



# PERSPECTIVE

2022: A Year in Review



WALLACE  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

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....and more!

**ON THE COVER:**  
*A Wallace graduate moves himself – and his tassel – into the future*





# Dr. Linda C. Young named 2022 Woman of Impact by Yellowhammer News

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) is proud to announce the selection of Dr. Linda C. Young, WCCD President, as a Yellowhammer News 2022 Women of Impact honoree. The 5th annual Women of Impact Awards is a celebration of the “strong women who impact and propel Alabama,” according to Yellowhammer News, and recognizes the personal and professional accomplishments of Alabama women leaders, advisers, and mentors “whose powerful contributions have moved the needle across business, government and non-profit sectors, empowering others through the lives they devote and trails they blaze.”

“I am truly honored and very humbled to be selected as a part of the 2022 Alabama Women of Impact,” said Dr. Young. “To be recognized in this manner is certainly a highlight of my career, especially knowing that our state is home to so many incredible female leaders who have made and continue to make a difference each and every day. I cannot help but think of the amazing and influential education leaders, such as Dr. Imogene Mathison Mixson, who blazed trails, broke barriers, and inspired a generation of women. I am grateful for this honor, and I stand in awe of the accomplishments of my peers.”



*Dr. Linda C. Young*

Dr. Young has spent most of her professional career in the Alabama Community College System (ACCS). Some of Dr. Young’s major accomplishments during her professional career include developing special education programs for adult women that were designated as exemplary models and featured in national publications and conferences as well as in a Congressional hearing. She also chaired a legislative committee of the Alabama Coalition of Women and Girls in Education and was one of five women in the state to be recognized by the American Society for Public Administration for outstanding contributions to public administration and public service by assisting other women to advance professionally. In 2017, Dr. Young was one of 19 college presidents in the nation to be presented the prestigious Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction by Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for community colleges. In 2016, she was inducted into the Dothan Area Chamber Business Hall of Fame.

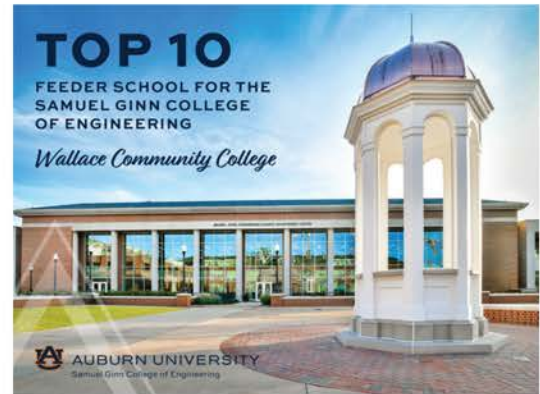
Over the span of her career, Dr. Young has served in leadership roles for many civic organizations and professional associations. Currently, she serves on Leadership Alabama’s Board of Directors and will assume the role of chair in 2023. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of the Dothan Rotary Club, the Fort Rucker-Wiregrass Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA), the Ozark-Dale County Economic Development Corporation, the Flowers Hospital Board, Wiregrass Forum, and the Economic Development Association of Alabama. In 2017, she was appointed by Governor Kay Ivey to serve on the Southeast Alabama Works! Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Board. In 2018, she was appointed by the Alabama Community College System Chancellor to the Council of Presidents, an advisory group to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.



# WCCD Named a Top 10 Feeder School to Auburn's College of Engineering for 2nd Year in a Row

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) was recently recognized by Auburn University as one of the Top 10 feeder schools to the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering for the second year in a row. This ranking places WCCD among the top schools whose students go on to enroll in engineering programs at Auburn University.

"This recognition is a testament of the dedication and commitment of every faculty and staff member at our institution to successfully guide and prepare our students to meet their educational goals," said WCCD President Dr. Linda Young. "We are so incredibly proud of our students and their continued success."



Auburn University College of Engineering Coordinator: Recruitment Andrew McGill acknowledged that the College of Engineering's success was directly tied to the caliber of students that come from its top feeder schools. "We are so excited to have Wallace as one of our top feeder schools for two years in a row," said McGill. "Recruiting transfer students is vital to our college and our student experience. We recognize that students coming from Wallace are more than prepared to pursue their engineering degree and are able to make the transition seamlessly. We look forward to continuing our efforts to recruit and retain excellent students from Wallace and are thankful for the support from their faculty and staff."

## WCCD Receives Official SACSCOC Reaffirmation of Accreditation

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) voted to award Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) its official 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation at its June 2022 board meeting. SACSCOC is the body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states.

In the fall of 2021, WCCD was found to be in complete compliance, with no recommendations, at the conclusion of the SACSCOC on-site reaffirmation of accreditation visit. The College received the best review possible, with the committee finding WCCD in compliance with all standards and offering no recommendations for the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Advising, Next Steps for Success. SACSCOC accreditation ensures that the College's quality of education, finances, support services, faculty credentials, and facilities are deemed in compliance with accreditation standards and allows WCCD to participate in federal (Title IV) and state financial aid programs.

As part of the reaffirmation process, in March 2021, WCCD submitted a Compliance Certification to demonstrate how the institution meets all SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation. Following the off-site review of the compliance document in April, 13 standards were identified as needing additional information for review. The College then provided a Focused Report, to clarify compliance with those standards, and submitted its QEP. The QEP identifies an area of the institution to enhance overall quality and effectiveness and focuses on an issue that is important to improve student learning and/or success at WCCD. The College selected advising as the focus of its QEP. A new student advising center model was adopted in the Fall of 2021, with self-contained student Advising Centers on both campuses. WCCD received a U.S. Department of Education grant in the amount of \$2,197,884 to help fund the new Advising Centers; WCCD was one of three institutions in the state of Alabama selected for the grant.

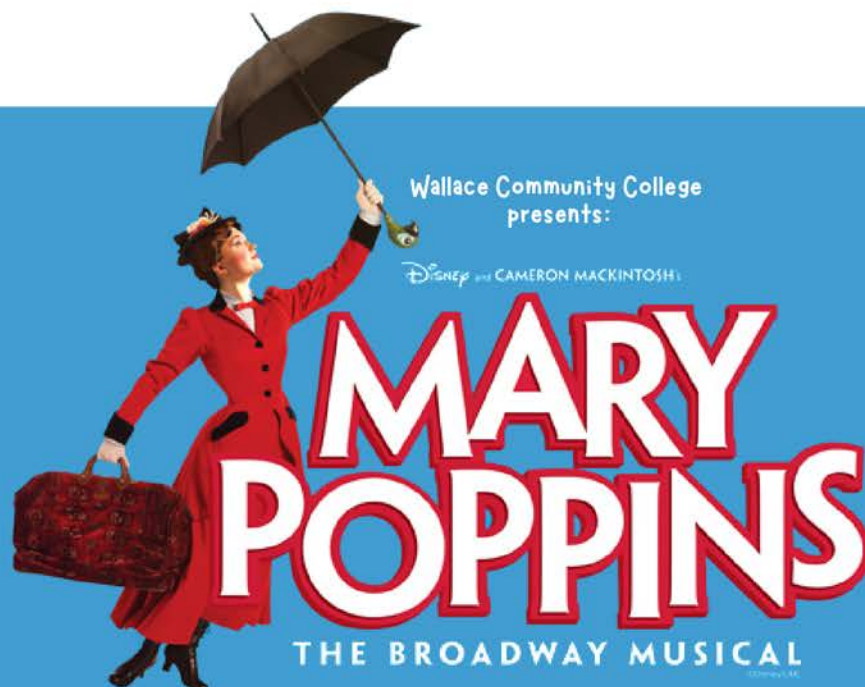


# WCCD Holds Health Sciences Simulation Clinic for Local Second Graders

WCCD welcomed approximately 1,300 Wiregrass second graders for the WCCD Health Sciences Simulation Clinic, or SIM Clinic, in October 2022. Students from 16 schools joined Wallace Health Sciences faculty and students for a fun event designed to teach children the importance of maintaining good health and wellness. With the help of WCCD Superheroes, the children learned about nutrition, exercise, hygiene, and safety. In addition, students could learn more about future careers in healthcare. Some examples of healthcare learning activities included learning how X-rays work, asthma attack prevention and the use of inhalers, and how to measure heights and weights like in a doctor's office.

The Sim Clinic is designed to not only educate young guests but also to help WCCD students learn the importance of communication with patients of any age or condition.

Faculty and students from the Associate Degree Nursing, Emergency Medical Services, Medical Assisting, Physical Therapist Assistant, Practical Nursing, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Therapist, and Surgical Technology programs participated in this event. Local first graders will visit the SIM Clinic in the spring of 2023.



## APRIL 20th – 23rd

Tickets on sale April 3 at [wallace.edu](http://wallace.edu)



# WCCD holds Grand Reopening of Phillip J. Hamm Library



*Pictured l to r: Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce member Stephen Holland; Mickey Baker, WCCD Dean - Student Success and Sparks Campus; Marc Nicholas, WCCD Dean - Business Affairs; Leslie Reeder, WCCD Dean - Instructional Affairs; Dr. Ashli Wilkins, WCCD Vice President and Dean - Institutional Services and Community Development; WCCD Director of Maintenance Greg Clemons; WCCD President Dr. Linda C. Young; WCCD Learning Resources Centers System Director A.P. Hoffman; ACCS Chancellor Jimmy Baker; Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Ben Seymour*

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) held a grand reopening ceremony for the newly remodeled Phillip J. Hamm Library on the Wallace Campus in Dothan in the fall of 2022. Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Chancellor Jimmy Baker was in attendance for the event which celebrated the \$1.8 million renovation project and demonstrated WCCD's commitment to excellence by meeting the educational resources needs of today's students, faculty, and community.

"Libraries are special places, and Wallace Community College understands the importance of creating an environment that goes beyond a repository for books and other media. That is why we invested in this renovation project," said Dr. Linda C. Young, WCCD President. "We wanted our students to have not only an inviting space to gather to study or to concentrate alone, but also to have a welcoming space to explore and create. We believe we accomplished our goal, and our most important stakeholders—our students—validate that belief with their comments and with their presence in the library."

The Phillip J. Hamm Library is part of the WCCD Learning Resources Center (LRC) System and was originally dedicated in 1965. Renovation on the 14,342-square-foot building began in January 2021. Faculty, staff, and students were included in planning the renovations which include collaborative and individual study areas, a multi-use room for library instruction as well as for school and community use, a self-check kiosk for book check out, remote lockers for book check out, new technology for student use, and an expanded collection of approximately 205,000 e-books.

The LRC provides a current collection of resources and services to faculty, staff, and students to support college and lifelong learning. The LRC collection includes approximately 40,000 bound volumes, 170 periodical titles, 3,000 media software items, and various electronic bibliographic databases including the Alabama Virtual Library. These resources and services are provided at the Dothan and Eufaula locations. Students are encouraged to use all LRC resources and services to enhance their learning and research opportunities.





## WCCD Hosts Dothan Tech Job Shadowing Students

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) hosted job shadowing students from Dothan Tech in the spring of 2022 for Dothan Tech's inaugural Job Shadow Day for Career and Technical Education students. Four Dothan Tech students who were interested in a career in healthcare were placed with WCCD Health Sciences programs.

Dothan Tech students shadowed Wallace's Physical Therapist Assistant, Associate Degree Nursing, and Respiratory Therapist programs. They also toured the Health Sciences Simulation Center and visited other Health Sciences program areas, including Emergency Medical Services, Radiologic Technology, Practical Nursing, Medical Assisting, and Surgical Technology.



"This was an excellent opportunity to showcase our Health Sciences programs to students who are interested in healthcare careers," said Kathy Buntin, WCCD Associate Dean of Health Sciences. "We hope that these job shadowing students consider Wallace as they pursue those careers."

According to Ryan Richards, Dothan City Schools Workforce Coordinator, "programs like this allow students to learn from leaders in our community about the necessary skills to enter the workforce successfully." Wallace Community College-Dothan was one of 35 job shadow placement locations in the Dothan area for Dothan Tech students.

# WALLACEGOVS.COM

The new online home of Wallace Athletics







# Head Baseball Coach Mackey Sasser Retires After 25 Seasons, 800+ Wins

*Ryan Ihle Named New Gov Head Baseball Coach*

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) Head Baseball Coach Mackey Sasser announced his retirement after 25 years leading the Govs baseball team. During his final season with Wallace, Sasser celebrated his 800th career win and saw eight members of his final team go on to play for four-year schools.

"Coach Mackey Sasser has spent his coaching career helping to shape successful collegiate careers for his baseball players at Wallace Community College-Dothan. He is a mentor and role model for so many young men, and the College is grateful that he has led our baseball program for the last two and a half decades," said Dr. Linda C. Young, WCCD President. "Coach Sasser is a difference maker, and he will be greatly missed. We wish him well in his retirement."



*Coach Mackey Sasser*



*Coach Ryan Ihle*

Sasser was named WCCD's head coach at the beginning of the 1997-1998 baseball season. In the 2011-2012 season, Coach Sasser was named the Athletic Director for all Wallace sports. Coach Sasser has been named Conference Coach of the Year six times and led the Govs to the Conference Championships in 2000, 2003, 2004, 2006, and 2017. Under Coach Sasser, the Govs were NJCAA Region XXII Champions in 2017 and Conference Runner-up six times. Recently, Sasser's Govs finished runner-up in the 2021 NJCAA Region XXII tournament.

Coach Ryan Ihle was named Wallace's head baseball coach in fall of 2022. Prior to his new position with the Govs, Coach Ihle was the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. In 2022, the Govs made a run to the Region 22 tournament where they fell one game away from a bid to the NJCAA World Series. Ihle was primarily in charge of hitters, with the offense compiling a .339 batting average with 53 home runs and 100 doubles as a team. Since 2019, Coach Ihle has spent his summers in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, as an assistant coach with the Falmouth Commodores which competes in the prestigious Cape Cod Baseball League. He has been a part of their coaching staff since 2019, helping assist with hitters, infielders, and outfielders while also coaching first base. During his first summer, the Commodores won the 2019 CCBL Western Division Title.

Prior to Wallace-Dothan, Ihle spent time at Cloud County Community College in Concordia, Kansas where he worked primarily with hitters and infielders. During his time with the Thunderbirds, the team composed a 28-24 record in 2021, with their season ending at the Region VI Sub-Regional Tournament. Under Coach Ihle's guidance, the T-Bird hitters broke the school record in doubles with 124 as a team and batted .315.

Coach Ihle originates from Brisbane, Australia, and moved to the United States to pursue a baseball scholarship at Colby Community College in Colby, Kansas, from 2012-14. He was named an All-Conference shortstop in his sophomore year. Ihle then transferred to Division II powerhouse Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia, where he played shortstop for the Cougars from 2014-16. He had a breakout year his senior year, with his efforts garnering him D2CAA All-America 2nd Team honors as a Shortstop. Ihle was also recognized as a CoSIDA Academic All-American for his success in the classroom.





# Waxing the City's Melinda Sykes offers tuition assistance, guaranteed employment to Cosmetology, Esthetics graduates

Wallace Community College-Dothan hosted Dothan businesswoman Melinda Sykes, owner of Waxing the City and Alabama Nail Company, in the fall of 2022 as a special guest speaker to Cosmetology and Esthetics students. Sykes debuted her student loan forgiveness program, offering WCCD Cosmetology and Esthetics students the opportunity to apply for tuition assistance or reimbursement and guaranteed employment at one of her two businesses upon graduation.

"I believe that one of the many purposes of the community college system is to enrich the lives of individuals in the community by offering educational experiences that can change lives. One of the most effective ways this can be achieved is by partnering with local industries," said Lori Godwin, WCCD Esthetics Technology Instructor. "Our partnership with Melinda has touched the lives of many of our students and is helping to pave the way to professional success. I am grateful for her continuous support of our program, our students, and our graduates."

Sykes's offer of tuition assistance would cover tuition, supplies, and textbooks for WCCD students in the Cosmetology or Esthetics programs. In addition to graduating from those programs free of debt, graduates selected for the loan forgiveness program would be guaranteed employment at Waxing the City or Alabama Nail Company after graduation.

To be considered for the program, students must complete an application and go through an interview process before being selected. Selected WCCD graduates would be employed full time and receive full benefits, including a 401(k) and health insurance.

"I'm excited to offer the Waxing the City and Alabama Nail Company loan forgiveness program to Wallace Cosmetology and Esthetics students," said Sykes. "Many of our current employees are Wallace graduates of both programs and we feel they possess the skills and abilities needed to perform the services we offer upon graduation. Serving on the advisory board has been an honor and I'm excited for this new partnership with Wallace. My hope is the loan forgiveness program is utilized as a gateway to a great career in the salon industry."



Melinda Sykes

## WALLACE 2022 FUNDING ROUNDUP

- Alabama Dept. of Commerce Youth Workforce Development, **\$123,805**
- ACCS Career Coach, **\$30,000**
- ACCS Industry Certification Initiative - Industrial Diesel Systems Technology Training, **\$300,796**
- ACCS Industry Certification Initiative - Criminal Justice, Public Safety, and Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Training, **\$373,400**
- ACCS Dual Enrollment, **\$1.8 million**
- Alabama Career Essentials (formerly Ready to Work), **\$25,000**
- ACCS LPN Program Expansion, **\$136,195**
- American Welding Society Welding Workforce Grant **\$24,983**
- Delta Regional Authority/South AL Regional Planning Commission for Workforce Development Training, **\$158,496**



# WCCD, ACOM, Troy University students collaborate during Interprofessional Simulation

*Pictured right: Students from each institution work together to care for a standardized patient, with the goal of gaining a better understanding of the patient care roles and responsibilities in each profession.*



Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) hosted a day-long, joint Interprofessional Education (IPE) medical simulation session in February 2022 in the Health Sciences Simulation Center located inside the Heersink Family Health Science Building on the Wallace Campus in Dothan. The IPE simulation was a collaborative event between WCCD, the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Troy University.

During the session, students from each institution worked together to care for a standardized patient, with the goal of gaining a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities each profession has in patient care. This session is part of an ongoing series of collaborative events between WCCD nursing students, ACOM medical students, and Troy University Dothan nursing and social work students. The program is designed to underscore the value of team-based healthcare. The students were placed in interprofessional groups to encourage collaborative teamwork and problem-solving. The students participated in breakout sessions for a team-building exercise, followed by a case study segment in which each team member was assigned specific roles.

"Wallace is pleased to host this Interprofessional education simulation," said Dr. Jacqueline Spivey, WCCD Division Director, Associate Degree Nursing. "This simulation allows different members of the healthcare team to communicate with each other to benefit the patient outcomes as well as the healthcare team members' cooperative care. This simulation benefits the students by preparing them for the world outside the classroom. We are proud to once again partner with ACOM and Troy. As always, it is such an exciting day to see how the groups interact in such a collegial manner to enhance quality patient care."

"Interprofessional education is experiential learning at its finest, revealing medical team management through experiencing each medical person's role in healthcare," said John T. Giannini Jr., MD, ACOM Associate Professor of Internal Medicine/Director of Simulation.

"The Troy University Dothan Campus students have participated in this event for several years now and truly enjoy the experience," says Rachel Walker, lecturer, Troy Social Work department. "For many students, it is their first time interacting with multiple disciplines. We appreciate the partnership TROY has with Wallace Community College and Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine and look forward to many more years of continued, mutual support for our students and institutions."





# WCCD, City of Dothan Partner to Provide ACCS Skills for Success CDL Training to City Employees

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) and the City of Dothan have partnered to provide Skills for Success Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training at no cost for current City employees. The training takes place at the Wiregrass Public Safety Center and is designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary for City employees to receive a Class A CDL license required for employment.

"CDL licensed drivers are the lifeline of several of our City of Dothan operations, particularly in the Public Works and Dothan Utilities departments. From medium to heavy equipment operators to safety-sensitive positions that require a CDL, the City relies upon the ability of our employees assigned in these areas to provide an essential service to the public," said Linda Cunningham, City of Dothan EEO & Professional Development Training Officer. "With the City of Dothan's partnership with Wallace, this allows our employees and prospective employees to obtain a CDL and build a career with our organization."

The WCCD CDL training will prepare City of Dothan employees to take and pass the federal Class A CDL test. WCCD provides online Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) as well as hands-on instruction. Skills taught include safely maintaining and maneuvering trucks into traffic, into loading or unloading positions, and in and out of parking spaces. In addition, City employees will learn how to apply the necessary protocol to transport various types of goods and materials, whether regionally or nationally. They will be able to demonstrate how to operate important equipment, including truck cab computers, CB radios, and tools for basic maintenance conditions. They will also be able to demonstrate vehicle pre-trip and post-trip inspection, straight line backing, alley dock backing, as well as coupling and uncoupling various trailers.

"We are truly excited to partner with the City of Dothan and the Wiregrass Public Safety Center to provide CDL training for the City of Dothan employees. The training is a great example of how the College partners with local industry to provide rapid workforce training to existing employees at no cost," said Joe Johnson, WCCD Director of Workforce Development. "Employees have an opportunity to participate in quality training that will lead to an industry-recognized credential and better prepare them to be successful in their current role. I applaud the City of Dothan for investing in their workforce and for providing the training the employees need to be successful in their careers."

The CDL training program is facilitated by WCCD through the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Innovation Center. The training course is part of the Center's Skills for Success program with the aim to rapidly deliver workforce training developed in partnership with Alabama's businesses and industries. The Skills for Success courses allow WCCD to deliver rapid, necessary training with minimal expense or content development. This reduces the cost of training for the companies and the participants but maintains the rigorous standards set by National and State agencies.

"Skills for Success is the Alabama Community College System's rapid training program. The training is developed in partnership with Alabama's businesses and industries, so it is customized for jobs that employers say need to be filled immediately," said Houston Blackwood, Workforce Director of the ACCS Innovation Center. "Skills for Success quickly trains workers for jobs that are in-demand, like commercial truck drivers. The training is customized so students can find jobs immediately after completing the course."



*Pictured (l to r): Delvick McKay, City of Dothan; Linda Cunningham, City of Dothan; Joe Johnson, WCCD; Dr. Linda Young, WCCD; Houston Blackwood, ACCS Innovation Center*

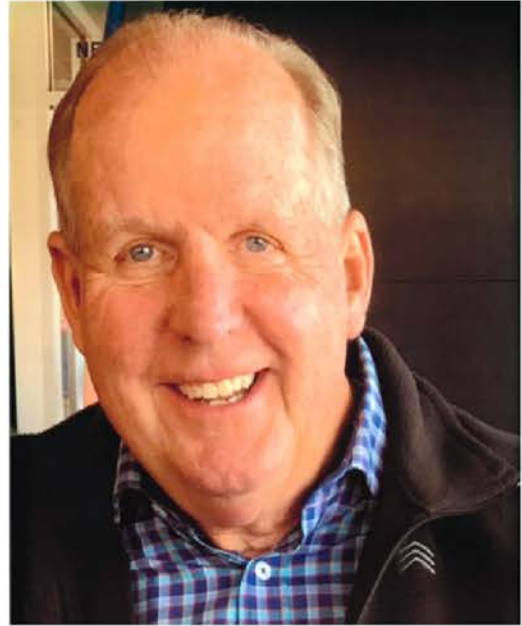




# Wallace Foundation's Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament Renamed in Honor of Hugh W. Wheelless, Jr.

The Wallace Community College Foundation was honored to announce in 2022 that the Wallace Foundation's annual scholarship golf tournament has been renamed the Hugh W. Wheelless, Jr. Memorial Golf Fore Education Tournament in memory of Mr. Wheelless. The tournament is held in the spring at the Highland Oaks Golf Course in Dothan.

"Hugh laid the groundwork to establish and host an annual scholarship tournament to support the Wallace Spirit of Community Scholarship fund," said Dr. Tracy Brooks, WCCD Director of Institutional Advancement. "Without his guidance, the tournament would not have been as successful each year in raising money to support student scholarships."



*Mr. Hugh W. Wheelless, Jr.*

The Foundation works in partnership with the College to ensure access to education and to help achieve success for its students. Over 350 scholarships are awarded each year to deserving students who would not otherwise be able to attend college. Because of generous giving from community members to the WCC Foundations, the College is able to provide excellent transfer education, nursing and allied health education, skills training, and custom training for local businesses and industries to students on both the Wallace Campus in Dothan and the Sparks Campus in Eufaula.



**You can help provide scholarship opportunities for students on the Wallace Campus in Dothan or the Sparks Campus in Eufaula year round!**

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