



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



WALLACE  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

Dothan • Eufaula



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

***Dr. Kathy L. Murphy***

The Wallace Community College 2025 Annual Report reflects the dedication, heart, and collective efforts of a college that continues to change lives across the Wiregrass. Thank you for taking the time to explore the stories, milestones, and progress captured in these pages.

This year has been one of listening, building relationships, and laying a strong foundation for the future. Together, we are strengthening community partnerships, aligning programs with workforce needs, and creating clear pathways that support student success and regional growth. Our students are the heartbeat of Wallace, and their achievements, alongside the innovation and dedication of our employees, are truly worth celebrating.

It has been my sincere privilege to join the Wallace family. From my first day on our campuses, I have been inspired by the passion of our students, the commitment of our faculty and staff, and the deep pride this community has in its college. As I continue to get to know the Wiregrass, I am energized by what I learn each day about its people, its partnerships, and its tremendous potential.

As we look ahead, I am confident that our shared commitment to excellence will propel Wallace Community College to make an even greater impact across the Wiregrass.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathy L. Murphy  
President, Wallace Community College

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*The Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees is the governing board for Wallace Community College.*



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WALLACE  
COMMUNITY  
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George C. Wallace Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award the Associate degree. Degree-granting institutions also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels.

Questions about the accreditation of George C. Wallace Community College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).



# BY THE NUMBERS

DUAL ENROLLMENT STUDENTS:



**1,125**

**TOTAL ENROLLMENT**



**4,311**  
STUDENTS

**35,335**

CREDIT HOUR PRODUCTION



**6.17% / 5.77%**

Increase in Enrollment  
(Fall to Fall)

Increase in Credit Hour  
Production (Fall to Fall)

**ONLINE ENROLLMENT**

**1,821**

Students enrolled in at least one online course

## ENROLLMENT BY STATUS

Full-Time – 28.90%

Part-Time – 71.10%

## ENROLLMENT BY GENDER

Male – 32.48%

Female – 67.43%

## TOP PROGRAMS

GENERAL STUDIES

REGISTERED NURSING

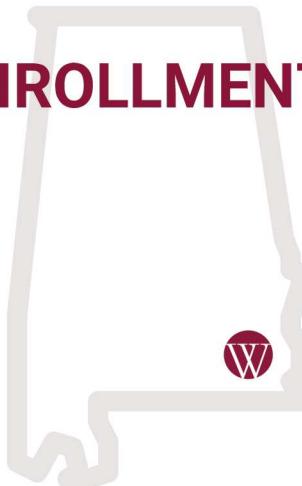
LIBERAL ARTS

BUSINESS TECHNOLOGIES

COSMETOLOGY &  
ESTHETICS



## ENROLLMENT BY COUNTY



Houston **1,655**

Dale **636**

Barbour **375**

Henry **362**

Geneva **181**

## ENROLLMENT BY HIGH SCHOOL



Dothan High **532**

Rehobeth High **324**

Headland High **264**

Eufaula High **242**

Carroll High **183**

## FINANCIAL PROFILE

2023-2024

### Revenues:

**\$49,554,121**

### Expenditures:

**\$ 46,084,879**



# WALLACE MAKES AN *IMPACT*

The total economic impact of Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) on its Wiregrass service area is **\$193 million** in added income annually, according to an economic impact report released in February 2025. The independent report by Lightcast estimates that WCCD supports **3,220 jobs annually**. Approximately **one out of every 48 jobs** in the WCCD service area is supported by the activities of WCCD and its students.

Statewide, students and alumni of colleges within the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) add **\$8.1 billion** to Alabama's economy, representing about 3% of Alabama's gross state product. The report estimates the ACCS directly impacts 114,043 jobs, or one out of every 26 jobs, statewide.

Lightcast found that WCCD alumni add **\$152.8 million** in added income to the area, an economic boost similar to hosting the World Series twenty-four times. The annual impact of WCCD's operation spending is **\$36.2 million**, and the student spending impact on the area adds **\$3.3 million** to the area annually.

In terms of investment, for every \$1 spent at WCCD, students gain **\$6.60** in lifetime earnings. The average associate degree Wallace graduate will see an increase of **\$8,200** in earnings each year compared to someone with a high school diploma working in Alabama. Taxpayers see a return of **\$1.40** in added tax revenue and public sector savings for every dollar spent at WCCD, and the Wiregrass overall gains **\$7.20** in added income and social savings.

Lightcast analyzed data from Fiscal Year 2023-24. The report used data that included academic and financial reports from ACCS colleges, as well industry and employment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Census Bureau.

The full report can be found at [www.accs.edu/impact](http://www.accs.edu/impact).



# The Economic Value of George C. Wallace Community College – Dothan

## About WCCD

 5,509 Credit students

 4,028 Non-credit students

 452 Employees



The  
WCCCD  
Service  
Area  
Alabama

## Economic impact analysis

 **\$152.8 million** Added income

### 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 **24x**

OR  2,594 Jobs supported



**1 out of every 48**

jobs in the WCCD Service Area is supported by the activities of WCCD and its students.



 **\$36.2 million** Added income

### Operations spending impact

*Impact of annual payroll and other spending*

Enough to buy **766** new cars



OR  543 Jobs supported



 **\$3.3 million** Added income

### Student spending impact

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

Enough to buy **224** families\* a year's worth of groceries



OR  73 Jobs supported



 **\$0.7 million** Added income

### Construction spending impact

*Impact of expenditures for ongoing construction projects*

OR  11 Jobs supported



**WCCD total annual impact**

**\$193.0 million**  
Added income

 **3,220**  
Jobs supported



## Investment analysis

### Average earnings by education level at career midpoint



The average associate degree graduate from WCCD will see an increase in earnings of **\$8,200** each year compared to someone with a high school diploma working in Alabama.

For  
every  
\$1...



**Students gain \$6.60**  
in lifetime earnings



**Taxpayers gain \$1.40** in added tax revenue and public sector savings



**Society gains \$7.20** in added income and social savings



## WALLACE WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT *DR. KATHY L. MURPHY*

On Wednesday, May 14, 2025, the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Board of Trustees unanimously approved Chancellor Jimmy H. Baker's recommendation to appoint Dr. Kathy L. Murphy as President of Wallace Community College. The appointment marked a defining moment for the College, as Dr. Murphy became Wallace's first permanent president following the 36-year tenure of longtime leader Dr. Linda Young, who retired in 2024.

"We've made a decision that I believe will be proven to be a very good decision because we had an applicant that we already know what they can and will do," said Chancellor Baker of the appointment. "Dr. Murphy's heart, energy, and will to do a good job are second to none."

Dr. Murphy's move to Dothan concludes her four-year tenure as President of Gadsden State Community College, a role she accepted in January 2021. Her time at Gadsden was marked by growth, collaboration, and student-focused initiatives, accomplishments she leaves with pride. Before Dr. Murphy stepped into her new role, Wallace benefited from the leadership of Interim President Keith Phillips, who served from October 2024 through May 2025. Phillips is the ACCS Executive Director for the Alabama Technology Network and Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development.



# DR. MURPHY'S FIRST 100 DAYS

After assuming the presidency in June 2025, Dr. Murphy made a strong, community-centered start. During her first 100 days, she met with leaders in business, education, industry, healthcare, government, and civic organizations to better understand the needs of the Wiregrass and identify how Wallace could continue serving as a regional catalyst for growth.

"We know that the strength of a college is measured by the success of its students and the vitality of the communities it serves," Dr. Murphy said. "My goal is to listen, learn, and lead in a way that ensures Wallace Community College is preparing students for high-wage, high-demand jobs while fueling the region's growth."

One of Dr. Murphy's early priorities involved guiding the College into the research and development phase of a comprehensive academic master plan. This multi-year initiative was designed to assess current program offerings, identify future needs, and build clear pathways to high-demand careers.

As part of the planning process, the College studied labor-market trends, met with employers, and gathered feedback from students and alumni to align future programs with both workforce needs and student success.

Dr. Murphy also placed a strong emphasis on visibility and community engagement. She attended civic meetings, hosted listening sessions, and initiated open conversations with stakeholders across the region about the College's role in supporting workforce and economic development.

As Wallace Community College approached its eighth decade of service to the Wiregrass, Dr. Murphy's early leadership laid a strong foundation for an era defined by collaboration, innovation, and opportunity.



**"Wallace serves as the community's college. Together with our faculty, staff, students, and community, we will continue to serve with excellence."**

*Dr. Kathy L. Murphy*

(Continued from 8) Dr. Murphy brought to Wallace more than 30 years of experience in education, including service as Superintendent of Hoover City Schools and Monroe County Schools, principalships at multiple high schools, and faculty appointments at the University of West Georgia and Judson College.

"Some people go to work every day to their job, and others go to their career – and I get to go to my calling," Dr. Murphy said of her appointment. "I warmly embrace and look forward to the opportunity and the privilege I'll have to serve alongside the great folks already at Wallace-Dothan."

# A MOMENT WORTH *MARKING*

## WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

George Corley Wallace State Trade School was one of five regional postsecondary technical schools established as a result of the Trade School Act of 1947. Classes began on January 3, 1949, in a hangar at what is now Napier Field near the Dothan Municipal Airport. Thirteen WWII veterans were the first students enrolled in the aircraft sheet metal program. By the end of 1949, there were six technical programs. A series of name changes reflected the College's changing role. Construction of the campus began in the 1950s on 500 acres of donated land. In 1955, the College was named George C. Wallace State Vocational Technical School. In 1963, the name changed again to George C. Wallace State Technical Junior College, and George H. Grimsley became the College's first president.

(Continued on other side)

Community members, alumni, students, and local stakeholders gathered to honor WCCD's significant contributions to education and workforce development in Alabama. At the Wallace Campus in Dothan, Interim President Keith Phillips and retired Business Dean Lynn Bell reflected on Wallace's rich history. In Eufaula, former Mayor Jay Jaxon and retired President Dr. Linda Young honored the College's legacy at the Sparks Campus.

In Spring 2025, Wallace Community College proudly unveiled historical markers commemorating over 75 years of dedication to education and community service. The simultaneous ceremonies occurred at the Wallace Campus in Dothan and the Sparks Campus in Eufaula.



# BEST IN THE WIREGRASS. *TOP IN THE NATION.*

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) has earned two significant honors, strengthening its reputation for excellence in education and workforce preparation. Stacker ranked WCCD #24 among the top 100 community colleges in the nation, making it the only Alabama college to appear in the top 50—a distinction that underscores the College's strong performance in student-faculty ratios, graduation and transfer outcomes, and overall affordability.

WCCD was also named the Best Community College in the Wiregrass for the second year in a row in the Dothan Eagle's Best of the Wiregrass competition. This community-driven recognition highlights the trust and confidence that local residents place in Wallace's programs, services, and student-centered mission.

Last year, WCCD held the #1 spot among community colleges in Alabama on Niche.com's annual rankings.

"These honors reflect the hard work, dedication, and heart of our entire Wallace community," said Dr. Kathy L. Murphy, WCCD President. "To be recognized both nationally and locally is humbling and inspiring. We are proud to serve our students and our region with the highest standards of quality, opportunity, and care."



 **stacker**



# CHAMPIONS



## 2025 ACCC DIVISION II STATE CHAMPIONS

The Wallace Community College Governors baseball team delivered a dominant performance to capture the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) Division II Baseball Championship, defeating Enterprise State in the championship game by a final score of 15-2.

Wallace Head Coach Ryan Ihle, who previously led the Govs to three consecutive conference titles, celebrated his first state championship victory. "This championship is a testament to the resilience and maturity of our team," said Ihle. "They showed up when it counted most and never backed down. I could not be more proud of this group."

During the ACCC tournament, Govs pitcher Mason Koczwara was named ACCC Pitcher of the Year, and first baseman Kason Gleaton was named Tournament MVP. Additionally, several Govs were named ACCC Division II All-Conference – First Team: Mason Koczwara; Second Team: Kason Gleaton, Anthony Zarzana, Makhi Buckley, and Jake Middleton.

# 2025 TOP TEN MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



WALLACE  
COMMUNITY  
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- #1** Wallace Community College awarded 1322 degrees from Fall 2024 – Summer 2025
- #2** Associate Degree Nursing (97.95% NCLEX-RN pass rate), Practical Nursing (100% NCLEX-PN pass rate with 8-year ACEN accreditation), Surgical Technology (100% NBSTSA pass rate), Physical Therapist Assistant (94.1% pass rate, 100% employment placement, 10-year CAPTE accreditation), Radiologic Technology (91% ARRT pass rate, 100% employment), Medical Assisting (100% multiple certifications), Cosmetology (100% practical), and Esthetics (100% practical, 93% written)
- #3** Generated over \$1.5 million in annual revenue from workforce development programs
- #4** Led and completed extensive multi-campus facility renovations and program relocations - including upgrades to industrial training, health sciences, student services, and support spaces across Wallace, Sparks, and Bridge Academy to expand capacity, improve functionality, and support academic and workforce growth
- #5** Student Support Services increased completion of 2-year degrees and certifications by 20% and good academic standing by 19%
- #6** Increased Skills for Success course offerings by 67% - including Forklift Operator, Carpentry Helper, Electrical Helper and Mental Health Worker
- #7** Named Best Community College in Alabama 2025 by Niche.com, recognized in Dothan Eagle Best of the Wiregrass 2024 & 2025, achieved 123 press mentions, and grew student-focused social media presence to over 20,000 followers (2nd largest in ACCS)
- #8** Supported 96 students in earning their GEDs, directly contributing to increased educational attainment and workforce readiness in our community, and exceeding the GED/Secondary Credential goal set by the state
- #9** Increased Fall to Spring Persistence Rate 8.6% and Fall to Fall Retention Rate 8.1%
- #10** Received \$5,418,278.12 in continuation and new grant awards from August 2024 to July 2025; Wallace and Sparks Foundations hosted annual scholarship fundraisers netting over \$91,000, and awarded 408 scholarships totaling \$347,290 to support student access and success



## WCCD Launches Strategic Planning Process to Shape the Future of Education and Community Impact

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) launched its 2026–2031 Strategic Planning process, a five-year initiative to set priorities that strengthen student success, enhance academic programs, and expand the College's impact on workforce and community development in the Wiregrass region.

Led by the Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Mandy Sessions, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, the process includes broad input from faculty, staff, administration, and external partners. In the months ahead, WCCD will collect feedback, review data, and identify opportunities for growth and innovation. The plan is expected to be finalized in Fall 2026.

Key focus areas include student access and completion, workforce development, academic and student service enhancements, faculty and staff development, and strengthened community and economic engagement.

***“Our strategic plan is more than a document; it’s a promise to our students, employees, and the communities we serve.”***

**Dr. Kathy L. Murphy, WCCD President**

# WCCD Awarded Over \$2.7 Million to Expand Rural Healthcare Education

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) has received more than \$2.7 million from the Alabama Community College System to launch Neighbors in Health: Rural Healthcare Training Close to Home, a major initiative designed to strengthen the rural healthcare workforce in southeast Alabama.

The community-based effort brings together WCCD, rural healthcare providers, high schools, clinical partners, and local governments with a shared commitment to "train close to home, serve close to home."



Dr. Kathy L. Murphy, WCCD President, described the funding as a transformative investment that will grow healthcare professionals within their own communities and expand access to high-quality training.

Through the initiative, students will progress from early career exploration to completing certificates and degrees in critical healthcare fields, including Medical Laboratory Technology, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Therapy, and Surgical Technology. High school students across 11 partner schools in Barbour, Bullock, Dale, and Henry counties can earn dual enrollment credits, Health Sciences short certificates, and even Phlebotomy credentials before graduation. Partnerships with rural facilities such as Medical Center Barbour will provide job shadowing, facility tours, hands-on experiences, and clinical placements in the communities that need healthcare workers most.

WCCD will also expand allied health short certificates on both campuses, while establishing a new stand-alone Associate in Applied Science degree in Medical Laboratory Technology with stackable credentials.

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# Medical Assisting Students Outperform National Averages on Certification Exams, Program Ranked as a Top Program in the State

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) is celebrating two major achievements in its Medical Assisting program—national recognition from EduMed.org and exceptional student performance on National Healthcareer Association (NHA) certification exams.

EduMed.org named WCCD one of the Best Medical Assistant Programs in Alabama in its 2025 national rankings, highlighting the College's commitment to high-quality, affordable healthcare education.

At the same time, WCCD Medical Assisting students achieved a 95% first-attempt pass rate on NHA certification exams—16% higher than the national average—and ultimately reached a 100% overall pass rate, demonstrating the program's strength in preparing students for real-world success.

"These accomplishments reflect the heart of our mission at Wallace," said Cherie Willis, WCCD Medical Assisting Program Director. "Our students work incredibly hard, and with the support of dedicated instructors, they gain the skills and confidence to thrive. Being recognized by EduMed.org and seeing our students outperform national exam averages shows the power of hands-on, compassionate education combined with high expectations."

EduMed.org cited WCCD for its strong job placement rates, exceptional student support, and integrated curriculum that prepares graduates for both clinical and administrative roles in diverse healthcare settings.

Students in WCCD's Medical Assisting program receive comprehensive training in patient care, laboratory procedures, medication administration, medical law, telehealth support, and office management, while also having the opportunity to earn four nationally recognized NHA certifications (CCMA, CPT, CET, and CMAA). These achievements underscore the College's ongoing commitment to student success, workforce readiness, and providing the region with highly skilled healthcare professionals who are prepared to make a meaningful impact in their communities.





## Career Tech Programs Gain Real-World Training with Cutting-Edge MPS

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) has unveiled a cutting-edge Modular Production System (MPS) that will give students a true taste of what it's like to work inside today's high-tech manufacturing plants. The advanced training platform mirrors the real-world production lines used by global industry leaders and equips students with the hands-on experience that employers need.

Funded through a grant from the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Workforce Development Division, the MPS is a fully integrated system featuring robotic automation, AI-powered quality control, and advanced mechatronics. Students learn in a simulated environment that looks and functions just like modern manufacturing floors, practicing with the same type of intelligent systems used by companies such as Michelin and Nucor.

"Students aren't just learning theory, they are operating the same AI-integrated systems, robotic automation, and intelligent machine networks they'll encounter in the field," said Martha Compton, WCCD Associate Dean of Career Technical Education. "That means when they graduate, they walk into the workforce already fluent in industry-standard technology."

More than 100 students per year, including those in the Wiregrass FAME, Industrial Systems Technology, and Electrical Technology programs, will now train on the system. The MPS's modular design ensures Wallace can update and expand the system as new technology emerges, keeping training aligned with the evolving Industry 4.0 landscape.



## WCCD, Troy University Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) and Troy University have signed a new agreement creating a clear transfer pathway for WCCD students to earn a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE) at TROY. Students completing WCCD's Electrical Technology (ELT) or Industrial Systems Technology (INT) programs will receive guaranteed acceptance into the TROY EEE program if they meet the academic requirements.

**"This partnership creates new opportunities for our students and strengthens the bond between our institutions," said Dr. Kathy L. Murphy, WCCD President. "It supports student success and workforce development across Alabama."**



Troy University Chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr. added that the agreement reinforces the state's educational pipeline and ensures students have a clear path to engineering careers. Under the agreement, students must complete prerequisite courses, meet TROY degree requirements, and earn at least a 2.0 GPA in all college-level coursework. Up to 62 semester hours may transfer toward the bachelor's degree, and students who earn a "B" or higher in each ELT or INT course will receive credit toward the EEE program.

# WCCCD, AUM Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCCD) and Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) have entered into a new partnership aimed at expanding nursing education pathways and strengthening Alabama's health care workforce. The agreement creates a streamlined, cost-effective route for students to earn both associate and bachelor's degrees in nursing while accelerating their transition into the profession.

The agreement establishes a collaborative framework that includes seamless transfer and reverse transfer options, concurrent enrollment opportunities, transfer scholarships, and enhanced advising and student support services for WCCCD students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at AUM. A key component is a concurrent enrollment program allowing qualified WCCCD Associate Degree Nursing students to begin AUM coursework while completing their associate degree. AUM nursing courses will be offered on WCCCD's campus, either in person or online, enabling students to enter the workforce sooner while continuing toward a bachelor's degree.



# WORKING TOGETHER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

# WCCCD Partners with Houston County Schools for New Dual Enrollment Programs

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCCD), in partnership with Houston County Schools, launched three new high-demand dual enrollment programs at the Houston County Career Academy: Automotive Technology, Business Technologies, and Child Development. These additions allow students to earn short certificates in Automotive Technology and Entrepreneurship, as well as a Pre-K Endorsement in Child Development.

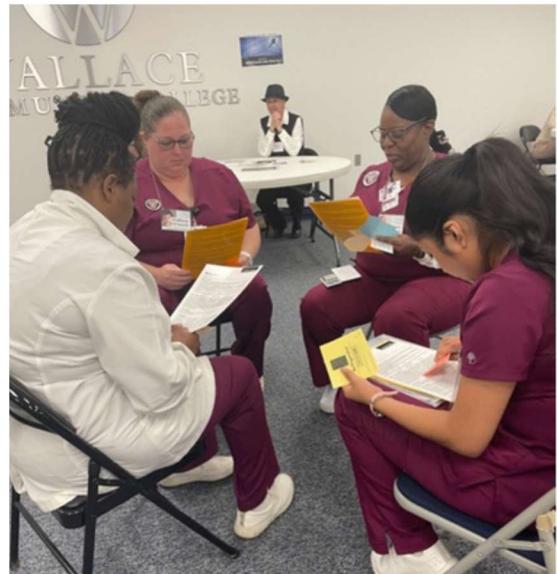
The new offerings join existing dual enrollment options in Emergency Medical Services, Medical Assisting-Phlebotomy, and Welding Technology. Stakeholders will continue exploring expanded medical pathways and broader dual enrollment partnerships, reinforcing WCCCD's commitment to increasing access to high-quality career and technical education across the region.



## Associate Degree Nursing Program Finalist for Statewide Exemplary Program Award

Wallace Community College's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program was selected as a top-two finalist in the Teaching and Learning category of the Alabama Community College Association (ACCA) Exemplary Program Awards. Led by Division Director Dr. Rayanne Daniels, the program was recognized for integrating the Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) into its clinical curriculum—an innovative approach that helps nursing students better understand how poverty affects health outcomes.

CAPS immerses students in real-world scenarios faced by individuals and families living in poverty, followed by guided reflection and assessments that measure growth in empathy and awareness.



# SIM Clinics Welcome Over 2,000 First Graders

Wallace Community College hosted two Health Sciences Simulation Clinics (SIM Clinics) during the fall and spring semesters, welcoming a combined total of approximately 2,100 first graders from local elementary schools.



Held October 20–24 in the fall and March 18–21 in the spring, the clinics brought visiting students together with WCCD Health Sciences faculty and students for engaging, hands-on learning experiences focused on the importance of maintaining good health and wellness.

With the help of the WCCD Superheroes, children learned about nutrition, exercise, hygiene, and safety, while also exploring future careers in healthcare. Activities included demonstrations on how X-rays work, asthma attack prevention and inhaler use, and how to measure height and weight like in a doctor's office.

## WCCD, ACOM, Troy University Students Participate in Interprofessional Exercise



Students from the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (ACOM), Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) and Troy University took part in a joint Interprofessional Education (IPE) medical simulation session held in the Heersink Family Health Science Building in Spring 2025. 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 ACOM medical students, WCCD nursing students, and Troy University Dothan nursing and social work students. The program is designed to underscore the value of team-based healthcare, with students placed in interprofessional groups to encourage collaborative teamwork and problem-solving.



# CAREER-FOCUSED. COMMUNITY-DRIVEN.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- **1,983 students** served through workforce training initiatives
- **\$1,690,372 in revenue** generated
- **1,324 credentials awarded**, strengthening job readiness and employability
- Expanded access to no-cost Skills for Success training across **16 schools in 7 school systems**, supporting high school graduation requirements and resulting in **506 high school students earning workforce credentials**
- Facilitated **three career fairs and hiring events** on the Wallace and Sparks campuses, engaging **190+ industry representatives** and creating direct connections between employers and job-ready talent
- Successfully **piloted** the Skills for Success **Forklift Operator** course in partnership with the ACCS Innovation Center
- Secured multiple **ACCS grants** totaling **\$500,629** to purchase equipment and enhance regional workforce training capacity



# WCCD Celebrates One of Its Largest GED Graduating Classes



Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) proudly celebrated Adult Education's 2025 GED graduation ceremony on Sunday, April 27, 2025, at Cherry Hall on the Wallace Campus in Dothan. The 2025 ceremony honored 40 graduates, marking one of the largest GED graduating classes at WCCD in the past decade. The Adult Education graduates either successfully passed their GED exams or completed the High School Diploma Option (HSDO) to receive a certificate.

## 2025 GRANTS

**ACCS Dual Enrollment – \$1,161,820**

**ACCS Success Coach – \$84,205**

**ACCS Computer Information Science Program Expansion: Cyber Range & Beyond – \$380,266**

**ACCS Career Tech Equipment: Modular Production System (MPS) for Advanced Manufacturing Technicians FAME Program, Mobile Training Equipment for On-Site Workforce Development – \$392,993**

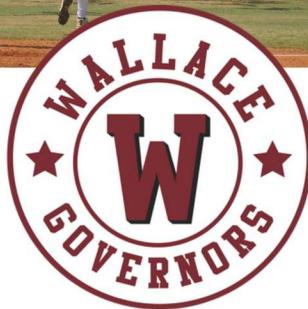
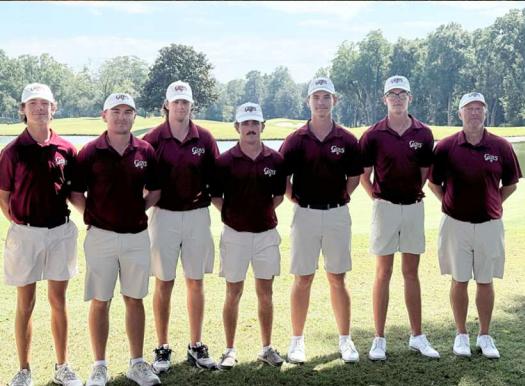
**ACCS Licensed Practical Nursing – \$167,500**

**Alabama Power Company Elevate Grant: Underground Utility Training for Line Worker Program – \$5,000**

**U.S. Department of Education TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) 2025-2030 – \$747,582 /yr**

***TOTAL: \$3,011,366***

# GROWING THE GAME

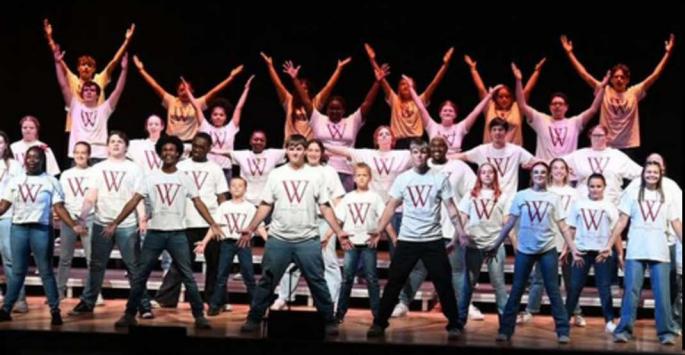


**WALLACEGOVS.COM**

- **Baseball** captured the **ACCC Division II Championship**, finished No. 25 nationally in the final NJCAA rankings, and saw **Kason Gleaton** named **Tournament MVP**.
- **Mason Koczwara** earned NJCAA Division II **All-American Second Team** honors and was named **Alabama Community College Division II Pitcher of the Year**, marking the seventh straight season with a Wallace All-American.
- **Former Gov Kade Snell** (2022–2023) was selected in the fifth round of the MLB Draft by the **Chicago Cubs**.
- **Softball** finished **third** in the ACCC Division II regular season, advanced to the conference tournament, and closed the year with a 29–21 record.
- **Sam White** was named head coach of the Lady Govs, returning to Wallace with 20+ years of coaching experience across the NAIA and NJCAA levels.
- **Wade Hussey** joined the softball staff as assistant coach, bringing extensive experience as founder of Alabama Fury and a former collegiate and high school head coach.
- Wallace expanded its athletic offerings with the **addition of men's and women's cross country** and the **return of men's golf** in Fall 2025.
- **Ryan Slaymaker** was named head coach of cross country, launching the first teams in program history.
- **Scott Stephens** was selected to lead men's golf, marking the sport's return to campus after more than 20 years.
- **John Rushing** became the fifth Athletic Director in Wallace's 60-year history and the first dedicated solely to overseeing the department.
- At the ACCC Division II Championships, **10 of 12 cross country athletes recorded personal bests**, setting the stage for continued growth.
- Wallace announced plans to **add women's volleyball and men's and women's track** for the 2026–2027 academic year.

# FINE ARTS TAKE CENTER STAGE

The Fine Arts program celebrated a year of creativity and community engagement with several standout performances and learning opportunities. Highlights included the annual **Spring Showcase**, a vibrant display of student achievement across music, theatre, and performance, and the crowd-pleasing production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, showcasing the talent and dedication of student performers and faculty. The program also hosted a **Show Choir Camp**, welcoming area high school students for an immersive experience focused on vocal performance, choreography, and ensemble skills. Students further benefited from a professional workshop led by American Idol finalist **Natalie Weiss**, gaining valuable insight into vocal performance and the performing arts industry. The year concluded with the **Holiday Spectacular**, which brought festive music and performances to appreciative audiences.



# WCCD Students Hired as Tech Scholars by Michelin for Second Advanced Manufacturing FAME Cohort



Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) students Hendrick Sanchez and William Bryan have been officially hired by Michelin North America – US4 as part of the second cohort of the Wiregrass FAME (Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education) program. Following a successful interview process at Michelin's Midland City facility, both students were selected as Michelin Tech Scholars and Advanced Manufacturing Technicians (AMTs), continuing the strong and growing partnership between WCCD and Michelin to strengthen the region's skilled workforce.

As participants in WCCD's FAME program, Sanchez and Bryan will pursue the Advanced Manufacturing associate degree pathway, blending college-level technical instruction with paid, hands-on industry experience. Students in the program attend classes two days a week and work three days a week with their sponsoring employer, gaining practical skills, building industry connections, and preparing for high-wage careers in advanced manufacturing.

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD 2025 BRAEDEN PLAKE

The President's Award is presented each spring to an exceptional sophomore who exemplifies academic excellence, leadership, and outstanding citizenship at Wallace and in the community. Selected from faculty and staff nominations and chosen by a committee, this award recognizes a student who serves as a role model through service, dedication, and achievement. Plake was recognized at the 2025 Honors Day Celebration.



## WCCCD Student Jamey Shepherd Named New Century Transfer Scholar



Wallace Community College student Jamey Shepherd was named a 2025 New Century Transfer Scholar, receiving a \$2,250 scholarship. Shepherd is the first Wallace student to receive this prestigious honor.

New Century Transfer Scholars are selected based on their academic accomplishments, leadership, activities, and how they extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom. Nearly 2,100 students from more than 1,300 college campuses nationwide were nominated. Only one New Century Transfer Scholar is selected from each state.

The program is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Phi Theta Kappa, and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

## WCCCD Student Kelly Merritt Named 2025 Oberndorf, Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar



Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCCD) is proud to announce that Associate Degree Nursing student Kelly Merritt has received two prestigious national honors from the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Merritt has been named an Oberndorf Scholar and awarded a \$1,500 Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship—one of only 15 awarded nationwide each year—and has also been selected as a 2025 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar. This latter distinction places her among just 220 PTK members nationwide and includes a \$1,000 scholarship recognizing academic excellence, leadership potential, and community service.

"I am wholeheartedly honored to receive these scholarships," said Merritt. "They support more than my education—they strengthen my voice as a leader, a first-generation student, and a grandmother, proving that passion has no expiration date." She added that both awards will help her continue pursuing her dream of becoming a nurse, driven by a deep desire to help others. "As long as you have a passion and a will, the path will always be made."

# WCCD Inducts 26 New Members into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society



Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) inducted 26 new members into the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honor society on November 18, 2025, celebrating the academic excellence and leadership potential of its newest scholars. During the ceremony, Vice President and Institutional Services and Community Development Dean Dr. Ashli Wilkins welcomed attendees, commending the students for earning a place in the nation's premier honor society for two-year colleges. She also highlighted WCCD's designation as a 5-Star PTK Chapter—the highest distinction—crediting the dedication of students and the support of the chapter's sponsors and advisors.

WCCD President Dr. Kathy Murphy offered her congratulations, noting that the inductees' commitment to scholarship and service reflects the core values of Wallace. The ceremony concluded with the formal induction of the 26 students, who pledged to uphold PTK's principles of scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship.

## WCCD Students Named to All-Alabama Academic Team



At the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual All-Alabama Academic Team recognition ceremony, the Alabama Community College System celebrated 48 of the state's top scholars, an event that honors exceptional community college students for academic excellence, leadership, and service.

Each year, colleges across Alabama nominate their most accomplished students for this prestigious distinction, highlighting those who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in the classroom and meaningful engagement in their communities.

Wallace Community College-Dothan is proud to announce students Isabella Eckart and Jamey Shepherd were named to this year's All-Alabama Academic Team. Their selection reflects not only their hard work and dedication but also the strength of Wallace's commitment to student success.

# WCCD President, Staff Part of Inaugural and Upcoming ACCS Economic Development Academy Cohorts

Wallace Community College President Dr. Kathy L. Murphy and Director of Workforce Development Joe Johnson have completed the inaugural cohort of the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Economic Development Academy, a year-long program focused on strengthening the role of community colleges in statewide economic growth. Vice President and Dean of Institutional Services and Community Development Dr. Ashli Wilkins has also been selected for Cohort 2.



The Academy immerses participants in every stage of the economic development process, from engaging with site selectors and analyzing real-world RFPs to preparing for site visits and studying Alabama's competitive advantages. Dr. Murphy and Johnson emphasized the value of the experience—highlighting how community colleges fuel economic progress through workforce partnerships and how strategic decisions in training and industry engagement support job creation.

## WCCD Names Dr. Rayanne Daniels as Interim Division Director for ADN Program

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) has appointed Dr. Rayanne Daniels as Interim Division Director for the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program, bringing more than 20 years of nursing experience and 16 years on the WCCD faculty, where she has led innovative simulation-based learning as a Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator.

In this role, she will guide curriculum development, student success initiatives, and faculty support for one of the College's most in-demand programs. Dr. Daniels said she is honored to lead the ADN program and is committed to fostering engaging learning experiences and preparing compassionate, patient-centered nurses.



# WCCCD Faculty, Staff Selected for 2025 Chancellor's Awards



**Martha Compton,**  
Administrator



**Wendy Weston,**  
Support Staff



**Todd Tolar,**  
Academic Faculty



**Dr. Rayanne Daniels,**  
Technical Faculty

Each year, institutions across the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) select four outstanding employees to receive the prestigious Chancellor's Award, recognizing individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication to student success and the advancement of their college. Award recipients are nominated by their peers and selected in four categories: Administrator, Support Staff, Academic Faculty, and Technical Faculty. Honorees are celebrated annually at the Alabama Community College Association (ACCA) Conference.

"The Chancellor's Awards are among the highest honors bestowed within the Alabama Community College System, recognizing outstanding service, excellence, and dedication to our students and institution," said Dr. Kathy L. Murphy, WCCCD President. "What makes this recognition especially meaningful is that honorees are nominated and selected by their peers – our very own WCCCD colleagues – reflecting the deep respect and admiration they have earned from those who work alongside them every day."

## WCCCD Wins PR/Marketing Awards at 2025 ACCSPRA Conference

Wallace Community College's Public Relations department earned two honors at the 2025 Alabama Community College System Public Relations Association Pyramid Awards, receiving the top Pyramid Award for Best in Print Advertising for its 2024 National Peanut Festival pageant program ad and a Certificate of Merit in Outdoor Advertising for its workforce development CDL training trailer wrap. Director of Public Relations and Marketing Taylor Wheeler said the recognition reflects the creativity and collaboration of the College's PR & Marketing team, creative partners, and campus colleagues in highlighting valued community partnerships and the training opportunities available at Wallace.



# THE COMMUNITY'S COLLEGE



Faculty/Staff vs. Lady Govs Charity Softball Game - Benefitting The House of Ruth



Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive - Benefitting Wiregrass Area Food Bank

1,200 Cans Donated • 2,984 Pounds of Dry Goods • 2,331 Meals for Families in Need

# THE COMMUNITY'S COLLEGE



Candy & Career Night - Dothan and Eufaula Campuses



An Evening with Santa - Dothan and Eufaula Campuses

# Making a Difference in Our Community



## Annual Scholarship Fundraising Events

Through the generosity of our donors and community partners, the Wallace Community College Foundations raised critical support through our annual scholarship fundraising events.

- 2025 Golf Tournaments: **\$14,929.49**
- 2025 Contributions: **\$93,679.15**
- 2025 WCC Foundations added **\$108,608.64** to be awarded through our **Sparks Circle & Flame Scholarship** fund and the **WCC Spirit of Community Scholarship** fund

## Growth in the Foundations

The Wallace Community College Foundations experienced significant growth during 2025, reflecting expanded partnerships, increased investment in student success, and institutional advancement.

- 2025 Contributions: **\$927,419.33**
- 2025 Scholarships Awarded: **400**
- 2025 Total Scholarship Amount Awarded: **\$329,396.88**

This enduring support allows us to strengthen College resources, expand opportunities, and transform lives. Our Foundations' donors help break down the barriers students face while pursuing their education and working to improve their lives. Because the majority of our students live and work in the communities we serve, contributions to the Foundations are **Making a Difference in Our Communities**.

## WHAT THE FOUNDATIONS SUPPORT



**Student scholarships and  
emergency assistance**



**Endowed funds that ensure  
long-term student impact**



**Academic and workforce  
development programs**



**Planned, memorial, and  
honorary gifts**





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