



Andalusia Campus



MacArthur Campus



Greenville Campus



Luverne Center

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Alumni & Friends NEWS is a semiannual publication of LBW Community College
P.O. Drawer 1418
Andalusia, AL 36420



Martha and Solon Dixon Center for the Performing Arts

Forestry building renovations



Just in time for the beginning of fall semester, LBWCC celebrated the reopening of the Forest Technology Building on the Andalusia Campus after major renovations. Updates include a new state-of-the-art cartography lab, multimedia classroom, storage, office, breakroom areas, and a new cedar-appointed front porch. The renovations were made possible, in part, by a grant from the Solon and Martha Dixon Foundation (SMDF). LBWCC's two-year forest technology program is the only one of its kind in Alabama. Pictured, in front from left, LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel, Forest Technology Instructor Mark Hains, SMDF President Doris Tyler and Director Phillip Jones, joined by Covington County Commission Chairman Greg White and several members of the community, forest industry, *Discovering Alabama* film crew, high school representatives, and LBWCC faculty and staff.

Physical science now offered online

LBWCC rolled out its first physical science course completely online, including laboratory requirements.

"This is yet another course completely online and available students no matter where they live, and it is one of several online core curriculum classes available toward an Associate Degree," said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel. "Our goal is to reach 100 percent online availability of all core curriculum courses, which we



hope to achieve in the near future."

LeAnn Judah, LBWCC division chair for mathematics and science, said the online physical science course was in development for a year.

"This physical science course is comparable to a

traditional course. The laboratories are developed specifically for online access so students can complete them at home without coming to campus, as

they would in a traditional or hybrid course," she said.

This course was first offered in an eight-week fall session and provides students with an introduction to the basic principles of geology,

oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy, she added.

"It is an earth science class, beginning with rocks and minerals and goes all the way to the solar system, atmosphere, weather and climate, and how our earth was formed."

The second physical science course in the sequence is currently in development for online access, aiming for completion by spring 2020, she said.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LBW has a great story to tell. Our students tell their individual success stories and are our best ambassadors. Would you be willing to tell your story? If so, please call or email me and I will put you in touch with our highly-talented public relations department. Your story can serve to inspire others who could benefit by enrolling in one of our programs.

Community support of LBW has never been stronger and this is seen in many ways — not least through the success of our two Foundations: The Lurleen B. Wallace Community College (LBWCC) Foundation and the Douglas MacArthur State



Dr. Herbert H.J. Riedel
LBWCC President

Technical College (DMSTC) Foundation, which have both more than doubled their net asset value within the past ten

years.

We are continuing to be innovative and are about to roll out new workforce programs through our Division of Workforce and Adult Education. These include Dental Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Veterinary Assistant, and Clinical Medical Assistant programs.

There are additional major initiatives for workforce and economic development under way in Luverne, Greenville, and Andalusia.

We are also devoted to our university transfer mission and are working closely with Alabama's public universities and four-year colleges through

the state-wide Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC), which was established by the legislature in 1993 and ensures seamless transfer of courses and the general education core curriculum. I have the honor of chairing this important committee this year. I am excited about LBW's future and traveling this exciting path together with our community partners.

You have every right to be proud of your College and I thank you for your continuing support and friendship.

May you and your family have a safe, peaceful, and spiritually edifying holiday season, and a Happy New Year!

Pridgen, 14, adjusting to college classroom

At the age of 14, Morgan Pridgen is exploring a new setting in education as he adjusts to a classroom of college students at Lurleen B. Wallace Community College in Andalusia during his second semester.

Son of Michael and Rachel Pridgen of Opp, Morgan's first experience in a classroom setting is LBWCC's chemistry course.

"Home schooling was always in the back of our head as an option when he was diagnosed with autism," said Rachel. "He had therapists in a lot of different places and it just fit better to teach him at home. Being able to challenge him academically while working on social skills in therapy was the best option."

Morgan's first spoken words came as he brought a book to his parents and started reading to them, she said.

"We've always been open with Morgan about autism, explaining that his brain is wired



differently and some things would be easy for him and some things would be harder. He's advanced in math and struggled with a speech class. It's hard for him to talk about himself."

Rachel said a family rule is when a child completes high school geometry, he can start taking the ACT, a standardized test used for college admissions. The ACT tests knowledge and skills in English, math, reading, science and writing with the highest possible overall score of 36.

Morgan took the ACT at

LBWCC at the age of 13 and scored 29.

"We knew he could get into most colleges with that score, so he enrolled in an online microcomputer application class with LBW. We wanted to make sure he could handle the pacing, scheduling, and contact with professors. He passed the class with an 'A.'"

He then took three LBWCC classes and one at Troy University over the summer and made 'A's' in those classes, she said.

"This fall, we said there's no reason not to do all classes at college."

He's currently enrolled in 16 credit hours, half the classes at LBWCC and half at Troy University. As a dual enrollment student, he is earning college credits and high school credits at the same time.

Morgan said his interest is in computer programming, with Python his favorite programming language so far. He also uses C++, Java, and Java Script,

he said.

While most people review computer code line by line, processing each line as they progress to the end, Morgan scans it, said Rachel.

On his laptop computer, he is currently building a game, he said.

"His interest in computers will probably lead to a career in cyber security, virtual reality, or artificial intelligence," said Rachel.

Morgan continues developing social skills while at LBWCC. Although the chemistry class is the first time he's interacted with other students in a classroom setting, he is obviously making an impact with them. While sitting in the student center between classes, a classmate approaches for confirmation of quiz and exam dates, then asks for a study time with Morgan.

Current projections are for Morgan to complete a high school credential and earn an Associate in Science degree in December 2019, then graduate with a Bachelor's Degree at the age of 16.

OER saves cost of textbooks for students

LBW Community College students are experiencing financial savings as more courses are converted from typical textbook usage to open education resources (OER).

“A few years ago, our mathematics faculty successfully redesigned several basic math courses using OER material, saving students more than \$300,000 on average each year they would have paid for required textbooks and computer codes,” said LBWCC President Herb Riedel.

“Now, as we convert more and more courses in academic transfer and technical training, the cost sav-

ings will continue to climb.”

OER is a national trend for two-year and four-year institutions of higher education, he said.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office reported in 2013 that textbook prices rose 82 percent between 2002 and 2012, at three times the rate of inflation.

“For at least the last 15 years, more and more materials in a number of subject areas have become available online. By using freely accessible, openly-licensed material, students are saving a lot of money.”



Haley White of Red Level and Treyvon McClain of Georgiana discuss how LBW is saving the cost of some textbooks through the use of open educational resources.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you!

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**2018
Year-End
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Address _____

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I wish to remain anonymous. (Your name will not appear in this publication.)

Yes, I/we would like to make a gift to help the college and students. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____ made payable to (please mark the appropriate box below):

- Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Foundation
- Douglas MacArthur State Technical College Foundation

Cut on the dotted line above and send this form with your gift to: LBWCC Foundation Specialist, P.O. Drawer 1418, Andalusia, AL 36420

State's first CNG engine repair training at LBWCC

LBWCC's diesel and heavy equipment mechanics program is the only two-year college program in Alabama currently offering instruction on repair of compressed natural gas (CNG) engines to meet the evolving needs of the trucking industry, according to officials.

"In June, UPS (United Parcel Service) announced it is ordering 730 CNG vehicles and building five additional domestic CNG fueling stations," said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel. "We are currently the only college in Alabama prepared to meet the changing needs of the industry by training students to maintain and repair these types of engines."

According to the announcement by UPS, the company and its rivals face pressure from regulators in major cities around the world to lessen the environmental impact of fleets.

"As more and more delivery and transportation fleets transition to alternative CNG engines, LBWCC's program graduates will be qualified to fill industry employment needs for maintenance and repair. This is a great example of how LBWCC's technical program training stays current with the needs of industry," said Riedel.

LBWCC expanded the program on the MacArthur Campus in Opp to a two-year Associate in Applied Science Degree program.

Area businesses and organizations helped with the additional training requirements.

A grant from the National Science Foundation provided means for natural gas curriculum development and professional development of instructors to teach the new courses.

In addition, a Workforce Grant awarded by Alabama Community College System provided funds to purchase two natural gas engine trainers and two late model diesel engine trainers along with specialty tools and supplies for the natural gas engine lab.

Davis recognized for summer incentive grant

LBW Community College's Dr. Arlene Davis is the 2018 recipient of the Innovation Champion Award.

This employee recognition program provides an opportunity to showcase innovations employees have successfully designed and implemented which positively impact the College.

The award recognizes Davis, associate dean for institutional advancement, for her role in the development of a summer incentive grant that benefited 40 students and resulted in a 44 percent increase in LBWCC's enrollment from the previous year, the highest summer increase in the state's two-year

system.

By way of this recognition, Davis is also named as the

College's choice for the national John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award established by the League for Innovation to recognize faculty, staff, and administration for excellence in leadership and innovation in higher education.

She will be recognized at the League for Innovation's conference in New York City in February.

Selection for the award was based on the criteria of quality, efficiency, cost effectiveness, creativity, timeliness, learning, and collaboration.



Dr. Arlene Davis

2018 Chancellor Award recipients



LBWCC employees recognized as 2018 Chancellor Award winners are, from left, Outstanding Support Staff Darlene Hogg; Outstanding Technical Faculty Mark Hains, Outstanding Academic Faculty Maria Thigpen; and Outstanding Administrator Wendy Johnson.