Long-Awaited Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building Opens

Tennessee Promise Scholarship Saturday Attracts High School Seniors

U.S. Commerce Secretary Visits Southwest
In this issue...

Southwest Holds the Highly Esteemed Nursing Pinning Ceremony
Southwest’s 2014 Faculty and Staff Awards Review
Honor Student Vies for PTK National Honor Society’s International Office
Southwest Holds Its Annual Student Honors and Awards Convocation

Features
Quality Enhancement Plan known as QEP
Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building Open House

News Briefs
Southwest’s Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® 2013 Team Wins Four in a Row
Top Notch Security, Inc. Lands Top Entrepreneurship Award from TSBDC
Family and Friends Day
Southwest and Seedco Partner to Provide Critical Edge for Student Completion
2014 Summer Institute in Rearview
Southwest Becomes a Tobacco-Free College

Development and Alumni News
Alumni on the Move
Planned Giving

Kudos
The Tennessee Small Business Development Center Executive Director at Southwest Lands Coveted Award
The TSBDC at Southwest Wins a 2014 BENNY Award
The Downtown Memphis Commission Honors Southwest with the 2014 Vision Special Merit Award

Sports
Saluqi Cheerleading Auditions Drew Large Numbers
Southwest Student-Athletes Receive TCCAA Academic Awards; Allen Receives “Highest Honors”
2014-2015 Basketball Schedules
Tennessee Promise

Southwest has actively recruited the high school class of 2015 to enroll in the Tennessee Promise Initiative. Beginning with the class of 2015, Tennessee Promise will provide Tennessee high school graduates an opportunity to attend a community or technical college free of tuition and fees. Tennessee Promise is both a scholarship and mentoring program that will commence during fall 2015. This program will provide a last dollar scholarship, which will cover tuition and fees not covered by the Pell Grant, the HOPE Scholarship or the Tennessee Student Assistance Award Program (TSAA). Any high school senior who graduates from a Tennessee eligible high school or completes a Tennessee Home School may apply for the promise. Students must have applied no later than November 1, 2014 to become eligible for the program. Each student will be matched with a mentor and must attend mandatory meetings in their respective counties. Additionally, students must maintain a minimum of 12 hours per semester, maintain satisfactory progress (2.0 GPA) and complete a minimum of eight (8) hours of community service each semester. Tennessee Promise currently is the only one of its kind in the nation, although the initiative is under consideration by a few other states nationwide.

Students who plan to ultimately attend a university may complete the prerequisite courses at a community college and enter a university or four-year college as a junior. This program is the cornerstone for Governor Haslam’s Drive to 55 and is designed to improve the state’s graduation rates from the current thirty-two percent (32%) to fifty-five percent (55%) by 2025, which will effectively improve job qualifications and attract employers to Tennessee. Southwest launched a massive campaign to inform and attract interest among parents and high school seniors regarding Tennessee Promise. Our campaign included:


2. Direct mailing of a promotional postcard to 70,000 households throughout metro Memphis.

3. Promotional message on the Tennessee Promise scholarship at Southwest appeared on 4-5 digital billboards throughout the city, courtesy of Clear Channel Outdoor.

4. Promotional message appeared on the home page of the Southwest public website.

5. Promotional message regarding the Tennessee Promise Scholarship Saturday appeared on digital TV monitors at select Southwest campuses and centers.

6. Live interviews on WMC-TV, channel 5’s Saturday morning news show and WATN-TV 24 promoting Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Promise enrollment events at multiple Southwest locations were held.

7. Pop-up banners utilized at Southwest events to promote Tennessee Promise.

8. An “Ice Cream Social” hosted by the Student Services Recruitment Office at Southwest promoting Tennessee Promise for on- and off-campus visitors.
9. Southwest’s Tennessee Promise scholarship promotion ad appeared on nine MATA buses.

10. A Tennessee Promise scholarship “Call to Enroll” placed on our LED electronic message center boards outside Southwest’s Macon Cove and Union Avenue campuses and the Maxine A. Smith Center.

11. A promotional Tennessee Promise scholarship card was mass produced for Student Recruiters to distribute at local high schools, with college staff volunteers distributing the card(s) to local community organizations and churches.

12. Our promotional Tennessee Promise scholarship message was posted on Southwest’s Facebook web page.

13. A promotional Tennessee Promise ad for Southwest appeared in seven metro Memphis movie theaters on 90 combined movie screens October 10 through October 31.

More than 5,400 students within Shelby County have applied for Tennessee Promise. Tennessee Promise eliminates barriers for students who wish to attend a community college or a Tennessee College of Applied Technology. However, the program needs 6,000 mentors statewide to accommodate over 56,000 students who have enrolled in the program. The state’s goal was set at 20,000 students. Each mentor will serve one hour per month encouraging students to enroll in classes and assist them with paperwork and other support.

**Student Retention**

The College continues its focus on student retention and graduation initiatives. The most recent development involves the establishment of our Student Success Center. This center provides intrusive counseling and other intervention strategies for students who earned a grade point average below 2.0 and other students who have failed to make satisfactory academic progress.

These students meet routinely with their designated counselor to identify and resolve barriers to their academic success. Students are required to actively participate in developing personal and academic goals, utilizing campus and community resources needed to achieve and/or enhance academic success in the classroom. Students are not permitted to withdraw from courses without conferring with their counselor. Counselors assist students in developing individualized plans for academic success and personal growth through self-discovery, campus engagement, intrusive advising/mentoring and utilization of campus/community resources and services. To date, fifty-five percent (55%) of the 396 students participating in the program improved their GPA. Twenty-eight percent (28%) earned a 2.5 GPA or better and forty-seven percent (47%) earned a 2.0 GPA or better. Approximately 200 students who participated in this program returned for the 2014 semester.

The Student Success Center (SSC) provides the following services as intervention strategies:

- Proactive Advising/Mentoring
- Life Skills Training
- College Success Seminars
- College and Community Resource Information

Additionally, our learning communities are expanding where cohorts of students work with a team of faculty through wrap around services, a block schedule format that allows intensive advising, individualized instruction, personal counseling, tutoring, mentoring and supplemental instruction.
Industrial Readiness Program

The College’s IRT Program continues to produce skilled workers to meet the workforce needs of business and industry. The IRT Model is scheduled to be adopted by all community colleges within the TBR System in an effort to create a skilled workforce throughout the State of Tennessee, improve the quality of life for unemployed and under-employed citizens and enhance economic growth and development throughout our state.

The IRT Program has gained national recognition for its effectiveness as a number of community colleges across the country have visited Southwest to gain knowledge regarding the program. Additionally, Southwest welcomed the Executive Director for the Council for African Policy from Uganda during the month of October to observe the operations of the IRT Program.

Accreditation

The College was reviewed by the SACS on-site review committee and likewise received a very favorable exit review. All compliance issues were met based on the committee’s assessment. Official notification regarding reaffirmation is expected in June 2015.

Our Culinary Arts Program also sought initial accreditation for its program and received a very favorable exit review by the on-site review committee. Official notification regarding accreditation is expected in December, 2014. The Culinary Arts accreditation, when achieved, will result in all eligible college programs having received national accreditation.

New Program Opportunities

Southwest is pursuing the development of a Surgical Technology Program based on a need to produce increased numbers of surgery technicians since Memphis is considered a major medical center. A Surgical Technology Program will provide increased opportunities for interested students to conveniently pursue an Associates Degree in surgical technology within our city.

Likewise, there is a need for a Flight Training Program based on local and national demands for trained pilots. This program will also provide local career options for individuals who are interested in careers in the airline industry.

The two initiatives are consistent with the College’s efforts to respond to needs within our community. Southwest continues its efforts to be responsive to the educational needs of students, employers and communities in Memphis, Shelby and Fayette counties and the surrounding Mid-South region.

Grant Acquisition

The College has achieved phenomenal success in federal grants, in particular DOL TAACCCT grants, and has been awarded more than $10 million in the last two rounds in new funding for the College to support Advanced Manufacturing, Mechatronics, Process Control, Logistics and Distribution, Nursing and Allied Health. In addition, Southwest was the only community college in the state to receive a perfect 100 points, resulting in full funding on the Governor’s Workforce Development Equipment Grant.

Southwest Tennessee Community College has been awarded a single institution U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant to partner with employers to expand and improve our ability to deliver education and career training programs that will assist job seekers in acquiring the skills they need for in-demand jobs.

Advance Your Career in Healthcare at Southwest was funded for a total of $2,387,247 to expand our nursing, EMT, and allied health programs, utilizing evidenced-based practices in academic and career advising to provide participants with...
intensive support in order to improve program completion. Advance Southwest will create a special pre-program prior to participation in order to expose participants to allied health curriculum, occupations, workplace environment and employer expectations. The College will immerse students in an intensive simulation learning environment to increase critical thinking and improve retention rates, and provide intensive career counseling support throughout the duration of the program. Through these methods, Southwest will improve its persistence, graduation and job placement rates. Targeted credentials include: Nationally Registered Medical Technician (NREMT) and TN RN Licensure (based on NCLEX-RN).

Southwest also participated in a winning consortium proposal to the U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Community College and Career Training with Mid-South Community College as the lead college, who were awarded $9,814,818 to support the Greater Memphis Alliance for a Competitive Workforce. Southwest will receive $1,654,192 targeted to process control, transportation, distribution and logistics.

Facilities

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the College’s Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology facility was hosted this past November. This facility has culminated from the generosity of local hospitals, foundations, business/corporations and individuals. This new facility will allow the College to increase enrollment by approximately 45 percent and contribute to a projected nursing shortage of roughly 16,500 nurses in Tennessee by 2020 based on the retirement of “baby boomers.”

Construction will commence on a new parking garage at our Union Avenue Campus in late fall, with a scheduled completion date of July 2015, which will minimize parking challenges faced by students, faculty and staff. Additionally, renovation and construction of our new Whitehaven Center located on Elvis Presley Boulevard is slated to begin in January, with a scheduled completion date of July 2015. The initiatives will provide easier access and increased opportunities for students in the Whitehaven area to receive a college degree or certificate, which will contribute to the state’s Drive to 55.

Cordially,

Nathan L. Essex
President
Southwest Tennessee Community College
Southwest Plays Host Again to the Danes

The International Studies Department at Southwest hosted the Danish international exchange students from Svenborg Business College in Denmark who arrived in early October for their annual visit.

Peter Hansen, senior lecturer for Svenborg, says the institution is both a technical and business college. “The business college has a number of different streams. One of them is the international stream. We take [students] in their third year to the U.S. for this program, which is one week in Memphis. Then we’ll take them up to Washington for two days, and then almost for a week in New York.”

Students that choose the international stream are responsible for paying the costs for their own travel. The program entails going to England and to the U.S. for an extended-study trip. “Sometimes the parents will, of course, come up with the money. I think certainly many of them will also work jobs on the side in order to have money for this,” Hansen explained.

The students generally range between the ages of 18 to 21. They were placed with several host families in the Memphis community to experience southern hospitality first hand.

“What they take back with them, I think, first and foremost, certainly for the Memphis week, is having been with an American-host family; having absorbed the American way of life with a normal middle-class American family,” said Hansen.

The itinerary included: an Ole Miss game at Oxford; a Cross Communication class; tours of the University of Memphis (U of M) and LeMoyne-Owen College; Dr. Steve Haley’s Socio-Politics class; the National Civil Rights Museum and Stax Museum tours; Dr. Joan McGrory’s Intro to Business class; A1 Printing Company; the Memphis Zoo; and Graceland, to name a few of the sites visited.

Of all the places they visited, the National Civil Rights Museum topped several lists. “One thing is a must and that is the National Civil Rights Museum,” Hansen said. “Because it is not only iconic to Memphis, but it is part of American history. And of course, it is also one of the things that the students would’ve heard about back home; Martin Luther King and his speeches.”

Southwest’s International Studies Program promotes global experiences for students, faculty, and staff at the College. The Danish students look forward to coming to Memphis each year in order to experience the educational and cultural diversity of our great city.
Relationship Building Is Central to SMARTS’ Growth

This fall, the Southwest Mentors Advancing Retention, Teamwork, and Success (SMARTS) Program experienced a surge in growth since the inception of the program in spring 2011. The program’s goal to serve 50 students per semester was surpassed with 53 becoming mentees. The number of mentors grew to 31, which is the largest number to partner with mentees during a semester. Mentees and mentors volunteer to participate. “Encouragement to join is directed toward relationship building and advocacy, introduction to and use of campus and community resources, career exploration and push toward pre-registration, advising, and graduation,” stated Executive Director of Retention and Graduation Cynthia Calhoun. “SMARTS mentors are so important to the progress students make once they decide to become engaged with the program. Our philosophy is that some ‘hand-holding’ may be needed for certain students to become empowered to make good academic and career decisions.”

The program provides several initiatives for mentees and mentors to engage, bond and establish trust, i.e.:

- Career Services presents a workshop to mentees to introduce their services and administers the Kuder Career Assessment during the workshop. This activity assists in preparing mentees for the required shadowing experience with a professional in their major or related field.

- SMARTS mentors and mentees engage in partnered activities together to build trusting relationships and support for the mentees.

- SMARTS mentors and mentees will partner to attend the scheduled Career Fairs, the Coffee House Open Mic, and play this fall.

- SMARTS mentors and mentees were invited to attend a meet-and-greet event hosted by the Allied Health faculty in October. The Bring Your Lunch event was offered for interested students to learn about Allied Health careers.

- Upon the award of the Certificate of Completion at the program’s Culminating Experience (graduation), SMARTS completers share reflection papers to describe their shadowing and SMARTS experience with their peers and mentors.

Program administrators have observed a visible pattern and possible correlation between pre-registration and actual attendance for SMARTS mentees that may warrant further study as a promising practice for student persistence. For example, last year (Fall 2013/Spring 2014) 87 percent of the mentees pre-registered and 86 percent returned for the Spring 2014 semester. Since spring 2011, 214 unduplicated students have participated in SMARTS.
The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded $4.04 million in funding to Southwest Tennessee Community College, and a total of $3.27 million to Southwest, William R. Moore College of Technology and the Tennessee College of Applied Technology to establish a new partnership.

The $4 million Southwest received will be divided to fund two initiatives. The school will use more than $2.38 million to expand its nursing, EMT and allied health programs, while also providing support to help students complete those programs. Southwest will use $1.65 million to launch a consortium with Moore Tech, Mid-South Community College, the Tennessee College of Applied Technology that will provide non-credit workforce development training for the manufacturing, transportation, and logistics industries.

Moore Tech will also continue to expand its workshops, according to Skip Redmond, the school’s president. The school recently invested $1 million to expand its machine shop, which resulted in the creation of a medical machining program that launched this fall. This is the first time Moore Tech has received federal funds. The school’s current enrollment is at 260 students, the most ever by 40 students.

“We’ll complete renovation of the machine shop and remodel the manual side and install new equipment,” Redmond said.

Moore Tech will also double the size of its welding shop, allowing it to increase student capacity from 60 to 120. The school is also planning to launch a Saturday welding class, which would bring that number to 140. But Redmond says it is still raising funds for that project.

“We’ve secured $500,000 (of $1 million it must raise for a matching grant),” Redmond said. “We’re confident we can reach our goal.”

Karen Nippert, vice president for Institutional Advancement at Southwest, said as local and federal government officials have placed more emphasis on growing manufacturing jobs in the area, the schools are being positioned to train job-seekers.

“This gives people who have been out of the job market, or need to be retrained an opportunity to get back in,” Nippert said. “Southwest can meet the training needs of these industries. It makes a tremendous difference.”
Southwest Alumna Turns Passion into Opportunity

When you look at Southwest Alumna Felicia Hankins, you see a woman who knows where she is going, and that could be anywhere in the world. In fact, she recently returned from a trip to India. Hankins is the International Education Program specialist at Southwest. She admits that when she started her journey as a student at Southwest, she was a bit nervous. “I enrolled at Southwest in the summer of 2006. I remember being nervous about coming back to school, so I only took one class: Keyboarding I.”

Keyboarding was “safe” and a requirement for the medical office administration major for which she received an associate degree in 2010... but after one trip abroad, her life has never been the same. “My first study abroad trip was to Greece, and I stayed for three weeks. I loved it!” she exclaimed. Ergo, her passion for International Studies was born. “After returning from Greece, I knew that I wanted to incorporate travel into my career. I also became inspired and motivated to help other students experience other countries and cultures. I had such a wonderful time and I wanted to share that with others,” Hankins said.

She set her sights on becoming the director of International Studies and put into motion steps that landed her the position she currently fills. “I was in the International Studies Office every single day after I returned from my first trip. I realized that it was such a great opportunity and I wanted to show them that I appreciated everything they had done to help me join the program. I became a work-study student in the office and later became a part-time employee. I think Dr. McColgan saw my potential and realized that I really loved working in International Studies. I kept working hard until they promoted me to the specialist position!” said Hankins.

Passion was only the first step of Hankins’ journey toward success. She also knew she wanted a bachelor’s degree, but working full-time while in pursuit of this goal was no cakewalk. “A huge challenge was working full-time hours while trying to complete my bachelor’s degree. When I started working in the office, there were three people. By the time I had started working on my bachelor’s, there was just me. It was a heavy load, but I managed to make it work!”

The distance between dreams and their fruition can be daunting, but Hankins’ love of travel was her motivation. “I knew that if I kept working for it, I would have my perfect career! I love to travel and work with people from different cultures, so there was no other option for me. I appreciate this wonderful opportunity so much,” Hankins said with gratitude.

Asked how she would encourage other students aspiring to fulfill their dreams, she replied, “I saw what I wanted and I made it a reality. When I had those really bad days and I wanted to give up, I would just tell myself, ‘You’re almost there.’ I stayed focused on my main goal and I think that the people around me saw that I was determined to succeed. When people see that you are really trying, they will help you.”

Regarding her ultimate goal, she says, “I haven’t become the director yet, so I’m still aiming for that position!”

Hankins has traveled to 13 countries, including Greece, Belgium, Denmark, India, and Peru.
Area Colleges Trying to Feed Big Demand For Nurses

Southwest Interim Department Chair of Nursing Sharon Livisay was quoted regarding the number of nurses graduating annually and the college’s increased capacity to enroll more nurses with the opening of the new Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology Building in January 2015.

In the last five years, more than $78 million has been invested to build or expand nursing schools at the University of Memphis and Southwest Tennessee Community College. In 2015, Southwest’s $18 million Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology building will open downtown, and the University of Memphis’ Loewenberg School of Nursing will move into its new, $60 million Community Health Building.

The reason the schools have invested in growing their nursing programs can be attributed to “baby boomers.”

Despite having more than 81,400 nurses, it is estimated that by 2020, the state of Tennessee will have a deficit of around 14,000 nurses as “baby boomers” begin to retire. Earlier this year, 800 nursing jobs were available in Memphis, according to state statistics. As a result, schools like the University of Memphis, Southwest and Delta State University, in Cleveland, Mississippi, are trying to supply enough nurses to combat the deficit. While they say they’re up to the challenge, officials at the schools are also aware they have an extremely difficult task in front of them because of enrollment limits, faculty shortages and the sheer size of the demand.

Sharon Livisay, department chair of nursing at Southwest, says the school receives 300 applications every year, but can only admit 60 students at a time. Southwest currently has 200 students in its nursing program and places about 98 percent of its graduates in jobs. When the new building opens, the school will be able to double its enrollment.

“The goal is to increase enrollment and address the 240 applicants who don’t get into the program because of space,” Livisay says.
Tennessee Promise Scholarship Saturday Attracts Seniors throughout Shelby County

Students residing throughout Shelby County, along with their parents and family members, came to Southwest on September 20 to sign up for the Tennessee Promise and to complete their college application as part of the state-wide Scholarship Saturday. Southwest opened computer labs at all its participating locations, with volunteers assisting 130 high school seniors with the enrollment and application processes.

The event was designed to enroll students in Tennessee Promise, the state’s new program that 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).

Rita Tate and her husband came to enroll their daughter who is home schooled through Gateway Christian Schools. Tate said she searched Southwest’s website and got information about Scholarship Saturday. What appealed to her? “The fact that it will pay for two years of college, and possibly a two-year degree,” she said. “Even if my daughter were to decide to go for a four-year degree; if she were to decide to go here, and then transfer somewhere, I think that would be very attractive to her.”

Eddie Smith brought his nephew, Demetrius, who attends Arlington High School and wants to major in criminal justice.

Tiara Boots, a senior at Craigmont High School, heard about Scholarship Saturday from her English teacher and wanted to go ahead and start her college application process.

The class of 2015 will be the first eligible to take advantage of the program, which is part of Governor Haslam’s Drive to 55 initiative to increase the number of Tennesseans with some form of post-secondary credential.

In all, more than 56,000 high school seniors in the state applied for Tennessee Promise, exceeding Gov. Haslam’s expectations. Of that number, more than 6,400 applicants are from Shelby County, with nearly 5,300 selecting Southwest as their college of choice.
Chi Epsilon, the Southwest chapter of Sigma Kappa Delta, recently held its first official meeting to induct its charter members, Jennifer Cooper, Sharon Smith-Buckner, Jenifer Vivar, and Eve Yoser.

Sigma Kappa Delta is the English Honor Society for two-year colleges. It was founded in 1996 at Cotey College. Sigma Kappa Delta headquarters is currently located at Calhoun Community College in Decatur, Alabama.

Chi Epsilon, in accordance with the goals of Sigma Kappa Delta, has the following as its purposes:

• Confer distinction for high achievement in English language and literature at Southwest

• Provide cultural stimulation on Southwest’s multiple campuses and promote interest in literature and English language in their surrounding communities

• Foster the discipline of English in all its aspects, including creative and critical writing

• Promote community among its members

• Exhibit high standards of academic excellence.

With more than 100 active chapters located in the United States, approximately 2,500 members are inducted annually. Sigma Kappa Delta’s central purpose is to confer distinction upon students of the English language and literature in undergraduate studies.

To become a member, students must:

• Be enrolled in a two-year college with a Sigma Kappa Delta Chapter

• Have completed a minimum of one college course (excluding developmental courses) in English language or literature

• Have no grade lower than a B in English

• Have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in general scholarship

• Have completed at least one semester or two quarters of college course work for a cumulative total of 12 semester hours

Students are not required to be English majors.

For more information, please contact Instructors of Languages and Literature Daniel Gillespie, at jgillespie1@southwest.tn.edu, David Huffman at dhuffman@southwest.tn.edu or Jerome Wilson at wjwilson2@southwest.tn.edu.
Southwest President Delivers a Momentous Final “State of the College Address”

Southwest President Nathan L. Essex accepted the 2014 Vision Special Award of Merit presented to Southwest by the Downtown Memphis Commission on September 18 and kept the momentum going as he delivered his last “State of the College Address” to the Southwest Tennessee Community College family on the following day at the Macon Cove Campus. He took the helm as the first president of Southwest in 2001 following the merger of Shelby State Community College and State Technical Institute at Memphis.

President Essex began his address by saying he had the opportunity recently to convey to Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam the gravity of the desperate plight of many Southwest students who lack transportation, housing, and books. “Every student we graduate is a victory”, said Essex, “given what they encounter before they get here. And I think that Southwest is making a greater impact than any institution in the state. ... That’s why I get so excited at graduation time,” Essex passionately exclaimed.

He also conveyed to the governor that the Tennessee Promise (TNPromise) presents an opportunity for Southwest to recruit higher-performing students. “I indicated to him that we expect to recruit top students who are college ready.” The president stressed that the TNPromise can be a major game changer for Southwest, if the institution works collectively to recruit and retain these students. A higher-performing student, he pointed out, would also increase the retention and graduation rate of the college.

He mentioned that U.S. Senator. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee came to the college to promote a shorter FAFSA form. “If that process can be simplified, I think that would generate some positive dividends for all of us throughout the state,” Essex stated. He also indicated that Tennessee Department of Labor Commissioner Burns Phillips visited Southwest to observe the Industrial Readiness Training (IRT) program. “He is mandating that every community college in our state embrace and adopt the IRT program here at Southwest. I thought that spoke very well for what we’re doing with that program,” said Essex.

Another highlight of his message was that Southwest’s administration attended a briefing with the TBR staff recently, where there was discussion about the need to adjust the state’s funding formula. “For the very first time, there seems to be a realization that the formula needs to be adjusted to accommodate institutions like Southwest. … We’ve been lobbying for three years in Nashville to get that message across. I’m encouraged that there is some movement in terms of the formula itself,” said Essex.

He also said that state appropriations had been reduced from 58 to 39 percent over the past seven years, but tempered the remark saying, “Circumstances should not define who we are or what we aspire to become.”

The president reviewed the college’s mission and vision, then related instances that exemplify progress toward the fulfillment of Southwest’s vision of becoming a national model including the Nursing program, the nationally-accredited Developmental Studies program (Learning Support) and the Southwest Culinary Institute, to name a few.

He reviewed significant accomplishments of the 2013-14 academic year and laid the groundwork for hope and inspiration for the near future with initiatives like a new parking lot on the Union Avenue Campus, occupying the new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building, focus on student learning communities, and possible salary improvements for faculty and staff.

After presentations from Interim Provost Barbara Roseborough - SACS; Vice President Financial and Administrative Services Ron Parr - Budget Review; Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management Dwayne Scott - the Academic Success Center; Executive Director of Human Resources and Affirmative Action Paul Thomas - Salary Study; and Executive Director of Information Technology Services Michael Boyd - ITS Updates; President Essex entertained questions and exited the podium by saying to his Southwest family, “I love you.”
A Southwest Student Shares her LEAP Experience

Raemona Crump enrolled in Shelby State Community College, now Southwest, when she graduated from high school in 1983. She withdrew and got a job to help her mom out, thinking it would be for only one year. But, 31 years later she was again attending Southwest.

“It was one thing after another. I got married and then had a baby,” Crump explained. She put her career aspirations on the back burner a second time to help her husband build his restaurant business. “My son is now 18,” Crump said, feeling it was finally time to focus on her own dreams and goals.

Upon returning to Southwest after such a long period, she was placed in LEAP (Learning Early Academic Program) Math. Students’ scores on the COMPASS placement test determine whether they start with college-level courses or are afforded the assistance of supplemental math, reading, or writing.

“I really wasn’t good in math in high school. This wasn’t one of my favorite subjects at all. I dreaded it,” Crump said. She waited until her very last semester at Southwest to tackle her math courses.

“It was challenging, but I was determined to learn it. And I had a really, really, great – I mean excellent instructor in the LEAP class. Her name is Ms. McKinney (Adjunct Math Instructor Kasaundra Nash-McKinney). I can’t tell you enough about her. She is like a jewel for Southwest,” Crump stated.

Having an instructor that is patient and engaging can really make a difference in how successful students are. Crump had nothing but glowing remarks for McKinney, stating that she not only worked with her assigned students, but also with other students. “She is so good with people. Even if you’re not one of her students, she still takes time to teach you. And she’s not even getting paid for that (extra work),” Crump remarked. She indicated McKinney often stayed beyond her scheduled working hours to assist.

As she progressed to the next level, Crump was assigned to an instructor who was a bit firmer, but still supportive. She adjusted to the different teaching style and successfully completed her math requirements. “I stayed at Southwest. I went through the tutoring. I did what I had to do to complete the class,” she said. …“I was an older student. I was determined to learn it.”

Crump’s experience included four to five hours of algebra during the day and studying at night before going to bed. She says she “ate, drank, and slept with algebra.” That level of commitment produced results. When she went to take the final exam, her instructor told her that if she didn’t pass, she’d have another opportunity to take it in August. Her response was, “Lady, I’m passing this test.” The LEAP class’s modular-based, self-paced computerized format with built-in tutorials worked perfectly for Crump. She could work at home and repeated the tutorials until she understood it. “That was the greatest advantage for me,” she stated.

She summarized her experience by saying, “I am an older student and don’t have time to waste. If someone has a desire to learn, that’s a great system for them.”

Crump enrolled at Christian Brothers University in the fall of 2014, where she is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in nursing.
Southwest Hosts U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander’s FAFSA Reform Forum

In an effort to get local feedback and support for the Financial Aid Simplification and Transparency (FAST) Act, U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee held a FAFSA Reform Forum on September 4 at Southwest’s Macon Cove Campus. Alexander (Republican) and Democratic Senator Michael Bennet, from Colorado, introduced the FAST Act on June 19, which if passed, could drastically reduce the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion process and, according to the National College Access Network (June 19, 2014), make other changes to help increase the low U.S. postsecondary completion rate for low-income students.

Representing local school districts, Superintendents Dorsey Hopson (Shelby County Schools), John Aitken (Collierville City Schools), and David Stephens (Bartlett City Schools) were in attendance. The University of Memphis, Christian Brothers University, Lemoyne-Owen College, Tennessee College of Applied Technology of Memphis, organizations such as the Greater Memphis Chamber and several area granting agencies and foundations were represented as well.

Southwest Tennessee Community College President Nathan L. Essex mentioned the impact that a shorter FAFSA form could have on Southwest students in his welcoming remarks. “The students that we serve here at Southwest face numerous challenges. Most are first-generation students. They face transportation issues. They cannot afford textbooks. Some are even homeless. But they’re here because they have a desire to improve their circumstances and the quality of life for themselves and their families. Certainly, our mission at Southwest is to afford them as many resources as possible as they endeavor to achieve their goals. We strive to minimize barriers, including the tedious and very complex FAFSA form, which oftentimes impedes our students’ efforts in completing their goals.”

Also welcoming the attendees was Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, who stressed the importance of advancing education. “I see so many people representing public education, higher education, and public education. In truth, he (Sen. Alexander) has assembled all of us who are interested in really advancing education across the state of Tennessee, particularly for us here in the Shelby County area,” Luttrell stated.

Sen. Alexander told the attendees that before he and Sen. Bennet introduce the FAST Act to the U.S. Senate, he wanted to get their opinions. “I am here to ask your advice,” Alexander said, following his introduction by Memphis Mayor A.C. Wharton, who said of Alexander, “This is someone who has this in his blood. This is very dear to him. This is something that will affect, in a populous way, not only the lives of so many Tennesseans, but aspiring college students all around the country.”

Holding up a lengthy FAFSA form in one hand and a redesigned shorter form in the other hand, Alexander told participants that he was proposing to reduce the current lengthy, cumbersome FAFSA down to two questions or the minimum that adequately assesses the applicant’s family size, and would rely on the tax return for most of the relevant financial information.

Southwest’s President Essex supports a more simplified process and in a later statement to the college said, “The application process is perceived to be one of the barriers that many potential students encounter which results in hardships and untimely delays as they pursue college enrollment. We were delighted to host the Forum as we also wish to remove barriers that our students encounter as they pursue their career goals and aspirations.”

U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander (standing center) holds up the current lengthy FAFSA form in one hand and holds the proposed shorter version in the other.
Southwest’s Academic Support Center (ASC) provides tutoring, open academic computer labs, instructional resources such as DVDs, videotapes, textbooks and study areas to help students successfully reach their academic and career goals. The center is currently staffed with 14 scholarship peer tutors and 28 professional tutors. At the beginning of each semester year, an orientation is conducted to prepare tutors for the upcoming changes and challenges. Southwest held this annual event recently.

As Southwest strives to retain and graduate more students, Velencia Harris, a tutor for the Maxine A. Smith Center, commented on whether the ASC is using a different approach to tutoring. “It is not necessarily a different approach, as much as it is a consistent and practical approach when we say ‘We are here to help you and we are supporting you,’” said Harris. “I find that many students are apprehensive, if you will, and do not want to share and be open about not being able to do the work. Once they’ve shared that, the ice is broken. … Then we’re able to help a lot more,” she continued.

Executive Director of Retention and Graduation Cynthia Calhoun, who also directs the ASC, gave us a deeper insight into the dynamics of the ASC and its current services and challenges.

Scoop - In light of the retention and graduation initiatives, how important is tutoring?
Calhoun - It is exceptional and growing as a best practice intervention for student success, and the Center for Community College Student Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin lists tutoring as a promising practice for colleges in helping students to reach their academic goals.

Scoop - What are the major challenges you face?
Calhoun - Maintaining a pool of applicants to tutor in high demand subject areas on all campuses, appropriate space allocation for individual and group tutoring, annual updates for supplemental resources such as current textbooks and course software.

Scoop - Was there an increase in the number of students you served last year?
Calhoun - No. However, the ASC provided 34,588 services, including tutoring and supplemental resources such as computer use, textbooks, and class visits. There were 6,268 unique students served.

Scoop - Are you employing new strategies and techniques this school year?
Calhoun - Yes. The ASC is implementing tutor and supplemental instruction training for all tutors at the college, which includes tutors at the departmental level:

- Expanding availability of online tutoring courses to include Spanish reading, writing, and literature to accompany long established math online tutoring.
- Module-based tutoring for module-based courses.
- Ongoing use of online resources that accompany MyMathlab and other courses in the series.
- Related tutor training to meet the needs of students, such as updates for Microsoft Word and using library resources.

Scoop - How do the ASC services complement other retention efforts?
Calhoun:
- Students with Disabilities Office - ASC offers special accommodations with wheelchair accessible workstations and visually-impaired reading equipment.
- ASC tutors students referred by the Early Alert retention initiative and submits reports on attendance.
- ASC offers special tutoring sessions for TnAchieves students outside of the ASC.
- ASC offers faculty-lead training workshops on the new revitalization courses (with a high percentage of DFW grades) in Composition, Public Speaking, Anatomy and Physiology, Statistics, and Sociology.
- ASC tutors students referred by the Student Success Center with the goal to increase students’ GPAs to 2.5 for the semester.
- ASC tutors students enrolled in the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) EQuEPT Learning Communities support system.
- ASC coordinates supplemental instruction leaders assigned to the Learning Communities for the QEP/ EQuEPT support system.
Insights into Hidden Rules of Poverty Were Revealed During the “Bridging the Gap” Meet and Greet at Southwest

“Institutions have a very different idea of how the world works and there’s a conflict there.” – Dr. Ruby K. Payne

She could just as well have said “Men are from Mars, women are from Venus” as she, Dr. Ruby Payne, described the dynamics of how people learn and relate differently during her presentation following the “Bridging the Gap” Meet and Greet hosted by Southwest’s Corporate Training Continuing Education Division on August 29 at the Macon Cove Campus. Payne is a professional educator and expert on poverty and mindsets of economic classes. She has, since 1972, provided training in how to work effectively with individuals from all economic classes and certified more than 7,000 trainers in A Framework for Understanding Poverty.

The purpose of the event was to introduce to the Memphis higher education community her award-winning text, Investigations into Economic Class in America, which complements a course developed to increase retention and graduation; and to discuss the “Hidden Rules,” barriers to graduation, being under-resourced, and what it means to live in poverty in Memphis.

Payne’s presentation was eye-opening, engaging, and humorous. She drew from real-life situations to set up scenarios for group discussions as she briefly reviewed the 12 chapters of her book, which ends by having students create a personal plan for building resources.

One of the key points she stressed was, “For our students, to be successful, we must understand their hidden rules and teach the hidden rules they need to know in order to navigate school and work successfully.”

Payne emphasized, in an interview prior to the presentation, that mentors play a significant role in overcoming hidden rules. “That’s why mentors tend to be so important, because they can tell you the rules. … These are rules that help you win in this environment. We want you to know them. Then, not everyone will use them, but when you see them, you know they’re there. It actually helps them (students) win the game,” said Payne.
Southwest’s Student Success Center Helps to Boost Retention

“The Student Success Center program is doing an excellent job. I’m enrolled in it and I am very pleased. They have helped me during the various seminars, monthly visits, and receiving the academic reports. … Thank you for such an amazing program.” — Breonnah Atkins, Southwest student.

The Student Services and Enrollment Management Division of Southwest launched the Student Success Center (SSC) at the beginning of the 2014 Spring Semester. SSC employs intrusive counseling and early intervention strategies to identify and resolve barriers for students who earn a semester grade point average (GPA) below 2.0 and who receive a financial aid warning.

The SSC hired five part-time counselors (four are retired school teachers) who were charged with contacting students and having them come into the center for counseling and intervention, including the following six workshops in February and March: *Study Skills, Note Taking, Time Management, Communication, How to be Successful in Math, and Dress for Success; along with videos.

The results have been impactful. The semester-end statistical data denotes:

- 2,359 students were identified
- 1,198 (of the 2,359 students) were on the Financial Aid Warning List (Enrolled and not Enrolled)
- 1,161 (of the 2,359 students) had GPA’s below 2.0 (Enrolled)
- 396 students walked through the doors of the SSC
- 219 (of the 396 students) improved their GPAs
- The SSC reported an overall 55 percent increase in GPAs; 28 percent with 2.5 or higher, 47 percent with 2.0 or higher.

Though not yet having reached its projected goal of having 70 percent of the targeted students earn a 2.5 semester GPA, the center has made a definite impact as evidenced by testimonies from faculty members like Yen Chou, who wrote, “I must say that (students name) has done an amazing job in my statistics course. He failed several exams, but made his final exam grade higher than the class final exam average! … It was evident that he has changed study habits and learning attitude. … I am certain that your help (SSC counselor) has been very important to him and has been a tremendous contribution to the success of this class.”

An evaluative assessment of this pilot program resulted in some key observations, i.e., when a student meets with a counselor more than once, the likelihood of improvement increases.

With a little tweaking from the lessons learned, the center is gearing up for the 2014-15 school year with improved strategies to strengthen the program and continue to boost the college’s retention rate.

There are two SSC locations to conveniently serve students: Union Avenue Campus, Building M, Room 110; Macon Cove Campus, Farris Building, Room 2135. For additional information, contact Director of Student Activities Nikita L Ashford-Ashworth at nlashford@southwest.tn.edu.

*Student Attendance: (69) Union Avenue Campus, (99) Macon Cove
With the rise of home gardens and interest in organic foods, more people are opting to store their homegrown fruits and vegetables away for a cold wintry day. For the third year, Southwest Dietary Instructor Marie Sun recently joined forces with the University of Tennessee (UT) and Tennessee State University (TSU) Extension Office to offer a Food Preservation workshop, commonly known as canning.

Shelby County Extension Director Cathy Faust, TSU Nutrition Agent Natalie Owens, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Area Specialist Rita Jackson, and Tipton County Extension Agent Priscilla Eddins facilitated the workshop. “We cover jams and jellies, pickles, salsa, green beans, and freezing,” said Faust. The $45 investment covered the day-long workshop and included a canning book, freezing book, and other literature.

The vegetable selection has been the same yearly; green beans particularly, because they are a perfect selection for canning. “We like to do the green beans. For one, it’s a low acid vegetable, one that’s used when utilizing pressure canning. And people want to learn about water bath, which would be for (preserving) high-acid foods,” Faust explained. “An example would be jam or jelly,” Owens added. They’ve also used Welch’s Grape Juice to make jelly in the past, Owens indicated. “It’s easy and requires no added sugar.”

“Freezing,” said Owens, “is not as labor intensive. Most of the time you’re just blanching your vegetable, and then you’re preparing it for the freezer in a freezer-appropriate container. It (the container) can be a freezer bag or a freezer container. But we have to be sure, because some people think that just any bag is appropriate. But it needs to say freezer bag, not storage bag,” she continued.

The demand for the workshop is consistently growing. “There’s a big interest because people are having community gardens. They are asking for this. There are so many farmer’s markets. So if you don’t have a garden, you may go to a farmer’s market and buy 20 pounds of tomatoes. You can preserve tomatoes, corn, or just whatever,” said Faust.

Ava Witt and her friend, Charla Bartozzi, found out about the class on Facebook. They purchased their vegetables from the local farmer’s market and came to learn about pressure canning. “We want to preserve soups and things for our families, and for our kids that are away at college, so that they can take home-cooked food with them,” said Witt. The two friends said canning is probably more expensive than purchasing food from the grocery store, “But, you know what you are eating, and it’s not processed.
The TSBDC at Southwest Extends its Reach to East Memphis and Fayette County

The Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at Southwest moved from its former location on the Union Avenue Campus to the Maxine A. Smith Center in November 2013. The new location on 8800 E. Shelby Drive places TSBDC in proximity to East Memphis and Fayette County, both of which are in the center’s service area.

“Our office was on the Union Avenue Campus”, said Executive Director of TSBDC for Southwest Rory Thomas. He continued, “And our satellite office was at the Renaissance Center, which is a few blocks away. We were really only covering the downtown market. So, moving out to the Maxine A. Smith Center – because we are responsible for Shelby and Fayette counties – allows us to connect with a lot of businesses in east Memphis, as well as some in Fayette County. We have businesses located in the Hacks Cross/Winchester area. As opposed to downtown, they can easily come to the center to get their needs fulfilled.”

The Maxine A. Smith Center, equipped with 21st century technology, has proven to be an excellent location for the TSBDC. It was the host site for the recent Google workshops, as well as other technical training for TSBDC constituents. “Of course this is one of Southwest’s newest facilities with state-of-the-art equipment. We’ve had, for example, Google workshops. We have access to computer labs, and if we need to show videos; it’s a great facility. This has worked out very well,” Thomas stated.

The TSBDC program is a statewide network of 15 centers that offer a variety of business counseling and training services. Thomas came to the Southwest Center in May of 2013. His goal was to increase the visibility and awareness of the services TSBDC offers. This was accomplished, he said, in part by creating partnerships with other organizations and intensifying marketing efforts.

The Southwest TSBDC has experienced noticeable growth over the course of the year. Thomas reported, “From the prior year (2012), training attendance was 1,200 and increased to over 1,600 in 2013.” The center seems to be on target to surpass last year’s totals with training attendance having already reached 1,100 at only five months into the 2014 calendar year.

It has also increased capital infusion in financing opportunities for small businesses, which is one of TSBDC’s core provisions. “We have certain milestones that we want to meet every year. Part of building the team and empowering them is to let them know that we have the opportunity to become one of the best centers in the country. It’s been tremendous,” Thomas stated.

Aiming high has landed the TSBDC at Southwest in the winner’s circle. Thomas was chosen as the TSBDC network’s 2014 State Star Award recipient. The annual award recognizes a top performer from each state SBDC network who demonstrates a strong commitment to small business and makes significant contributions to the state.

“Each year we recognize individuals in our statewide organization who demonstrate excellence and a sincere commitment to helping our business men and women succeed in business. Rory Thomas, our TSBDC director at Southwest, has been named as our State Star,” said Dr. Patrick Geho, State Executive Director – TSBDC Lead Center at Middle Tennessee State University Network (https://www.tsbdc.org/thomas-receives-2014-rising-star-award/).

“I am honored to use my talents to empower current and future business owners and leaders who have the ability to create tremendous economic impact in our communities,” said Thomas. “This is truly a team award because it starts with our great staff and all of our valuable strategic partners in the area.”
On July 17, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker highlighted progress on efforts to help rural small businesses and communities expand exports at the second “Made in Rural America” regional export forum with business owners and local leaders from the Mississippi Delta region. The Delta Regional Authority hosted the one-day event at Southwest Tennessee Community College to bring together local, state, and federal resources to help rural businesses grow and support jobs through exports. In a keynote discussion with Delta Regional Authority Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill, Secretary Pritzker spoke about how the Department of Commerce and federal agencies are working together to enhance opportunities for businesses in the Delta’s rural communities, focusing on increasing exports from the Delta’s many manufacturers, value-added producers, and service providers.

… “The Delta region, with its entrepreneurial history, affordable energy, available land, and accessible waterways and transportation network, is primed to reap the benefits of a national focus on rural America,” said Chairman Chris Masingill. “While the region and its people are excited about hosting this forum, we’re more excited about reaping the job and investment benefits that will come from today’s conversation on rural exporting.”

… At the forum, Secretary Pritzker and other Administration officials detailed how the “Made in Rural America” initiative is making a difference for rural exporters, including:

• Designating funds for trade specialists in the International Trade Administration’s field offices in more than 100 cities to travel to more rural areas and enhance export counseling of rural companies.
• Working with partners to support more rural companies and alleviate costs to attend overseas trade missions.
• Equipping U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development staff in all 50 states plus territories with the information they need to counsel rural companies with export potential and connect them to export-related resources.

• Establishing a dedicated web portal for rural businesses considering export opportunities available on Business.USA.gov/rural-exporting.

Business.USA.gov allows U.S. businesses to search aggregated business-related information and resources from 24 federal agencies, from starting a business to financing to expanding through exporting.

Secretary Pritzker recently reaffirmed the Obama Administration’s commitment to U.S. exporters by unveiling a revitalized government-wide strategy to increase U.S. exports: NEI/NEXT. NEI/NEXT is a data-based, customer-driven initiative, focused on helping more American businesses of all sizes – including rural businesses – capitalize on new and existing opportunities to sell Made-in-America goods and services abroad.
Local Perspectives on the “Made in Rural America Regional Forum” Held at Southwest

Through the diligent efforts of Southwest’s Executive Assistant to the President for Government Relations Sherman Greer, several hundred people convened at Southwest’s Macon Cove Campus on July 17 for the White House Rural Council’s “Made in Rural America Regional Forum.” Business owners and representatives from local, regional and national agencies were greeted by Southwest’s Vice President for Institutional Advancement Karen Nippert, who apprised them of the college’s mission and educational and training opportunities.

This historical event, promoting opportunities to invest in rural America, placed Southwest in the national spotlight. “Thanks to Southwest for putting this on. This (Southwest) is one of our crown jewels of technical education,” said President and CEO of the Greater Memphis Chamber Phil Trenary. He stressed that Memphis is the world leader for infrastructural logistics.

Regarding the significance of the conference locally, Trenary stated, “In the last couple of years, we’ve had eight manufacturing companies to either start from scratch or expand here. So we need this.”

The keynote speaker for the event was U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, “It is a real honor for Southwest to have the Secretary of Commerce come to Memphis,” said Senior Vice President of Community Development for the Greater Memphis Chamber Dexter Muller. “To my knowledge, this is the first time that she would have been here. We work really closely with the Department of Commerce on exporting in Memphis. Unlike what most people would think, we’re about 28th in the country out of 360 metro areas.”

Looking ahead to the future impact of this conference, Muller continued, “I think there’ll be a lot of additional exports. We’ve been growing by about $1 billion a year in exports over the last five years, even during the recession. Think of what we can do when the economy turns around.”

Before the event began, Executive Director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at Southwest Rory Thomas projected, “We are looking for anyone that’s interested in exporting.” Thomas indicated a major goal of the TSBDC was to bring together people to talk about financing for their exports. “Actually there are SBA loan guarantee programs that guarantee up to 90 percent of an export loan. There are so many community agencies out there, as well, that provide a lot of exporting support, including our Small Business Development Center, the Minority Business Development Agency, and the Greater Memphis Chamber – all are involved,” said Thomas.
Southwest Tennessee Community College (Southwest) President Nathan L. Essex and Tennessee State University (TSU) President Glenda Glover signed a Student Transfer Partnership Agreement on September 11 that guarantees all the courses Southwest students complete on the Tennessee Transfer Pathway (TTP) will be accepted at TSU and count toward a baccalaureate degree. The signing was part of TSU’s community outreach during this 25th Annual Southern Heritage Classic celebration.

The terms of this agreement include the awarding of 10 two-year full TSU scholarships with tuition and room and board to TSU beginning fall 2015. The partnership also contains a dual admissions component that builds on the TTP which was designed to help community college students plan for transferring to a Tennessee public university or select regionally accredited, non-profit, Tennessee private colleges and universities to complete their baccalaureate degree.

The TSU scholarship coupled with the TNPromise Scholarship, which provides May 2015 high school graduates the opportunity to attend a community college free of tuition and fees, will offer select Southwest scholarship recipients an opportunity for a remaining full two-year, tuition-free and room and board TSU scholarship in pursuit of the bachelor’s degree.

Members of the welcoming delegation for the forum were (from left to right): Dion Brown, executive director, B.B. King Museum; Karen Nippert; Phil Trenary; Chris Masingill, federal co-chairman, Delta Regional Authority; and Mike Marshall (at the podium), alternate federal co-chair, Delta Regional Authority.

Director of the Memphis U.S. Export Assistance Center for the U.S. Commercial Service (U.S. Department of Commerce) David Spann spoke of the agency’s role in promoting manufactured goods for U.S. companies. Spann specified the agency works primarily with small and medium-size companies providing market research and business strategies. “One of the best things we do,” said Spann, “is to help you find good qualified reputable proprietors in other countries to partner with and do business with. Because for all practical purposes, if you’re not doing business with the right people – reputable, competent and financially stable people – you’re at great risk, and there is no recourse.’

Local farmer Andrew Matthews came to the forum with hopes of identifying and connecting with sources to help his family export their produce. “I’m a farmer and I’ve been interested in exporting for several years, along with my mother Dr. Martie Daniels. She spent several years trying to develop a network with the farmers to expand our market internationally,” said Matthews, whose family, he says, owns about 20 acres of prime property outfitted with a rail line. “I’m looking forward to talking to some of the agencies, especially the U.S. Department of Commerce, and making those connections as far as the technical side,” Matthews explained.
Southwest’s Continuing Education Division collaborated with several Memphis area entities who share a common passion for educating and enriching the lives of children and their parents to develop the Kids Exploratory Learning Institute (KELI) Camp. “The purpose of the Kids Institute is two-fold,” said Ayana Alshams-Brooks, a Continuing Education training specialist at Southwest, who came up with the idea for the pilot program. “We want to educate Shelby County students and parents on potential career options, giving them knowledge, skills and guidance to make the best choices for their future. We also want to give the children and their parents a voice in determining the program’s content, by encouraging their input at the design stage,” Alshams-Brooks explained.

Fourteen sixth, seventh, and eighth-graders attended KELI and explored career possibilities through programming robots, creating their own computer games, making 3-D designs, and art projects. The camp kicked off with a tour of Unilever, the makers of Breyers® Ice Cream, in Covington, TN, where the campers discovered how frozen treats are made. “They absolutely loved the field trip to Unilever! Observing how ice cream is made and then being able to eat as much as they wanted, I think was the highlight. Five students were actually selected to be “official” taste testers for a new product Unilever will be rolling out in the fall,” Alsham-Brooks reported.

Though the week-long event was jammed pack with exciting activities and workshops, it was the robotics that kept them on the edges of their seats. “I would have to say that learning about robotics and working with the robots garnered the most enthusiasm. The workshop on computer coding (Scratch) was a close second,” remarked Alsham-Brooks.

Pre- and post-tests were conducted to measure the pilot’s effectiveness. The measured outcome was to generate an interest in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) careers. This was done two ways:

1. The first measurement was the percentage of students who were excited about the topics covered and wanted more information on how to pursue those areas.

2. The second measurement (to be assessed as the program goes forward) will be to track the students on what topics they’re taking in high school and whether these topics will assist them in pursuing STEAM-related careers.

One hundred percent of the students were surveyed and all met a positive criterion for the first measurement. “Although we can’t measure the second one at this time, all of the students said they were very interested in returning next year, and we left them wanting more,” said Alshams-Brooks.

The pilot program received high marks from the parents too. “The parents were thrilled because the program was all that their children talked about when they came home! Some of the parents reported that their children went on the Internet to research more about the topics. Many of the parents asked if their children could come back next year,” Alshams-Brooks reported.
Retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Sandra Walls left nothing to the imagination when she spoke to Southwest students during the third presentation in the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at Southwest’s “Spark the Dream” CEO/Entrepreneurship Series. Walls has a no-nonsense approach to business. Having served 22 years in the military, including serving on the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon during Desert Storm, making tough decisions and stepping up to the challenge were just part of her routine processes. When she retired from the military in 1997 and started Aviation Petroleum Oil Logistics (A VPOL) International, LLC in 1999, she brought her top-notch skills and training to the private sector, and it paid off.

She was featured in Black Enterprise Magazine and named one of INC 5000’s fastest growing companies. “We have a five-year $100 million strategic growth plan in place,” the CEO/president told Black Enterprise in May 2012. A VPOL, whose core strength is supply chain management, staff augmentation, and quality solutions, is located in Memphis and incorporated in the state of Texas.

Walls grew up in a tightly knit family where high expectations were placed on her as a preacher’s kid. Failing was not an option, as not only her family, but her community held her in high esteem. She did not disappoint them and grew into her own person charting her own destiny.

In the early ‘70s, when she graduated from LeMoyne-Owen College, her dream of working in the business sector was deferred. “I really wanted to be in a corporate environment ... But when I graduated from LeMoyne-Owen College, I couldn’t get a job. People were telling me, when I went from place to place to place, that they did not hire me because either I was black, because I was a woman, or I had no experience,” Walls explained.

After brief employment with a major company whose corporate culture was highly racially charged, she devised a plan. “That’s when I started to look into the military. And I said, ‘This is my plan – I was going to consider the military. I can go in for two-to-four years; get experience under my belt, get my master’s degree ..., then get out, to make myself more marketable.’”

“I can’t change the fact that I’m a woman or that I’m black. That’s who I am and that’s not going away. But I can change or control my experience,” she resolved within herself.

Walls joined the U.S. Air Force and went to Officer Training School, from which she graduated as a commissioned officer in 90 days. She completed a master’s degree during her first two years of active duty. She was later selected for the Air Force’s Education with Industry Program that involved a partnership with the Shell Oil Company. During her tenure with the military, Walls gained invaluable experience and exposure that carried with them a high level of responsibility. As an employee in the Defense Energy Support System, Walls indicated she was responsible for the purchase of petroleum for the military.

She is now CEO of AVPOL, which has several divisions: General Services Administration Services, Navy Seaport-E, Quality Solutions, Supply Chain Management, Business Process Engineering, and Advisory and Assistant Services.

Walls says she looks at her business as a ministry whose objective is to effect positive change in the community. “I look at my business as a way of helping other people, creating jobs for this community. I’m very interested in this community, Memphis. ... I just want to be a part of helping to move forward ... to make a difference so that our children can see that hard work does pay off.”

Her take-away message to the students was, “If you have a dream, go after the dream, don’t let anything stop you from going after what you want to do, no matter what it is, but getting there means hard work. Getting there means there’re some things you have to do and put in place in order to help ensure your success.

Retired Military Female-Entrepreneur Delivers a Powerful “Spark the Dream” Presentation

“If you have a dream, go after the dream, don’t let anything stop you from going after what you want to do, no matter what it is, but getting there means hard work,” says Sandra Walls.
There is a nationwide shortage of nurses for which the Nursing Institute of the Mid-South reported, “Tennessee currently, and projected to 2020, ranks consistently among the highest for all states. Projected supply meets only 53 percent of the 2020 demand. This shortage is equivalent to a need for 35,300 registered nurses.” Southwest held its Nursing Pinning Ceremony last spring to celebrate and recognize the hard work and dedication of the 31 graduates who will help to alleviate that shortage.

The Nursing Pinning Ceremony is an age-old tradition whereas nursing graduates are recognized and celebrated for their accomplishments and affiliation with a particular school of nursing. Southwest’s new nursing graduates were presented with a nursing pin by the faculty and pinned during the ceremony by Interim Nursing Department Chair Sharon D. Livisay to symbolize their transition into the nursing profession.

Special recognition was awarded to the following:

- Florence Nightingale Award for Clinical Excellence - Shelby Patterson
- Scholastic Achievement Award for the Highest GPA in Nursing - Tina Springfield
- Leadership Award - Christopher Hess

Southwest boasts a 96.44 percent 2013 licensure passing rate. Livisay indicated that six of the recent 31 nursing graduates have already received approval to sit for the NCLEX RN Licensure Exam, have jobs lined up and started hospital orientation as a graduate nurse (GN). “We had 39 of the 43 December graduates to enter the workforce, and expect 95-100 percent placement for this class of new graduates.”

Livisay further commented, “We are extremely proud of each of our nursing graduates. We wish them the best in all future endeavors and know that they will make a positive impact in the lives of the patients they serve and in the community. We are committed to excellence in nursing education and training. That is why Southwest Tennessee Community College is your ‘BEST Choice’ for nursing education!”
Southwest’s 2014 Faculty and Staff Awards Review

The 2014 Faculty and Staff Awards were presented last spring as follows:

Awards for Excellence
- Student Services and Enrollment Management Vice President
  - Katrina Muldrow
  - Ompie Nelson
- Human Resources and Affirmative Action Executive Director - Tracy L. Horton
- Financial and Administrative Services Vice President - Les Taylor
- Institutional Advancement Vice President - Erin Roberts
- PASO Organization
  - Angela Banks
  - Verties Sailes III

Classified Staff Organization Awards
- Dr. Kenneth W. Mathis Environmental Service Award - Paul Douglas
- Support Staff Professional Growth Award - Anthony Fleming
- Support Staff Service Award - Wanda Coopwood
- Support Staff Employee of the Year - Merlin E. Robinson
- Jim Willis Spirit Award - Tammy Lambdin
- College Retention Student Success
  - MOST Program
  - Natural Sciences Department
- International Studies Campus Globalization Award - Stephen Haley
- Information Technology Services Vice President’s Award - Ruby Wilburn
- Academic Affairs Provost’s Award - SACS COC Reaccreditation Team

Faculty Awards
- William W. Farris Faculty Service Award - Dr. Joan McGrory
- Faculty Award - Kenneth Carpenter
- Service to the College - Joanthia Barnes
- Professional Growth Committee Award - David Huffman
- Community Services Award - Dr. Amy Waddell
- Leadership Activities Award - Mathilda Doorley

Police Services/Public Safety
- 2014 Director of Public Safety Award - Farah Cato, Dispatcher 2
- 2014 Distinguished Service Award - David Hearn, Security Officer
- Officer Appreciation Award - Quinton Maples, Police Officer 1

2014 Outstanding Employee Donor
- Brenda A. B. Smith

2014 Founder’s Circle
- Clair S. Berry
- Stephen L. Black
- Verneta S. Boone
- Kenneth A. Carpenter
- Lana J. Harris
- Brenda C. Jinkins
- Michael J. Jordan
- Karen F. Nippert
- Mary J. Palmer
- Linda D. Patterson
- Nellie P. Patterson
- Kathleen Singleton
- Gary M. Stephens
- Edward C. Reid
Southwest Honor Student Vies for PTK National Honor Society’s International Office

“For the first time ever, a Southwest student has been selected to compete for an international office position with the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.” – Dr. Joan McGrory

Rachel M. Carpenter went to Orlando, Florida last April to compete for Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) National Honor Society’s Office of International Vice President Division-II. In her own words:

My name is Rachel M. Carpenter. I currently serve as chapter president for Upsilon Delta – Southwest’s representative chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Phi Theta Kappa is a highly esteemed, internationally-known organization for recognition of academic achievement that also provides assistance in gaining scholarships and positive motivation for community college degree completion. … I proudly major in biotechnology at Southwest Tennessee Community College and even made the Dean’s List last summer! I am fortunate enough to have done so because I am a recipient of the H1- B Health and Information Technical Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, as well as the Tennessee Board of Regents Academic Service Scholarship, and the Department of Homeland Security Grant.

Carpenter was among the 27 students selected out of 227 to compete for the Office of International Vice President for PTK Division-II, which includes Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, Florida, British Virgin Islands, and Peru. “I really wanted to raise the visibility of Phi Theta Kappa on Southwest’s campuses and increase the interest and involvement of other students. I believe that will benefit the community as well as our school,” said Carpenter.

Her entry involved submitting an essay and writing a three-minute speech to be delivered upon winning. “I unfortunately didn’t get to deliver the speech, but the essay was on display during the tenure of the campaign in my booth at the convention. So, people were free to walk up and look at information about our chapter, my GPA … as well as my essay,” Carpenter stated.

Carpenter was ecstatic about the experience. She made the trip to Florida alone, but met so many people, made so many connections and got involved in many activities. She came back full of fire, super charged and ready to move the Southwest chapter into the international lime light. “It (the convention) gave me lots of ideas about things that we can do here … I’m also trying to really get the ball rolling as far as getting the members active in participating in the International Honors in Action study topic which is “Frontiers in the Spirit of Exploration” this year.”

During the convention, Carpenter took a personality assessment that was followed with group activities which changed her views on life processes. A quote that she ran across sums it up, “Maybe the journey isn’t so much about becoming anything; maybe it’s about un-becoming everything that isn’t really you, so you can be who you were meant to be in the first place.”
Southwest Holds its Annual Student Honors and Awards Convocation

Southwest celebrated student achievement during the 2014 Students Honors and Awards Convocation on April 8 at the Union Avenue Campus. The Southwest Ensemble provided music during the ceremony. Honors Academy Scholar Leslie Hogan and Provost and Executive Vice President Joanne Bassett greeted and welcomed the attendees, respectively.

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) inducted 112 members during the 2013-2014 academic year. PTK is the international honor society for two-year colleges. The mission of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. A 3.5 GPA is the basic requirement for membership.

Seventy-nine scholars were recognized by the Honors Academy for the 2013-2014 academic year. The Honors Academy is designed to provide a unique and challenging experiential learning environment for exceptional students who want more out of college than mere grades. The Academy aims to enhance the academic and cultural climate of the entire college. Students must be specially admitted.

Having sponsored travel to Brazil, England, Ghana, Great European Capitals, Greece, France, Japan, India, Ireland, Italy, Spain, and Scotland, International Studies awarded scholarships to 81 recipients.

Leadership and Service Awards Included:

- “Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior and Community Colleges”
- Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature Team
- Outstanding Club/Organization
- Clubs/Organizations Leadership Awards
- The Southwest Source (Student Newspaper)
- Southwest Ambassadors
- Outstanding Performance in Service-Learning

Department Academic Awards Included:

Career Studies
- Technologies Department
- Business and Legal Studies Department
- Nursing Department
- Allied Health Sciences Department

Arts and Sciences
- Languages and Literature Department
- Social and Behavioral Sciences Department
- Communications, Graphic and Fine Arts Department
- Natural Sciences Department
- Mathematics Department
- Distance Education
- Special Academic Programs/Dual Enrollment

The months of hard work gave way to smiles as this Southwest student gladly accepted a certificate of achievement.
QEP? CSIT? EQuEPT? Perhaps these appear to be strange acronyms, but they carry significant influence with Southwest and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, also referred to as SACSCOC. In September 2014, Southwest completed the peer review process in seeking reaffirmation of accreditation by SACSCOC. A major requirement for accreditation is the development of a five-year Quality Enhancement Plan or QEP, described by SACSCOC as “…at the heart of the Commission’s philosophy of accreditation…Engaging the wider academic community and addressing one or more issues that contribute to institutional improvement…”

For more than a year, the Southwest QEP Team provided leadership in framing a topic for the College. After receiving six QEP proposals reviewed by faculty, staff, and students, the recommended topic from each group was CSIT—Counseling, Supplemental Instruction, and Tutoring.

The purpose of CSIT is to improve student learning and the environment where learning takes place through Counseling, Supplemental Instruction, and Tutoring and to implement the wrap-around support services by enrolling freshmen students into a cohort defined as a learning community. With further refinement of CSIT to include learning communities, Southwest’s QEP is rebranded with a new title, Enhanced Quality Educational Practice Team or EQuEPT where learning communities become the primary focus. This fall, the pilot serves 51 first-time freshmen who attend classes as a structured learning community. A team of outstanding faculty and Supplemental Instruction Leaders facilitate the following courses in a blocked schedule format.

- English Composition I – David Huffman, Instructor
- Fundamentals of Speech and Communications
  Marguerite Harris, Associate Professor
  Vicki Dabney, Supplemental Instruction Leader
- Probability and Statistics – Shantell Chism, Instructor
  Academic Success – Cheryl Bingham, Adjunct
  Matthew Teal, Supplemental Instruction Leader

The student learning outcomes for EQuEPT are to (1) Use effective communication; (2) Practice good study habits; (3) Persist to course completion; (4) Practice problem-solving skills; (5) Make informed decisions; (6) Identify their learning styles; (7) Participate in learning communities; (8) Assume responsibility for their own learning; and (9) Use college resources effectively.

Southwest is very proud of the potential the EQuEPT pilot offers in helping students to successfully complete their courses, take what they learn and apply it to future courses and life experiences. The entire college joins EQuEPT in encouraging our freshmen students to succeed and to ensure that our college environment supports learning where everyone is doing their part.
QEP Organizational Structure

Barbara Roseborough – Interim Provost/Executive Vice President, SACSCOC Liaison

Jeremy Burnett – Director, Faculty Advising, QEP Administrator

Dr. Cynthia Calhoun – Executive Director, Student Retention and Graduation, QEP Lead and Tutoring Lead

Dr. Marguerite Jackson-Jones – Professor, Languages and Literature, Faculty and Supplemental Instruction Lead

Nikita Ashford-Ashworth – Director, Advising and Counseling, Counseling Lead

Dr. Marcia Hunter – Coordinator, Learning Communities and Service Learning, Learning Community Lead

Robert Miller – Executive Director, Communications and Marketing, Marketing Lead

Don Myers – Director, Institutional Research, Data Assessment Lead

---

Successful Southwest Students:

- Use effective communication
- Practice good study habits
- Persist to course completion
- Practice problem-solving skills
- Make informed decisions
- Identify their learning styles
- Participate in learning communities
- Assume responsibility for their own learning
- Use college resources effectively

Southwest Students are for Success with a wrap-around support system.

- Counseling
- Supplemental Instruction
- Tutoring
- Learning Communities
Southwest Celebrates Opening of its New Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology Building

After much anticipation, curiosity, elation, and at times frustration, Southwest held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new Nursing, Natural Sciences, and Biotechnology Building on November 20. Southwest President Nathan L. Essex conveyed, during his welcoming remarks, the rationality for erecting the ultra-modern facility; particularly, the dire shortage of nurses in Tennessee and Shelby County, along with limited space at the college to enroll qualified nursing student candidates. After detailing the long, arduous road to completion, Essex stated, “Today the dream comes into fruition.”

Supporters and well-wishers representing national, state and local governments, businesses, organizations and foundations, along with members of the community and Southwest employees attended the celebration including, Tennessee State Representative Larry Miller; Shelby County Commissioner Eddie Jones; School Board Commissioner Kevin Woods; Lora Jobe, representative for U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander; Jeremy Jordan, representative for U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen; and TBR Regent Greg Duckett, Former Regent John Farris, and Vice Chancellor Warren Nichols.

“We, at the Tennessee Board of Regents, applaud the quality of Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Programs. …The new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building will create yet another opportunity for higher education to better serve the academic and professional training needs of students, employers and communities throughout the Mid-South,” Nichols remarked.

Remarks were also made by Farris, Former Southwest Foundation Board Chair Mary Hayes McDaniel, Southwest Foundation Chair Ed Lyons, Southwest Interim Provost Barbara Roseborough – introduction of nursing graduate, Southwest Nursing Student Graduate and Adjunct Faculty Member Susan Strange-McClora, and Southwest Vice President for Institutional Advancement Karen F. Nippert – conclusion.

Designed by Fleming Associates Architecture firm, the three-story building sits on the corner of Union Avenue and Myrtle Street directly across from Sun Studios. The facility has approximately 61,000 square feet that includes a 250-seat teaching auditorium, four lecture rooms, a computer/tutorial lab for 100 students, four nursing skills labs, and a biotechnology lab with prep room. The new facility will allow Southwest to train up to 400 students a year, a 45 percent increase over the number of students currently served.

Donors who supported the Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building were granted the opportunity to select commemoratives to honor or memorialize loved ones or to express their commitment to education. Currently, naming designations include the following:

**Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building Memorials**

- UNS 101, Auditorium - Plough Foundation
- UNS 214, Large Simulation Lab - Assisi Foundation of Memphis, Inc.
- UNS 210, Large Simulation Lab - Assisi Foundation of Memphis, Inc.
- UNS 307, Computer and Tutorial Laboratory - William W. (Bill) and Jimmie W. Farris
- UNS 207, Small Skills Lab - Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare
- UNS 211, Small Skills Lab - Baptist Memorial Healthcare
- UNS 314, Biotechnology Laboratory - Hyde Family Foundations
- UNS 317, Biology Lab - Follett Higher Education Group
- UNS 315, 21st Century Medium Computer Lab - Thomas W. Briggs Foundation
- UNS 109, 21st Century Small Lecture Classroom - Mary Hayes McDaniel
- UNS 111, 21st Century Small Lecture Classroom - John M. Farris
- Lobby-Nathan and Lorene Essex
Open House
Photo Gallery
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.
Southwest’s Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® 2013 Team Wins Four in a Row

By Marjorie Dernaika
Assistant Professor of Languages and Literature

Southwest has participated as a unified team for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® for (at least) four years. In the past, we won awards for team participation and fundraising. 2013 was no exception. The 2013 team won for largest team with 31 members, beating out other institutes of higher learning including Christian Brothers University, Rhodes College and the University of Memphis. The team consisted of faculty, staff, and students, making it a true college-wide event.

Our award was presented to Southwest President Nathan L. Essex on September 26, 2014 and is on display in the Bert Bornblum Library on the Macon Cove Campus.

Our team captain, student Chloe Hardy, and the CAB President Donovan Blackburn were instrumental in making this event a huge success. Co-captains Margie Dernaika, faculty, and Carol Tyler, support staff, worked behind the scenes to make the event happen. In addition, the Continuing Education Department played a huge role in our efforts.

Top Notch Security Lands Top Entrepreneurship Award from TSBDC

The owner of Top Notch Security, Inc., Alfred Washington was awarded the 2014 Memphis Rising Star Award from the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at Southwest Tennessee Community College. Rory Thomas, executive director of TSBDC at Southwest, presented the award during the First Alliance Bank Breakfast held on September 26 at The Crescent Club. The Rising Star award is given annually by the TSBDC to the company that best exemplifies not only business success, but an outstanding working relationship with the TSBDC, utilizing the services it provides.

Alfred Washington stated, “Words cannot express the awesome and outstanding assistance I’ve received from TSBDC over the past year. I’m truly humbled by the professional and strategic guidance I received.” Top Notch Security acquired another security firm this year and plans to open another office in New Orleans this month.

In giving the award, the TSBDC is also recognizing the entrepreneurial spirit and the company’s contribution to the local business and economic environment. “Top Notch Security is one of the fastest growing security guard companies in the country and has created hundreds of jobs since the firm was founded in 1999,” said Thomas.

For more information about Top Notch Security, Inc. call (901) 345-0445 or visit www.topnotchsecurityinc.com. For more information on TSBDC, visit www.tsbdc.org or call Rory Thomas at (901) 333-5086.
Southwest Celebrates Family and Friends Day

Southwest celebrated “Family and Friends Day” on September 6 at the Macon Cove Campus. Faculty, staff, students and their families and friends were invited. The event featured assorted games and fantastic prizes were given away. A good time was had by all who enjoyed tasty food and fun, a 22-foot mega slide, interactive exhibits, picture taking and much more.

Southwest and Seedco Partner to Provide Critical Edge for Student Completion

Seedco, a national nonprofit organization that advances economic opportunity for people, businesses and communities in need, has partnered with Southwest to assist our students with acquiring wrap-around services provided at the federal and Tennessee state levels. GED preparation, certificate and degree opportunities will be offered to adult students. Case management, books, transportation and childcare will be provided for adult students participating in this program.

For additional information, Southwest students should contact Phoenix Worthy at (901) 333-4178.

Southwest’s 2014 Summer Institute in Rearview

Transforming Education with Innovative Technology was the theme for Southwest’s 12th Annual Summer Institute. A joint venture between the Center of Emphasis for Teaching and Technology and the Center for Faculty Development, it was devoted last summer to enhancing learning through shared ideas and practices as well as through the use of current and emerging technology.

The Institute was open to all Southwest staff and consisted of presentations, hands-on sessions, and roundtable discussions that addressed a broad range of topics of interest.

The three-day event was well attended and had strong college-wide support.

Southwest Becomes a Tobacco-Free College

The use of tobacco products (including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and any other tobacco products) by anyone including students, faculty, staff, visitors, contractors and their employees became prohibited on all Southwest Tennessee Community College campuses and centers effective July 1, 2014.

The purpose is to create a healthy and sustainable environment for the entire college community by becoming 100 percent tobacco free. There is considerable evidence that concentrations of smoke are harmful to non-smokers as well as smokers. Findings of the Surgeon General indicate that tobacco use in any form, active and passive, is a significant health hazard.
Alumni on the Move

Trey Fields graduated in 2011 with a degree in Automotive Service Technology-General Motors, Associate of Applied Science. An AutoZone Scholar, Trey graduated with honors and worked at AutoZone after graduation for two years as a senior sales associate. He then was accepted at the prestigious Hennessey Tuner School for high performance cars where he further honed his skills learned at Southwest. Trey now works at “Comp Cams”, a business he toured while at Southwest. He is also an independent dealer for Amsoil, a high performance oil for high performance vehicles.

We asked Trey 10 questions about his experience at Southwest.

1. Why did you choose Southwest? I chose Southwest Tennessee Community College because I was looking for an automotive program that would provide formal education and hands-on skills to work in the Automotive Engineering industry.

2. What was your major and when did you graduate? My major was Automotive Service Technology. I was in the General Motors Associate of Applied Science Program. I graduated with honors in May of 2011 and was an AutoZone Scholarship recipient.

3. Where has your education taken you so far? That’s an interesting question. During my matriculation at Southwest, I had the opportunity to tour the company “Comp Cams” which is the premier company for valve train technology. My thought then was that “This would be my dream job,” to be able to work at a company that met my ultimate goal of “making fast cars go faster.” Due to the education that I received at Southwest, I applied to and was accepted at Hennessey Tuner School in Sealy, Texas. Hennessey Tuner School is the world’s only automotive technical school dedicated to teaching car enthusiasts how to modify and tune high-end sports and race cars and teach students how to “make fast cars go faster.” If anyone knows anything about fast cars, then they are familiar with Hennessey Performance.

After completion of Tuner School, I was offered two positions in the industry. One of them was “Comp Cams,” which I accepted.” So I guess that I can say that Southwest opened the door for me to quickly enter into my dream career industry.

4. What are you currently doing and what do you hope to be doing five years from now? Right now I am working with “Comp Cams” here in Memphis. Five years from now, I would like to be well on the way to converting my grandfather’s automotive repair shop, “Floyd’s Tire and Auto” in Richmond, VA, to include a tuner shop for high-end vehicles.

5. What do you think is the best thing you received from your time at Southwest? The best thing that I received at Southwest was the time and personal attention that my instructors provided. I just wish that Southwest was a four-year institution. I really enjoyed my educational experience there.

6. If you could share anything with today’s students, what would it be? I would seriously suggest that they take advantage of the educational opportunities that are available to them. Education is truly the tool that opens doors that leads to success in any field.

7. What’s your favorite thing about our community? My most favorite thing about our community is its diversity. There is a great cultural mix which provides the opportunity to learn about and participate in various cultural events, such as BBQ Fest and the Multicultural Fairs. We also have the National Civil Rights Museum here, which definitely teaches us about respecting one another.

8. What’s the one thing you would change about our community? I believe our community as a whole has a lot to offer, but having such a high crime rate and a disjointed school system is a big deterrent for anyone considering moving here.

9. Who was your favorite instructor at Southwest and do you have a message for him/her? My favorite instructors at Southwest were Dale Ralston and Josh Kuebler. These persons are very knowledgeable in their field and made each class exceptional learning experiences. My message to them is simply a very big “THANK YOU!”

10. What are you most proud of? I am proud of my accomplishments to date and am excited and looking forward to achieving my future goals. I am also grateful to my parents for their support and belief in me.
Relax, it’s Revocable!

Planned Giving

In our communications, we’ve mentioned various kinds of “planned gifts” for you to consider. If you would like to support Southwest Tennessee Community College but aren’t comfortable using current assets to do so, you need not worry. There are many wonderful revocable gifts you can create that don’t require you to give up assets now, and that often enable you to make a much larger gift and have a much larger impact than you might imagine. In each case, you have the flexibility to modify your gift if your personal or family circumstances change. Those revocable planned gifts are the gifts we want to describe for you today.

Gift from your will (or living trust)
The vast majority of revocable planned gifts are bequests, which are created when a donor names Southwest as a beneficiary of a will or revocable “living” trust. If you are creating your will or trust for the first time, you may simply include a charitable bequest among all of the other bequests you include as part of your overall estate distribution plan. If you already have a will or living trust, you can add a bequest to Southwest by preparing a simple codicil to your will or amendment to your trust. Your bequest may be a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the “remainder” of your estate after all other bequests, taxes and expenses have been paid.

If you don’t yet have a will (or living trust) we encourage you to have one written so that you can designate who will receive your assets when you die. If you don’t have an estate plan, your state of residence will make a presumptive distribution of your assets, which could be very different than what you intend.

Beneficiary of life insurance
If you have a life insurance policy that is no longer needed to fulfill the purpose for which it was originally intended (for example, your children are now grown), you can designate us as a policy beneficiary at whatever amount you feel is appropriate. The proceeds that are payable to us will not be subject to estate tax, and the proceeds are often large enough to allow you to create a named endowment to carry on your support year over year into the future.

Beneficiary of a retirement plan
Designating a charity as the beneficiary of a retirement plan is often the most efficient and tax-wise use of retirement plan assets in your estate. Retirement plan assets will always be subject to income tax in the hands of an individual beneficiary, and, depending on the size of your estate, they could be subject to estate tax as well. In contrast, any amounts distributed to a charity will be distributed tax-free, which means that 100 cents on the dollar will be used for a charitable purpose you designate. If you plan to provide support to Southwest through your estate, retirement assets will almost always be the “best” assets to use. As with an insurance policy, you create the gift simply by naming Southwest as a beneficiary of your retirement account.

Relax, It’s Revocable
All of these gifts are revocable, which means that you retain the flexibility to change your mind if your circumstances change – you can increase or decrease the amount of your gift, or you can cancel your gift altogether simply by executing a new codicil, amendment, or beneficiary designation form.

If you aren’t ready to permanently part with a major asset but want to include Southwest in your estate plan, we encourage you to consider one of these flexible gift options. Relax, it’s revocable!
Thank you!
2013-2014 Book Scholarship Sponsors

Southwest Tennessee Community College Foundation thanks the following sponsors of the Book Scholarship program. These sponsors made a difference in a student’s life. To find out how you can make a difference, call (901) 333-4997.

Presenting Book Sponsors

Silver Book Sponsors
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael Boyd
- Brother Industries USA, Inc.
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Mr. Willie L. Carpenter
- The Family of Tommy Deutsch
- Ms. Toni Quick
- Mr. and Mrs. Louie Sheppard

Bronze Book Sponsors
- Joanne and John Bassett
- Ms. Verna S. Boone
- Ms. Carolyn Head
- Mr. Jason Jennings
- Ms. Tamara L. Lambdin
- Mr. Richard J. Olcott
- Ron and Arlene Parr
- Mr. Randy Pitts
- Mr. John Townes
- Ms. Margaret Williams

Platinum Book Sponsors

First Tennessee Foundation

Gold Book Sponsors
- Victor Feisal
- Rose and John Landey

Mr. and Mrs. Ed A. Lyons
- Mr. Derrick D. Pratt

Partner Book Sponsors
- Carol R. Brown
- Ms. Paula Coon
- Ms. Naomi Earp
- Shelby R. Lloyd
- Karen and Ken Nippert
- Ms. Brenda J. Rayner
- Derrice M. Snipes
- Ms. Lois M. Washington

Friend Book Sponsors
- Bernice M. Neal
- Harry B. Nichols
- Elizabeth A. Golden
- Ms. Velvet A. McCallum

Gold Book Sponsors

Legacy Wealth Management

Silver Book Sponsors

INTERNATIONAL PAPER

GOLD BOOK SPONSORS
- Victor Feisal
- Rose and John Landey

Mr. and Mrs. Ed A. Lyons
- Mr. Derrick D. Pratt
Rory Thomas, executive director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at Southwest, was the recipient last fall of the 2014 State Star Award. The annual award recognizes a top performer from each state who makes significant contributions to their state and embodies a strong commitment to small business.

“The Tennessee Small Business Development Center program is celebrating its 30th year of providing Tennessee businesses with a wide range of business counseling and training services. Each year we recognize individuals in our statewide organization who demonstrate excellence and a sincere commitment to helping our business men and women succeed in business. Rory Thomas, our TSBDC director at Southwest, has been named as our State Star,” said Dr. Patrick Geho, state executive director - TSBDC Lead Center at Middle Tennessee State University.

Since being named as executive director of the Memphis SBDC in May 2013, Thomas has introduced innovative programs and brought new resources to the area to prompt economic growth.

“I am honored to use my talents to empower current and future business owners and leaders who have the ability to create tremendous economic impact in our communities,” said Thomas. “This is truly a team award because it starts with our great staff and all of our valuable strategic partners in the area.”

Thomas was recognized at a special awards reception honoring the 2014 State Stars last September in Grapevine, Texas, in conjunction with the America’s Small Business Development Center Network (ASBDC) 34th National Conference.

Executive Director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at Southwest Rory Thomas left the 2014 BENNY (Black Entrepreneurship and Networking Needs You) Awards early one day last summer for another engagement to receive an e-mail later that the center was honored with the Benny Award for “Most Outstanding Business Development.”

“Our efforts in serving in the community continue to be acknowledged! I left the Black Business Association’s luncheon early to get on the White House Rural Council conference call and how great and surprising it is to see an e-mail like this!” Thomas enthusiastically stated.
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.

“The 2014 Vision Award that we received was specifically for our vision and the persistence to place the new Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building on Union Avenue despite many obstacles. They recognized us for drastically improving the west boundary of the Medical District and Downtown Memphis. On the corner of Union and Myrtle was previously a gas station, a car service repair shop, an abandoned car dealership, and several large billboards,” said President Essex.

The other recipients were the National Civil Rights Museum and the developers of the James Lee House (JW and Kathie Buckman-Gibson, and Jose and Jennifer Velazquez), one of the historic mansions on Madison Avenue.
The Saluqi Cheer Team held auditions for its 2014-2015 cheerleading squad last September. The auditions comprised interviews with a panel of local professionals along with dance routines. Cheerleading Coach Sabrina Tiller indicated this season attracted one of the largest groups of young women in the history of the college, as many as 79, which made choosing this year’s team all the more difficult.

“I’m pretty sure it’s going to be difficult,” said selection panelist Nicole Fannin, residential director for the Youth Villages Dogwood Campus and former Memphis Grizz Girl. “The girls seem to have varying degrees of skill. The girls are definitely excited. They all come with a lot energy. They’re ready; they came prepared. So we’re excited. Having a large group just gives us more to select from to make the college look better.”

Tanisha Jackson, a hospitality specialist, magazine writer, and former Southwest cheerleader was also a panelist who said the criteria for selecting cheerleaders should include character. “I feel that the best criterion for picking a cheerleader is character. Because you have to be able to be in front of people, you have to be able to lead. You have to have a great personality, and all of that involves character. So I think that’s one of the great components,” said Jackson. Regarding physical attributes, there are no specific shapes or sizes that give certain young women an advantage or prohibit certain others from being a cheerleader, according to selection panelist Milton Howery, a sales manager for the Memphis Cook Convention Center and the Cannon Center for Performing Arts, and also the founder of Milton Memphis Entertainment, a promotions company that produces shows and represents the talent of performers, musicians and singers. “There’s no particular shape or size, but being healthy and fit are a part of being a dancer or cheerleader. You have to be athletic and have the abilities to perform the needed choreographed dances. So you have to be fit and athletic.” Howery stated.

So far, Southwest cheerleaders have not only had enough athleticism to walk away with first place trophies in major competitions; they also possessed the spirit of philanthropy, donating many hours of community service. Coach Tiller sees this year’s team no differently.

“This year, we’re focusing on community service, like we did last year. We completed over 1,000 hours of community service. We have five engagements and events already lined up for the girls to participate in. So I want to hurry up … get into practice and then be able to go out and give to the community,” said Tiller. “That’s the biggest thing that we really, really, want to push at the college.”

She continued, “We’re not only cheerleaders. We dance at games, but we’re all about being in the community. I want the public to see us in a positive light. And I want the girls to understand how giving back helps the community.”
Eighteen Southwest student athletes have been honored by the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association (TCCAA) for their work in the classroom, receiving the TCCAA’s Distinguished Scholar Athlete award. To qualify for the honor, sophomores needed to achieve at least a 3.0 grade point average with 48 or more hours of college level work, while freshmen needed a 3.2 grade point average with at least 24 hours.

Sophomore Tatiana Allen received the “Highest Honors” award for achieving the highest grade point average of all TCCAA student athletes participating in women’s basketball in 2013-14.

Sophomores:
Women’s Basketball – Tatiana Allen, Ajee Smith
Men’s Basketball – Kevonta Black, Andre Brown
Baseball – Zack Buzzard, Justin Kemp, Sam Seaton, Logan Shemwell, Blake Witt
Softball – Kelsey Knight, Kayla Wright

Freshmen:
Women’s Basketball – Kemahri Howard
Baseball – Caleb Armour, Evan Fantom, Conor Lindsey, Nick Smith, Brandon Wilhelm, Janathan Williams
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>EVENT/OPPONENT</th>
<th>WOMEN/MEN</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>TIME (P.M.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Bethel JV</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Baton Rouge Classic vs. Bossier City</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Baton Rouge Classic vs. MS Gulf Coast</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>*Chattanooga State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>5:30/7:30 EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>*Cleveland State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>2/4 EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>*Walters State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>5:30/7:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>*Roane State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Bethel JV</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>*Dyersburg State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25-27</td>
<td>Tallahassee Thanksgiving Tournament</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>*Columbia State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>5:30/7:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>*Jackson State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mid-South</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Lady Saluquis Classic vs. Three Rivers</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Lady Saluquis Classic vs. Wallace State</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mid-South</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>5:30/7:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>*Volunteer State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>5:30/7:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>*Mottlow State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>*Walters State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>5:30/7:30 EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>*Roane State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>2/4 EST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Mississippi Delta</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>*Dyersburg State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>*Jackson State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>5:30/7:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>*Columbia State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>*Volunteer State</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>5:30/7:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>*Mottlow State</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Arkansas Baptist</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>*Chattanooga State</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>5:30/7:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>*Cleveland State</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>2/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>3-7</td>
<td>TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII Tournament</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16-21</td>
<td>NJCAA National Tournament</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Hutchinson, KS</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16-21</td>
<td>NJCAA National Tournament</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Salina, KS</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*TCCAA/Region VII Games
Explore Southwest
Let us design a financial aid package that’s right for you!

SOUTHWEST
TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Your Best Choice

• The affordable tuition means no loans to pay back
• Numerous degree, certificate and continuing education programs offered
• Split (hybrid) courses - work 50 percent in class/50 percent online
• Transferable classes to a four-year university
• Ample scholarship opportunities

• 97 percent of 2013-2014 Southwest graduates are working
• Dual enrollment for high school students - a chance to get a head-start on college while earning high school credits necessary for graduation
• On-campus child care is available
• We have a first-rate Honors Program
• Weekend Degree Program for busy adults

Spring 2015 Classes Begin January 20
For more information, call (901) 333-4399
or visit us online at www.southwest.tn.edu/recruitment

Your Best Choice
Nursing, Natural Sciences and Biotechnology Building Open House

Visit our website at www.southwest.tn.edu
Your Best Choice!