in January 2021.

"It has been my honor to serve as President at Gadsden State and I will miss our wonderful college, our exceptional faculty and staff, and, of course, our amazing students," said Dr. Murphy. "During the past four years, we have experienced so many successes and there is so much more to come, and I cannot wait to hear about Gadsden State's progress and future successes."

Dr. Murphy will become WCCD's first permanent president since the retirement of longtime leader Dr. Linda Young, who concluded her 36-year tenure at the college last year.

Before her time at Gadsden, Dr. Murphy served as Superintendent of Hoover City Schools and has an educational background that spans 30-plus years. Prior to her service in Hoover City Schools, she was Superintendent of Monroe County Schools. She served as a principal at Charles Henderson and Greenville high schools and Greenville Middle School, and as a professor at the University of West Georgia and Judson College.

Dr. Murphy obtained both a Doctor of Education in Physical Education (with an Emphasis in Program Administration and Curriculum Development) and a Master of Education in Physical Education from Auburn University, and both a Master of Education in Educational Leadership and an Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Auburn University Montgomery. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Education from Troy University.

During her tenure at Gadsden, Dr. Murphy was recognized as Troy University's 2024 Alumni of the Year.

Dr. Murphy's appointment became effective June 1, 2025.

Reid State Technical College earns SACSCOC accreditation

Reid State Technical College has earned full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), an institutional accreditor for quality assurance in higher education.

"Making life better for residents of Alabama means that our colleges' leaders, faculty and staff do what it takes to ensure that every opportunity that can be available, will be available for those who trust us with their education, and I couldn't be more proud of Dr. Coretta Boykin and Reid State for doing the work to make this accreditation happen," said Jimmy H. Baker, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System.

Reid State began the accreditation process in 2021 and was officially approved by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees to move toward full accreditation in 2024. The multi-year process ensured all of Reid State's technical programs were aligned not only with workforce, but also with the academic requirements of Alabama's public four-year universities and community colleges and other SACSCOC-accredited institutions across the country, resulting in opportunities for students to more seamlessly transfer and earn associate-level degrees at the college.

"SACSCOC accreditation is a game-changer for our students and our region in that it eliminates the age-old question of whether academic courses at a technical college will actually transfer," said Dr. Coretta Boykin, President of Reid State. "Accreditation shows that we are serious about providing quality education and helping students succeed, and this step is just one of many being taken to ensure our students have the same opportunities to continue their education beyond Reid State at any college they choose."

Alan Smith appointed president of Gadsden State Community College

The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Board of Trustees approved Chancellor Jimmy H. Baker's recommendation to appoint Alan Smith as permanent President of Gadsden State Community College.



Mr. Alan Smith

Smith has served as Gadsden State's interim president since June 1, succeeding Dr. Kathy Murphy, who is now the president at Wallace Community College in Dothan.

"My connection to this college spans more than 35 years when I began my education journey and has shaped who I am today. This is an incredible honor that I embrace with great enthusiasm," said Smith.

A former Gadsden State student, Smith earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business and Economics and a Master of Science in Education from Auburn University. Smith also earned a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Alabama.

Smith joined Gadsden State as an adjunct instructor in 2017. He was appointed as Dean of Workforce Development in 2019, a position he held until being named the school's Vice President of Capital Projects, Community Relations, and Workforce Development in December 2024.

Smith's professional career began as an agriscience teacher at Hokes Bluff High School where he taught for 11 years. He's taught at the Marshall County Technical School and worked as the building construction instructor and coordinator of the Alabama Simulated Workplace at the Etowah County Career Technical Center. Outside of his career in education, Smith operated his own construction and cabinet making companies.

Smith's appointment became effective August 1, 2025.

FLORIDA

New President at North Florida College



Dr. Jennifer Humbles Page

Recently, the North Florida College Board of Trustees confirmed October 1st as the official start of Dr. Jennifer Humbles Page's presidency. An investiture for Dr. Page will be held November 18, 2025.

The journey of Dr. Page is woven into the story of NFC and the region it serves. From her days as a young student on campus to her steady rise through the College's leadership ranks, Page has dedicated her life to education, community, and

the transformative power of opportunity. Now, she will carry that commitment forward as NFC's ninth president.

Page's appointment follows the leadership of Dr. John Grosskopf, who announced earlier this year that he would step down in December due to health concerns after serving 17 years as NFC's eighth president. Grosskopf will continue at NFC as a faculty member in the English Department, ensuring his experience and dedication to student success remain part of the College's future.

"For more than a decade, Dr. Grosskopf has guided NFC through historic growth and transformation," said NFC Board of Trustees Chair Ricky Lyons. "Dr. Page's vision and deep ties to our community make her the ideal leader to carry that legacy forward."

For Page, stepping into this role is more than a career milestone, it's a chance to deepen her service to the College and community that have defined her journey.

"North Florida College gave me my start, and it changed the course of my life," Page said. "As president, my vision is to expand opportunity, strengthen programs, and ensure that every student who walks onto our campus leaves empowered to create the future they deserve."

GEORGIA

New Articulation Agreement Signed

Governor Brian Kemp recently announced that the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) and the University System of Georgia (USG) signed an articulation agreement to help nursing students seamlessly advance their education and careers, the first of its kind following the passage of HB 192, the Top State for Talent Act. The agreement allows graduates of TCSG's associate degree in nursing programs to transfer directly into participating USG institutions to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), establishing a true 2+2 transfer model between the two systems.

"Georgia's success as the No. 1 state for business depends on a strong pipeline of talent, especially in critical fields like healthcare," said Governor Brian Kemp. "This agreement between TCSG and USG is a perfect example of how our state is working together to expand opportunities for students, strengthen our workforce, and ensure that every Georgian has the opportunity to succeed."

Governor Kemp has made aligning the state's workforce pipeline with the needs of employers a top priority. The Top State for Talent Initiative, including the state's first unified high-demand career list, seeks to bring private and public sector leaders together to help Georgians pursue the opportunities available to them statewide.

This partnership between TCSG and USC supports the initiative by developing and retaining a highly skilled healthcare workforce. Under the agreement, students who graduate from a TCSG college with an Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) will be eligible for admission into BSN programs at participating USG institutions. This streamlined transition offers students a cost-effective and accessible option to continue their education without interruption or loss of credit.

New President of Chattahoochee Technical College

The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) is pleased to announce the appointment of Heather Pence as the new President of Chattahoochee Technical College. The decision by TCSG Commissioner Greg Dozier to name Pence as President was announced at the May 2025 State

Board Meeting of the Technical College System of Georgia in Atlanta.

Pence brings more than 20 years of experience within TCSG, most recently serving as Interim President and Executive Vice President for Operations at Chattahoochee Tech. In her previous leadership roles, she supported the college's financial, human resources, technology, and administrative divisions, helping drive growth and operational excellence across the institution.



Ms. Heather Pence

"Heather is a proven leader who understands the vital role Chattahoochee Tech plays in creating opportunity for students and supporting Georgia's workforce," said TCSG Commissioner Greg Dozier. "Her dedication to technical education and her deep connection to the college and its mission make her the ideal choice to lead Chattahoochee Tech into its next chapter."

Pence began her career in state government at the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts, where she audited multiple technical colleges and saw firsthand the transformative impact of technical education. That experience led her to join Appalachian Technical College—now Chattahoochee Tech—where she has built her career and legacy.

Pence holds a Master of Business Administration from Reinhardt University and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of North Georgia.

New President of Augusta Technical College



Dr. Kendrick D. Hooker

The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) recently announced that Dr. Kendrick D. Hooker has been named president of Augusta Technical College. The recommendation to appoint Dr. Hooker by TCSG Commissioner Greg Dozier was approved by the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia today in Atlanta.

"Dr. Hooker is an accomplished leader with a proven record of advancing student outcomes and building strong academic programs," said TCSG Commissioner Greg Dozier. "His deep commitment to education, workforce development, and community partnerships makes him the ideal person to lead Augusta Technical College into its next chapter."

Dr. Hooker brings more than two decades of higher education leadership and teaching experience to Augusta Technical College. Since 2023, he has served as provost of Cabarrus College of Health Sciences in North Caroli-

na, where he has led academic strategy and institutional initiatives to support student success.

Prior to his tenure at Cabarrus College, Dr. Hooker served as vice president of Academic Affairs at Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis, Tennessee. He also held leadership roles at Madison Area Technical College in Madison, Wisconsin, including dean of the School of Health Education and associate dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

In addition to his administrative leadership, Dr. Hooker spent 13 years as a professor of biology at Baptist Health Sciences University, where he was recognized for his dedication to teaching and mentoring students pursuing careers in healthcare and science.

KENTUCKY

KCTCS welcomes 70,325 students for fall term, a 6.4% increase

As of the first week of classes, 70,325 students have enrolled at the 16 colleges of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, including students hailing from all 120 Kentucky counties. The enrollment is a 6.4% increase, totaling 4,211 more students compared to the same time last year. With multiple start dates still ahead, officials project total enrollment will surpass 85,000 before the semester ends.

Fourteen KCTCS colleges posted enrollment gains, and nine of those colleges exceeded 5% gains. Jefferson led with a 12.3% increase, followed by Southcentral (9.2%), Somerset (9.1%), Hopkinsville (7.9%), Ashland (7.6%), Madisonville (7.1%), Gateway (6.4%), Bluegrass (5.7%) and Southeast (5.7%).

"This strong enrollment growth reflects the growing confidence Kentuckians have in our colleges as the most affordable and accessible pathway to a better future and a great career," said KCTCS President Ryan Quarles. "Whether students are earning a credential, training for a career, or getting a head start with dual credit in high school, we are committed to helping them succeed and strengthening Kentucky's workforce."

Fourteen colleges also increased full-time equivalent (FTE) headcount, resulting in a 5.9% systemwide gain. Two colleges topped 10% increases — Southcentral (11.0%) and Gateway (10.9%).

Surging enrollment growth comes as Kentucky and the nation face a continuing workforce shortage. KCTCS plays a critical role in addressing that gap, offering more than 100 programs aligned with state workforce needs in healthcare, manufacturing, information technology, and other high-demand fields.

Brand named president at Big Sandy Community and Technical College



Samuel Todd Brand,
Ph.D.

Kentucky Community and Technical College System President Ryan Quarles announced that Samuel Todd Brand, Ph.D., who has served as interim president of Big Sandy Community and Technical College for the past year, has been named the college's new president effective Aug. 1.

During his interim leadership, the college increased the number of graduates and added two new programs - an EKG certificate and a dual credit practical nursing program to meet critical workforce needs. The college also revamped its strategic plan and the onboarding program for new employees.

"Dr. Brand has proven to be an exceptional leader for Big Sandy Community and Technical College over the past year," said Quarles. "His commitment to student success and career-focused programming has strengthened the college's impact in the region. We are excited to see him continue building on that momentum as president."

Brand has more than 20 years of experience with community colleges. He previously served as chief academic officer at Ashland Community and Technical College. Earlier, he held several leadership positions at Meridian Community College in Mississippi.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the students, faculty and staff, and the communities of Big Sandy CTC," Brand said. "This college plays a vital role in transforming lives and supporting the regional workforce, and I look forward to working alongside our dedicated team to expand that impact."

Brand earned his doctorate in Community College Leadership from Mississippi State University and holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in communications from Mississippi College.

LOUISIANA

Nunez Community College Sees Historic Enrollment Increases with Fall Semester

Fall 2025 enrollment numbers point to a historic semester for Nunez Community College in Chalmette.

On the heels of its largest graduating class in college history in Spring 2025, Nunez welcomed its largest freshman class since 2018 this semester. The historic number is helped by an equally impressive 31% increase in first-time freshmen over Fall 2024.

Overall, enrollment among traditional students is up significantly at Nunez, which saw its total headcount increase by 13% over 2024. More importantly, students are maximizing their time at Nunez by enrolling in more classes per semester, leading to a 14% increase in student credit hours. The total figures climb even higher when factoring in 1,200 Dual Enrollment students earning college credit through Nunez while still in high school, accounting for an additional 2,800 credit hours this fall.

"The most significant thing about our enrollment increase is that these percentages are not just numbers, they are people. The numbers reflect individuals that are enrolling in our programs that will change the quality of their lives," said Dr. Tina Tinney, Nunez Chancellor. "During a time of declining enrollment in higher education, Nunez is experiencing quite the opposite as a result of delivering impactful programs that lead directly to high-wage, high-demand jobs."

Louisiana Community College System Leader to Retire

The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System President announced he is retiring early next year after over a decade at the post.



Mr. Monty Sullivan

Monty Sullivan was appointed to the position in 2014 after previously serving as chancellor of Delgado Community College in New Orleans for two years and working in various administrative positions at multiple colleges and universities for more than 30 years.

"While this marks my retirement from LCTCS and working in Louisiana, my work in advancing opportunities through education will continue," Sullivan said in a news release announcing his retirement. "The mission that has guided my career does not end here. I look forward to the next chapter."

LCTCS Board Chairman Tim Hardy praised Sullivan's leadership in a news release.

"He led with vision, belief and compassion," Hardy said. "He put students first. Under his guidance, LCTCS has become a national model for how community and technical colleges can power economic growth and individual opportunity."

During Sullivan's tenure, the system nearly doubled its number of graduates. Sullivan has played a key role in advocating for higher education and workforce development policy at the State Capitol, including championing the creation of the M.J. Foster Promise Program, a scholarship program for adult learners pursuing professional credentials.

Sullivan also drew national recognition and advocated for workforce education at the U.S. Capitol. Earlier this year, members of Congress expanded the Pell Grant program to

help low-income students pay for workforce credentials.

The system has not yet announced a timeline for selecting Sullivan's replacement.

MISSISSIPPI

ICC Recognized Nationally by Aspen Institute as a Top U.S. Community College

The Aspen Institute has named Itawamba Community College as one of the 200 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's premier recognition of high achievement and performance among two-year colleges. The 200 colleges were selected based on their student outcomes data, including retention, completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment rates. Started in 2010, this is the ninth cycle of the Aspen Prize.

ICC is one of only four Mississippi community colleges selected this year, and the smallest of the four, to be named as eligible to compete for this prestigious recognition.

"Being named among the top 200 community colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute is both an honor and a testament to the dedication of our faculty, staff and students," said Dr. Jay Allen, president of Itawamba Community College. "This recognition affirms the excellence of our work and affords us the opportunity to compete for the Aspen Prize, one of the highest distinctions in higher education. It's a reflection of who we are at ICC: a community committed to student success and continuous improvement."

ICC was selected as a top community college in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2025 and as a top 25 semifinalist in 2023.

Together, these 200 colleges represent the breadth and diversity of the community college sector. They are located in urban, rural and suburban areas across the country and serve anywhere from a few hundred students to tens of thousands. Some of these colleges focus primarily on workforce programs, while others focus on transfer and bachelor's attainment or a combination of the two.

"The Aspen Prize rewards colleges that achieve the kind of outcomes that actually matter to students—completing college degree programs that, in turn, lead to lifelong success," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "Aspen Prize winners offer a powerful message: Community colleges can deliver the kind of life-changing education that makes the American Dream real."

NORTH CAROLINA

State's Apprenticeship Program Achieves Record Growth, Faces Uncertain Funding Future

The State Board of the North Carolina Community College System approved the 2024–2025 ApprenticeshipNC Annual Report at its September 19 meeting, highlighting the program's vital role within the state's broader workforce development network.

Operated through the North Carolina Community College System, ApprenticeshipNC connects education and industry through hands-on training and Registered Apprenticeships that strengthen North Carolina's talent pipeline. The report celebrates record growth in apprenticeship participation while cautioning that continued momentum is at risk due to expiring federal grant funds.

ApprenticeshipNC leads the expansion of Registered Apprenticeship across the state. Covering the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, the report reaffirms that apprenticeship remains the gold standard in work-based learning—delivering unmatched value to workers, employers, and taxpayers alike.

"The ApprenticeshipNC program serves as a vital cornerstone for our state's economy, bridging the gap between education and employment. It has experienced remarkable growth, fueled by the understanding that a skilled, adaptable, and efficient workforce isn't just a goal—it's the competitive advantage of North Carolina," said John Loyack, Vice President of Economic Development at the System.

The report highlights powerful returns on investment across the board:

- For individuals: Graduates of Registered Apprenticeship Programs earn about \$10,000 more per year than non-completers—a lifetime wage premium of roughly \$400,000.
- For employers: Companies see average returns ranging from 47% to more than 100%, with many retaining 90% of completers five years later.
- For the public: Registered Apprenticeships generate the highest ROI of any workforce or education intervention.

The report also cautions that much of this success has been fueled by federal U.S. Department of Labor grants. Current funding—covering 65% of ApprenticeshipNC operations—expires in June 2026. Without new investment, the program could lose 18 technical experts as well as its marketing and communications capacity, crippling its ability to expand.

NC Community College System to embark on search for new leadership

The North Carolina Community College System will soon



embark on a search for its fifth new president in roughly six years. Current president, Dr. Jeff Cox, announced plans to retire from the position at the end of the fiscal year in June 2026.

Cox became the 11th president of the 58-campus system in June 2023, having served as the president of Wilkes Community College for nine years.

In announcing his departure, Cox called the presidency the greatest honor of his career.

“As a first-generation college student from rural Alleghany County, I could never have imagined that one day I would lead the state’s community college system. Our colleges play a pivotal role in changing the lives of 600,000+ students every year,” Cox said in a prepared statement.

Cox is credited with overseeing the early implementation of Propel NC, a new model for funding North Carolina’s community colleges that prioritizes connecting students to high-demand, high-wage jobs.

The system also credits Cox with strengthening partnerships with K-12 schools and universities to help drive a statewide enrollment recovery. Enrollment at public two-year colleges jumped 8.3% this Spring compared to a year earlier.

Over the past year, Cox had Hurricane Helene recovery added to his plate. The storm impacted nearly 74,000 students and more than 6,000 faculty and staff. State Board of Community Colleges Chair Tom Looney acknowledged Cox’s steady hand and long-term impact.

“Dr. Cox stepped up at a critical moment and brought much-needed stability and experience to the system, serving with heart,” Looney said.

Cox plans to depart in 10 months, hoping that his early notice provides the State Board with adequate time to conduct a comprehensive search to find the next system president.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Wilbanks is new Central Carolina Technical College President

The Central Carolina Technical College Area Commission has selected Jennifer Wilbanks as the college’s new president.

A veteran of higher education with more than 22 years of experience, Wilbanks previously served as executive vice president for academics and workforce de-



Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks

velopment at Horry-Georgetown Technical College, based in Conway. She began her tenure at CCTC in mid-October.

“I am honored to be selected as the next president of Central Carolina Technical College,” Wilbanks said. “This is an exciting time for the college, and I look forward to working alongside our faculty, staff, students and community partners to build on the college’s strong foundation and advance its mission of serving our region.”

Before joining Horry-Georgetown, Wilbanks held multiple leadership positions at Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, including assistant vice president for academics, dean of county campuses, interim dean for engineering and industrial technology, director of dual enrollment, instructor, outreach counselor and career transition specialist, the release added.

A South Carolina native, Wilbanks earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of South Carolina, a master’s degree in education with an emphasis in counseling and a doctorate in educational leadership, higher education, from Clemson University.

Wilbanks is also a graduate of the Future Presidents Institute through the American Association of Community Colleges and the South Carolina Technical College System Leadership Academy.

TENNESSEE

Student enrollment is up this fall at Tennessee’s community and technical colleges

Student enrollment is up 4 percent over fall 2024 at Tennessee’s community colleges and 6 percent at the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCATs), based on preliminary fall 2025 enrollment numbers presented to the Tennessee Board of Regents during its quarterly meeting Thursday and Friday.

Enrollment at the state’s 13 community colleges totaled 79,522 two weeks into the fall 2025 semester – the largest since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. There are increases across three major categories: enrollment of adults 25 and older is up 6 percent over fall 2024, first-time freshmen up 5 percent, and dual enrollment by high school students is up 3 percent. Detailed enrollment numbers for the TCATs, which started their fall trimester later, will be presented when they are completed.

Staff also reported that the number of awards – degrees, certificates and other credentials – conferred to community college students completing for-credit programs also increased by 6 percent during academic year 2024-25 over the previous year. A total of 14,860 awards were conferred during the year.

New President at Walters State Community College

Recently, the Tennessee Board of Regents appointed Dr. Saul Reyes as the next president of Walters State Community College. He assumed office as the college's fifth president effective Sept. 8.



Dr. Saul Reyes

Dr. Reyes previously served as vice president for enrollment management and student affairs at the College of Central Florida in Ocala, where he has held senior leadership roles since January 2015. He has more than 35 years of professional experience in higher education, including service as an instructor, counselor, advisor, and in several leadership positions.

The board's vote was unanimous for his appointment, following his recommendation for the presidency by TBR Chancellor Flora W. Tydings. "Dr. Reyes is an accomplished leader with the experience and skills necessary to build upon Walters State's strong foundation and to guide the college toward an even more successful future," she said.

Dr. Reyes earned an Ed.D. in higher education leadership at the University of South Florida, a master of arts in counseling at West Virginia University, and a bachelor of science in youth ministries and biblical studies at Gordon College. He began his career in 1986 as an assistant chaplain, career advisor and adjunct instructor at Bethany College in West Virginia. He has also served at the University of Connecticut, Centre College in Kentucky, Jacksonville University in Florida, Florida Southern College, the University of South Florida, and Polk State College in Florida prior to joining the College of Central Florida as vice president for student affairs in 2015. His complete resume is available on the WSCC presidential search webpage at <https://www.tbr.edu/hr/executivesearches/president-walters-state-community-college>.

TEXAS

Dr. Kevin Rose named NTCC's sixth president at May board meeting

Dr. Kevin Rose was officially named the sixth President of Northeast Texas Community College at the May board of trustees meeting. He will transition from his current role as Senior Vice President for Student Success beginning June 1st.



Dr. Kevin Rose

"I am honored to pass the office of President to Dr. Rose and am confident that he will do a wonderful job furthering the college's mission of empowering our student's success and expanding educational opportunities for our community," Dr. Ron Clinton, current NTCC President, said. Clinton will remain on campus for the remaining few weeks in an advisory capacity to assist Rose with the transition.

Dr. Helen Castellanos Brewer Named Ninth President of College of the Mainland

The College of the Mainland (COM) Board of Trustees unanimously voted at its recent regular board meeting to confirm Dr. Helen Castellanos Brewer as the ninth president of the College, following the conclusion of a mandatory 21-day waiting period. Dr. Brewer officially assumed the presidency on July 1, 2025.



Dr. Helen Castellanos Brewer

This announcement follows a national presidential search conducted in partnership with the Association of Community College Trustees. The comprehensive process began in late 2024 and included public forums and campus engagement with three finalists selected from a pool of highly qualified candidates.

Dr. Brewer previously served as Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at COM, bringing more than 20 years of higher education experience to the role. Under the tenure of President Warren Nichols, Dr. Brewer played a pivotal role in the College's recent transformation, overseeing initiatives such as the launch of the 8-week course schedule, the development of a new Quality Enhancement Plan and the expansion of workforce and allied health programs.

"We are proud to welcome Dr. Brewer as the next president of College of the Mainland," said Don Gartman, chair of the COM Board of Trustees. "She has earned the respect of our campus and community through her vision, strategic focus and unwavering commitment to student success. We are confident she will build on the incredible momentum COM has achieved under Dr. Nichols' leadership."

Previously, she served as vice president for Student Services at COM, during which she helped lead a 31 percent enrollment increase since 2021. A nationally respected voice in higher education, Dr. Brewer is an Aspen Institute Rising Presidential Fellow and is recognized for fostering student-centered environments and advancing institutional growth through strategic innovation.

Dr. Brewer holds a Ph.D. in Education Leadership, Management and Policy from Seton Hall University, a Master of Arts in Counseling from Trinity Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Dr. Staci Pollan Martin Named Interim President Effective Nov. 1

The Kilgore College Board of Trustees voted recently to appoint Dr. Staci Pollan Martin as interim president of the college, effective Nov. 1.

Martin, who previously served as KC's vice president of organizational effectiveness and excellence, stepped into the interim role following the transition of Dr. Brenda Kays, who has been named president emeritus in recognition of her service to the college. Kays will continue to work for the college to assist with the transition until her retirement on Feb. 28, 2026.

"Being selected as interim president of Kilgore College is the highest honor of my career," Martin said. "I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for placing their faith in me to serve KC in this role and will do my best to be a good steward of this great institution while it is in my care."

Martin has served KC since 2001 in a variety of leadership positions, including vice president of student life and college affairs, vice president of student services, vice president of institutional planning, and registrar and director of admissions. She has been a member of the college's executive leadership team for more than a decade.

She holds a Doctor of Education in higher education from Texas Tech University, where her research focused on dual credit in Texas community colleges. She also earned a Master of Science in interdisciplinary studies from Texas A&M University–Texarkana and a Bachelor of Science in interdisciplinary studies from Texas A&M University–College Station. During her tenure at KC, Martin has led multiple campus-wide initiatives focused on student success, institutional effectiveness, and innovation. She served as the college's liaison to both the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and has represented KC at state and national conferences.

Before joining KC, she worked at Texas State Technical College–Marshall in student recruiting and marketing, and began her career as a public school math teacher in East Texas.



Dr. Staci Pollan Martin

VIRGINIA

Dr. Clinton Hayes selected for president at Southwest Virginia Community College

Dr. Clinton R. Hayes has been selected to become the fourth permanent president of Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC). His service as president at Southwest Virginia began on July 1.



Dr. Clinton Hayes

"We're excited to welcome Dr. Hayes to lead Southwest Virginia Community College, and we know he will continue to provide the kind of dynamic leadership that has made SWCC such a cultural center and economic driver in its region," said Chancellor Doré. "We also want to express our deepest thanks to Dr. Victoria Sue Ratliff, who has provided leadership at Southwest Virginia as Interim President since last January."

Dr. Hayes previously served as Provost/Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs at Somerset Community College in Somerset, Kentucky, a post he had held since February 2019. Dr. Hayes has been affiliated with Somerset Community College since 2007 and has served as Interim Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Associate Provost/Chief Learning Officer, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs/Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, and Director of Institutional Effectiveness & Research (Concurrent with Associate Dean of Academic Affairs). Dr. Hayes' teaching experience includes Instructor, Biological Sciences and Instructional Specialist, Biological Sciences, both at Somerset. In addition, he was Adjunct Instructor and Graduate Assistant at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky.

Dr. Hayes earned an Electronic Technician Diploma at Tennessee Technology Center, an associate degree in Science at Somerset Community College, bachelor's and master's Degrees at Eastern Kentucky University, and a Doctorate in Education at University of the Cumberlands.

"I am deeply honored to be named the next president of Southwest Virginia Community College," said Dr. Hayes. "As a first-generation college student from a rural community whose life was shaped by the education and support I received at a community college, I understand firsthand the transformative power of institutions like Southwest Virginia. I look forward to working alongside faculty, staff, and community partners to build on the college's remarkable legacy and invest in the future of our region by helping more students succeed in ways that transform their lives, support their families, and strengthen the communities they call home."

Dr. Laura Treanor selected for president at Virginia Western Community College

Dr. Laura Treanor was selected to become the fifth president of Virginia Western Community College (VWCC). Her service as president at Virginia Western began on July 1.



Dr. Laura Treanor

“Succeeding Dr. Robert Sandel, who has led Virginia Western for more than two decades of transformative service, Dr. Treanor will have a hard act to follow,” said Dr. Doré, “but I am confident that she will build on VWCC’S outstanding history of serving its communities and its diverse student populations and I’m excited she has accepted the post. Our months-long search attracted exceptional candidates and we are grateful to all of the talented educators who expressed interest in the Virginia Western presidency.”

Dr. Treanor previously served as Provost, Senior Vice President for Instructional Services, and Dean of Faculty at Vincennes University Vincennes, Indiana, a post she held since 2018. Previously, at Baker College in Flint, MI, Dr. Treanor served in the roles of System Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, Vice President for Academics, Vice President and for Academics/Chief Academic Officer, and Dean of General Education. She has faculty experience as Associate Professor at Roanoke College, Assistant Professor at West Virginia University and Associate Professor at Barton College. Dr. Treanor earned her bachelor’s degree at Virginia Tech, a master’s degree at The Ohio State University, and a Doctor of Education Degree at Virginia Tech.

Dr. Cornelius Johnson selected as president at Danville Community College



Dr. Cornelius Johnson

Dr. Cornelius Johnson was selected to become the eighth permanent president of Danville Community College (DCC). His service as president at Danville began on July 1.

“We know that Dr. Johnson will definitely hit the ground running,” said Dr. Doré. “He has been serving as Interim President at Danville since last December and has been on DCC’s core leadership team since 2021. I know that students, faculty and staff at the college and the entire

Danville community will benefit from Dr. Johnson’s knowledge, leadership and vision for DCC’s continued growth and service.”

Dr. Johnson has served as Interim President at Danville Community College since December 1, 2024. Prior to

that, Dr. Johnson held the role of VP of Academic Affairs and Student Services for DCC between 2021 to 2025. With more than 27 years in higher education, Dr. Johnson’s leadership resume includes service as Dean of Student Success at El Centro College in Dallas Texas, Interim Dean of Student Development at Lone Star College Tomball in Houston, Texas, Program Manager at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston Texas, and faculty service at Indiana State University, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Houston-Downtown, and the University of Houston.

Dr. Johnson earned an associate degree at Seattle Central Community College, a bachelor’s degree at the University of Washington, a master’s Degree at Indiana State University, and a Doctor of Education Degree at University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. He also completed the Future Presidents Institute at the American Association of Community Colleges.

Dr. Daryl Minus selected as president at Eastern Shore Community College

Dr. Daryl Minus was selected to become the sixth permanent president at Eastern Shore Community College (ESCC). His service as president at Eastern Shore began on July 1.



Dr. Daryl Minus

“I’m pleased that a candidate of Dr. Minus’ experience and distinction will succeed Dr. Jim Shaeffer, who has led Eastern Shore Community College through six transformative years,” said Dr. Doré. “I’m confident Dr. Minus will build on the vital service that ESCC provides for its students and community.”

Dr. Minus previously served as Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Success at Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC) in Albemarle, Virginia, a post he had held since August 2020. Dr. Minus has twenty years experience as an administrator and executive in Virginia, North Carolina, and California’s community college systems. His experience includes Education Assistance Branch Manager/Education Services Officer (ESO), U.S. Marine Corps Community Services in Jacksonville, NC; Vice President, Student Services and Enrollment Management, Cape Fear Community College; Vice President and Executive Vice President for Learning and Student Success/Chief Academic Officer, Craven Community College; Dean of Student Services, Tidewater Community College; Dean of Counseling, Chabot College; and Dean, Learning Support Services, Bakersfield College. Dr. Minus also was an adjunct faculty member at Craven Community College and the University of Maryland.

Dr. Minus earned a B.A. at Hampton University, a master’s degree at New York University, and a Doctor of Education degree at University of Phoenix.



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