Salute to Southwest’s 15th Anniversary 2000-2015

A Celebration of Historic Highlights

Congratulations Class of 2015
The President’s Message

Southwest’s 15th Anniversary
2000-2015: A Celebration of Historic Highlights

College News

Inspiring 2015 Commencement

Coveted Carter G. Woodson Award of Merit Presented

Students and Faculty Offered Access to Free Software

Southwest Hosts the 2015 Memphis MATHCOUNTS Competition

Ashley Shores Represents Southwest at the All-USA Scholarship Team Luncheon

Gillespie Presents at the 2015 Mississippi Philological Association Conference

ILS Holds Training Seminar at Southwest

Feature

How I Learned to Become an Effective Community College Teacher

Southwest Now Magazine

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As I reflect on the past fifteen years, I do so with fondness and appreciation for all that has been accomplished from the inception of the merger to our current status. The merger would not have succeeded without the support of many individuals. It was a pleasure to work with the Tennessee Board of Regents, Chancellor Charles Smith, Interim Chancellor Sidney McPhee, Chancellor Charles Manning, business leaders, employees, community leaders, local university employees and legislators during the merger process. After the merger was completed, a “Blue Print for the Future” was developed that detailed the College’s new mission, vision, values and strategies that were essential to the College’s viability and success. A new College culture evolved around a new set of institutional values that stressed openness, honesty, integrity, teamwork and a focus on student success.

The College has experienced phenomenal success in many key areas that are outlined in this edition. The progress experienced by the College would not have been possible without the collective efforts of faculty, staff, students and external supporters. Our foundation board has been and continues to be an incredible supporter of the College through its assistance in fund raising and overall support of the College’s mission. Local foundations, hospitals, businesses and individuals contributed to academic scholarships, new facilities, book scholarships, special programs and workshops that greatly aided Southwest in achieving its mission. The Tennessee Board Regents and the State of Tennessee were instrumental in supporting a number of significant capital projects.

It has been a sincere privilege and pleasure to serve as President of Southwest Tennessee Community College. My most rewarding experience has been to observe students who enrolled, triumphed over incredible obstacles, completed their degree or certificate requirements and graduated. As I depart from the College, I do so with a profound sense of gratitude and pride. In spite of a number of obstacles and challenges currently faced by the College, Southwest is poised to become an outstanding institution that will meet the educational and workforce needs of our community and the challenges of the 21st century. I trust that the accomplishments detailed through this anniversary edition will be enlightening and gratifying for all who are loyal supporters of Southwest Tennessee Community College.

Cordially,

Nathan L. Essex
President
Southwest Tennessee Community College
A New Institution for the 21st Century

At the advent of the 21st century, a dream and an ideal long entertained became the reality that is Southwest Tennessee Community College. Southwest is a public educational institution in Memphis, Tennessee, a city and metro area of more than one million people, located on the banks of the Mississippi River. From its inception, Southwest has continually grown and thrived to fulfill its vision “to become the college of choice and a national model for technical, career, and transfer education by fostering student success, transforming lives, and strengthening the diverse community.”

In 2000, with vision and mission in place, two successful Memphis educational institutions with histories of their own set new goals and a new course, to blend the facilities, staff, programs and goals of Shelby State Community College and State Technical Institute at Memphis to become “the Community’s College…now Your Best Choice.”

Southwest’s two main campuses serve a population of more than 650,000 residents in a five-mile radius of either location. Serving both Shelby and Fayette counties, the College’s other locations include the Fayette Site and the Gill (Frayser Community), Maxine A. Smith (East Memphis), Millington, and Whitehaven Centers.

This “15th Anniversary Edition” of Southwest Now features archives – including newsletters and other informational pieces – regarding activities and events that compile the significant contributions Southwest has made to the Mid-South and surrounding communities.

Greater Facilities, Growing Programs

With the merger of Shelby State Community College and State Technical Institute, it was determined that upgrades were needed throughout the College. A five-year plan was developed and implemented, including a campus signage system. Community Relations and Marketing (now Communications and Marketing) coordinated the installation of three new LED messaging centers on the two main campuses. In addition, landscaping and sidewalk replacements were implemented on our Macon Cove and Union Avenue Campuses. Irrigation system improvements were also made on the Macon Cove Campus.

To better serve the communities in the northern portion of Shelby County, Southwest has a center located in the city of Millington at 6500 Navy Road. The College expanded its services at the Millington Center to non-military students through a partnership with the University of Memphis. This partnership allowed...
Southwest to obtain four classrooms and an office, to better serve students by providing opportunities for day and evening classes.

The Fayette County Site made notable strides in its development during the early years of our consolidation, both in the upgrading of physical facilities and successful recruitment, bringing it more fully into the life of the College. At a ribbon cutting for the Fayette County Career Center in June 2001 in Somerville on the Square, Tennessee Lieutenant Governor John Wilder and dignitaries from FedEx, BellSouth and Time Warner were recognized for their support and involvement with the Career Center, one of Southwest’s teaching sites in Fayette County.

In July 2004, Southwest began a partnership with the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC), previously housed at the University of Memphis. TSBDC offers free assistance to help business owners grow and develop successful, thriving businesses. This new opportunity gave the college name-recognition and inroads into the local business community. Southwest was chosen because it offers a broader campus presence in the region and a wide range of courses in small business management and training.

The College continued to make strides during 2004-2006 in improving facilities and services to promote a positive environment. These improvements included renovations to the Verties Sails Gymnasium, Cafeteria and the Follett Bookstore on the Union Avenue Campus. The gymnasium improvements included renovations to the Gym and Athletic Building Athletic Courts, meeting room, restrooms, weight room, concession area, conference room, a floor replacement and newly designed bleachers. The college also acquired a new parking lot consisting of 50 spaces for Union Avenue Campus students.

The state of Tennessee allocated funding for the construction of a new center, a library and plans for a new academic building for Southwest in the 2005-2006 budget. The site of the new center, the Maxine A. Smith Center (named in honor of educator and local civil rights legend, Maxine A. Smith) – a replacement for the former Southeast Center at Mendenhall Square – would be located at 8800 East Shelby Drive in the southeast corridor of the city and would cost approximately $12 million.

The Maxine A. Smith Center opened in August 2009. This three-story, 67,300 square-foot facility which houses a library, eight computer classrooms,
21 classrooms, chemistry, biology and science laboratories, a student lounge, and administration offices, provides service to southeast Memphis, Germantown, Collierville, and Olive Branch, Mississippi.

In the wake of the tragic events that occurred at Virginia Tech in spring 2007, many schools around the country (including Southwest) instituted new safety measures, adding new technologies to help warn students in case of emergencies. Southwest, in partnership with Rave Wireless, presented the Southwest Emergency Messaging System. The voluntary service provides emergency e-mail and text-messaging alerts to students, faculty and staff. It is used in the event of an on-campus emergency, an unscheduled college closure, or a delay or cancellation of classes due to severe weather. Additionally, outdoor campus warning systems were installed at the Gill Center, Macon Cove and Union Avenue campuses.

Fiscal years 2008-09 and 2009-10 were extraordinary periods for the Southwest family, its corporate partners and the communities. In light of the astronomical growth in technology, the college added new 21st century classrooms with extensive media and instructional technology in its varied locations during 2008, bringing the total to approximately 90 sophisticated classrooms by 2010. Eighty-seven classrooms at Southwest were equipped with multimedia projectors.

A new state-funded library and academic building was constructed on the Macon Cove Campus. The library was designed as a two-story 69,300 square-foot library with open spaces, large windows, a media gallery and cyber café/poets corner, and equipped with state-of-the-art surround sound auditorium and multimedia conference rooms. In May of 2009, an open house/ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the new library.

In December 2009, the College witnessed and enjoyed the naming ceremony for the Bert Bornblum Library. Years of planning and hard work culminated in the completion of the library, named in honor of a loyal Southwest supporter and foundation board member whose heart’s desire and passion are to make educational opportunities available for those who otherwise would not be able to earn a college degree. The Bornblums have a distinguished record of active contributions and participation in the field of education in the Memphis area.

The College broke ground for the construction of a new academic building in June 2008. The building replaced the former Jennings and Parrish classroom...
buildings, which were in need of major renovations to bring them up to current standards. The facility contains offices for faculty who were housed in temporary trailers. The two-story, 106,000 square-foot structure was designed exclusively with 21st century classrooms and labs. The Liberal Studies and Education; Business, Career Studies and Technologies; Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Health Sciences divisions are housed there.

In February 2013, Southwest partnered with Inventory Locator Service (ILS), LLC, a subsidiary of The Boeing Company, headquartered in Memphis, to open the ILS Technology Lab in the former Butler Building located on Southwest’s Macon Cove Campus. The laboratory comprises six individual labs with various functions. It allows for piloting new technology without impacting the production environment and gives the Information Systems Department the capacity to see how technology works prior to purchase. It also permits students to be involved with every aspect of technology development at Southwest.

Southwest has and continues to have strong nursing and allied health programs. Projections indicated an increased need for these medical professionals; subsequently, Southwest made plans to construct a new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building on the Union Avenue Campus. As state funds were not available for construction of this new facility, Southwest initiated a major gifts campaign – Southwest and You: Investing in The Future. After years of fundraising, maneuvering legal obstacles, and construction challenges, property rights were finally secured, allowing for construction to begin on the Union Avenue Campus, with targeted completion for the summer of 2014.

The College held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the much-needed, long-anticipated Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building in November 2014. Located in the heart of the Memphis medical hub, this approximately $18.5 million, 61,000 square-foot, high-tech, 21st century structure allows Southwest to increase enrollment by approximately 45 percent, training up to 400 students a year, helping to meet the demand for 16,500 nurses in Tennessee by the year 2020.

“Critical needs are being met. Students’ hopes, dreams and aspirations are being met with the construction of this new facility,” said President Essex.
The edifice had such an esthetic presence, the Memphis Business Journal nominated it as a finalist in its 2015 Building Memphis Awards competition, which highlighted the best projects annually, from innovative conversion and renovation projects to the construction of large, new projects. Our new nursing building was nominated as a “Best Public/Private Project (large).”

Southwest Tennessee Community College was the recipient of the 2014 Vision Special Award of Merit presented by the Downtown Memphis Commission to President Nathan L. Essex on September 18 at The Columns at One Commerce Square. Southwest was recognized for the contributions that the construction of its new $18 million plus Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building add to the growth of Downtown Memphis. The Downtown Memphis Commission, formerly known as the Center City Commission, is the organization charged with advancing Memphis and Shelby County by promoting and supporting the growth of Downtown Memphis. Annually, the commission and its board votes to recognize three entities which they believe have contributed most to the preservation and promotion of Downtown.

As Southwest continues to serve the educational needs of mid-south residents, other improvements are in the works.

• The Union Avenue campus has a parking garage under construction next to the new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology building. The two-level garage will have approximately 140 spaces, including ADA-required spaces and motorcycle spots.

• Addressing the need for a new location to serve the Whitehaven community, a new Whitehaven Center property was purchased in that community to provide greater access for future students. The new facility will be located on Finley Road in in the former Kroger building and will contain 44,000 square feet as opposed to the current 29,000 square foot Federal Express Training Center on Director’s Row off Airways Boulevard.

• Southwest’s Industrial Readiness Training Program was awarded a $904,588 federal grant from the U.S. Commerce Department’s Economic Development Administration in April 2015 to complete the 3.5 million needed to build Southwest’s new Business and Industry Training Center. The tentative start date for construction is summer 2016. The new center will allow Southwest to expand the IRT Program and meet the increasing needs of business and industry while providing opportunities for unemployed and underemployed individuals to improve the quality of life for themselves and their families.

Exemplary Programs
As a comprehensive, multicultural college, Southwest offers the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, the Associate of Applied Science degrees, and technical certificate programs. Southwest has become a “College of choice, national model,” and attained national accreditation for all eligible college programs. It has earned national recognition for developing and offering excellent academic and training programs, many having achieved “best practice” status.
Biotechnology

In early 2005, Southwest developed two new groundbreaking science programs that are unparalleled at any community college in the state and possibly the region – the Biotechnology Technician Degree and the Biotechnology Forensic Science Technician concentration. The programs were developed with extensive input from employers in the various industries that now employ our graduates, including medical firms, major industrial employers, and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. Southwest prepares our students to perform a caliber of lab work comparable to – or better than – students receiving four-year degrees in similar programs.

Homeland Security Assessment Technical Certificate

With the consistent threat of global terrorism, the ever-present reminder of the September 11 tragedy, and the ongoing concern over natural disasters, Southwest designed and offered the Homeland Security Assessment Technical Certificate in the 2007. At that time, Southwest was the only academic program in the nation that trained students for this kind of assessment. Typically this type of assessment was only offered by large consulting firms. The program was designed for college students and working professionals in the public and private sector who desire a better understanding of Homeland Security.

Culinary Institute and Regional Training Center

The Culinary Institute and Regional Training Center debuted in the fall of 2011, offering a cutting-edge kitchen, classroom, demonstration, and catering services for Metro Memphis and the Mid-South in one dedicated state-of-the-art facility. The renovated facility allows the award-winning Culinary Arts Program to enhance curricular options and maintain the standard of excellence it currently enjoys.

Industrial Readiness Training (IRT)

The Industrial Readiness Training (IRT) program started out as a 49-hour course developed to prepare a workforce for the newly formed Blues City Brewery and similar manufacturing companies in dire need of skilled laborers. IRT is the centerpiece of the Made in Memphis Initiative, whose goal is for local manufacturers, educational institutions, and WIN and its partners to collaborate to create a pipeline of skilled workers to meet the hiring needs of manufacturing employers and conversely offer workers good, high-paying jobs.
• More than 1,000 students have completed IRT training; over 70 percent of the graduates were presented with a livable wage job offer. The job offer or active interview rate for 2014 is over 73 percent.

• Local companies impacted by IRT include: Blues City Brewery, Bryce Corporation, Cargill, ConAgra Foods, DuPont/Solae, Electrolux, Kruger Tissue Group, Mitsubishi Electric, Riviana Foods, Smith & Nephew, and Unilever. Southwest is working with several new companies seeking IRT graduates, such as Brimhall, McLane Distribution and J.R. Smuckers.

• The IRT Model is scheduled to be adopted by all community colleges within the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) System. IRT professional development training took place March 4-5, at which an ad hoc curriculum committee was formed for the specific purpose of developing a statewide common curriculum for IRT core competencies, as well as related curricula and training materials.

Nursing Program
The Nursing Program continues to excel as a leading program. The College received notice from the Tennessee Board of Nursing in 2013 that the Associate Degree Nursing Program at Southwest had achieved a 100 percent NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) pass rate. Our nursing graduates have averaged a 98 percent pass rate on the exam over the past eight years, with a 100 percent pass rate for three of those eight years. They have also experienced a 99 percent placement rate over this same period.

Advanced Integrated Industrial Technology (AIIT) Program
In 2014, a new academic program – Advanced Integrated Industrial Technology (AIIT) – was introduced. AIIT integrates various technologies to provide a diverse skillset needed in today’s advanced manufacturing and industrial sectors. The program, consisting of a two-year associate degree and a one-year technical certificate, was designed primarily to train maintenance technicians in the fields of manufacturing, industrial process control, distribution, warehousing, and transportation.

Project M.O.S.T. (Men of Southwest Tennessee)
The U.S. Department of Education awarded Southwest funding to implement the Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI) Competitive and Formula Grant programs. Southwest utilized PBI funding to implement Project M.O.S.T., a pilot program. Project M.O.S.T. was designed to increase the retention and graduation rate of African-American male students.

The program currently serves approximately 354 African-American males, representing an increase of approximately 300 percent since its inception. The fall-to-fall retention rate of M.O.S.T. participants is 74.5 percent.
International Studies
International Studies at Southwest was established to promote global experiences through various programs for students, faculty, and staff at the College. The International Studies Program (ISP), a passport to a global perspective, has gained unparalleled popularity. Launched in 2007-2008 with only 12 students, Southwest’s ISP has more than quadrupled, annually providing students study abroad scholarships to such destinations as Asia, Europe, South America and Africa.

Online Courses
Today’s information technology makes it possible for Southwest students to earn a college degree without ever setting foot on a campus, completing course work at their personal convenience via online courses. During 2008-2010, Southwest expanded online and split course offerings (part online, part in the classroom) in art, developmental mathematics, history, mathematics, music, oral communication, psychology, sociology and theater. Like most colleges and universities, Southwest now offers both courses and full degree programs online.

Tennessee Promise
Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam, in support of his “Drive to 55” initiative, designed to increase the number of Tennessee residents with two-year degrees and above to 55 percent by 2025, unveiled the Tennessee Promise (TNPromise) plan during his State of the State Address on February 3, 2014. Passed by the Tennessee General Assembly and signed into law on May 13, 2014, the TNPromise – with huge implications for Southwest – provides two years of community college or technical school tuition free for any student graduating from a Tennessee high school in May 2015, effective fall 2015.

In response, Southwest launched an expansive TNPromise marketing campaign in the summer of 2014
that gained momentum from state and local promotions. According to the March 20, 2015, online edition of *The Tennessean*, 58,286 high school seniors signed up for the TNPromise Scholarship in 2014. The potential for Southwest includes a draw from a wider, more diverse segment of the Mid-South student population; potentially higher-performing students; and a significant increase in enrollment. As many as 5,600 graduating high school seniors in the class of 2015 selected Southwest as their college of choice.

**Workforce Development**

Southwest’s Workforce Development and Continuing Education Division serves businesses needing to provide ways for employees to enhance their knowledge and skills; individuals desiring to expand their career opportunities; and citizens wanting to explore lifelong learning experiences. Over the past 15 years, the division has provided educational opportunities and training services to the Mid-South.

- Southwest was the first community college in Tennessee to develop a Division of Workforce Development and Continuing Education for the primary objective of establishing effective partnerships with business, industry, and community agencies to foster economic development and workforce preparation. In 2000, the college opened a Continuing Education Economic Development Center and gained national recognition as a “Best Practice” in workforce development for the country and a national model for its Youth Council Network Demonstration Project.

- Southwest, through a partnership developed by its Continuing Education department, became the only community college to become a Georgia Tech Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) Training Institute Education Center. Through this partnership, Georgia Tech faculty work with Southwest to train the private sector in our region in OSHA requirements. Through the courses offered, employees are trained to be prepared for actual on-the-job hazards and reduce the chances of any and all hazards through appropriate on-site technical and compliance training.
Southwest was awarded a contract from the Workforce Investment Network (WIN) to administer WorkKeys® assessments and KeyTrain remediation for candidates in Local Workforce Investment Area 13 (LWIA 13), seeking the new Career Readiness Certificate, which is a state initiative with national credibility.

Placement
From 2000 to 2013 the college experienced a consistently high (on average 89 percent) job-related placement rate for Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree and Technical Certificate graduates.

These graduates of career degree and certificate programs have been successfully employed in their field of study throughout the Memphis area workforce. Two economic impact studies found that Southwest degree graduates gained more than $550,000 in lifetime earnings over the earnings of students who completed high school only; furthermore, Southwest contributed $794 million directly and indirectly to the local economy, affecting over 20,000 jobs throughout the community.

Southwest’s moniker of “Your Best Choice” was in full evidence in the 2012-13 academic year. Thirty-eight companies employed Southwest students in paid internships, many of which offering full-time employment.

Honors and Accolades
2000-2002
The Liberal Studies and Education Division received the Greater Memphis Quality Level I Award. It was awarded to organizations that showed a commitment to Total Quality Management (TQM) principles and required an application evaluated by persons specially trained in TQM.

Southwest’s campus child care program at the Macon Cove and Union Avenue Campuses received the Three Star Rating award from the State Department of Human Services Assessment Office, the highest possible rating. Mary Palmer, program director for both the campus child care programs, provided the leadership.

2002-2004
Southwest was ranked as one of the leading two-year colleges in the nation for awarding associate degrees by Community College Week, a national publication that focuses on community colleges. In 2002, Southwest topped the list in the Science and Technology category by sharing a number one ranking with Cleveland State.
In 2003, Community College Week ranked Southwest number ten in the nation for awarding associate degrees in all disciplines to African-Americans and 55th overall in all disciplines for all minority students.

2004-2006
During 2004-2006, Southwest continued to strive for excellence. Student recognition included the National Dean’s List, Who’s Who Among Students in Junior Colleges, and Collegiate All-American Scholars. Faculty members were recognized by the American Culinary Federation, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the Tennessee Association of Colleges and Employers. The Southwest Singers won first place in a national competition and the College’s president, Dr. Nathan L. Essex, was named Educator of the Year by the University of Memphis Society.

2006-2008
Southwest ranked nationally in the number of graduates produced in several Community College Week categories:

- Fourth in science and technology degrees awarded
- 30th in granting associate degrees to African-Americans
- 40th overall in granting associate degrees in Science Technologies/Technicians
- Featured in the Top 100 colleges in granting associate degrees across all minority groups.

2008-2012
Southwest was named to the 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. In addition, all 51 of the 2009 Southwest nursing graduates passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) on the first attempt, for a 100 percent pass rate.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) honored Southwest as a leader among institutions of higher education for their support of volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement. Southwest was admitted to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for engaging its students, faculty and staff in meaningful service that achieves measurable results in the community.

The Southwest Race for the Cure® Team took first place in the College Division for the 2011 Mid-South Race for the Cure.

2012-2013
For a third year, Southwest is perched high on the list of Military Friendly Schools top 15 percent in 2011, top 20 percent in 2012, and again Victory Media – the premier media entity for military personnel transitioning into civilian life – named Southwest to the coveted Military Friendly Schools list for 2013.

StateUniversity.com released its second annual list of the Safest Colleges in the U.S. on December 19, 2012, ranking Southwest number three in Tennessee for campus safety. The Safest Schools findings are based on incidents of campus crime as reported by campus safety officials.

Southwest remained strong in its commitment to the community. The College was named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. That designation represented the highest honor a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement.

2013-2015
Like many years, 2013-14 was a strong one for Saluqui Athletics, basketball in particular. Most notable of all was the retirement of legendary Southwest Men’s Basketball Coach and Athletic Director Verties Sails Jr., ending a 33 year coaching career at the college in which he led the Saluquis to a 709-276 record, 16 Tennessee
Community College Athletic Association (TCCAA) championships and ten region championships and National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) tournament appearances.

The Saluqis Men’s Basketball team enjoyed a remarkable 2014-15 season, opening as one of the top-ranked teams (number 11) in the country. This pre-season ranking was the second highest ever for Southwest, with a number nine ranking being the highest during the 2006-07 season. They ended the season with five Saluqi basketball players being named 2015 All-Tennessee Community College Athletic Association (TCCAA) in a vote by the conference’s coaches. In addition, Southwest’s new Head Coach Jerry Nichols was voted Coach of the Year. Sophomore guard Rasheed Brooks was voted Player of the Year.

Lastly, the Communications and Marketing Department at Southwest has consistently been recognized for outstanding communication and marketing efforts by local, national and international organizations. Local organizations include the Memphis Advertising Federation and the Memphis Chapter of the Public Relations society of America (PRSA). National honors were received from the Service Industry Advertising Awards (SIAA), the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR), and Higher Education Marketing. International recognition was garnered from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, known as MarCom. Over the course of a 15 year span, the organization has received more than 150 awards.

**Grants and Awards**

While Southwest was in its infancy, a Strategic Plan called A Blueprint for the Future was developed. At that time, major goals were established that laid the foundation and set the direction for the College. Early on, funding was identified as a critical need. The College established the Southwest Foundation, which – in concert with the Institutional Advancement Division – set out to raise funds to support the fledgling institution.

The newly-developed Southwest Foundation achieved its first donations during the period from 2000-2002. The contributions by individuals and corporations assisted the College’s Institutional Advancement division in raising a total of $1,202,611 received in cash, securities, and in-kind donations.

**2002 -2004**

- The Assisi Foundation awarded Southwest a $100,000 grant to complete technical planning necessary to secure major investments for the Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology facility.

- Southwest received a $133,668 grant for Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Health Sciences for a National Institutes of Health Regional Science (NIH) Bridge Program to assist disadvantaged nursing students; and a $302,000 grant for student services for their Child Care Centers and the Upward Bound program.

- The U.S. Department of Education awarded a five-year $950,000 grant to Southwest Tennessee Community College for a TRIO Educational Opportunity Center.

- The Institutional Advancement Division made progress in laying a foundation for the future of the college. The total amount of private giving reported during this period was $1,769,798.
Southwest administration and faculty obtained 38 grant awards (20 renewals and 18 new awards) with a one-year total of $3,704,840, and more than $2 million was pledged in the Major Gifts Campaign.

Southwest’s Developmental Studies Program (Learning Support) was one of only two in the state to receive national accreditation. MTSU was the other one.

2004-2006

- The College was one of only 70 community colleges in the nation to receive a Community Based Job Training Partnership Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor in 2005, totaling over $1.8 million to establish and enhance training in biotechnology.

- Two major pledges were received in support of the Major Gifts Campaign during 2005-2006: a $1,000,000 pledge from the local office of Medtronic Sofamor-Danek, and a $500,000 pledge from a major local foundation – the Plough Foundation – both for Southwest’s Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building.

2006-2008

- The planned Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology facility has $250,000 pledged by the Hyde Family Foundations and $150,000 from the Briggs Foundation.

- Significant commitments were received in the amount of $500,000 from major area hospitals for the Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology facility, and an anonymous gift of half a million dollars in 2006 also gave a tremendous boost to the campaign.
Institutional Advancement raised a reported $4,466,938 in private contributions, including $1,144,981 for scholarship endowments, exceeding the $1 million goal by 14 percent during the period of 2006-2008.

2008-2010
As the cost of education continued to increase, there was also a greater demand for a highly skilled and educated workforce. At the close of the decade during 2008-2010, Southwest secured $8,926,939 in funding from federal, state and local governments, and received grants from the following sources, among others:

- A Federal Correctional Grant for $689,586 (five-year grant) to provide advanced occupational educational programs to as many as 20 inmates per semester, which can lead to technical certificates.

- A $470,000 grant from the City of Memphis to provide training and employment for youth ages 19-21 and educational and employment training for youth ages 14-18.

- In 2008, the Southwest Foundation was proud to announce the college’s largest individual donor: Mr. Bert Bornblum. Private contributions for years 2008-2010 totaled $2,454,570.

- A $448,782 grant from the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA) to train childcare workers.

• A major achievement for Southwest over the two-year period was the $2 million pledge from the FedEx Corporation to support the college’s expansion effort to build a new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building.

2010-2011
Southwest received a multi-million dollar state appropriation to complete its $18 million Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building.

2011-2012
A total of $13,351,906 in grants and funding was secured from federal, state, local government and business sources to support programs and services.

- A $2.9 million Energy Training Partnership Grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor to the Memphis Bioworks Foundation funded a green training program in a two-state area. Southwest was selected as the principal training partner and awarded $1,414,520 of the grant.
2012-2013

- Grants and funding from partner sources totaled $10,581,070.

- Southwest was also awarded a $100,000 grant from the Division of Housing and Community Development for the City of Memphis through its Neighborhood Development Grant program.

2013-2015

The College achieved phenomenal success in the procurement of federal grants, in particular Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grants Program Grants, and was awarded more than $10 million in the last two rounds in new funding to support Advanced Manufacturing, Mechatronics, Process Control, Logistics and Distribution, Nursing and Allied Health.

From 2013-2015, (at the writing of this article) Southwest has received a grand total of $15,982,871 grant allocations, specifically:

- Local Funding: $682,893
- State Funding: $2,587,711
- Federal Funding: $12,712,267

Change on the Horizon

On August 18, 2014, Southwest President Nathan Essex announced his retirement, effective June 30 of this year. Essex administered the merger of Shelby State Community College and State Technical Institute at Memphis to form Southwest in 2000. He stepped into the role of president when Southwest Tennessee Community College was officially formed in 2001.

During his tenure, Essex oversaw the building of several structures: the Maxine A. Smith Center, the Bert Macon Cove Campus Governor Haslam and President Essex
Bornblum Library and the Academic Building on the Macon Cove Campus; the Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building on the Union Avenue Campus, for which he was key in fundraising efforts; and the establishment of the Culinary Institute. In addition, President Essex’s leadership was instrumental in the current construction project to convert a former Kroger into a new site for our Whitehaven Center; the future construction of a parking garage on the Union Avenue Campus; and future construction of a Business and Industry Training Center on the Macon Cove Campus.

He ensured that national accreditation was attained for every school program and forged partnerships with several post-secondary institutions, including the University of Memphis, Middle Tennessee State University, UT-Knoxville and Tennessee State University. Answering the call from local city, county and business leaders, the College – under Essex’s direction – created the IRT program, which has garnered national, state, and local recognition.

Of the many things he accomplished, he will be remembered as a champion of the students, whose compassion led him to relentlessly lobby the Tennessee Legislature for consideration to institutions like Southwest that serve a significant number of low-income students who are not college-ready. One of his highlights each year during commencement ceremonies was to acknowledge Southwest graduates who exemplified unusual courage, talent, and persistence in their educational pursuits.

Announcing his retirement, President Essex left these inspiring words to the college’s employees: “Despite the challenges we face, I am confident that, based on all of the current initiatives and our collective efforts, Southwest will be sustained and remain a viable force in this community.”
An Innovative Culinary Institute at Southwest Tennessee Community College

Our State-of-the-Art Culinary and Hospitality facility for Metro Memphis and the Mid-South is open for you.

- Southwest Culinary Institute offers cutting-edge kitchen, classroom and catering services in a modern, dedicated facility in the Fulton Building on the Macon Cove Campus in Memphis.

- Start your future culinary and hospitality career today.

- Good paying jobs abound in hospitality.

- It’s affordable: much less than the cost of an average private culinary school.

Contact Chef Steven Leake at the Southwest Culinary Institute at (901) 333-4096 for more details.

Call (901) 333-5000 or visit us online at www.southwest.tn.edu
Signaling the end of an era, retiring Southwest President Nathan L. Essex, for the last time, conferred Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Science in Teaching, and Associate of Applied Science degrees and certificates to 1,387 students during Southwest’s 2015 Commencement Ceremony on May 2, at the Landers Center in Southaven, Mississippi.

President Essex delivered a very inspiring and personal address to Southwest’s graduates in lieu of NBA Veteran Elliot Perry, a member of the Memphis Grizzlies’ staff, who had a scheduling conflict due to an NBA Playoff game.

Essex conveyed that his Christian parents, during the segregation era in a small Alabama steel town, took the demeaning grade school experience of receiving hand-me-down books and desks from other students, and turned it into a life lesson. He indicated his parents instilled in him and his siblings that torn books and damaged desks “could not define who we were or what we could become.”

Essex also expressed that early in his career, he had become disgruntled over a missed flight, to later learn the plane had crashed with no survivors. Life took on a greater purpose and Essex vowed to perform an act of kindness every day. Essex said to the graduates, “If each of you commits yourselves to performing one act of kindness every day, you can change the world one act at a time, one day at a time.”

Living what should have been the coveted “American Dream,” as a wife, mother, grandmother, homeowner and business owner, Southwest’s 2015 Commencement Student Speaker Rebecca Good felt trapped in a nightmare as she daily drove to her office to perform work for which she had no passion. “By all standards, I was living the ‘American Dream’… It was more of a nightmare. I had no passion for my career,” Good told her fellow classmates. She gave up financial security, sold her business, and enrolled at Southwest. She admitted, “I was scared.”

Good dove in head first and eventually realized she had nothing to fear. To her younger, less seasoned classmates, she said, “Use your time wisely; it passes more quickly than you realize.” And to the mature – she said, “We put our lives on hold to follow our hearts. I hope you are as happy with your decision as I am.”
President Essex in his traditional manner recognized several courageous students who against overwhelming odds persisted in their pursuit of a degree.

- April Rhine, who suffers from the sickle-cell disease, throughout her tenure faced recurrent hospitalizations, as well as, caring for and recently suffering the passing of her mother. In spite of it all, after having already earned two technical certificates from Southwest, she graduated with two AAS degrees – one in computer engineering technology and the other in electrical engineering technology.

- Willie Ann Wilkerson, a 69-year-old graduate from Shelby State Community College, suffers from the debilitating disease lupus, along with other medical complications. She returned to Southwest in 2003 and graduated with an Associate of Science Degree in Social Work, maintaining a GPA of 3.17.

- Vickie Sales overcame drug and alcohol addictions prior to coming to Southwest, where she battled learning disabilities, hearing difficulties, and reading problems to graduate summa cum laude with a 3.66 GPA. Sales is self-employed with her own payment service.

- Ciara Slade, a dual enrollment, homeschooled student, graduated magna cum laude with a 3.74 GPA, earning an Associate of Arts Degree along with her high school diploma. She plans to continue her education in English at the University of Memphis.
The First Black Faculty Member at Memphis State University Receives the Coveted Carter G. Woodson Award of Merit

University professor and author Miriam DeCosta-Willis, Ph.D., was honored with the Southwest Tennessee Community College Carter Godwin Woodson Award of Merit on February 10 during the annual award ceremony held in the Verties Sails Gymnasium on the Union Avenue Campus. DeCosta-Willis received a B.A. degree from Wellesley College and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in romance languages from Johns Hopkins University. In her 40-year career in education, she taught at LeMoyne and Owen colleges (and the merged institution) and became the first black faculty member at Memphis State University (MSU), now the University of Memphis, in 1966.

The Woodson Award of Merit was created in 1988 to recognize individuals, groups, or agencies who have contributed to, preserved, or promoted the African-American experience and who support Dr. Woodson’s legacy of “Historical Accuracy Through Inclusion.” Woodson, a linguist and historian, is the “Father of Black History.”

A long-term activist, DeCosta-Willis joined her mother in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, was jailed in Memphis for participating in civil rights demonstrations, served as an advisor to the MSU Black Students Association, and campaigned for black political candidates.

She is a co-founder of the Memphis Black Writers Workshop and has published nine books, including; Blacks in Hispanic Literature, The Memphis Diary of Ida B. Wells; Daughters of the Diaspora; Notable Black Memphian; and Black Memphis Landmarks, among others.

Southwest Offers Students and Faculty Access to Free Software

The Information Technology Services Department would like to announce that all active students at Southwest will have access to the full suite of Office 365 applications. Office 365 allows students and faculty access to the latest version of Microsoft Office and other applications on personally owned laptops, computers, and mobile devices. According to Joshua Conway, director of Project Management and Information Technology Resources, “Having access to the latest version of Microsoft Office, both on and off campus, is a game changer for the students. Students no longer need to purchase the latest version of Microsoft Office out of their own pockets.”

Students and faculty can create and access Office Online documents by using the latest browsers across their devices. Students will also have the ability to take advantage of the Office 365 apps on personally-owned iOS (an operating system used for mobile devices manufactured by Apple Inc.), Android, or Windows tablets and phones.

What is Office 365?
Office 365 is a subscription-based version of Microsoft Office Suite of applications. The Microsoft Student Advantage Plan allows all active students access to download the latest Microsoft Office Suite or stream Office Online to their browser with an active Internet connection:

- Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Access
- Publisher
- OneNote
- OneDrive

Students and faculty can access Office 365 with their Southwest username and password by visiting: http://portal.microsoftonline.com.
Southwest Hosts the 2015 Memphis MATHCOUNTS Competition

Southwest was the host site for the 2015 Memphis MATHCOUNTS competition held February 21 at the Macon Cove Campus. This competition is just one part of a larger effort by the MATHCOUNTS Foundation to engage middle school students in math programs. The foundation is a non-profit organization that strives to engage middle school students of all ability and interest levels in fun, challenging math programs in order to expand their academic and professional opportunities.

This was the first time Southwest served as the host site for the competition. “The original plan was that Christian Brothers University (CBU) would host the event on February 21 and that we would serve as an alternate location if the event needed to be rescheduled due to weather,” explained Southwest Assistant Professor of Technologies Forrest Smith. “As it turns out, CBU closed on the 21st which led to a rescheduling of the event at Southwest,” said Smith.

“The Competition Program is geared more towards those who excel at math and provides a fun, competitive environment for the students to showcase their skills,” said Drake Danley, a member of the TN Society of Professional Engineers.

A total of 132 students competed – 29 in sixth grade, 50 in seventh grade, and 53 in eighth grade – from about 23 local schools.

Winning Team:

White Station Middle School (Coach Cynthia Law)
1. Kevin Luo
2. Elaine Fu
3. Jonathan Zhang
4. Angus McKee

Ashley Shores Represents Southwest at the All-USA Scholarship Team Luncheon

By Angela Payne, Associate Professor of Technologies

Southwest All-USA Scholarship Recipient Ashley Shores represented the college at the All-USA Scholarship Team Luncheon in Nashville, TN, on February 11. The All-USA Academic Team and Coca-Cola All-State Academic Team competitions are scholarship opportunities available for students. Those students selected as one of the 20 All-USA First Team members will receive a $2,500 stipend. In addition, the top-scoring student from each state will be named a New Century Scholar and will receive a $2,000 stipend.

Furthermore, all students nominated by community colleges in the state of Tennessee will form the All-Tennessee Academic Team and will be eligible for scholarships at all the four-year universities under the Tennessee Board of Regents system and several private schools. This includes the University of Memphis, Tennessee State University, Middle Tennessee State University, Union University, Lambuth University, and Tennessee Wesleyan. In addition, nominees met in Nashville for a luncheon with the presidents of the community colleges and four-year universities in the state, as well as state senators and representatives.

“Southwest has afforded me numerous opportunities for which I am truly blessed. I am so thankful to Southwest and Phi Theta Kappa for nominating me for the All-USA Scholarship. I am extremely honored to have represented my school in Nashville at the All-Tennessee Academic Team luncheon. It was both humbling and encouraging to meet students who are accomplishing amazing things. This opportunity has strengthened my academic ambitions and has pushed me to pursue even more,” said Shores.

Faculty advisors Dr. Twyla Waters, associate professor of paralegal studies, Dr. Joan McGrory, associate professor of business, along with yours truly, Angela Payne, associate professor of technologies served on the scholarship committee and selected the students. I transported the student and her guests to Nashville to meet the presidents of the community colleges, Tennessee state senators, and representatives.
Gillespie Presents at the 2015 Mississippi Philological Association Conference

The Mississippi Philological Association, a professional association for languages and literature, held its annual conference this year at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS. As usual, a variety of states, including Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama, were represented at the conference. Southwest Languages and Literature Instructor James Gillespie was invited to present at the 2015 Conference in January.

“My paper, (Re)Creating Reality: Swinburne in Perennial Perspective, was accepted as part of the panel, ‘Bodies of Work: Narratives of Creation, Crime, and Resistance.’ By examining two of Algernon Charles Swinburne’s (English poet, playwright, novelist, and critic) poems, The Garden of Proserpine and Hymn to Proserpine, my paper demonstrates how Swinburne achieves a reconciliation of nihilism [pessimism] and religion’s sense of objective reality by elucidating their unexpected similarities at their most fundamental level: at the point where nihilism ultimately creates its own reality by projecting, as it were, a system of meaning unto an otherwise apparently meaningless universe,” Gillespie explained.

He indicated his work was well received by the attendees and that he enjoyed the works of other presenters. “Although my entire experience at the conference was extremely enjoyable, I especially appreciated the presentation given by Dr. Kate Stewart, professor of literature from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Her panel, ‘Compelling Evidence: Discoveries and Diagnoses in Nineteenth-Century Literature,’ also included Dr. Benjamin Fisher, one of my former professors from the University of Mississippi. His paper, Coventry Patmore on American Writers and Writing, proved to be both fascinating and informative as it demonstrated the significance of Patmore’s perspective on American literature,” said Gillespie.

“For me, the highlights of the conference included reconnecting with Dr. Fisher, who eight years ago inspired me to delve into the world of scholarship, and enjoying the inspiring performance of The Poetry of Langston Hughes In Song by the MSU Choral/Vocal Collaborative Arts,” he added.

In 2010, during his first attendance at the Mississippi Philological Association Annual Conference, Gillespie presented an adaptation of his master’s thesis, “Swinburne and Catholicism: Unifying the Flesh and the Spirit,” at the University of Southern Mississippi.

ILLS Holds Training Seminar at Southwest

Southwest was the site for the Microsoft Office 2010 training conducted for Inventory Locator Service® (ILS), LLC on January 9. ILS is the Southwest benefactor who graciously provided funding for the Inventory Locator Service Technology Center in the old Butler building on the Macon Cove Campus in 2013. Not only were they the recipients of computer training, but they also utilized the Bert Bornblum Library facilities (auditorium, Cyber Café, and Gallery) to hold a portion of their conference and in-house sales training for their employees. “It’s really terrific,” commented Don Wilson, vice president of Sales for ILS. ”The facility is great!” ILS hosts an annual sales meeting here in Memphis and flies in their sales force from around the world. They have 40 salespeople outside of Memphis, who reside in seven different countries. “Once a year we bring them all into here – seven different countries, six different states with customers in 106 countries,” Wilson stated. ILS, a subsidiary of the Boeing Company, is headquartered in Memphis and provides information via its global electronic marketplace to enable members in the aviation, marine and defense industries to buy and sell parts, equipment and services.
Interested in becoming a Pharmacy Technician, a career on the rise with excellent job opportunities?

Southwest Tennessee Community College has a two-semester program beginning each fall and spring.

A pharmacy technician works under the supervision of a pharmacist to assist with filling and dispensing medications, maintaining patient records, medication labeling and other job-related duties. The U.S. Department of Labor projects a 20 percent increase in jobs for pharmacy technicians from 2012 to 2022.

This program has an application deadline of July 1 for fall enrollment and for spring classes November 1.

SOUTHWEST TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

For more information, visit our website at www.southwest.tn.edu/allied_health/ or call 901-333-5400.
Everything I Learned About Being an Effective Community College Teacher - I Learned While Studying to Become an Early Childhood Educator

By Robert J. Walker, Ed.D.
Associate Professor of Education

While studying for my doctorate degree in Early Childhood Education back in the late 1980s, I read the then popular bestselling book, All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten, by Robert Fulghum. As stated by Fulghum, some of the key life lessons learned in kindergarten applicable to success as an adult are: Play fair; don’t hit people; put things back where you found them; clean up your own mess; don’t take things that aren’t yours; and say you’re sorry when you hurt somebody. Not only do I incorporate these life principles into every class I teach at Southwest, I have also discovered that the same teaching strategies and methods that are effective in helping kindergarten children learn content are also effective in working with college students. There is a great deal of truth in the statement, “Explain it to me as if I were a kindergartner!”

By no means do I use this statement to belittle the intellect of my students. It simply means that I must clearly take the time to actually prepare my lesson in a way that meets the academic needs, styles of learning, and the multiple intelligences of my students. As a result, I don’t just simply stand in front of my class and lecture. In each class session, I consciously, actively engage my students in the learning process — just as I do when I am working with young children in early childhood centers. In order to reach all of the students in my classes, I attempt to discover their learning styles and teach accordingly. I do this by having my students complete a learning-style inventory at the beginning of the semester.

According to research done by Howard Gardner, a professor at Harvard University School of Education, “We are not all the same, we do not all have the same kinds of minds, and education works most effectively for most individuals if...human differences are taken seriously.” According to Gardner’s groundbreaking research, there are at least seven types of multiple intelligences, commonly called learning styles.

1. **Bodily-kinesthetic students** - often express themselves through the use of facial and hand gestures. They never seem to be able to sit through an entire class lecture. They truly have a hard time staying off their cell phones and always seem to have to step out of class. Their usual excuse is to use the...
bathroom. Assigning activities allow these students to move around my classroom, and occasional assignments where they are able to use their cell phones to look up answers, are ways I hold these students’ attention.

2. **Interpersonal students** - think by getting ideas or approval of their ideas from others. A way I meet the learning needs of interpersonal students is to allow them to work as partners during an in-class activity.

3. **Intrapersonal students** - are the quiet and shy ones. They may have the answer to a question but choose not to share it, even when you call on them. I meet the learning needs of the intrapersonal students by privately praising them through walking by their desk as saying, “good job!”, or placing a motivational sticker on their paper. I also give in-class activities to complete independently.

4. **Logical-mathematical students** - are motivated by reasoning. From time-to-time, they may get on your last nerve. It is not that they mean to. It is because of their logical reasoning abilities — everything to them must make sense. Therefore, they are always asking, “Why?” or “How come?” I address the needs of these students by giving clear and written details for every major assignment, providing explanations for activities, and telling the class what I expect them to learn before they begin an assignment.

5. **Natural-physical world students** - enjoy being outside. They love to use things in nature as examples when doing class activities. During the spring, I have had class activities outside. This brings a great deal of joy to the natural-physical world students.

6. **Visual-spatial students** - enjoy images and pictures. To make my class most enjoyable for them, I use teaching aids: drawings, maps, posters, charts, artwork, the Document Cam, DVD, PowerPoint, websites, and YouTube video clips during class time.

7. **Verbal-linguistic students** - are probably the easiest to please. They always seem to pay attention, hanging on to my every word. They seem to always know the answer and willingly participate in class discussions. They think in words. They actually read the chapters in the textbook and would love it if I did nothing but lectured.

**Doable**

It is possible to meet the needs of all the multiple intelligences (learning styles) in your college classroom by being unpredictable, and by varying your teaching style from day-to-day and activity-to-activity. Be creative. Use class activities that address a variety of multiple intelligences and learning styles. As a result, your students will enjoy your class, be more engaged in the learning activities, and will be more likely to faithfully attend your class.
Today’s highly technical workplace demands that potential employees have skills that enable them to quickly enter the workforce and become successful! Begin by enrolling in a cutting-edge Southwest technologies program.

- Oracle, Cisco and ASE certification preparation - Real-world curriculum and program designs
- Partnerships with major industry leaders - Active business and industry advisory boards
- Advanced Green Technology training applications
- Associate Degrees and Technical Certificates -
  Automotive Service, Electronic, Information and Office technologies
  Architectural, Computer, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering technologies

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Your Best Choice!

For more information about our graduation rates, placement rates, program costs and other important information, please visit our website at http://www.southwest.tn.edu/gainfulEmployment
Southwest Scores Federal Funding for a Business and Industry Training Center

Southwest Tennessee Community College has received a $904,588 federal grant from the U.S. Commerce Department’s Economic Development Administration. The funding will be used to assist in building a $3.5 million Business and Industry Training Center on our Macon Cove Campus, which will help meet regional industry demand by enhancing capacity in the region’s Industrial Readiness Training (IRT) program. The tentative start date for construction is summer 2016.

IRT was created a few years ago at Southwest to teach entry-level skills in Advanced Industrial Technology Process Control, Advanced Industrial Logistics Technology, and Advanced Manufacturing. Several major companies have committed to creating jobs as a result of the project, including Transloading Services, Smith & Nephew, and Cook Systems International. When the new facility is built, it will aid in meeting the increasing needs of business and industry, while providing opportunities for unemployed and underemployed people to enhance their quality of life for themselves and their families. Hundreds of students are enrolled in the IRT program; when the new facility is completed, Southwest could see as much as a 50 percent increase in enrollment in the IRT program.

Construction on the New Whitehaven Center Site is Underway

Southwest has started a $4.4 million construction project to convert a former Kroger into a new site for our Whitehaven Center. The supermarket transformation at 1234 Finley should be completed this fall.

The College will later move the satellite center four miles southwest from 30,000 square feet it has been leasing at 3035 Directors Row in Oakhaven, just west of Memphis International Airport. The former Kroger is a 31-year-old building with 44,000 square feet that can reportedly accommodate up to 1,500 students. The new location will be more accessible to Whitehaven area residents traveling to the facility. It will also provide an opportunity for high school students to use it as a vocational and technical learning center; to learn a trade at the same time they earn their high school diplomas.
2015 Alumnus of the Year

The 2015 Alumnus of the year is Dr. Linda Fay Chism. Currently the Director of Training and Development at Regional One Health, Dr. Chism has distinguished herself throughout her well-rounded career in academia, consultation, administration, team building, systems development, organizational dynamics and healthcare management.

Dr. Chism received her degree in nursing from Southwest (formerly Shelby State) in 1978 and then went on to receive her Master’s Degree in Nursing from the University of Tennessee, and a doctoral degree from the University of Memphis.

A former chair of nursing for Southwest Tennessee Community College, she is also a nationally recognized conference presenter and site visitor for the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and International Association for Continuing Education and Training.

Dr. Chism has been honored with national and state commendations, is listed in Who’s Who for Professional Leadership and is President of the Memphis International Training Institute. She has served as an expert on curriculum design for Donald Trump, Dave Ramsey, the Jasper Williams Conference, Vision Builders Conference, Frank Ray Expository Preaching and Church Growth Conference, and others. She has presented with Dr. Ben Carson, the renowned neurosurgeon and author of Gifted Hands.

Dr. Chism is a board member of the American Heart Association and a member of Kappa Delta Pi, an International Honor Society in Education.

Want to know more about the Alumni Association?

Go to www.Southwest.tn.edu/alumni. Dues are only $12 annually and help pay for scholarships for needy students. For more information call Rose Landey at 901-333-4577
Foundation Focuses on Scholarships in Need of Funding

Did you know more than half of the student body at Southwest depend on some type of financial aid and that includes scholarships? Scholarships are a vital part of our students’ education; for some of them, it means the difference between getting an education and not getting one. For some, the simple act of buying a book can mean the end of their college career. It doesn’t have to. There are scholarship options for almost every donor. Whether you can donate $10 or $10,000, your dollars will make a difference at Southwest.

1. The Dr. Nathan L. and Lorene Essex Scholarship — To honor more than 30 years dedicated to education, the college proudly announces a scholarship in honor of Dr. Nathan L. Essex’s passion for students to achieve excellence regardless of where they came from or where they are.

2. Book Scholarship — One of our most important and popular scholarships, students receive vouchers up to $350 to purchase books. Designed to aid the working poor, financial aid recipients may qualify for this scholarship; however, financial aid recipients must not receive more than $300 back in grant refunds and students must hold at least a 2.5 GPA. Priority is given to students who are within 24 hours of completion.

3. College-Ready Scholarships — This scholarship is designed to aid the college-ready student, recent high school graduate or adult who doesn’t require developmental classes. Preference goes to students who don’t receive financial aid. Students must complete within three years.

4. Complete College Scholarship — This scholarship is designed to aid the student who is within 12-24 of completing a degree or a technical program. Preference goes to students who don’t receive financial aid.

5. Disadvantaged At-Risk Scholarship — This scholarship is designed to aid the disadvantaged at-risk student; financially disadvantaged (Must demonstrate financial need; maximum family income must not exceed 80% of the HUD median family income for the Memphis Metropolitan Area for 2009; income must not exceed $46,240.00) or classified as at-risk, such as first generation, underprepared students (those with low ACT scores), adult learners, males, veterans, etc. Students may be enrolled in developmental courses and may be receiving financial aid.

(All scholarships require the recipients to have an advisor and an academic coach throughout their academic career.)

6. Unrestricted — If you can’t decide which scholarship is best, then donate to the unrestricted fund. Monies to this fund go the greatest need of the college.

You can mail your donation to 5983 Macon Cove, Memphis, TN 38134 or go online to www.southwest.tn.edu/ and click on Give to Southwest and then click on Scholarship Fund. For more information, call Rose Landey at 333-4577 or Karen Nippert at 333-4997.

SOUTHWEST
TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
International Women’s Day is observed annually all over the world on March 8 to celebrate the achievements of women and raise the call for greater equality. To celebrate the event locally, Small Business Owner and Women’s Advocate Lashunda Martin hosted an awards fashion show at the Wolfchase Galleria to recognize individuals who make contributions to the progress of women. Associate Director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center at Southwest (TSBDC) Shaun Bullock was recognized for the outstanding service he provides women businesses in the Mid-South community.

“It has been an honor to serve local small business owners in growing and developing their organizations. In serving small businesses, we find that women are making significant contributions and strides in delivering economic impacts consisting of adding jobs to the market, working on joint ventures to find different synergies, and, overall, taking on the risk inherent in small business ownership,” Bullock said.

“On March 8, we celebrated International Women’s Day. Local Small Business Owner Lashunda Martin brought in the occasion with a fashion show at the Wolfchase Galleria in connection with The Limited, which offers women’s apparel. The ladies modeled designs from the Olivia Pope Collection from the hit series ‘Scandal.’ I was one of several designated honorees, and I accepted an award for Uplifting Women in the World and the Memphis Community. The award was sponsored by Cleopatra Memphis. Owner Lashunda Martin was presented at the event, Bullock stated.
Southwest Selected as a Top School in Military Advanced Education’s 2015 Guide to Colleges and Universities

Military Advanced Education (MAE) has awarded Southwest Tennessee Community College the designation of a Top School in its 2015 MAE Guide to Colleges & Universities, measuring best practices in military and veteran education. The Guide was released in the December issue of MAE and is available online at www.mae-kmi.com.

The Guide presents results of a questionnaire of the military-supportive policies enacted at more than 600 institutions including private, public, for-profit, not-for-profit, four-year, and two-year colleges. From community colleges to state universities, online universities and nationally known centers of higher learning, MAE’s 2015 Guide to Colleges & Universities arms students with information about institutions that go out of their way to give back to our men and women in uniform.

Now in its eighth year of publishing the Guide, MAE was the first publication to launch a reference tool of this type. This year, institutions were evaluated on their military culture, financial aid, flexibility, on-campus support and online support services. Each school’s performance rating by category is represented by an easy-to-recognize dashboard. This will enable prospective students to quickly target schools that follow the best practices in military education, and then put these in context with other academic or career considerations.

Southwest’s Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA) provides counseling and outreach services to assist veterans in becoming acclimated to college life while obtaining veterans education benefits and/or other available resources. This office, the link between the college and the Department of Veterans Affairs, assists eligible veterans, dependents, reservists/guardsmen and disabled veterans (military service-connected disabilities) with applying for educational funding and offers guidance on VA regulations.
Interested in an Exciting Career in Healthcare?

Check out Southwest Tennessee Community College’s Allied Health Programs.

Earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Medical Laboratory Technician, Radiologic Technology, Dietetic Technician, Physical Therapist Assistant and Emergency Medical Science-Paramedic.

Earn a Technical Certificate in Emergency Medical Technician, Food Preparation Safety and Service, Laboratory Phlebotomy Technician, Paramedic, and Pharmacy Technician.

These programs have specific application deadlines and have limited enrollment.

For more information, visit our website at www.southwest.tn.edu/allied_health/ or call 901-333-5400.
Hosting of TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII Basketball Tournament Highlights 2014-15 Sports Year at Southwest

By Keith Gentry

It was a year highlighted by Southwest’s hosting of the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association (TCCAA)/National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region VII basketball tournament for the first time in ten years. Despite a week of ice and snow in Memphis, the tournament went on as planned. Under the leadership of athletic director Sherman Greer and the work of numerous employees from all areas of the College, Southwest again set the bar even higher in how a tournament should be hosted.

Southwest student athletes took the court in over 150 games in 2014-15. In addition, numerous Saluqis and Lady Saluqis have been recognized by the TCCAA and NJCAA, not only for their accomplishments in their team’s games but also in the classroom. Many of these student athletes will sign scholarships with four-year colleges or universities to continue their educational and athletic careers.

Under TCCAA Coach of the Year Jerry Nichols, the Southwest men’s basketball team had a 24-4 overall record and took the TCCAA regular season title, winning 16 of 18 games. They were ranked among the nation’s best throughout the season, ranking as high as number 6 with a final ranking of number 11 in the NJCAA Division 1 Poll. The Saluqis defeated Roane State in the quarterfinals and Chattanooga State in the semifinals of the TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII tournament before losing to Columbia State in the championship game. Sophomore guard Rasheed Brooks, a University of Mississippi signee, was voted the TCCAA Player of the Year in a vote by the conference’s coaches and selected first team NJCAA All-American. Brooks led the team in scoring with a 14.2 average and was also among team leaders in assists (2.1) and steals (1.9). In addition to Brooks, sophomore guard and University of Tennessee-Chattanooga signee Jonathan Burroughs-Cook and freshman forward Jimario Rivers were named first team All-TCCAA while sophomore guard Earl Bryant was a second team pick. Burroughs-Cook was second on the team in scoring (13.5), assists (2.4) and steals (1.8), Rivers averaged 10.3 points and led the team with 7.2 rebounds per game, and Bryant averaged 10.7 points per game and led the team with a 3.5 assist average. Sophomore forward Keion Alexander was the fifth starter, was one of the team’s top rebounders with a 5.6 average and led the team with 1.7 blocked shots per game. The Saluqis also had strong play off the bench all season, lead by sophomore guard and University of North Alabama signee DeAndre McKinnie (11.4 points per game), sophomore forward and Alabama State University signee Lavontae Waldon, sophomore forward and Southeastern Louisiana University signee Dominic Nelson, and Jalen McCaughy, one of the top rated freshmen in the country.

Head coach Andrea Martre’s Lady Saluqis’ basketball team finished 13-13 on the season, finishing fourth in the conference during the regular season before losing to Roane State in the TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII tournament quarterfinals. They were led by freshman guard LaKyesha Stennis, a first team All-TCCAA selection and honorable mention NJCAA All-American who led the team in scoring with 16.6 points per...
game and also ranked among team leaders with 5.8 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 1.9 steals per game. Sophomore forward Keoshia McGhee was the only other player averaging in double figures with 11.0 points per game; she was also one of the top rebounders in the country, with an average of 10.8 per game. Other starters for the Lady Saluqis this season were sophomore forward Shaqunda Durden (9.2 points, 5.7 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game), sophomore guard Iesha Humphrey (6.2 points, 3.4 rebounds and 2.1 assists per game), and sophomore forward Brandi Whitaker (9.0 points and 6.8 rebounds per game).

The baseball team, under the direction of Head Coach George Sykes, went 20-27 on the season and lost to Roane State in the TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII Tournament play-in game. Leading the Saluqis in 2015 was sophomore first baseman and Blue Mountain College signee Vince Hoyt, who ranked first on the team in most statistical categories including batting average (.398), runs (33), hits (68), doubles (17), home runs (6), runs batted in (52), total bases (105) and slugging average (.614). Other top hitters were sophomore centerfielder Miguel Egea (.308 batting average, 32 runs scored and 44 hits), sophomore third baseman Dylan Moore (.302 batting average, 12 doubles and 5 home runs), and sophomore catcher/outsfielder Michael Ince (13 doubles, 3 triples and 5 home runs). Sophomore pitchers Matt McKinstry, Matt Mills and Chad Collins tied for the lead with four wins each. Collins led the team with 64 innings and 45 strikeouts while McKinstry led the starting pitchers with a 2.82 earned run average.

An outstanding sophomore class led the Lady Saluqis’ softball team this spring for Head Coach Keith Gentry. The Lady Saluqis finished 25-30 on the season and had a thrilling come-from-behind victory over Cleveland State in the TCCAA/Region VII Tournament play-in game before losing to (regular season and eventual tournament champion) Chattanooga State and Motlow State. Sophomore centerfielder Alex Turner, a second team All-TCCAA selection, set Southwest career records for games played (113), at-bats (355), runs (102), hits (140), doubles (33), home runs (22), total bases (243), slugging average (685) and on-base average (.475). In addition, Turner was selected as one of only 16 players from across the country to represent the NJCAA All-Stars this summer in the Canadian Open in Vancouver, British Columbia. Sophomore pitcher/third baseman Tara Comer also had a great season, leading the team with a .410 batting average, 15 doubles, 50 runs batted in, 110 total bases and a .683 slugging average and the pitching staff with a 4.10 earned run average and 93 strikeouts. Other top hitters were sophomore first baseman Dallas Chipman, who batted .339 and led the team with nine home runs, and sophomore outfielder Marissa Davis, who batted .325 and led the team with 15 stolen bases.
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