

Improving retention, grad rates

LBW Community College is improving retention and graduation rates since developing a strategic plan, which was implemented in 2014.

The plan brought student success and innovation to the forefront of institutional culture and included several key initiatives based on the College's strategic priorities.

Over the last several years, LBWCC's graduation rate and fall-to-fall retention rate increased by 12 percent each, with increased pass rates in its top enrollment college-level courses over the same time period.

Driving the success are such initiatives as redesigning developmental education, distance education requirements, awareness campaigns, data-informed



decision making, enhanced support, and developing a culture of innovation.

After moving developmental math courses to an Emporium model, the competency-based approach more than doubled the pass rate, and improved the college-level intermediate algebra pass rate by 40 percent.

Distance education classes are also resulting

in higher success rates due to comprehensive policies and procedures and extensive training requirements for faculty teaching hybrid and online courses.

LBWCC also implemented a new awareness campaign for students through the use of signs with tips for success and holding events such as the "Commit to Complete" with students pledging to

complete their degree or credential.

Students are seeing the results of adding academic support coordinators in the Student Support Services (SSS) program, a newly created position of director of student success, and two additional coaches to strengthen outreach activities to underserved and at-risk populations.

Industrial Electronics offers new options

LBWCC offers new options in the industrial electronics program, enhancing learning opportunities for students and employment opportunities for graduates.

"In addition to a short certificate, this program now offers two degree options," said Tammye Merida, LBWCC associate dean of applied technologies. "Students can now choose the industrial systems option or the electromechanical option."

In the industrial systems option, students will learn about electrical systems including PLCs, motor controls, and construction wiring. The electromechanical option will include courses for industrial equipment including environmental con-

trol systems, chain and belt drive systems, and pumps and piping systems.

Both options include core studies of basic electrical theory and related hands-on lab activities, including new robotics courses. Students will be trained and certified in robotics using the new robot we purchased through U.S. Department of Education Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant funds."

A short certificate is also available in the program, which is completely transferable



to the degree options, said Merida.



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P.O. Drawer 1418
Andalusia, AL 36420



Martha and Solon Dixon Center for the Performing Arts

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been a year of transition in many ways for our College. Several senior members of the College family have retired or announced their impending retirement. This has allowed others to take on new responsibilities and in some instances join our institution.

One of the most key individuals to have joined LBW is our new Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Lisa Carnley, who comes to us from a distinguished career as partner in a successful accounting firm. She is a certified public accountant (CPA) and has experience with accounting in the private and non-profit sectors, as well as governmental accounting and managing and providing leadership for her own firm.

She has spent the last month working closely with Ms. Lynne Dayton, who is beginning a new exciting phase of her life in retirement. I am very excited to be working with Lisa, as she brings



Dr. Herbert H.J. Riedel
LBWCC President

her expertise and a new perspective on our financial practices.

Our ten-year reaffirmation of accreditation visit by SACSCOC was completed successfully with only two recommendations to address before a formal reaffirmation decision is made by the Commission on Colleges in June 2018. As part of this process, we have started our Quality Enhancement Plan, which is a five-year project

designed to improve learning and student success by focusing on a successful first-year experience.

LBWCC has seen sharp increases in a number of student success measures over the past several years, due to several key initiatives, based on strategic priorities, and a culture of innovation.

This year, Diesel and Heavy Equipment faculty members, Eddie Spann and Shaun Moore, along with Advanced Manufacturing Division Chair Allen Teel, were named LBWCC's Innovation Champions for their work adding a natural gas engine component to the program and its expansion to an Associate of Applied Science degree program. They will each receive the prestigious John and Suann Roueche Excellence Award and will be represented at the Innovations Conference in National Harbor, Md., by Mr. Moore.

At the state-wide Alabama Community College

Association conference, LBW's mathematics department, represented by Michelle Goosby, Sharon Stricklin, and Kelly Wilson, presented details of how they developed open educational resources for our developmental mathematics sequence, which has led to increased success rates in college level mathematics courses, while saving students over \$300,000 every year.

Our friends and supporters in the community are instrumental in allowing us to maintain excellence and provide a competitive edge for our students. Thank you to all who have contributed to our two highly successful Foundations, to our board members for your leadership, and for your engagement and support. This means a lot to me and our College.

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

Krudop completes long, productive career

With nearly a half-century working in education and almost 40 years at LBWCC, Vice President Emeritus Dr. James D. Krudop retires at the end of 2017.

During his LBWCC tenure, he served twice as interim president, held numerous administrative roles, and was based at every campus location through the years. He was involved in numerous education-related and civic organizations in the state, and most recently served as the Greenville Campus director.

His outreach and commitment to the community was evidenced by large attendance at retirement receptions held in his honor at both the Greenville and Andalusia campus locations.



Dr. James D. Krudop, far right, is pictured with many well-wishers in Andalusia as they wait to express their appreciation for his many years of service in the field of education.

AAS now offered in diesel & heavy equipment program

LBWCC's diesel and heavy equipment mechanics program is now expanded to a degree program.

The curriculum requires a total of 71 credit hours for the degree, which includes seven credit hours on natural gas engine repair, and 22 credit hours of transferable general education courses.

Due to the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education grant, program faculty received 80 hours of professional development for

teaching natural gas engine repair.

"We expanded the program because in today's world, bus lines and refuse companies are converting to natural gas engines because it is environmentally friendly, cheaper than diesel fuel, and there is an abundant supply of natural gas in the United States," said Associate Dean of Applied Technologies Tammye Merida.

"By adding the natural gas courses, LBWCC is producing a multi-skilled diesel mechanic for today's workforce."



Program faculty Shaun Moore and Eddie Spann are now trained to teach natural gas engine repair.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS



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2017 Year-End Donation

Gifts to either the LBWCC Foundation or the DMSTC 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, 2017, for this year's tax deduction.

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

Newsletter wins top state award



LBWCC's *Alumni & Friends NEWS* earned the statewide first-place Pyramid Award in the newsletter category from the Alabama Community College System Public Relations Association (ACCSPRA).

Renée LeMaire, LBWCC public information officer and director of marketing, received the 2017 award as the editor and designer of the publication.

"The newsletter was created for the purpose of communicating the activities of the College, staff, and students to alumni and others interested in the success of LBWCC," said LeMaire. "Although we received positive comments through the years since it started, I am thrilled to have recognition of the content and design at such a high level."

ACCSPRA is the statewide association for all two-year colleges in Alabama, with entries judged by an outside panel of judges representing the marketing, advertising, and public relations fields.



LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel, left, congratulates the 2017 Innovation Champions Eddie Spann, Shaun Moore, and Allen Teel.

Three recognized for innovation

Three faculty members were named as LBWCC's 2017 Innovation Champions for their collaborative effort to create a degree option in an established technical training program.

Eddie Spann, Shaun Moore, and Allen Teel worked together to expand the diesel and heavy equipment mechanics program by incorporating courses in natural gas engine repair.

Spann and Moore are diesel program faculty, and Teel is chair of the Advanced Manufacturing Division and industrial elec-

tronics faculty.

The natural gas courses are new to the State Course Directory and are now available to all diesel mechanics programs statewide.

The upgrade of the program was made possible by faculty professional development through the Educating Technicians in Energy Efficiency Grant by the National Science Foundation.

The Innovations Champion award is an employee recognition program to showcase successful innovations designed and

implemented by employees which positively impact the College.

By way of this recognition, Spann, Moore, and Teel are also named as the College's choice for the John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award established by the national League for Innovation to recognize faculty, staff, and administration for excellence in leadership and innovation in higher education. They will be represented by Moore at the Innovations Conference in Maryland in March.