

## LBWCC opens door to the world



Andalusia Campus



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Luverne Center

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P.O. Drawer 1418  
Andalusia, AL 36420



Martha and Solon Dixon Center for the Performing Arts

LBW Community College Alumna Shannon Thomas, 2008, turned her passion for art into an opportunity to travel the world.

Spending the last two years teaching art in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, she now heads to her next teaching assignment in Hanoi, Vietnam.

"In 2006, I was just getting divorced with no education beyond high school, and I was cleaning houses to make a living," she said. "I knew I needed more education if I was going to pull myself off the dead-end road I was on."

LBWCC was convenient, allowed her to enroll in classes while continuing to work, and financial aid guidance

helped her afford the cost, she said.

"My lifelong love of art led me to start taking some art classes," she said. "At first, just for fun, but after a few classes and some encouragement from Misti Purvis (art faculty) and other great instructors, I decided art was the path."

Thomas transferred to Troy University and completed a Bachelor of Science in Education, then gained experience teaching four years in Alabama public schools.

"At this point, I decided it was time for a new change and I started applying for jobs outside the USA. Traveling has been a lifelong goal and this job has afforded me the opportunity to travel all over."



Egypt is among the countries visited by Shannon Thomas, who credits LBWCC for giving her a chance to explore the world.

Among the countries visited are Egypt, Italy, Jordan, Oman, and Turkey.

"I will teach art again at another international school in Hanoi. I am

looking forward to all the new travel opportunities this move will bring to me and none of this would have been possible if I had not taken that first class at LBWCC."

## Work experience may lead to college credit

LBWCC is developing a program to transfer work experience into college credit, creating a pathway to achieve a college credential for those already in the workforce.

LBWCC is one of only 25 colleges selected by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to receive a \$10,000 Lumina Foundation for Education Grant, which will be used to develop the College's "Prior Learning Initiative" that will identify traditional work-based certifications, licenses, and learn-

ing experiences and convert them to college credit.

"With the grant funds, we can now pursue this approach to recognize non-traditional educational experiences and assess specific courses within a technical program to determine if college credit can be awarded," said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel.

"This type of program falls within our current strategic plan and aligns with statewide workforce development initiatives. Our goal is to increase degree completion in

technical fields by developing non-credit-to-credit academic pathways."

The program will give existing skilled workers increased access, affordability, and success in attaining college credentials, he added.

The program is on a fast-paced development timeline, with LBWCC representatives recently attending a SACSCOC conference, learning from others who already created a process for identifying courses to match work experience.

"This allows us to develop

the program more quickly and we hope to have everything in place by the end of this year.

LBWCC currently collaborates with occupational advisory committees for industry trend insights, regional workforce boards promoting economic growth, and the Alabama Community College System which oversees a common course directory and ensures transferability of coursework between institutions, he said.

Teaching. Learning. Growing. Enriching.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LBWCC has gained recognition at the state and national levels in several ways.

In its March 2018 meeting, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education listed LBW as one of three institutions as an "OER Rock Star," for saving our students \$328,000 every year by implementing Open Educational Resources (OERs) in Math, Electronics, and Welding courses.

OERs are open source materials available for free on the web and have eliminated costly textbooks in the respective courses.

In early May, the College won recognition as one of six finalists out of over 1,100 community colleges in the nation for "Excellence in Student Success" from the American Association of



**Dr. Herbert H.J. Riedel**  
LBWCC President

Community Colleges.

Our students won several medals in the recent SkillsUSA state championship, earning three gold, one silver, and one bronze medal, and will compete this month in the national competition in Louisville, Kentucky.

For the first time in its history, LBWCC has been selected as a host for the

AmeriCorps VISTA program. We will soon bring on board eight "Volunteers In Service To America" (VISTAs) who will work 40 hours per week to provide a variety of services to LBW, our students, and the community.

This will include student life for residents of our award-winning Foundation-owned student housing (Saints Hall); student, employee, and community wellness; opioid abuse prevention; developing workforce, customized training, and community interest courses; enhancing a culture of philanthropic giving and creating support structures; and grant writing.

Our two College foundations have agreed to share the matching cost associated with this grant and will benefit from increased fundraising efforts.

We are on track to have a

record summer enrollment of over 1,000 students and surpassing our credit hour projection by over 20 percent. Contributing to this success was the team effort of many people, including our outstanding faculty, in a plan coordinated by Director of Recruitment, Ms. Heather Owen.

An innovative Summer Incentive Grant program was funded by the LBWCC Foundation and allowed the College to offer a free course for students who enrolled in at least two classes during the summer. This program targeted 2018 high school graduates, university students returning for the summer, and dual enrollment high school students.

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

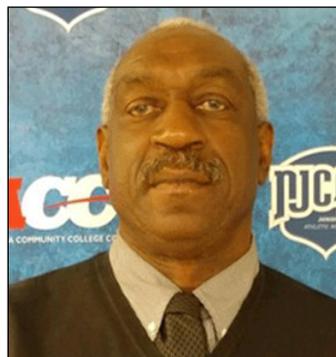
## Knight is 2017-2018 'Coach of the Year'

At the end of the basketball season, LBWCC's Ricky Knight was named the Alabama Community College Conference South Division's Men's Coach of the Year.

This marks the fifth time Knight earned the title while coaching at LBWCC.

This season marked his 31st year as the Saints men's and women's basketball coach.

One of the best players during his years at Andalusia High School according to his coach, Richard Robertson, Knight also played for four years at the University of Alabama in Huntsville before making professional stops in Australia, Brazil, and Venezuela.



He spent a year coaching at UAH before returning to Andalusia to head up LBWCC's basketball program.

His tenure also includes back-to-back state titles for the women's teams of 1988-1989 and 1989-1990.



## All-Alabama Academic Team

LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel, center, recognized members of this year's All-Alabama Academic Team during the commencement ceremony in May. Peighton Carpenter, left, earned an Associate in Science Degree and transfers to Troy University as a nursing major with the ultimate goal of becoming a family nurse practitioner. Brandon Walker, right, also named a Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholar, earned an Associate in Science Degree and transfers to Auburn University at Montgomery as a history major, with the eventual goal of earning a law degree.

# LBWCC recognized as national finalist for student success

LBWCC was the only college from Alabama recognized on a national level as a finalist for the student success award by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) during the April conference.

“We were encouraged at the state to submit an entry for student success due to a number of measures implemented during the last few years that resulted in higher retention and graduation rates,” said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel.

Since implementing a new strategic plan geared toward student success, LBWCC improved both retention and graduation rates by 12 percent since 2011.

“We developed several priorities in the strategic plan, including redesigning developmental education, distance education enhancements, awareness campaigns, data-driven decision making, enhanced support for students, and creating a culture of innovation.”

AACC’s student success award recognizes community colleges that have demonstrated, through evidence, a sustained commitment to and proactively advance the cause of student success.

“We are proud of all the ways our faculty and staff have worked together to provide students opportunities to be more successful. Their creativity, innovation, and teamwork



have led to substantial improvements for students. New initiatives are providing students necessary foundations of learning and preparing them to go further in their education or careers.”

## MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS



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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.

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- 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

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

## Hutto is LBWCC's 2018 Outstanding Alumnus

Jimmy Hutto is LBWCC's 2018 Outstanding

Alumnus, recognized for his many years in the field of education.

Hutto worked as a faculty member, led the effort to develop a cooperative education program, directed federal grant programs, and supervised the adult education and workforce development division of LBWCC.

Hutto, who retired from LBWCC in December 2017 with 36 years of service, said his early career plans did not include being an educator. He started his own company after receiving a certificate in industrial electricity in 1979 from Douglas MacArthur State Technical College.

"I was interested in being a technician and that's what I did for a while. I had my company for a short period, running the business in the daytime and going to school in the evening," he said.

He earned a diploma in air conditioning and refrigeration in 1982, then completed a certificate in industrial electronics in 1984.

His unexpected journey into a faculty position happened in 1982



**JIMMY HUTTO**

when he started teaching industrial electricity part-time.

"Then, in 1984, I had the opportunity to apply for a full-time position in the industrial electronics program."

Hutto continued his own pursuit of education at Auburn University and earned a bachelor's degree in adult education with an emphasis in trade

and industrial education in 1987, and a master's degree in administration of higher education in 1991.

In addition to teaching at LBWCC, he wrote a successful grant that allowed the development of the cooperative education program and served as the program's director. He also served as director for federal government grant programs, then moved into the role of associate dean of adult education and workforce development.

"Throughout his years of service at LBWCC, he touched the lives of so many students as an instructor, impacted the lives of adult learners and their families, and had great working relationships with many area businesses and industries," said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel.



Included in the process of creating a listening center in the library at LBWCC in Andalusia were, from left, Kristy White, Dr. Steve Hubbard, Dige Bishop, Dr. Arlene Davis, and Susan Evans.

## 'Dige Bishop Listening Center' part of library

In early 2018, LBWCC's Andalusia Campus Library created the Dige Bishop Listening Center, thanks to a vast collection of donated vinyl records by his family.

Bishop's legacy at LBWCC includes the funding of the Jeff Bishop Student Center in Andalusia, as well as financial scholarships for students established through the LBWCC Foundation.

He was an active member of the community, including being among the leaders who helped develop the plan to create a local college.

"We are honored to accept

this record collection in our library to be enjoyed by the community," said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel.

The collection, donated by siblings Ivan Bishop and Linda Brent, includes a total of 1,219 records covering a fast assortment of musical tastes.

The collection grew during the years of operation of Bishop's radio station.

"My sister and I are happy to donate these records to LBW on our father's behalf," said Ivan Bishop. "The College is a great asset to our community."