



# A YEAR IN PERSPECTIVE

A publication of Wallace Community College  
2020

## WALLACE CELEBRATES COACH JOHNNY OPPERT New Chapter in Wallace Sports Legacy and Athletic Development

With the ceremonial swing of a team of shovels, Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) took the first step to building the future of Wallace athletics – the Coach Johnny Oppert Athletic Development Facility. The groundbreaking celebration was held Thursday, July 30.

Oppert is a Wiregrass sports legend who, in 1965, became WCC's first athletic director and coach. He led the very first baseball team at Wallace and has achieved many accolades since.

Perhaps his greatest accomplishment is the guidance he provided to students. Over the years, Coach Oppert's influence on his players grew beyond baseball. As he observed from the front row, friends and former players gathered to celebrate the well-deserved recognition.

"He was a father figure and mentor to countless athletes throughout the state and the region," said Wallace President Dr. Linda C. Young. "His influence on sports at Wallace is known to many. He taught his players not only how to win in sports, but also how to succeed in life. On day one, when coach Johnny Oppert came to Wallace, his commitment was on student success. I can't tell you how proud we are that this facility will be named in his honor."

Oppert worked hard for his own success before becoming a coach. After college and a four-year stint playing with the Los Angeles Dodgers organization, he returned home to coach at Wicksburg High School, eventually signing on as athletic director and baseball coach at Wallace. The basketball team was added to his duties the next year.

Oppert's achievements are many, including induction into four halls of fame: 1991 Alabama Community College Conference Hall of Fame, 2001 Wiregrass Sports Hall of Fame, 2010 Samford University Baseball Hall of Fame, and the 2020 Houston Academy Hall of Fame. The 2019 Hoops Tournament was played in his honor. They even named the Dothan Civic Center basketball court for him.

The first few years of Wallace baseball were a test. Training players and sharing the field



with livestock were just a few of the challenges. But the gritty Gobs overcame all of these distractions and won a loyal following. In 2016, they were honored at Wallace on the fiftieth anniversary of the first team.

David Money, Henry County Probate Judge and Commission Chair and a member of the first Gobs team, also had the distinction of hitting the first homerun for the organization. They were a tight bunch, coming from different circumstances, and Oppert developed them into a team.

Money met Oppert through a relative who brought his best friend (Oppert) home from college for the weekend. A few years later, they met again – and Wallace baseball was their connection.

"I couldn't afford to go to college. Tuition at Wallace was \$75 a quarter in 1966." A few days later, Oppert called Money about the opportunity. "Now I was going to College and baseball was the reason."

Kelly Colbert, president of Covenant Steel,

a friend of the Opperts and a WCCD alum, spoke for the Oppert family. "When I met Johnny, I was an eighteen-year-old searching for something in my life. He changed my life forever."

Colbert advised baseball coach Mackey Sasser and softball coach David Russo on their relationship with their players. "Coach Oppert took time for me. Invest in your players."

The Coach Johnny Oppert Athletic Development Facility will have three batting

cages and three pitching mounds for baseball and softball. The space is an extended environment to develop athletic

skills, in any weather.

Oppert coached at WCC-Dothan for 27 years, and continues to support athletics in the area.

*Above (L-R): Oppert Family (Coach Oppert holds the ceremonial shovel).*

*"Perhaps his (Coach Oppert's) greatest accomplishment is the guidance he provided to students. Over the years, Coach Oppert's influence on his players grew beyond baseball."*

# CARES ACT helps students concentrate on education

During an extraordinary time of change that required nontraditional solutions, Wallace students completed spring semester with new computer skills and redefined concepts of social interaction – at a distance. Due to the interruption in their schooling, Congress passed the **CARES Act** (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) in March to assist eligible students in covering the unexpected costs of the COVID-19 pandemic response. Wallace received \$1,827,879 for direct student aid.

Eligible students received disbursements of \$585 to offset educational costs, food, housing, course materials, health care, childcare, and other expenses. Almost 3,000 students

benefited.

“Our students have shown a resilience and the initiative to adapt that will help them succeed in their studies during this crisis,” said WCCD President Dr. Linda Young. “This ability will also assure their future success when plans change and they need to adjust to new ones.

## CARING / RESPONDING / ADAPTING: 2020

We believe that the CARES Act funding will help our students with unexpected expenses during this time of insecurity so they can concentrate on their education.”

The College quickly transitioned to online classes, providing laptops and training to

students in need. Students and faculty learned they were part of a TEAM or learned to ZOOM. Wallace changed recruitment and registration to accommodate an online format, and Information Technology Services set up hot spots to assist students without high-speed internet.

Graduation and nurses' pinning ceremonies became socially distanced events, and most friends and family attended via streaming services.

For many, the trials of online classes became a family affair as some students were still living at home and others, parents themselves, took classes while teaching their children online. It was a year of challenges met.

## Students respond to changes

With schools across the country going to an online platform to help flatten the curve of COVID-19, Wallace Community College students and faculty found themselves adjusting to a new normal.

Classes moved online, and everyone did their part to make the transition go as smooth as possible.

English instructor **Sarah Alsammani** said the first few weeks of the transition were a major learning curve for her and her students.

“My teaching style is informed by my time working in The Writing Center tutoring students one-on-one, so was a challenge to take that philosophy and integrate it into an online format. However, my students have impressed me immensely in that they adapted quickly to this new circumstance,” Alsammani said. “I am learning from them. I have learned that rapport that we have established can continue even through a computer screen. I have also learned patience and the importance of continually supporting one another through this challenging time.”

Alsammani said she had a really encouraging moment when she was reviewing student answers to a discussion board post about two works of literature: Robert Browning's "My Last Duchess" and Elizabeth Barrett Browning's "How Do I Love Thee."

“I was worried how our discussions would transition to online. However, the answers I received not only made me feel relieved that they understood the literature, but I cheered out loud as I read some of the most insightful and original ideas about the works that I have ever read. I have brilliant students, and this moment only emphasized that truth.”

**Grace Poynter**, an English major who graduated in summer 2020, said she definitely missed being on campus and in the classroom, but she did her best to adjust and make the most of the situation. “I had a few self-pity sessions about it,” Poynter said of not being on campus. “Wallace became my second home over the past two years, and just being on the campus made me have a warm feeling because I know there are so many people around me

who care about me.”

That didn't slow her down though.

“I feel like all of this has been a big lesson to not take the little things for granted, like going to campus. I just cannot praise the instructors enough for getting it all together so quickly while many of them are at home trying to also teach their children,” Poynter said. “The little things like **Kim Sonanstine** being her happy self and **Brandi Wallace** literally messaging me just to check on my mental state were the things to get me through this mess. [I'm] definitely going to miss all of the faculty at Wallace.”

Though the transition went well, Alsammani said she is ready to be back on campus and seeing her students face to face.

“I learned that I am not as introverted as I once felt I was,” Alsammani said. “I miss seeing students. I miss my colleagues. I miss the home Wallace has become for me. We are a family, and I am ready for this pandemic to end so I can go back to where I truly belong.”

## Wallace Meets Students Where They Are

Spring was a semester like no other, and Wallace provided students with the tools to succeed in their classes.

- **Loaner laptops and webcams** were made available for student checkout.
- **Hot spots** for students who did not have access to highspeed internet, 24/27.
- **Designated computer labs** open for students to complete online assignments/ tests.
- **Booking webpage** to make virtual appointments with admissions, library, financial aid, bookstore, counseling and many more. The plan was so successful, it is a permanent fixture on the new WCCD website.
- And instructors went 'back to school' and learned to teach online!



Above: WCCD instructors - back in the student seats! Right: WCCD student Allie Lanier settles in to taking classes at home.



# Birmingham-Southern, Wallace Community College partner to improve transfer process

Birmingham-Southern College (BSC) and Wallace Community College (WCCD) in Dothan, Alabama signed an articulation agreement that will expedite the completion of a bachelor's degree at BSC for WCCD students.

The agreement ensures that students who have earned associate degrees at WCCD can seamlessly continue their education at BSC. Those who have earned degrees in arts and sciences will have fulfilled Birmingham-Southern's general education requirements with the exception of a class in writing reinforcement and a capstone course. The contract with Wallace Community College - Dothan is BSC's twelfth articulation agreement.

"Birmingham-Southern is making the transfer process more efficient through articulation agreements. Now, students who started their education somewhere else can more easily transfer to BSC and complete their bachelors' degree in our personalized academic environment," **President Daniel B. Coleman** said.

"We are grateful to President Daniel Coleman and his faculty and staff for their desire to partner with us and open new doors for our students," said **Dr. Linda Young**, Wallace Community College - Dothan President. "It creates a seamless pathway for eligible WCCD graduates who want to continue their higher education with one of Alabama's great private colleges."



**Above:** Wallace-Dothan President **Dr. Linda Young** and Birmingham-Southern President **Daniel Coleman** exchange signed agreements that will allow Wallace graduates to transfer credits to continue their education and complete a four-year degree at BSC.

# Lt. Governor Ainsworth tours and talks workforce

Workforce Development is a major topic among employers looking for trained employees, and state leadership has heard the message. **Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth** visited Wallace Community College-Dothan with one purpose: make a difference in how Alabama community colleges train the workforce for this century.

"Community colleges are a big part of growing jobs in Alabama. We want to be known as a workforce engine across the country," Ainsworth said. "We want to make sure that community colleges are successful in growing the workforce with infrastructure, funding, and technology."

The Lt. Governor toured the Health Sciences Simulation Center and the Surgical Technology and Criminal Justice programs to see the technology used to train students in real-world scenarios with hands-on skills.

One project that is front and center for the Lt. Governor is the creation of an app that targets middle school students. The app will drive students to learn about jobs and careers, and the skills and education required to obtain them. "They will be able to contact a community college within a 60-mile radius to get the education they need for dual enrollment, a degree, or certificate," he said. The idea is to get students to start researching careers early. The app launched in summer, 2020. (ACCS in APP STORE.)



**Above:** Lt. Governor **Will Ainsworth** tours The Surgical Technology lab. This is the newest Health Science program at Wallace.

Ainsworth was wowed with the facilities and technology at WCCD. He plans to push for adequate funding for community colleges and

workforce development. "We need to have 21st century facilities and equipment," he remarked. While he acknowledged that unemployment is currently low, he said we need to keep trained employees in our state. "The number one thing that industry tells us is that they need trained people."

# ACCS ASPIRE 2030 strategic planning inspires big

Last summer, every community college under the ACCS (Alabama Community College System) began a 10-year strategic planning initiative. The ambitious plan, called ASPIRE, stands for Achieving System-wide Potential Through Increased Resources & Engagement.

**ACCS ASPIRE 2030** is a system-wide initiative designed to inspire community-focused strategic planning for capital improvement projects. The goal is to serve the local community effectively by incorporating community stakeholders into the planning.

By engaging external partners in the process, Wallace will be connecting their work to that of potential community partners who can provide vital support to students. Colleges will also be gaining valuable insight on community issues where the college can have a positive impact.

The process began in July 2020 by inviting community members to join the team. Wallace students, industry contacts and community

leaders joined the team of Wallace employees to begin the planning process.

**Their goals? Develop a plan that envisions what Wallace will look like in 2030.**

The team targeted Teaching and Learning, Student Success, Community Development, Community Engagement, and Economic Development.

## PARTNERSHIPS / BIG DREAMS / 2020

Through ASPIRE, colleges will apply for funding to improve campus infrastructure and to better serve students and their communities.

Applications will be submitted only after each college conducts a rigorous self-analysis and researches the needs of future students and the communities in their service areas.

Through this collaborative planning process, colleges and their partners will identify needs and devise strategies for meeting those needs. They will then develop infrastructure projects

to implement those strategies, prioritize those projects, and finally, submit proposals for funding those projects

Last fall, **ACCS Chancellor Jimmy H.**

**Baker** visited Wallace and spoke with the ASPIRE team about the project. "Through the ACCS Aspire 2030 Initiative, we are encouraging our colleges to be bold and

creative in their plans to add value to their communities and increase student success over the next 10 years," he said. "Community is in the

very name of each of our colleges and this new strategic approach is intended to engage every sector of the community to ensure that our colleges continue to provide the meaningful education, training, and resources needed to help our students reach their goals and become contributing members of society."

For more information about ASPIRE, go to: [www.wallace.edu/about/aspire-2030](http://www.wallace.edu/about/aspire-2030).

**The ASPIRE 2030 Self-Analysis link is included.**

## Corporate and City partners give to Lineworker Program

Last year was exceptional for the College's Pre-Apprentice Lineworker program. The popular program is crucial to maintaining and repairing the areas electrical infrastructure - and skilled lineworkers are sought after by employers.

The price tag on teaching tools can be a barrier, but two area partners stepped up and helped out by donating heavy equipment.

**Alabama Power Company (APC)**, a long-time supporter of the program, donated a crucial piece of equipment - a bucket truck. A bucket truck is a sign that electrical help is on the way, and lineworkers could not do their job without one.

"We appreciate Wallace and all they have done in recruiting and workforce development, said **Chad Skinner** from Alabama Power. "To do that in the community that you serve is crucial. Even within our own employee ranks, we're beginning to have second generation lineman that are coming through this program. That means a lot."

Alabama Power participates as evaluators for lineworker fitness training, serve on mock interview panels for students, and facilitate the CAST pre-test and the CAST test to WCCD lineworker students for potential employment with APC. CAST stands for Construction and Skilled Trade Selection System examination, designed to gauge arithmetic, mathematical usage, mechanical concepts, and reading comprehension.

APC has also assists with the installation of new light poles, provides field trip experiences to introduce students to lineworker experiences.

**The City of Dothan-Dothan Utilities** also donated to the program with the presentation of a pole trailer.

The partnership with the City helps WCCD lineworker students train on equipment that meets industry standards and ensures graduates are well trained and ready to fill entry-level lineworker positions upon graduation.

"Dothan Utilities is so pleased with our partnership with Wallace," said Chris Phillips, Electrical Operations Superintendent.

"Ultimately, they are helping us to develop our future workforce. We have been very successful hiring these graduates to fill our needs for qualified and capable lineworkers to maintain the City's electric distribution system."

The pole trailer, which is used to transport poles for repairs or for new lines, is a critical piece of equipment for hands-on training environment. The program has a classroom, but their "real" classroom is the large pole yard located in the back of the campus.

"Every year, the Pre-Apprentice Lineworker program trains dozens of new employees for area utilities. It provides the skills needed for students who need a fast track to a good job," said **Dr. Linda Young**, WCCD President. "But we can't do this on our own. It takes partners like the **City of Dothan-Dothan Utilities** and **Alabama Power** who provide their expertise, guidance, and tools to train students.



Alabama Power Company



The City of Dothan Utilities



With a little ingenuity and spare parts from around the Campus, welding instructors **Joey Jackson** and **Corey Butterfield** discovered a new project for their welding students - a project that would help students learn to weld in real-world conditions.

The project was designed by the welding program. While welding students at Wallace and Sparks Campuses have access to top-notch welding equipment, this piece of equipment helps them learn to weld in less-than-ideal, real-life conditions.

The project, which is located next to the welding shop and classrooms, has become a big draw for groups visiting campus. It is easily seen on the back of campus.

*(Below, left to right): Troy Fountain, president, Wiregrass Foundation; Dr. Dennis Coe, interim superintendent, Dothan City Schools; Dr. Lisa Stamps, superintendent, Daleville City Schools; Ms. Lori Parker Beasley, superintendent, Henry County Schools; Mr. Brandy White, superintendent, Houston County Schools; Dr. Linda C. Young, president, Wallace Community College; Ms. Jennifer Matheny, dual enrollment coordinator, WCCD; Mr. Joey Jackson, welding instructor; and Corey Butterfield, welding instructor.*

## INGENUITY + SPARE PARTS = WORKPLACE SIMULATOR



## Compton: Growing student apprenticeships

Imagine being able to train for a new skill and earn while you learn. Thanks to Wallace Community College-Dothan's (WCCD) commitment to apprenticeships, that possibility is an open door to skills training in an employer-driven field.

**Martha Compton**, the College's new *Business and Industry Coordinator*, has strong beliefs about the opportunities that apprenticeships offer. "There are many benefits for students enrolled in Apprenticeship programs, but the most prevailing one is earning a paycheck while learning a trade."

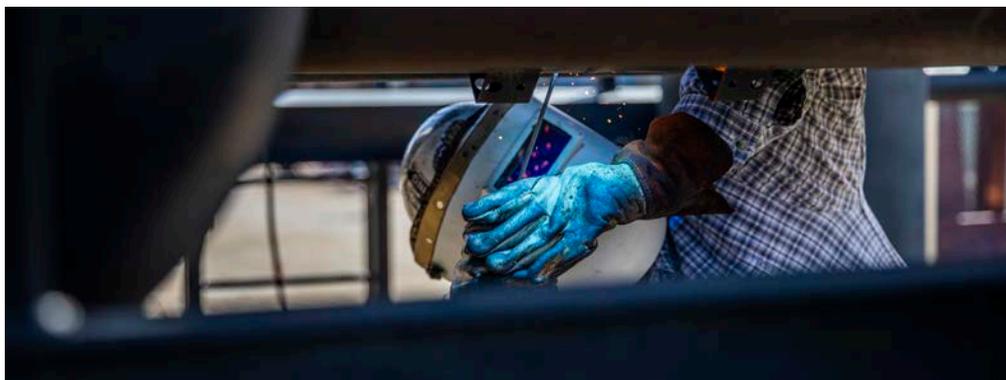


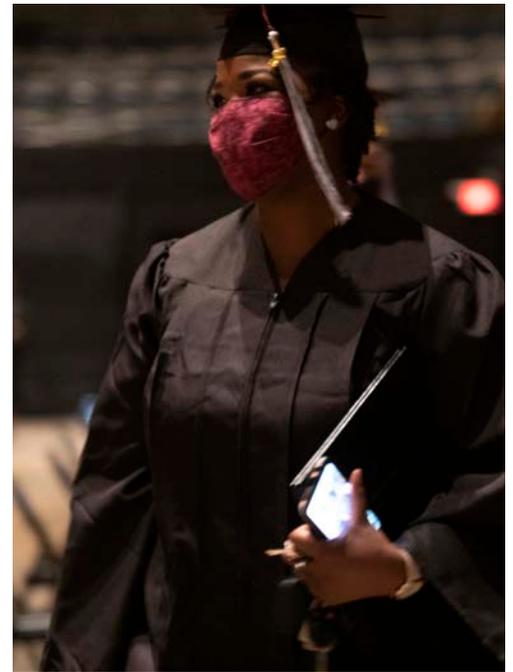
Compton's experience in workforce development and apprenticeships includes 10 years as the director of Florida Panhandle Technical College in Chipley, Florida. She is ready to apply that experience to the Wiregrass.

WCCD is a Registered Apprenticeship Program Sponsor, a program validated by the U.S. Department of Labor and supported by the Alabama Community College System. The interest in apprenticeships is surging as a way to address the lack of a skilled workforce and retirement of experienced employees.

The program requires collaboration with Chamber members, workforce boards, employers and other local partners.

**Contact: email: [mcompton@wallace.edu](mailto:mcompton@wallace.edu)**





## Graduating in the Time of Covid: WCCD HONORS graduates, honors day recipients, and graduating nurses in virtual and in-person ceremonies

**Graduation, Honors Day, and Nurses' pinning ceremonies ceremonies were very different in 2020.**

- Honors Day, normally held in April, became a virtual event. Graduation, a spring celebration, was held in August in the Dothan Civic Center as a socially-distanced, in-person event, as was the Nurses' Pinning.
- Dothan Campus and Sparks Campus graduations were combined at the Dothan Civic Center. To include family and friends, graduation and pinning ceremonies were live-streamed as attendees were held to a minimum.

**Congratulations to our graduates; the world is waiting for you!**



**Above: Hannah Popwell was the 2020 President's Award Winner.**

**Left: Area healthcare facilities are waiting for these Wallace nursing graduates.**

# The Power of Feedback: Wallace Transfer Students Excel

In the fall of each year, a number of Wallace Community College-Dothan students pack a little bit of home and transfer to four-year colleges or universities, excited for their next big adventure. For many WCCD students, it is also an opportunity to excel with new peers who also have high expectations.

The journey to succeed in their education is a dream for many students - and their parents. According to The



*Anna Murph is an undecided major at the University of Alabama, but hopes to attend law school one day.*

University of Alabama and Auburn University, WCCD students are well on their way. In fact, in most cases WCCD students out-perform students who begin their academic careers at Auburn or Alabama

WCCD recently received feedback reports from the University of Alabama (UA) and Auburn University (AU) transfers. The reports analyze the success rankings of WCCD transfers, in this case the 2019-2020 academic year. The reports highlight an incredible story of student success.

"We are so proud of all our Wallace Community College-Dothan students," said WCCD President Dr. Linda C. Young. "These transfer success reports validate what we have always known—our students leave us well-prepared to succeed in four-year institutions. Their demonstrated academic success underscores the fact that students can get anywhere they want to go from our College."

WCCD had 40 students transfer to The University of Alabama with 15 or more transfer credit hours. In addition, 29 former WCCD students received a BS degree in 2019-2020. Transfer students who took 300 and 400 level courses (junior and senior level) had an average GPA of 3.28. The average GPA of students transferring from other institutions was 3.04.

"This higher average GPA is a testimony to the passion, commitment, and motivation of our incredible faculty at Wallace Community College, said Leslie Reeder, dean of instruction. "They prepare our students to meet their educational goals, whether that goal is to transfer to a university or go directly to the workforce."

The feedback report from Auburn University also analyses the performance of WCCD transfer students. 32 WCCD students transferred to AU for the 2019-2020 academic year. Their GPA was higher (3.24) for the year than all other transfer students who began the same semester (3.13). The AU acceptance rate of WCCD students is also something to celebrate. The rate was higher (79.7%) than all other transfer students who were accepted in fall 2019 (58.7%).

WCCD students continue to succeed past their transfer year. "Starting my college career as a dual enrollment student at Wallace-Dothan gave me a solid foundation to build on at Auburn. My Wallace instructors always made me feel like they were invested in me and in my success," said Allie Boutwell. "They set high standards for all their students, and they expected us to meet them." Allie is a junior in her second semester at Auburn's College of Nursing.

University of Alabama student and Lakeside School (Eufaula) graduate Anna Murph agrees with this assessment of WCCD first, then transfer. "Through dual enrollment at WCCD, I had numerous lessons instilled in me that are necessary to remain a successful student at a four-year university," she said. "While I was not only enriched academically, I also learned about myself and the skills I have in order to make well-informed decisions in pursuit of a successful career. I cannot wait see where the things I have learned takes me."

Wallace graduate Basie Shine fast-tracked through dual enrollment classes

in high school, eventually transferring 60 hours to Auburn. Being on a college campus before transferring helped acclimate him to a larger university. "Since I was exposed to the college atmosphere, I came to Auburn with a mature mindset."

One of the strengths of a community college is the ease of transferring to a university. At Wallace, students who are transfer-bound are counseled to



*Auburn University student Basie Shine transferred 60 hours of dual enrollment credits to AU. Basie is now an alumnus.*

complete the official STARS Guide (stars.troy.edu). The system gives students a personal course guide based their chosen major. Students can enjoy their first two years at WCCD at half the cost of a university, saving money for university transfer and completion of their education.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT**

**DUAL ENROLLMENT AT  
WALLACE COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE, go to:**

**wallace.edu/  
dualenrollment**

**OR**

**wallace.edu/reservations  
to book an appointment.**

# Simulation Training of all-time importance at Wallace

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many classes have had to change how they instruct students. With social distancing and stricter guidelines in place, health students may not have received the traditional in-facility experience – but for the health science infrastructure, faculty, and staff at Wallace.

Though 'normal' has changed, Wallace Community College – Dothan has continued to give students the best all around experience. For health science programs, that means continuing to work in the Health Sciences Simulator Center and Emergency Management Systems Simulation lab to provide them with the best avenue to student success.

Wallace's journey to develop this state-of-the-art Center began in 2009 with the purchase of three human patient simulators. Since then, the Center has expanded to contain 12 different simulators, each in hospital-like cubicles. Digital recording systems allow storage, playback, and transmission

of clinical scenarios taking place in the learning environment. These are used for post-simulation instruction. The Heersink Family Health Science Building opened in 2016 and houses all eight health science

and EMT had students and instructors participating in the skills training required for their programs.

"We've been very, very blessed and very fortunate that we have this technology and we were able to continue our instruction without interruption," said **Wendy Dubose**, Wallace nursing instructor.

Respiratory therapist students worked with a baby simulator Thursday, as if the baby was in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

"I know what I'm doing in the real world, because of what I'm doing here in this SIM (simulation) center," said **Youseef Baker**, Wallace respiratory therapist student. "When I am in the real world scenario, and I am working with these babies in the hospital, automatically my brain goes back to this SIM center."

The Center also gives students in different programs the opportunity to experience patient care – each contributing to a successful recovery.



*Associate Degree Nursing students work quickly on a simulator with a severed arm.*

programs.

On one day recently, three programs practiced their clinical skills in the simulation environment. Respiratory Therapist, Associate Degree Nursing,

# New equipment gives DTC students hands-on experience

Thanks to a partnership with Wallace Community College, **Dothan Tech Automotive students** can now get more experience for their future career industries with **Snap-On Multi Meter Tool Certification Kits**.

"This new equipment is going to help us out a lot," **Caleb Sullenberger**, DTC student, said.

Wallace Community College wrote a \$86,000 grant for Dothan Tech Center to get their students new equipment to get hands on learning and a job ready resume.

"I have adults tell me all the time, like auto mechanics, if I could of had this at your age then I would be so far ahead," **Cameron Payne**, DTC student, said. "So it's really a good thing we get a jump start into our lives by doing this program."

"What we have is really two forms of multi meters, something that everyone in the automotive industry is going to use on a day to day basis," **Joe Johnson**, Director of Work Force Development for Wallace Community College. "There are two different styles and again we want them to have the opportunity to train exactly with what they are going to see in the business and industry so hence us having two different styles of those multi-meters for them to use."

Rolling into the second year of this program, seniors will be one step ahead of some when they soon go into the industry.

"Our first year students are now seniors, so they'll be going further into their curriculum and their shop experience, and they'll start a new batch of students as they start on their intro work," **Chris Duke**, director of Career Tech Education and Workforce Development for Dothan City Schools. "So we want to see this cycle continue and they can matriculate to Wallace to finish out a short certificate or an associate degree there and then hopefully our goal is for these students to fill in an industry need because automotive service businesses need some folks."

Students said they are thankful for this new equipment and are ready to put it to use.

"That's how a lot of these students learn now is hands on, some of this book work is really good and you transition that to the shop or hands on and you learn a lot," Sullenberger said.

Dothan Tech Center's dual enrollment program allows Wallace instructors to teach students on their own campus.

"It [the equipment] will benefit us because the more advanced all these automobiles are going it's easier to have more updated equipment and it will be easier to diagnose a lot of the electrical and false with these things," Payne said.



# Learning in 360: Wallace Brings VR to Education

Members of Wallace-Dothan's faculty and staff discovered a new way of learning, and all they needed was a special pair of glasses and a computer. They donned the strange-looking glasses and immersed themselves into the world of **VR, or Virtual Reality**.

All it took was 10 minutes, and they were fans of this new teaching tool. In a few months, many of their students will use this technology in their classrooms.

VR/AR (Augmented Reality) is the next big step in expanding teaching methods to bring complex subject matter to life. **Career Technical, Workforce Development, and Health Science** students will all benefit from this advanced method of learning.

"It has always been Wallace's mission to expand the way we teach because students learn in different ways," said Dr. Linda Young, Wallace president. "As technology advances, so does our teaching infrastructure, from online videos for students to view before class to advanced simulation technology." The equipment will help students will learn by visualizing and analyzing concepts in 3D environment, bringing a deeper

understanding of subject matter.

The VR/AR or ZSpace lab for Career and Technical and Workforce Development courses will be located in Gary Hall. The lab will have 10 workstations, which can accommodate 30 students (one 'driver' and two observers to work as a team). **Automotive Technology** students can deconstruct a vehicle or parts to learn how it fits together. **Applied Engineering, Electrical Technology, HVAC, and Engineering Graphics** students will likewise use learning modules to enhance their grasp of even the most challenging designs.

"We are excited about providing ZSpace virtual learning technology to our career and technical students," said **Dr. Bill Sellers**, associate dean of Career Technical Programs. "A student sitting at a ZSpace workstation can experiment with 3D modeling and automotive troubleshooting without ever leaving the classroom. Students will truly enter a 'Brave New World' through the magic of VR/AR."

**Health Science** mobile workstations will be in the Heersink Family Health

Science Building. The mobile laptops were purchased to support the Surgical Technology program with anatomy and physiology software, and will also be used for the other Health Science programs. "The VR/AR technology will help anatomy and physiology students and assist in classes where these concepts are reinforced by exploring a virtual body to examine organs and miniscule anatomy, and they will be able to experience a "virtual" hands-on application in the study of the human body," said **Kathy Buntin**, associate dean of Health Science.

The VR/AR systems are expandable with other modules, such as robotics. They simulate real life and reduces trial and error and reduces the cost of materials used in traditional teaching.

"This technology will open doors for students to experience learning in a controlled and safe environment," said **Leslie Reeder**, dean of Instruction. "Learning experiences once thought impossible will now be standard. We are so pleased to offer this technology to our students."

Instructors, left to right: (front) Steve Tice, Applied Engineering; Michael Hannon, Electrical Technology; (back) Keith Warren, Automotive Technology; Jason Owen, Criminal Justice; and Mike Jernigan, Engineering Graphics.



# Wallace Faculty/Staff recognized for key state and community awards and positions



## Ricks Appointed to Chamber Board

Sparks Campus staff member **Terri Ricks** was appointed to serve a three-year term as a member of the **Board of Directors for the Eufaula Barbour County Chamber of Commerce**. Ms. Ricks is Coordinator of Services, TRiO Student Support Services at Wallace. Her term began January 21.

In addition to the Board position, Ms. Ricks also serves on the Youth Leadership Barbour Advisory Council.

"The core mission and values of the Chamber are comparable with Wallace Community College's vision to merge opportunities and to promote economic and social development for the enhancement of our communities."



## Spry Named to Student-Athlete Leadership Council

**Dr. Ryan Spry**, Director of Student and Campus Services at Wallace Community College-Dothan, was named to the **Student-Athlete Leadership Council for the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC)**.

"It is with great excitement that I accept this appointment to the ACCC's Board that will oversee its inaugural Student-Athlete Leadership Council and Leadership Development Program," Spry said.

Two student-athletes from each ACCC member institution will convene for leadership workshops, with sessions addressing a broad array of topics.



## Turner Receives 2020 President's Award

Congratulations to **Dr. Shannon Turner** for receiving the 2020 President's Award for **The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT)**. This award is given to individuals who contributed extensive talent and time to the mission of FSBPT in the previous year.

She has served as a volunteer, including Item Writer, Task Force Member, Item Writer Coordinator, and Exam Development Committee member and chair.

Dr. Turner is a Physical Therapist Assistant instructor at Wallace Community College.

## Wilkins appointed to American Association of Community College (AACC) Commission

**Dr. Ashli Wilkins**, vice president and dean, Institutional Services and Community Development at Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCC-Dothan), has been appointed to the **American Association of Community College's (AACC) Commission on Public Relations Advocacy and Advancement**.

The mission of the board focuses on visioning and messaging for "friend" raising; coalescing internal and external partners around marketing and public relations campaigns that garner support for two-year colleges; collaborating with philanthropic organizations and the private sector to drive investment in the nation's community colleges; and studying emerging trends in communications.

Recently, Wilkins experienced firsthand the contributions that community college graduates make to others. "My precious grandmother, who was cared for in an assisted living facility, passed away just a few days before I learned of the appointment to this AACC Commission. Due to COVID-19 facility restrictions, we were not able to be with her physically during the final three months of her life. However, the nurses, most of whom were community college graduates, ensured that we had continual contact and information."

*(left to right): Dr. Ashli Wilkins, Holli Brackin, and Jennifer Gilley. Mrs. Frances Waddell (Wilkins' grandmother) reaches out to 'touch' hands against the window of her assisted living facility room.*

# FOUNDATIONS RAISE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS!



The **Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD)** and **Sparks (WCCS) Foundations** hosted GALA scholarship fundraisers virtually in 2020. Each event included virtual student videos, WCCD program videos, and interactive auction. The WCCD Foundation's fundraiser was held the week of October 20 – 22 and the proceeds from the event were deposited in the WCCD Spirit of Community Scholarship Fund. The WCCS Foundation's fundraiser was held the week of December 8 – 10 and the



proceeds from the event were deposited in the Sparks Circle & Flame Scholarship Fund. All proceeds are used to award additional student scholarships throughout the academic year.

The WCCD and WCCS Foundations work in partnership with the College to ensure access to education and success for our students. Each year the Foundations award over 300 scholarships to deserving students who would not otherwise be able to attend college. Because of generous giving from community members to the Foundations, the College is able to provide excellent transfer education, nursing and allied health education,



skills training, and customized training for local businesses and industries.

**Wallace thanks all of our sponsors and virtual auction participants. Stay tuned for 2021!**

**Coming soon:**

**Dothan Foundation Golf Tournament:**

**April 26**

**Sparks Foundation Golf Tournament:**

**May 5**

**[give.wallace.edu](http://give.wallace.edu)**

## GRANTS/NEW PROGRAMS PROVIDE NEW OPPORTUNITIES

### NEW PROGRAMS - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- **Basic Mig Welding** – Fast-Track Career Course; tentative start date June 2021
- **Basic Maintenance Technician** - Fast-Track Career Course; tentative start date June 2021
- **Women in Welding Workshop** – Continuing Education; Held in January and February 2021
- **PLC Training for Wayne Farms Maintenance Technicians** – Training for Business and industry; Held in July 2020

### GRANTS - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- \$176,135: **Basic Maintenance Technician for Pre-apprenticeship grant and Second Chance Training Industry Certified Grant (ACCS)**
- \$90,837: **Basic Mig Welding – Occupational Skills Training Program grant (Funded by the Department of Commerce)**
- \$10,000: **Women in Welding workshops (Funded by Wiregrass RC&D)**
- \$14,963: **PLC training for Wayne Farms Maintenance Technicians – Existing Industry Training Program grant (Funded by ACCS)**

**NEW STUDENTS SERVED IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - 2019-2020: 1,159**

- \$3,833,371: **CARES ACT (Higher Ed Emergency Relief Funds) - HEERF**
- \$3,833,371: **TRIO Student Support Services Program (U.S. Dept. of Education)**

- \$10,000: **Propane Education and Resource Council/Alabama Propane Gas Assoc.: Propane lab/training**
- \$90,838: **Occupational Skills: AL Department of Commerce:**
- \$176,135 **Workforce Development Basic Maintenance Tech. Training for pre-apprenticeship and Second Chance Training. (ACCS)**
- The College also received funding from the ACCS for **Career Coach, Ready to Work, STEAM, and Existing Industries Training Program (EITP).**
- **Wiregrass Foundation three-year grant provides scholarships for 100 students.**
- **Wallace continues grant funding for TRiO programs (Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Student Support Services.**
- **Wiregrass Foundation Mental Health program grant (2019-21)**
- **Wiregrass Foundation Dual Enrollment grant (2018-21)**

### ADULT EDUCATION 2019-20 STATS

- **Number of students served: 893**
- **GED's earned: 78**
- **High school diplomas: 3**
- **\$938,186: Operating grants from the U.S. Dept. of Education**
- **Alabama Certified Worker Credential (Ready to Work): 3**
- **Adult Ed Certifications: 533**



WALLACE  
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Dothan • Eufaula

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Perspective* is a publication of Wallace Community College – Dothan and Eufaula. Comments may be directed to Public Relations and Marketing:  
pr@wallace.edu.

Want to hear more news about Wallace?  
Look us up on social media!

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APRIL 22-23-24 • 7:00 P.M.    APRIL 25 • 2:00 P.M.

Limited seating available. Mask Required; Seating follows CDC guidelines.

Tickets on sale April 5 at [www.wallace.edu](http://www.wallace.edu).