



Gov. Ivey Makes Statewide Broadband Access Announcement at WCCD's Dothan Campus

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) hosted Governor Kay Ivey on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, on the Wallace Campus in Dothan as she made a statewide announcement on the future of high-speed internet connectivity in Alabama. After the announcement, WCCD fiber optic training students provided a demonstration for the Governor and participants on how to deploy the fiber optic cables needed for high-speed internet delivery. This training, developed through the Alabama Community College System's Innovation Center, brings together the state's community colleges, industries and community partners to deliver training offered at no cost to participants thanks to funding provided by Ivey and the Alabama Legislature.



(L to R) Senator Donnie Chesteen, ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell, Governor Kay Ivey and Dr. Linda Young watch a demonstration by WCCD Fiber Optic students following an announcement by the Governor about statewide broadband access.

During her visit to WCCD, Governor Ivey announced how more than \$400 million in federal funding and over \$1.4 billion from the U.S.

Department of Commerce Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) will be used to expand access to high-speed internet across Alabama. Governor Ivey also unveiled Be Linked Alabama as the name and hub representing the state's continued efforts to expand access to high-speed internet.

"Wallace Community College was delighted to share in this exciting announcement that will positively impact our entire state," said Dr. Linda Young, WCCD President. "We were so pleased to have been chosen as the site to host this event, and we were especially honored by the presence of our distinguished Governor the Honorable Kay Ivey."

"The College's workforce development fiber optic training program has enhanced the skills of many in this growing industry," Dr. Young added.
"This program is possible due to the support and investment of our industry partners, the Alabama Community College System, and the state.
It is truly amazing what we can accomplish together in support of our mission to help our students succeed in their chosen profession.
Wallace is excited about the opportunities available through this program and through other programs offered by the Innovation Center.
Alabama's community colleges serve as the premier workforce training provider for our state, and we are proud to help meet the needs of the Wiregrass and beyond."

WCCD's fiber optic training was selected by ACCS to pilot a statewide training program for those interested in careers as fiber optic technicians. Skills for Success, the rapid training program developed by the ACCS Innovation Center, brings together the state's community colleges, business and industry, and community partners to deliver industry-recognized, non-credit training for in-demand jobs. The fiber optic training is offered at no cost to participants. The course covers best practices and fundamental principles behind basic data and voice transmission via fiber optic cable, as well as installation and termination techniques. Students learn how to identify fiber types, recognize various connectors used in fiber installation, and install, terminate, splice, and test multimode or single-mode fiber optic networks according to existing standards. The course combines online theory and in-person, hands-on lab activities to prepare students for employment or advancement in the fiber optic industry. Other skills covered include customer service, communication, leadership, attention to detail, and time management. Once students complete the training, they are job-ready and are awarded a credential and an opportunity to earn more certifications at their local community college.



WCCD, Auburn University Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Agricultural Pathway



Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) and the Auburn University College of Agriculture (AUCOA) are pleased to announce the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two institutions to provide a streamlined transfer process for WCCD students who meet identified criteria for bachelor's degree programs in AUCOA. An official signing ceremony between the two institutions took place on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 2:00 PM on the WCCD Wallace Campus in Dothan.

As a result of this agreement, efforts will be exerted to provide a pathway for WCCD students to transfer to AUCOA upon completion of two years of specified coursework at WCCD that meets preliminary coursework requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree in AUCOA. WCCD's Natural Sciences will house five new courses for the program with the plan to expand offerings as the student population grows. These classes would include courses in animal dairy sciences, horticulture, and plant propagation; the classes are slated to begin in Fall 2024.

Several community partners have aided WCCD in the development of these courses. WCCD will partner with Extension agents at the Wiregrass Extension to utilize its facilities as outdoor classrooms. SunSouth of Dothan has offered to provide professional development opportunities to students where possible. The Headland Chamber of Commerce played an important role in the creation of these courses by assisting WCCD in connecting with community partners.

"Wallace Community College-Dothan was excited to sign this memorandum of understanding with the Auburn University College of Agriculture and provide our students with a seamless pathway to a promising future in agriculture," said Dr. Linda Young, WCCD President. "As those of us who live and work in the Wiregrass area know, agriculture is not just a source of industry – it is a way of life. We are proud to contribute to the advancement of agriculture within our community and grateful to the community partners aiding us in that endeavor."

"The College of Agriculture at Auburn University is pleased to be partnering with Wallace Community College," said Dr. Amy Wright, Auburn University College of Agriculture Associate Dean for Instruction. "We have a broad range of exciting majors in the College of Agriculture, and we are excited to work together with Wallace in this capacity."

"The collaboration between Wallace Community College-Dothan, Auburn University, The Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and The Wiregrass Research and Extension Center enables students from across the Wiregrass to achieve their goals for a successful future," said Jimmy Jones, Alabama Cooperative Extension System Henry County Extension Coordinator.



WCCD adds \$163.9 Million, 2,867 Jobs to Wiregrass Annually

Alabama's Community Colleges Pump \$6.6 Billion into State Economy

Students and alumni of colleges within the Alabama Community College System add \$6.6 billion to Alabama's economy, supporting one out of every 27 jobs in the state, according to an economic impact report released in early 2023.

The independent, 102-page report by Lightcast estimates the Alabama Community College System directly impacts 98,923 jobs in the state, representing about 2.7% of Alabama's gross state product. Additionally, taxpayers see a net benefit of \$1.1 billion in added tax revenue from students' higher lifetime earnings and increased output to businesses.

The total economic impact of Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) on its Wiregrass service area is just under \$164 million annually and supports almost 3,000 jobs. One out of every 49 jobs in the WCCD service area is supported by the activities of WCCD and its students.

"We are so pleased to see the Wallace Community College-Dothan results from the Lightcast economic impact analysis," said Dr. Linda C. Young, WCCD President. "We have always known that Wallace makes a deep, lasting impact on our students and our community, but to see the measurable economic outcomes of our mission is incredibly inspiring. We are grateful for the opportunity to make an economic impact of this size on our community, and it only solidifies the fact that Alabama community colleges make a substantial positive effect on students' lives, on their earning potential, and on the communities in which they live and work. These impressive results only reinforce Wallace's commitment to continue making those life-changing impacts each day."

Lightcast found that WCCD alumni contributed \$128.5 million in added income to the area, an economic boost similar to hosting the World Series twenty times. The annual impact of WCCD's operation spending is \$32.6 million, and the student spending impact on the area adds \$2.8 million to the area annually.

In terms of investment, for every \$1 spent at WCCD, students gain \$7.20 in lifetime earnings. The average associate degree Wallace graduate will see an increase of \$8,500 in earnings each year compared to someone with a high school diploma working in Alabama. Taxpayers see a return of \$2.70 in added tax revenue and public sector savings for every dollar spent at WCCD, and the Wiregrass overall gains \$9.10 in added income and social savings.

Lightcast analyzed data from Fiscal Year 2021. The report used data that included academic and financial reports from ACCS colleges, as well as industry and employment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Census Bureau.

The full report can be found at www.accs.edu/impact.







Reflects FY 2020-21

JANUARY 2023

The Economic Value of **George C Wallace Community** College - Dothan

About WCCD



₩ 5,087 Credit students



徽 2,106 Non-credit students



436 Employees The WCCD Service Area Alabama



Economic impact analysis





Alumni impact

Impact of the increased earnings of WCCD alumni and the businesses they work for



An economic boost similar to hosting the World Series

20x

OR

2,277 Jobs supported



Operations spending impact

Impact of annual payroll and other spending

\$32.6 million

Added income



Enough to buy 692 new cars

OR

Jobs supported

526



Student spending impact

Impact of the daily spending of WCCD students retained in the region



Enough to buy 228 families* a year's worth of groceries

OR

64 Jobs supported

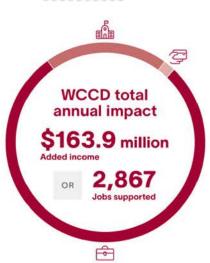
\$2.8 million

Added income

= 50 jobs = tamity of four

\$128.5 million Added income





Investment analysis



For every \$1 ...



Students gain \$7.20 in lifetime earnings



The average associate degree graduate from WCCD will see an increase in earnings of \$8,500 each year compared to someone with a high school diploma working in Alabama.



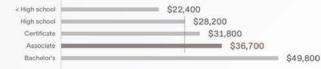
Taxpayers gain \$2.70 in added tax revenue and public sector savings





Society gains \$9.10 in added income and social savings









WCCD, Troy University Sign Memorandum of Understanding for Pre-Optometry Partnership

Heersink Wiregrass Pathway to Optometry Scholarships are available for students preparing to enter the optometry field



Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) and Troy University are pleased to announce the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two institutions for the purpose of providing students with a streamlined pathway from WCCD to TROY in preparation for the opportunity to apply for the UAB School of Optometry. The official signing ceremony took place on Thursday, December 7th, 2023, at 2:00 PM in the Lobby of the Heersink Family Health Science Building on the WCCD Wallace Campus in Dothan.

The MOU allows Wallace Community College Pre-Optometry majors to enter TROY's Bachelor of Science in Biology/Biomedical Science Program after having completed their associate degree and prerequisite courses. It also provides that TROY will work with the students to meet the requirements needed for eligibility to apply to the School of Optometry at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

"We appreciate our strong relationship with Troy University & and our new relationship with our University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) partner in creating a pathway that provides a step-by-step academic plan for students desiring to go into the optometry field," said Dr. Linda C. Young, WCCD President.

"This partnership highlights the value added when colleges work together to create pathways which lead to rewarding careers. We are grateful to Dr. Heersink and the Heersink Family Foundation for their generous support of this initiative. Many Troy alumni are also graduates of the UAB School of Optometry. Our partnership with Dr. Linda Young, President of WCC and a Troy alumna, will add well qualified optometrists to the field of eye care," said TROY Chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr.

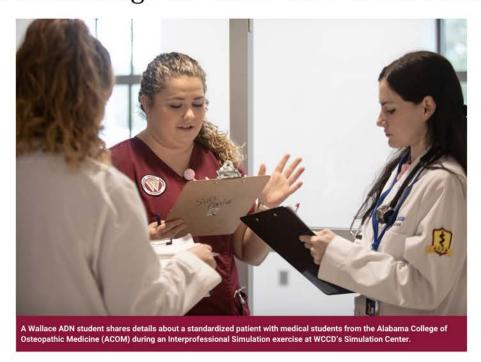
This partnership is supported by the Heersink Wiregrass Pathway to Optometry Scholarship established by Dr. Marnix Heersink. Two (2) scholarships are available to two (2) full-time WCCD students majoring in any pre-professional health program with a preference given to pre-optometry majors. These students will also be eligible to receive scholarships to attend TROY on a pre-optometry track upon completion at WCCD. The Wiregrass Pathway to Optometry Scholarship is designed to be a pathway from Wallace Community College to TROY while preparing students for the opportunity to apply for the UAB School of Optometry.

"We are profoundly grateful for the generous support of Dr. Marnix Heersink and his family whose commitment to the advancement of optometric education will make a tremendous impact on Wallace and Troy students," said Dr. Young. "By fostering the next generation of optometrists through this scholarship, Dr. Heersink is creating a legacy of excellence in the field of optometry. We are always proud to be a recipient of his generosity on behalf of our students and value his partnership with the College."

"Our community is rich in talent, potential and vibrant minds, and I believe it is crucial that we invest in the education of our local students," said Dr. Marnix Heersink, Eye Center South co-founder. "Wallace Community College is the starting point for many of our local students' educational journeys. By establishing an endowed scholarship here, we aim to support those who are taking their first steps towards higher education. This scholarship will provide a foundation upon which dreams can be built, enabling students to focus on their studies and personal growth."



WCCD Associate Degree Nursing Students Achieve Outstanding Pass Rates on NCLEX Exam



Wallace Community College-Dothan's (WCCD) Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program was notified in 2023 that its graduates once again achieved outstanding pass rates on their NCLEX exam with a pass rate of 95.39%. WCCD's 152 graduates achieved the second-highest pass rate in the Alabama Community College System (ACCS). WCCD's scores landed just 0.26% behind the top-ranked institution, which had 92 candidates sit for the exam in 2022.

In response to the 2022 scores, the Alabama Board of Nursing commended WCCD administration, faculty and staff on "maintaining high standards for quality in nursing education," and for WCCD's "contribution to the nursing profession." The 2022 statewide pass rate for all associate degree programs was 88.66%.

Each state requires its nursing graduates to meet certain passing standards set by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). The NCLEX-RN exam is used to regulate licensing to become a Registered Nurse (RN) and has been developed to assess certain competencies so that the candidate can perform as a licensed entry-level RN.

The 2022 pass rate was an increase from the previous year; in 2021, the ADN pass rate was 92.31%.

"Our Associate Degree Nursing program, along with each other program within the Health Sciences, aims to produce graduates who are highly qualified and able to step into the healthcare roles they seek to assume," said Kathy Buntin, WCCD Health Sciences Associate Dean. "A program's graduate pass rates should be a major factor in choosing a nursing program in which one wants to enroll, and the 2022 pass rate of the ADN program at Wallace exemplifies a quality that stands above others. Nationwide, first-time and total pass rates for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) have fallen to their lowest points in the last 10 years, but we are so very proud of the performance of our ADN graduates, both on their licensure exam and in the roles they play at our healthcare facilities."

"This remarkable success has not been easily earned but with the dedicated faculty of the Associate Degree Nursing program and the students that are driven to learn to provide excellent, quality care to their patients, this milestone has been achieved," said Dr. Jacqueline Spivey, WCCD Division Director, Associate Degree Nursing. "Our graduates are aware that nursing is a place where you can learn every day. It is also a place where you can make a difference in the lives of your patients with compassion and understanding. Our faculty does an exceptional job preparing our students to face the challenges that they will encounter in nursing and this everchanging healthcare environment."

The Associate Degree Nursing program at WCCD is fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and has held full accreditation since it was first granted in 1978.



WCCD Instructor Collins Trott named Educator of the Year by Alabama Project Learning Tree

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) Child Development instructor Collins Trott was honored in early 2023 as the recipient of the Alabama Project Learning Tree's (PLT) Educator of the Year for 2022.

According to the Alabama PLT, Trott was chosen for her "commitment to engaging future educators in hands-on environmental education experiences" while making "a positive impact on preservice educators in the Child Development classes she teaches."

"We are pleased to present the award to Professor Trott," said Ed Lewis, 2022 Alabama PLT Steering Committee Chair. "She consistently seeks ways to cultivate enthusiasm for teaching in her students. We love that she uses Project Learning Tree!"



"One of my favorite courses to teach is Math and Science for Young Children," says Trott. "Early childhood teachers often spend little time on math and science because of negative views from their own past experiences. I want Child Development students in my classes to remember what it was like to learn early childhood math concepts. Through hands-on experiences like Project Learning Tree, they grow confident in their knowledge and are excited to create fun learning experiences for children. Seeing a transformed attitude of Child Development students on the topics of math and science assures me our young children are going to have a great foundation of skills that will grow in the post-primary grades."

WCCD is grateful for Alabama PLT's acknowledgment of Trott. "Ms. Trott is a fantastic instructor committed to providing the best educational experiences for our students," said Leslie Reeder, WCCD Dean of Instructional Affairs. "We are incredibly proud of Ms. Trott's recognition as the 2022 Alabama Project Learning Tree Outstanding Educator of the Year award."

According to the Alabama PLT, the Educator of the Year is selected based on commitment to environmental education, exemplary use of Project Learning Tree's award-winning curriculum materials, and exceptional teaching skills. Since 1970, the Alabama Forestry Foundation has helped thousands grow in their knowledge and appreciation for Alabama's well-managed forests and their role in protecting Alabama's environment, economy, and way of life. Forest businesses are important in Alabama, and many livelihoods depend on forestry. The PLT curriculum helps others understand the connections between the forest products they use every day and the trees they see growing throughout Alabama.



LANDING IN BENCZE THEATRE

APRIL
18 - 21



Kade Snell Named NJCAA National Player of the Year

Wallace graduate and former Govs baseball pitcher/designated hitter/first baseman Kade Snell made history in 2023 by becoming the first player from Alabama to be selected as the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I National Baseball Player of the Year. In addition to being Player of the Year, Kade was also selected as an NJCAA First Team All-American.

"I'm just so thankful for the opportunity that Wallace gave me," said Kade. "I couldn't be more appreciative of such an award. It has been a pleasure to wear the Govs uniform with all the guys who were side by side with me."

Kade's stats in the 2022-23 season were impressive. He was 10-0 on the mound and led the state with 87 strikeouts. He had an earned run average of 1.86. At the plate, he hit .393, had 70 RBIS and 13 home runs. Snell previously won awards as the Alabama Sports Writers Association Athlete of the Year, as well as All-Conference and All-District Pitcher and Player of the Year.

Kade is continuing his prolific baseball career at the University of Alabama and was recently ranked fourth among the top junior college to four-year transfer players in the nation. "Thank you, Wallace!" said Kade. "My time at junior college was everything I needed. I'll always be a Gov for life!"





FOR SCORES & SCHEDULES, VISIT WALLACEGOVS.COM!

Dews named Lady Govs Head Softball Coach

Former Govs baseball player David Dews has returned to his alma mater as the new head coach for the Lady Govs softball program. Dews succeeded David Russo after his retirement in 2023. Notably, Dews is the son of former Lady Govs softball coach Gene Dews.

"I am so happy to be back at Wallace and in the Wiregrass," Dews said. "This is where it all began for me and now it seems like everything just fell in place at the right time. I was very happy where I was, but there is just something about coming home and being close to my parents and a lot of people that I have known most of my life. Plus, Wallace is just a great place to be. This is where my heart is. I couldn't be happier."

Dews' coaching career started at LBW Community College in Andalusia before achieving notable success at Darton State College, where he became the all-time winningest coach with two NJCAA World Series appearances. Subsequently, he moved to Lindsey Wilson College in Kentucky, an NAIA school, amassing an impressive record of 344-83, including three World Series appearances and numerous playoff berths. His tenure at Reinhardt College was equally successful, with a 37-13 record and a remarkable conference standing of 26-2. Throughout his collegiate coaching career, Dews has accumulated over 600 wins, boasting an overall winning percentage exceeding .700.





WCCD Sees Enrollment Increase in 2023



Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) saw an increase in enrollment for the Fall 2023 semester with 4035 students registered, an increase of over 200 students versus Fall 2022. WCCD also saw enrollment increases in the 2023 Spring and Summer semesters versus 2022.

"WCCD is pleased to see an increase in 2023's enrollment," said Dr. Linda Young, WCCD President. "Wallace is committed to providing high-quality education in an exceptional learning environment, and our increases in enrollment affirm that our mission continues to be successful."

"It's always exciting to welcome new members to our Wallace and Sparks campuses, and the entire College is looking forward with anticipation to see the positive impact both our new and returning students will make on our campuses and in their communities," said Dr. Young.

WCCD serves over 8,000 individuals annually through education and academic transfer courses, career technical programs, adult education services, and non-credit workforce training leading to industry-certified credentials and certifications.

Statewide, undergraduate enrollment at Alabama's two-year colleges increased by 6% for Fall 2023. This growth represents the third consecutive year of for-credit enrollment increases across the Alabama Community College System, bucking national trends for community colleges. According to the National Student Clearinghouse, community colleges nationally grew by about 4 percent in the fall term.

2023 GRANT FUNDING

- ACCS Dual Enrollment, \$873,549
- ACCS CTE Equipment Welding Technology Lab, \$278,054
- ACCS HVAC Equipment, \$218,181
- ACCS-Special Pops/ICI: Lineworker Program Equipment Update, \$185,052
- ACCS LPN Program Expansion, \$172,945

- ACCS-Special Pops/ICI: CDL Program Expansion, \$172,600
- ACCS Industry Certification Initiative Criminal Justice, Public Safety, and Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Training, \$140,187.39
- Alabama Humanities Alliance AHA Road Scholar Speaker's Bureau, \$750



Wallace Foundations' Dr. Tracy Brooks Retires, Mr. Brad Parrish Named New Executive Director of the Foundations

Dr. Tracy Brooks, Wallace Community College-Dothan's Director of Institutional Advancement, who oversaw the Wallace Community College Foundations for 12 years, retired in December 2023. During Brooks' tenure, the Foundations have achieved significant milestones, including doubling the value of the Foundations' investment portfolios, receiving two \$1 million gifts, and increasing the number of scholarships from 230 awards to 360 awards that total \$300,000 each year. Her vision to create the Spirit of Community Scholarship in 2012 through the WCC Foundation's annual scholarship fundraiser has raised \$776,000 and created 980 scholarship awards over the past 11 years. Brooks also initiated the annual Sparks Foundation virtual scholarship fundraiser in 2020 which has raised \$42,000 and created 48 scholarship awards over the last four years. Her passion, dedication, and visionary leadership have been instrumental in advancing the foundation's mission and positively impacting thousands of Wallace students during her tenure.

"The WCC Foundations provide not only financial assistance to our students but also hope and encouragement to pursue their goals and dreams of completing a college degree," said Dr. Brooks. "Working with the Foundations has provided an opportunity for me to be a part of an organization that supports student learning which transforms the lives of others."

Following a search process, the Wallace Community College Foundations are pleased to announce the appointment of Brad Parrish as the new Executive Director of the Foundations. Mr. Parrish is a Dothan native with a strong Wallace Community College connection – his mother, Linda Parrish, served the College for more than 20 years with the Practical Nursing program before retiring in 2000. He has a bachelor of science degree from Birmingham-Southern College and an MBA from the University of Dallas.

Parrish has more than 25 years of higher education experience, including a wealth of expertise and a proven track record of success in development, advancement, annual giving, planned giving, special events, and capital campaigns. His fundraising and friend-raising experience began at Andrew College, where he spent several years initiating, managing, and completing a 5-year, \$24 million capital campaign; raising \$1.5 million each year for the Annual Fund; and overseeing the giving program for a new residence hall, the administration building, a new chapel, and a new athletic facility. Mr. Parrish is skilled in building strong partnerships to support the Wallace mission of student success.

"It is an honor to join the Wallace Community College community, and I am so excited to continue the great work of the Foundations to support students and their success," said Parrish. "In my short time at the College, I have already seen the impact that scholarship funds can have on our students, their families, and our communities."







give.wallace.edu

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

2024 EVENTS

Please watch for publications and social media or go to our website to find out more about our 2024 events, including the Sparks Campus Golf Tournament, the Hugh W. Wheelless, Jr. Memorial Golf Fore Education Tournament, the Wallace Foundation Scholarship Fundraiser, and more.





1141 Wallace Drive, Dothan, AL 36303-9234 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Perspective is a publication of Wallace Community
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