

Celebrating 'Golden Year' in 2015

When the calendar turns to 2015, Lurleen B. Wallace Community College will begin its 50th year of providing higher education.

"We are excited about this milestone anniversary and hope to see many alumni visit our campuses during the course of the year," said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel.

LBW's history is rich with student successes of alumni achieving careers in a wide variety of fields.

"In the course of 50 years, thousands have received credentials in academic transfer programs and career technical training," said Riedel. "We also continue to provide basic adult education to help individuals achieve a GED."

In 1965, a technical training college opened in Opp, Ala., named after one of the most decorated military generals in history: Douglas MacArthur.

"The Douglas MacArthur State Technical College proved to be an outstanding training facility and helped many people on their paths to technical careers," said Riedel.

Four years later, the Lurleen B. Wallace State Junior College, named

after Alabama's first and only female governor, opened in Andalusia to provide Associate Degrees and academic transfer programs.

The Alabama Board of Education in 2003 required the consolidation of the two institutions to create today's Lurleen B. Wallace Community College.

The College now has locations in Andalusia, Opp, Greenville, and Luverne and serves a five-county area.

"The LBWCC Foundation plans a large celebration in recognition of the 50th anniversary – a "Golden Gala" – to be held April 16, 2015" said Riedel. (See story below.) "Please consider attending the fun-filled event and participate in the 'alumni corner' in the community center to catch up with classmates and talk with faculty and staff."

Also be sure to visit the Andalusia campus and see the

**LURLEEN B. WALLACE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



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newly-installed Lurleen B. Wallace Museum, second floor of the library building.

"We want to hear about your memories of the time you spent here. Be sure to drop us a note or email us about your experiences."

To submit your memories, mail to "Alumni Program, LBWCC, P.O. Drawer 1418, Andalusia, AL 36420" or email to rlemaire@lbwcc.edu.



Andalusia Campus



MacArthur Campus



Greenville Campus



Luverne Center

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Martha and Solon Dixon Center for the Performing Arts

Join the 'Golden Gala' fun April 16

The **Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Foundation**

will host the "Golden Gala" celebration recognizing the College's 50th anniversary and you are invited to participate.

"We hope to have a large showing of alumni at this event," said SalLee Sasser-Williams, Foundation events chair and incoming president.

"It is designed to be a fun evening with dinner and dancing, with a silent

Tickets:

Early bird \$50
(through Feb. 28)

Regular price \$60
(March 1-April 1)

Call **334.881.2293** for more information or to purchase by credit card.

auction and an alumni corner," she said.

Entertainment by the Hotwire Band is sure to be a crowd-pleaser since it is composed of former members of the legendary Tip Tops and continues the tradition of a great live band.

Hotwire has multiple vocalists, a "kickin' rhythm section," and the awesome "Hotwire

Horns" combining for a packed dance floor all evening!

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Hotwire Band

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LBW's efforts are paying off. Contrary to national and state trends, LBW was able to achieve an enrollment increase this fall semester. The most recent national data show that community college enrollments decreased by approximately 3 percent per year in fall of 2012 and fall of 2013 over the respective preceding year. In the Alabama Community College System, preliminary data show that total student credit hours dropped 9.0 percent this fall compared to last year. During the same period, LBW's credit hours increased by 3.5 percent. This reverses a multi-year trend, which saw annual decreases from record high enrollments in 2010.

This success is due entirely to the hard work and focused efforts of our superb team of professionals here at LBW. We decided to direct our energy towards enrollment growth and adopted a number of measures that made this possible. A thorough review process led to a radical change in the way LBW awards institutional scholarships. These scholarships come in the form of tuition and fee waivers. We increased the total budgeted amount

of institutional scholarships to \$1,014,370.

Instead of awarding scholarships for specific numbers of credit hours (e.g., 12 hours per semester or 15 hours per semester), we now tell recipients their award is for a specific dollar amount, e.g., \$3,000 for an Ambassador scholarship or \$3,500 for an Honors Program scholarship. This highlights the actual value of this award to the student. A student who is on a Pell grant (as are approximately 70 percent of our students) and is awarded an institutional scholarship will receive a correspondingly higher refund of the Pell grant that is not used for tuition, fees, and books.

This is money our students can use for living expenses and goes directly into our local economy. We also added new categories of scholarships, such as the Leadership Scholarship, which provides \$1,000 to students and reflects the value we



Dr. Herbert H.J. Riedel
LBWCC President

place on leadership skills in the preparation of our students. In addition, we directed a portion of the scholarships to specific financial needs in career/ technical certificate programs. Other recent enrollment growth strategies included a tuition payment plan, textbook rental program, campus enhancements, student housing, web-based marketing, and retention measures.

With state funding continuing to be far below historical levels, there is a renewed effort at the state level to seek private-public partnerships to provide needed resources for quality educational programs. Examples of such support are privately funded scholarships or investments in the educational infrastructure of the College. Our two College Foundations exist to support the mission and activities of LBW and to provide a margin of excellence not achievable with institutional funds alone.

LBW continues to provide an unsurpassed return on investment for the communities it serves, in terms of personal growth, quality of life, and a workforce ready for the needs of today's most advanced industries.

'Gala' continued from page 1 --

The night's agenda includes a social hour/alumni corner starting at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dancing begins at 7:30 until 10:00 p.m.

Meanwhile, a silent auction runs from 5:30-9:00 p.m., with the winning bids announced at 9:15 p.m.

Tickets are available on Jan. 5, 2015, until Feb. 28 for the early-bird price of \$50. On March 1 until April 1, tickets are \$60 each. Purchases can be made with check, cash, or with credit card through the Foundation's PayPal account.

"In addition, adult beverages are available for a \$25 armband fee," said Sasser-Williams.

The fundraising goal is \$50,000 to honor each of LBWCC's five decades of higher education.

"These funds are used by the Foundation for scholarships and other programs to support LBWCC. Even if you cannot attend the event, we encourage you to help us meet our fundraising goal for this once-in-a-lifetime celebration. If LBW or MacArthur Tech made a difference in your life or your family member, please consider a generous donation."

For more information or ticket orders, call 334.881.2293. Credit cards accepted through a PayPal account with the LBWCC Foundation!

Student success story is inspiring

Betty Mullins realized her dream of a college education at the age of 70, receiving an Associate in Applied Science Degree in child development in May.

"I always wanted to go to college but never knew how to obtain finances and we never had money," she said.

Her story is like many of her generation. One of 12 children born to sharecroppers in Coffee County, Ala., her youth was filled with hard work and sacrifice. The sixth child of seven girls and five boys, she said they all had to work in the fields.

Even though times were hard, she was taught the value of hard work and to help others. She also talks about how she loved to read, even though it was hard to get books.

"We had to get them the best way we could. It was a struggle.

Books were so precious that when we got one, we kept it forever."

Her formal education ended in the 10th grade when she dropped out of school. She married, had five children – losing one at a young age. When she was 23, she got a job at the cotton mill in Opp where she worked for 45 years.

"During that time, I went back to school online and got my high school diploma on my own. But something always took preference over getting a college education."

Her sons earned degrees while in the military and her daughters both attended college. When the mills



closed and she learned there were grant funds available for education, she knew it was her time to pursue her dream.

"I never want to retire and sit in a rocking chair. I always wanted to be a teacher and have enjoyed working with children in church."

She now works with a Head Start program in her hometown. Her advice to others?

"Don't give up on your dreams. There is always a way to achieve your goals if you put forth the effort. So many people sit at home and think 'I can't do it,' but they can. I'm living proof."

LBWCC signs 'reverse transfer' agreements

For those who transferred too early to earn an Associate Degree from LBW, a "reverse transfer" is now available from three universities in Alabama.



LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel signed agreements with Athens State University in April 2012, Auburn University Montgomery in January 2014, and most recently with Troy University in September. "These agreements help indi-

viduals obtain another college credential without having to complete additional credits," said Riedel.

"We provide unsurpassed value in terms of the education that our students receive.

Equally as important as partnering with K-12 is for the two-year colleges to partner with the universities."

At the most recent signing ceremony at LBWCC in Andalusia, Troy University Chancellor Jack Hawkins said the agreement helps counter one of the shortcomings in Alabama.

"By any measure, we do not have too many educated people and often the barometer for the measure is found in degrees," he said.

"It's good public policy and that's where we have to keep our sights: not on individual interests, but on what's in the best interest of the state of Alabama."

Chancellor Hawkins further stated, because it the logical thing to do, public policy most likely will change in the future so that students from all Alabama's two-year colleges will have the same benefit from all the universities in the state.

For questions, call LBWCC's Registrar at 334-881-2273.

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Gifts to either the LBWCC Foundation or the Douglas MacArthur State Technical College Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Each foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and dedicated to providing student scholarships and supporting programs of LBW Community College. Please consider a year-end donation and mail checks by Dec. 31, 2014, for this year's tax deduction.

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



Neal McGough of Highland Home, left, and Johnathan Mount of Luverne, center, are pictured at a welding station in Luverne with Mike Presley, LBWCC welding instructor.

Welding classes now in Luverne

For the first time, welding students can take classes in Luverne as an extension of LBW Community College's welding program, thanks to the availability of a grant-funded mobile welding lab now located at LBWCC's Luverne Center.

The mobile unit offers the opportunity for hands-on learning through two virtual welding simulators and six traditional welding bays. An additional welding station is also available outside the lab.

Mike Presley, welding faculty for the Luverne location with more than 20 years of industry experience, said the virtual welding simulators offer an opportunity to improve precision while saving material in both metal

and electrodes with no waste products.

"The simulator allows students to build muscle stamina for precision welds. It also allows for immediate feedback so students can learn quicker and become better prepared for actual welding," he said.

"We have about 20 students this first semester, with several being dual enrollment high school students," said Presley.

"Welding is a high-demand, high wage industry and is attracting young people and adults interested in a career change."

Students can start the welding program in Luverne now, and complete their studies at LBWCC in Opp.

New scholarship plan implemented this fall

Beginning 2014 fall semester, LBW Community College instituted a new scholarship plan that increases direct institutional support for students by 4.5 percent and brings the total budgeted amount to more than \$1 million.

"We thoroughly reviewed all LBW scholarships with the intention of maximizing several goals," said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel.

Those goals include assisting students, especially those who otherwise would not be able to attend; enhancing the quality of academics and student life; assisting in recruitment; and increasing enrollment, he said.

"We wanted to increase the overall number of students receiving scholarship support, focus more on need-based support, address the needs of non-traditional students, and emphasize the value of these scholarships."

Some scholarships are increased and a few new ones are added, bringing the total available in scholarship funds to \$1,014,370. The new plan includes:

- New valedictorian and salutatorian scholarships for \$3,500 to cover two semesters;
- Creating 25 new academic scholarships for two semesters totaling \$3,000 each;
- Increasing technical scholarships to 25 for two semesters totaling \$3,000 each;
- Creating 20 new leadership scholarships valued at \$1,000 for the span of two semesters;
- Adding financial aid waivers for certificate programs to help bridge the gap between the student's grant funding and the cost of tuition and fees; and
- Adding 20 new non-traditional scholarships for \$1,500 or \$3,000, depending on the number of semesters covered. Students are considered non-traditional if they have been out of school for at least one year.

"This plan makes us more competitive with neighboring colleges, provides additional tools for our recruitment efforts, maintains our valued academic, performing arts and athletic programs, and makes our College as affordable as we can," said Riedel.