



A TWELVE-MONTH REVIEW

THE REPORT

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Itawamba Community College celebrated a significant and memorable event this year – it's 75th or diamond anniversary! When Itawamba Junior College opened its doors on a cotton and corn field with very few resources and a vision of providing the BEST education in September, 1948, it was a diamond in the rough.

How far we have come!

Although you will have a glimpse of Itawamba Community College today in this report, this year, among the highlights are the innovative Associate Degree Nursing Preferred Candidacy Middle College program partnership with the Tupelo Public School District, revamping the Precision Machining Technology program to introduce a one-year A.A.S. degree and a significant \$20,000 gift from the Gene Haas Foundation, a \$100,000 grant from the All Within My Hands Metallica Scholars Initiative, the donation of \$500,000 from the Ashley Charitable Foundation to ICC's Commercial Truck Driving program, Aspen Institute's selection as one of the nation's top 150 community colleges, recognition by Best Colleges.com as the best in Mississippi and among the nation's top 10, partnership with USM for a 2+2 program for construction management degree, recognition among the state's community college enrollment leaders, TVA's contribution to ICC's School of STEM for a planetarium and weather balloon, only team from Mississippi to compete in the final round of the Community College Innovation Challenge and ranking of our Business and Marketing Management Technology program sixth in the nation by Forbes Advisor.

As we celebrate these accomplishments and many more, we look to the future and at least 75 more years of service to our communities and beyond. We are grateful to all members of our ICC family, because without you, success is not possible. We look forward to sharing with you again next year because the BEST is yet to come!


JAY ALLEN, PH.D.

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COMMUNITY IMPACT



TAG TRUCKCENTER TUPELO FACILITATES ROLLING CHASSIS DONATION TO ICC'S DIESEL EQUIPMENT TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

TAG Truck Center Tupelo (TAG Tupelo) facilitated the donation of a rolling chassis training aid to the Itawamba Community College Diesel Equipment Technology program for hands-on training while studying chassis repair during its core diesel curriculum.

The chassis, originally used in Daimler Truck North America's Service Training Academy, was in Tooele, Utah and was due for placement at a college or school which applied for it and would use it for training purposes. TAG Tupelo provided the logistics and transportation costs to have it delivered to ICC's diesel shop.

"Our program's partnership with TAG Tupelo is strong, and we thank them and Higgins Logistics for facilitating this donation. It will allow for practical hands-on experience for our Diesel Equipment students, which is vitally important for their knowledge growth," said Jason Gholston, director

of ICC's Diesel Equipment Technology program.

ICC's Diesel Equipment Technology program, which was created in 1985, is an instructional program that prepares students with competencies required to maintain and repair a variety of industrial diesel equipment. The program includes instruction in inspection, repair and maintenance of engines, power trains, hydraulic systems and other components. Since its inception, the program has graduated more than 500 participants.

TAG Tupelo has been a member of ICC's Diesel Advisory Committee for more than 10 years and sponsored the program into DTNA's GetAhead program in August of 2017. There are currently five diesel technicians employed at TAG Tupelo who graduated from ICC's Diesel Equipment Technology Program, four of them through the apprenticeship program.

"ICC's Diesel Equipment Technology program sets the pace in teaching future technicians the fundamentals of commercial and diesel truck repair. This chassis donation only reinforces our commitment to the trucking industry and its up-and-coming technicians,"

- Brian Austin, General Manager, TAG Truck Center Tupelo

75TH DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY GALA



Itawamba Community College celebrated its 75th anniversary with a special event Oct. 14, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the West Hall of the Cadence Bank Conference Center in Tupelo.

"Throughout the past 75 years, our college has grown into a thriving hub of knowledge, growth and opportunity thanks to the dedication of our exceptional faculty, staff and students," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "The impact of our collective efforts extends far beyond our walls, shaping communities and changing lives worldwide. It is fitting that we host this 75th Diamond Anniversary Gala to acknowledge with gratitude not only the milestones in our history but to celebrate the best that is yet to come."



Proceeds from ticket sales and corporate sponsorships benefit scholarships awarded by the ICC Foundation, Inc.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to our success," Allen said. "Thank you for being an integral part of our esteemed community college as we continue to impact the future of the workforce of tomorrow. Here's to the memories we've made and the bright future that lies ahead!"



ICC'S MASK, BUTLER SELECTED AS '23 COCA-COLA LEADERS OF PROMISE SCHOLARS

Emma Mask of Plantersville and Matthew Butler of Tupelo, recent graduates at Itawamba Community College, were selected as 2023 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars and each received a \$1,000 scholarship.

The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program helps new Phi Theta Kappa members defray educational expenses while enrolled in associate degree programs. Scholars are encouraged to assume leadership roles by participating in Society programs and are selected based on scholastic achievement, community service and leadership potential. Nearly 1,100 applications were received.

Mask, majored in secondary math education. Her ICC activities and honors include Phi Theta Kappa president, Honors College, Instructional Support team leader, Fashion Tribe social executive, pom dancer, Indianette dancer, Trading Post committee, Indian Delegation social executive, STEM Club, Educators Rising and Mirror staff. Mask is a member of Liberty Baptist Church, personal trainer at Excel Fitness in Mooreville and employee of Funky Cones. She is the daughter of Tammy Mask.

A biochemistry major, Butler served as vice president of scholarship for the Upsilon Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Instructional Support team member, STEM Club

member and Exam Cram tutor. He was a President's List scholar. Butler's other activities were Involvement Fair and Time for Tupelo. Last year, he was the Monroe County representative for the Tupelo Campus Student Government Association. He plans to transfer to Mississippi State University and major in biochemistry with a focus on pre-research. He is the son of Joyce Butler.

A total of \$213,000 was awarded this year through the Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation provides \$200,000 in funding for the scholarships, with \$25,000 set aside for members who are veterans or active members of the United States military. The remaining amount is supported by donations to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, which provides multiple Global Leaders of Promise Scholarships earmarked for international students.

"The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has a long history of providing financial assistance to outstanding students at community colleges," said Jane Hale Hopkins, president of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. "We are proud to partner with Phi Theta Kappa to make it possible for more deserving students to achieve their educational goals and support tomorrow's leaders of the global community."

The funds provided by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation not only aid college completion, but also give students the opportunity to engage in Society programs and develop leadership skills to become future educators in their communities.

"Research shows that Phi Theta Kappa members are four times more likely to complete a college degree than

their peers," said Dr. Monica Marlowe, executive director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation. "The Leaders of Promise Scholarships recognize students for what they have achieved already and assure that financial need isn't an obstacle to achieving their academic goals."



ICC SPONSORS DINNER AND DEMO INNOVATIVE SERIES

Itawamba Community College sponsored a dinner and demo series at three Tupelo restaurants, including Oct. 12 at Forklift with chef Cooper Miller; October 17, at Neon Pig with chef Brooke Ramsey and Oct. 24, at Park Heights with chef Tom Lester.

"The chefs at each location provided a demonstration related to the dinner preparation, which followed," according to Josh Gammill, ICC director of Continuing Education, which cosponsored the series with the Food Management Certification pathway.

"The three local restaurants and their executive chefs created a unique interactive experience for participants," Gammill said.

"This is an exciting partnership that will not only afford our students, but also the local community an opportunity for an intimate experience with these local chefs," said Christy Scheuer, Food Management Certification pathway director. "Each of their styles is different, which I think will truly stand out not only with their demos, but also their dinner offering."



ICC HOSTS EMERGING SCHOLARS LUNCHEON

High school seniors with a 24+ ACT score were honored during Itawamba Community College's Emerging Scholars Luncheon, Nov. 2 at 11 a.m., at the Davis Event Center at the Fulton Campus.

"The event is an opportunity for the select group of high school seniors to learn more about the academic and involvement opportunities for honor students at ICC," said Michael Holloway, director of Recruitment and Orientation.

The schedule included check in from 10:45-11 a.m. followed by lunch and sessions focusing on the accelerated academic experience, Phi Theta Kappa and Honors College, special guest speaker ICC alumnus Karis Pannell and a question-and-answer session by a student leaders panel. Magnolia Hall and campus tours were available.

Holloway said that during the accelerated academic experience, participants explored ICC's 10 schools of academics with up to three round table discussions with faculty.

"Participants learned more about a variety of opportunities, including scholarships and Honors College," Holloway said. "Current student leaders shared information about how to balance academic life and involvement."

"GIFT OF LIFE"

WORK OF 94-YEAR-OLD VIRGINIA JACKSON, ONE OF ICC'S FIRST STUDENTS

"The Gift of Life," a collection of paintings by 94-year-old Virginia Jackson of Tupelo, was displayed in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center Gallery at the Itawamba Community College Fulton Campus in August.

The show included Jackson's acrylic paintings of landscapes and country scenes as well as two acrylic paintings by her granddaughter, Morgan Davis.

Jackson's first recollection of an interest in art was when she received a box of Crayola crayons at the age of five. She recalls coloring the embossed flowers on doilies (small napkins or decorative mats), but she didn't start painting until the age of 91 when her daughter, Jill Jackson King, bought her a set of acrylic paints. She describes herself as self-taught and paints most scenes from memory. Most of her paintings are

landscape scenes of farm life and "pretty flowers," but she experiments with abstracts, also.

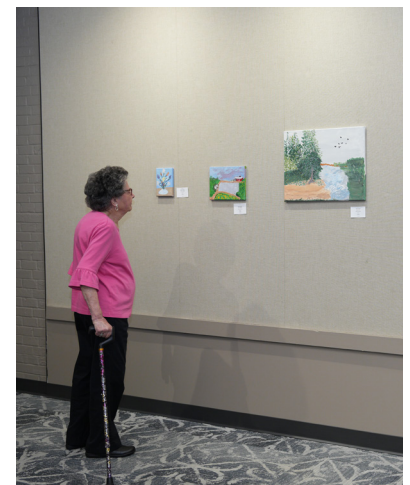
She was born Virginia Anthony in 1929 in her family's home outside of Tremont. Her father built their house and raised crops, cattle and hogs on their farm during the Great Depression. Growing up, she helped on the family farm as most children were expected to do. She said that since the county didn't have electricity, the chores and reading were done by the light of kerosene lanterns.

Jackson entered Itawamba Junior College in 1948, where she said that she was the first woman to enroll after its official accreditation and its doors opened. "The bus would pick us up from Tremont High School (where she graduated in 1947) and take us to IJC," she said. "The classrooms held about 25 students, and the campuses would be

unrecognizable to anyone today. ICC is the greatest thing that ever happened to Itawamba County. It gave us so much opportunity and was affordable." Jackson said that she took primarily business and secretarial courses.

It was also during that time that she met her husband of 52 years, Lelon, who died in 2001. He enlisted in World War II, stationed in Britain, and participated in day three of the Normandy invasion. After his tenure in the armed forces, he received five Bronze Stars and was awarded a Silver Star for his service. By trade, he was a cattle auctioneer, and Virginia Jackson helped him with bookkeeping and secretarial duties.

They later worked alongside L.D. Hancock in the fabric business and settled in Longview, Tex. In 1973, the Jacksons moved back to Mississippi to help care for their parents.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

ASPEN INSTITUTE NAMES ICC AS ONE OF NATION'S TOP 150 TO COMPETE FOR

THE \$1 MILLION ASPEN PRIZE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

The Aspen Institute named Itawamba Community College as one of the 150 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among two-year colleges. The institutions selected for this honor stand out among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide as having high improving levels of student success as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds.

"It is a tremendous honor for Itawamba Community College to be selected as one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation and to be afforded the opportunity to compete for the significant Aspen Prize," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "It is another indication of the success of the College, its continuing status as a premier community college and a testament to our exceptional faculty and staff, without whom it would not be possible."

ICC was selected as a top community college in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021 and as a semifinalist in 2023.

The Aspen Prize spotlights exemplary community colleges in order to drive attention to colleges achieving postgraduate success for all students and is a central way Aspen researches highly effective student success strategies that are shared with the field. The 150 eligible colleges were invited to submit student success data and narrative about strategies to achieve better and more equitable student outcomes as the next step in an intensive review process that culminates in the naming of the Aspen Prize winner in spring 2025. The eligible colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector. Located in urban, rural and suburban areas across 31 states, these colleges serve as few as 169 students and as many as 49,619.

"The Aspen Prize is rooted first and foremost in an assessment of whether colleges are walking the walk,"



said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "As community colleges face enrollment variations, enroll students with pandemic-related learning loss and graduate students into a rapidly changing labor market, it is easy to lose track of what matters most. The best community colleges are continuing to focus on advancing the core mission: making sure as many students as possible graduate with credentials that lead to fulfilling careers and reflect the development of diverse talent that communities, states and our nation need."

While community colleges are an essential contributor to our nation's success, student outcomes vary substantially



among institutions. Aspen measures those variances using multiple data sources and honors colleges with outstanding achievement in six critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success, equitable access to the college and equitable outcomes for both students of color and those from low-income backgrounds.

"These 150 colleges have achieved high and improving levels of student success for all students, including those who are often failed by our institutions," Wyner said. "We're excited to learn over the coming months how they achieved that success so we can share the most impressive practices with others in the field."

In the first round, eligibility for the Aspen Prize is based on publicly available data. Colleges must show strong, improving and equitable student outcomes in first-to-second year retention, credentials awarded and completion and transfer rates. Nationwide, about 15 percent of community colleges have been invited to apply (150 of just under 1,000 public two-year colleges assessed for Prize eligibility).

A full list of the top 150 eligible institutions is available at <https://highered.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize/>.



ICC OFFERS **INNOVATIVE SENIOR COLLEGE** AT BELDEN CENTER

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE HAS AN ANSWER FOR THOSE WHO ARE RETIRED AND LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FUN TO DO.

Its innovative Senior College began Jan. 16 at 9 a.m. with Jack Reed Jr. hosting the kickoff. He shared excerpts from his book, "A Time to Listen," which includes the best of thoughts collected from theologians, ministers, teachers and inspirational role models and have become the building blocks of the architecture of his own theology and philosophy.

"With ICC's new Senior College, we wanted to offer something that will appeal to the diverse interests of people living in retirement," said Josh Gammill, director of Continuing Education when it was announced. "The sessions will offer wonderful opportunities for community members to learn more about topics specific to our area, stay active in the community and engage with other participants who share the same enthusiasm and zest for life and learning as they do."

Additional programs included Chair Yoga; Clark Richey with the Claude Gentry Theatre in Baldwin and lunch at Tom's Soda Shop; Legal Matters covering wills, trusts, and long-term care with Sarah Cline Stevens; and Spring Fling.

Sessions met at the ICC Belden Center (3200 Adams Farm Rd.) from 9-11 a.m.

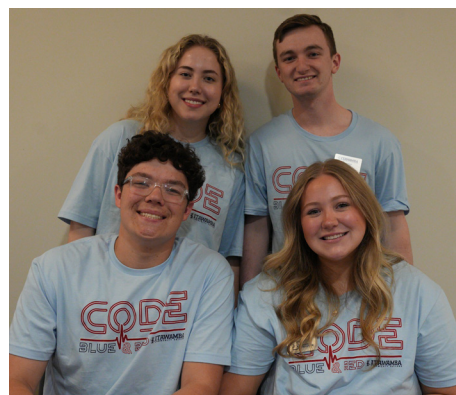
ICC HOSTS CODE BLUE AND RED EVENT

Itawamba Community College's Health Sciences Division hosted a Code Blue and Red event Feb. 23, in the Health Science Education Center at the Tupelo Campus.

Students from area schools were on campus in two shifts (8:15 and 10:15 a.m.) to participate in three simulated scenarios that highlighted each of ICC's 11 Health Science programs, said Michael Holloway, director of Recruitment and Orientation. A North Mississippi Medical Center ambulance arrived, and the students saw first-hand the need for and the role healthcare professionals play in the process. "It was an impactful program," Holloway said. "Our hope is that these students were able to see the 'real-life' expertise used by the graduates of ICC's programs."

Participating programs include students and faculty from Associate Degree Nursing, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Emergency Medical Sciences, Health Information, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapist Assistant, Practical Nursing, Public Health Technology, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care and Surgical Technology.

Dean of Health Science Instruction Tonya Vaughn said that this event was an exceptional interprofessional education opportunity. "IEP is a new emphasis area in healthcare education. The goal of these efforts is to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that result in interprofessional team behaviors and competence. The end result will be to foster collaboration and appreciation for the various healthcare roles to improve the overall quality of care."





ROSALYN MONTGOMERY EARNS HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA AT ICC AT THE AGE OF 68

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The educational journey of Rosalyn Montgomery of Plantersville took a bit longer than she expected. In fact, she earned her high school equivalency diploma at Itawamba Community College at the age of 68, less than a month after her birthday.

She passed the GED test on the first try as a result of her enrolling in an adult education class at the ICC Belden Center. "I wanted to complete something I started. I wanted to be a role model and show people that if you put in the time and work, you will be victorious," she emphasized. "They had the tools I needed to be successful, and they had the teachers the Lord put here to help."

Montgomery dropped out of school when she was 12 to help at home. She cleaned, cooked and "kept out of trouble," she said. When she was 18, she left home to work at Long's Laundry. Later, she welded fans and guards. For 15 years, she worked as a housekeeper at the Ramada Inn in Tupelo, and subsequently in environmental services at the North Mississippi Medical Center, where she retired in October 2017 after 25 years.

In 1976, she married James Allen Montgomery, a union that produced three children. They dated only three weeks before they were engaged.

Age wasn't the only obstacle for Montgomery in the pursuit of her high school diploma. When she worked at the Ramada Inn, she had to walk to the babysitter to leave her daughter. "I put a smile on my face, left my problems at the fence and picked them up in the afternoon," Montgomery recalled. She didn't obtain her driver's license until she was 35.

In the late 1970s, the Montgomerys had three children, and their house burned at Christmas. They had to leave and moved to the projects, but their problems, or opportunities as Montgomery would say, didn't stop there. In the late 1980s, they lived in a bad location. "My kids couldn't go out. I prayed for a better place. We didn't qualify for a loan, so the social worker at Tupelo Housing Authority encouraged us to sign up for low-income housing." In 1992, the Montgomerys moved after their application was approved, and she became the first of her siblings to own their own house.

She has advice for those who are thinking about enrolling in adult education to achieve their credential, no matter how many years it's been. "Don't be afraid to try to walk by faith, not by sight. When things seem hard, God will put someone in your life to encourage you. I am so blessed that I passed. I only needed a

score of 8, but I passed with a 12. It is important to have people who are positive in your circle, people to call to pray for you. I want to inspire other students who have not experienced life yet. My advice, listen and respect teachers. You have a whole life ahead of you, get out and do something with your life!"

Montgomery called her diploma "a new beginning" that has changed her life. She is also the first of her siblings to achieve that milestone.

"Thank God for this success that will continue to make me a role model for my children and grandchildren. My kids have been encouraging, and they are so proud."

As for now, Montgomery is helping her daughter with a daycare in Nettleton and is using her talents in a new direction, interior decorating.

She said that she has a dream board and checking off all of the items..."God's love and peace, Enlarge my territory, Pay off house." But, she left off one of the items that it's taken her almost a lifetime to achieve...Earn my high school diploma... Check!

ICC PARTNERS WITH USM FOR 2+2 PROGRAM FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT DEGREE



Itawamba Community College has entered into a partnership with the University of Southern Mississippi for a 2 + 2 program to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in construction management. ICC's Construction Management Technology is an instructional program designed to prepare

technicians for employment within the construction industries and firms in mid-level management operations as estimators, planners, project managers, layout specialists or other construction opportunities. Upon completion of the two-year curriculum, students are awarded the Associate of Applied Science degree.



According to Scott Emison, instructor and director of ICC's Construction Management Technology program, the program allows his students to transfer to the University of Southern Mississippi to complete degree work in two years.

"This collaboration is a new and a slightly more direct route for ICC's students to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in construction management at Southern Miss," Emison said. "This 2 + 2 option allows our ICC students the opportunity to fully transfer credit of 60 hours and to seamlessly enter the third-year cohort with the rest of the USM-BCM track students. The four semesters at USM can be completed 100 percent online or on their Hattiesburg campus, which affords our graduates the option to seek full-time employment while earning their undergraduate degree. I am excited about this partnership with USM and its alignment with our program's curriculum. At ICC, we strive to prepare students for a successful career in the construction field through a hybrid of lecture, lab and field experience, and this collaboration with USM presents a wonderful opportunity for our students to enhance their learning experience and employability in the industry."

"In addition to facilitating a smoother transfer process, we are delighted to announce the establishment of merit-based and financial need-based scholarships specifically designed to support transfer students continuing their studies at



Southern Miss," said Dr. Emre Bayraktar, professor and director of the School of Construction and Design at USM. "Our dedication to providing a well-rounded and accessible education is reflected in these scholarship opportunities, which aim to recognize and support the academic achievements and financial needs of our incoming students. We look forward to providing a supportive and enriching journey for all students involved. The collaboration between our programs holds great promise, and we are excited about the positive impact it will have on the academic and professional growth of our students."

Southern Miss program highlights include online option, no out-of-state tuition, accreditation by the American Council for

Construction Education, annual Construction and Design Career Expo and scholarship opportunities available for both online and on-campus students, Emison said.

A degree in construction management teaches graduates how to plan and manage the workflow, personnel, equipment and processes required to safely and ethically construct a project on time and within budget using best practices and current technology.

ICC SETS SMALL BUSINESS SHOWCASE DURING MAY

Itawamba Community College's Continuing Education Department offered a Small Business Showcase series that began May 2 at 6 p.m. at the Belden Center and featured Fulton's Square Gift Co. During the Trucker Hat Bar, participants had the opportunity to create custom design trucker hats during the two-hour session.

Additional sessions included candle making by Humble Roots Candle Company, May 16 at the ICC Belden Center; and a do-it-yourself wood sign workshop by Board and Brush at its location, 3944 North Gloster, Tupelo, May 24.

"The program was initiated to create partnerships with area local businesses and to begin during Small Business Month, which is May," said Josh Gammill, ICC Continuing Education director. "One of our goals is not only to invest in our small businesses, but also in our communities. We hope that participants walk away from the hands-on experiences with a new skill as well as something that they have created." Gammill said that he hopes that the series will continue this fall.





ICC'S SCHOOL OF STEM LAUNCHES NEW WEATHER BALLOON

Itawamba Community College's School of STEM launched its new High-Altitude Weather Balloon, Apr. 5, at 9 a.m. at the band practice field on the Fulton Campus.

The research opportunity is connected with Natural Science division chair Dr. Jada Mills' Special Topics in Biology course, and the students are learning how to conduct research. The project includes general information about weather balloons, determining the purpose of a designed experiment, deploying the weather balloon and collection and analysis of data.

Mills said that equipment was purchased from EdgeFlyte, a weather balloon company, and included were a ground station transceiver, GPS, weather balloon and parachute. The high-altitude balloon is expected to reach stratosphere level, approximately 30,000 meters.

"Students in the class wanted to send a payload with the weather balloon to see if a high-altitude environment affects nonpathogenic *E. coli* growth," Mills said. "We also attached a GoPro to hopefully capture the edge of space."

"We received FAA approval by providing details of our equipment, payload and experimental design," Mills said. "We used the GPS unit to follow the path of the balloon. As of its launch, the balloon was expected to burst in approximately two hours and landed close to Pell City, Ala. Once the group retrieves the payload, they will analyze atmospheric data obtained and the agar plates of *E. coli*. Students presented their project and findings at the end of April."

The experiment was made possible by a \$15,000 Tennessee Valley Authority grant through its partnership with Tombigbee Electric Power Association. "Because of TVA's generosity, ICC's students who are majoring in STEM-related areas, can experience not only a weather balloon experiment but also a mobile planetarium, both significant additions to our curriculum and opportunities that will enhance learning," Mills said.



"Graduates, today, you set your own sail and that will determine your course. You have filled your cup with knowledge, prospect, intention, and I am invigorated to see how you pour that into your communities and our great state of Mississippi." - REP. JASON WHITE



MISSISSIPPI SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JASON WHITE CHALLENGES ICC GRADUATES IN ONE OF THREE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Mississippi Speaker of the House of Representatives Jason White challenged Itawamba Community College graduates May 10 at the 10 a.m. commencement ceremony at the Davis Event Center at the Fulton Campus to live by the words he shared with his colleagues as they began the new term in January.

"To whom much is given, much is expected," White said. "I would tell you graduates the same message applies as you enter this new chapter of your lives. Hurdles and challenges certainly await you; don't get bogged down by the small things, focus on the big picture and make an impact. Don't be trepidatious to do something out of the ordinary, challenge conventional wisdom, and even push yourself to a zone of discomfort."

White said that when he was in law school at Mississippi College, a half mile or two blocks away from the Mississippi State Capitol which he passed every day for three years, he never once dreamed that he would be elected as a Representative nor being involved in politics. "Be open to where life takes you," he advised. "Surround yourself with people who will give you a positive push, and don't shy away from an opportunity that requires a little bravery and a little courage."

Among those individuals, White emphasized, are the families and friends of the graduates. He encouraged members of ICC's class of 2024 to connect with their "firm foundation or firm place to stand" before sundown today to express their gratitude.

"Congratulations on making the greatest investment in yourself," White opened his remarks. "You put in the study hours, you prepared for the exams, you planned for your future; this is no small feat. When you make this investment in yourself, and you put what you learned back into Mississippi, you are also making an investment in our state – so I want to thank you for your contribution. The careers for which you have prepared, or the next step in your education journey you plan to take, lend to a better and brighter Mississippi. As I look out across this room, I couldn't be more encouraged for Mississippi's workforce."

"Lastly, I offer a few words of encouragement surrounding your sense of place or home, this thing we call 'Mississippi' and her 'potential,' which is really interwoven with your potential." White said that real progress is possible only through a process of self-evaluation and self-analysis.

"Graduates, today, you set your own sail and that will determine your course. You have filled your cup with

knowledge, prospect, intention, and I am invigorated to see how you pour that into your communities and our great state of Mississippi."

White expressed appreciation to his colleagues in the Mississippi House of Representatives, namely Rep. Donnie Bell, ICC alumnus and chairman of the Workforce Development committee; Rep. Randy Boyd and Sen. Daniel Sparks, who were present at the ceremony.

In his remarks during all three ceremonies, ICC President Dr. Jay Allen emphasized the integral role that ICC has played, not only in the lives of the graduates, but also in the communities it serves. "Community colleges, such as ICC, are on the front line of helping people realize their potential: academically, personally and professionally. And, when we succeed and do our best in connecting with students, we help them to recognize and embrace the potential within themselves."

White was elected as Mississippi's sixty-second Speaker of the House in January. The Kosciusko native began his service in the Mississippi House of Representatives, District 48, which consists of portions of Attala, Carroll, Holmes and Leake counties, in August 2011 and was reelected in 2016. During his time in the Legislature, he has been involved in several pieces of key legislation, including the Mississippi Infrastructure and Modernization Act and the Mississippi Tax Freedom Act, the largest tax cut in state history while also seeing the implementation of historic accountability measures and investments in both Education and Workforce Development. He is a past recipient of numerous Legislative awards, including Law Enforcement Legislator of the Year, Mississippi RISE Award and a Mississippi Top 50 Most Influential.

Approximately 900 graduates crossed the stage to receive diplomas during the three ceremonies, which were 10 a.m., Associate of Arts including Middle College; 2 p.m., Associate of Arts; and 5 p.m., Associate of Applied Science including Career Education and Health Science. They were among more than 2,000 graduates who have earned degrees from ICC this year.

Associate Degree Nursing graduates received their pins at a special ceremony in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center immediately following the 5 p.m. commencement.





ICC HOSTS PRIVATE SCREENING OF "MISSISSIPPI SCHOLAR"



Itawamba Community College hosted a private screening of "Mississippi Scholar," June 13 at 7 p.m. at the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center on the Fulton Campus.

"Mississippi Scholar, which recently won Best Feature Film at the Beverly Hills Film Festival, was inspired by director PJ Leonard's interaction with a young man from New Jersey and one of my former film students," according to Morgan Cutturini, ICC Films sponsor and communications instructor. "It focuses on the impediments one underprivileged intellectual must overcome to realize his dreams of the future."

"Mississippi Scholar," a PJ Leonard production and

a Marcus Bleecker film, stars Shannon Brown, Sonny Marinelli, Gisla Stringer and Obba Babatundé.

Many of the stars, producer and director of the film attended, and there was a red-carpet photo opportunity as patrons left the film screening, Cutturini said.

ICC Films contributed to the project by having many current and former members work as cast and crew, said Cutturini, who served as producer along with Tupelo businessman Robert Hall.

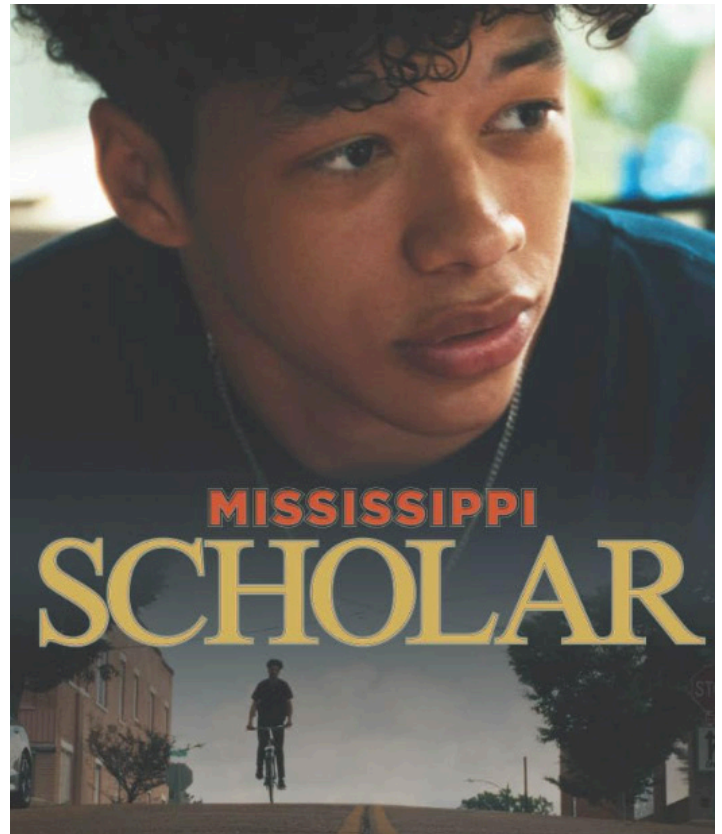
The crew includes production designer Telexus Miller and production assistant Spencer Griffie, both of Amory; set decorator Baileigh McGillivray of Mooreville; digital imaging technician and drone

cinematographer Justin Gary of New Albany; production designer Makel Gandy and production assistant Matthew Hearn, both of Okolona; production assistant Kent Humphries of Red Bay, Ala. and production assistant Athen Walton of Tupelo. Members of the cast in addition to Miller (Lexie) are Kelan Traylor of Amory (corrections officer), Morgan Miller (high school student) and Laura Leigh Johnson (Ole Miss student), both of Fulton; Dayton Shegog of Olive Branch (Damon); Madeline Mulkey (Ole Miss student) of Oxford; and Tra Osborne of Tupelo (Link). The cast also included ICC faculty members, including Keith Morris of Tupelo (Tom) and Jay Humphries of Red Bay, Ala. (restaurant patron).

"ICC Films enables these students to be introduced to careers they never fathomed that would be able to achieve," said Leonard, who is an ICC alumnus. "Men like Caleb Hall (former ICC student from Pontotoc) found a career and works on industrial projects with true professionals on movies. For instance, when we decide to film our next project that is in development, we would invite these individuals to come with us to work on crew and join the cast, not because they are ICC past or present students but because they are talented. Telexus Miller, Dayton Shegog, Tra Osborne are amazing on screen, and I have worked with Tony, Emmy and Oscar nominees and winners."

Mississippi State Senator Chad McMahan and his wife, Nickey, were among area residents with speaking roles in the film, Leonard said. Others involved include Baldwin entrepreneur Clark Richey, actor Amye Gousset of Tupelo and craft services director Daphne Taylor of Guntown. Football star Marcus Dupree of Philadelphia served as a producer and cast member.

Cutturini said that filming locations included the ICC Fulton Campus, Itawamba County jail and residences both in and downtown Baldwin. Cutturini expressed appreciation to numerous individuals for their assistance, including Baldwin Mayor Rosalynn Clark and ICC President Dr. Jay Allen.



GROWTH



ICC AMONG STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT LEADERS FOR SPRING 2024

Itawamba Community College ranked among the leaders in the state in full-time enrollment for the 2024 spring semester, according to figures released earlier by the Mississippi Community College Board.

With spring enrollment at 4,476 at the end of the 10-day reporting period, figures from spring '23 to spring '24 showed a 7 percent increase in headcount and a 9.7 percent increase in FTE with a second-place ranking.

However, ICC had the largest percentage increase than any other community college in the state when reviewing combined FTE increases for fall '23 and spring '24.

The increase can be attributed to multiple factors, according to ICC President Dr. Jay Allen, including the addition of state-of-the-art Magnolia Hall for honors students and student leaders, an enhanced emphasis on activities, expanded free personal orientation sessions and the transition to the schools of approach to enable student connections both to their field of study and their peers.

"This is very exciting news," Allen said. "The increase in the number of students that ICC is serving is significant because we have additional opportunities to provide a solid educational background and the best start for those in our five-county district and beyond. Because of the dedication of ICC's faculty and staff, our Board of Trustees and external funding support, we continue to provide an affordable and

quality option, which has been documented in the naming of ICC as one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation for 2025, 2023 (one of 25 semifinalists), 2021, 2019, 2017, 2015 and 2013. In addition, the work of our recruiters, enrollment services and community relations team has contributed to this consistent increase in enrollment."

In comparison to all other higher education options in the state, both public and private, ICC has the second lowest cost of tuition and cost of tuition and fees combined. While the updated enrollment figures include online, academic and career education classes, it does not include workforce totals, which are not measured on a semester basis, Allen said.

Over the last few years, ICC has offered an enhanced schedule of student activities. "Statistics show that the more students are engaged, the more successful they will be in the classroom," according to ICC Vice President of Student Services Dr. Brad Boggs. "Having an attractive, comprehensive student activities program plays a major role in recruiting students to attend ICC and subsequently an opportunity to retain students once they enroll." The renewed emphasis on student activities includes opportunities for both traditional age students as well as adult learners at all three locations – Fulton, Tupelo and Belden – based on listening to the college's students and

staff and providing programs/events that are of interest to all.

In addition, ICC has transitioned to a Schools of approach to group like majors into a cohort to enable students to connect better with their selected field of study as well as those in the same area, such as academic transfer and career education.

Allen also noted that the data from the Institutions of Higher Learning shows that ICC produces graduates that when they attend any of the state's eight universities, they generate the second highest number of bachelor's degrees by transfer students. They also graduate with a higher GPA than the student who started at the university.

"We are always excited to hear that more students have chosen to become a member of our special ICC family," said Michael Holloway, director of Recruitment and Orientation. "I truly believe that ICC provides the best instruction in academic transfer, career education and health sciences programs. We pride ourselves on having something for everyone, both in and outside the classroom. The many resources available to students at the Fulton, Tupelo and Belden locations enhance the overall student experience and help our students achieve success, both in academics and life. From the first time a student arrives to an ICC location or starts one of our fully-online programs to the day they complete their degree or certification and walk across the stage at the Davis Event Center to take the next step in their life journey, ICC provides wraparound services throughout the entire process."





ICC DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY AWARDED ACCREDITATION

Itawamba Community College's newest health science program, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, has been awarded accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

"With this national accreditation, our students are eligible to obtain credentials in obstetrics and gynecologic sonography and abdominal extended sonography by the time of graduation," said Amanda Stone, program director. "Upon graduation, students are eligible to be licensed registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographers entering the workforce. This is a huge accomplishment for our program. We are one of only two Diagnostic Medical Sonography programs accredited in the state. We have worked tirelessly with the help and support of the community, especially our clinical affiliates, toward this goal at ICC since the beginning of the program."

DMS combines an in-person boot camp/lab session at the beginning of both the fall and spring semesters, clinical rotations and online didactic courses. Graduates of the one-year (three semester program) earn an Associate of Applied Science degree. The program format offers an opportunity for potential students from outside ICC's service area to participate as long as clinical sites are approved.

Diagnostic Medical Sonographers are highly skilled healthcare professionals who use high frequency sound waves, also known as ultrasound, to produce diagnostic images of the internal structures of the human body. Sonographers work closely with physicians and radiologists, who interpret the ultrasound and related diagnostic procedures. They work in hospitals, clinics, physicians' offices, women's health centers and pediatric care centers.

"We are excited to earn this accreditation status for ICC's Diagnostic Medical Sonography program," said Dean of Health Science Instruction Tonya Vaughn. "Reopening this program in the fall of 2022 as a suggestion from our advisory committee led to the identification of a scarcity of programs in the state. This innovative program serves both new students as well as current sonographers who want additional certifications."

ICC President Dr. Jay Allen received official notification of the accreditation in a letter dated Mar. 18. "The commission recognizes your organization's commitment to continuous quality improvement in health professions education, as demonstrated by your participation in CAAHEP programmatic accreditation," said Dr. Donald Balasa, president of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, who sent the notification letter. The Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography conducts comprehensive and annual reviews of the program's compliance with the Standards and submits recommendations regarding accreditation status to CAAHEP. JRC-DMS monitors the program's outcomes through its annual report and supporting documentation. An onsite visit was conducted earlier this year.

The next evaluation of the program is scheduled to occur no later than 2029.



ICC revamps Precision Machining Technology program; *introduces one-year Associate of Applied Science degree*

Itawamba Community College has revamped its Precision Machining Technology program, transitioning it from two years to a streamlined one-year Associate of Applied Science degree opportunity, which began last fall.

The newly revised program will equip students with essential skills and knowledge through a carefully designed curriculum, ensuring that they are well-prepared for rewarding careers in the field of precision machining, according to Dylan Baldwin, dean of Career Education.

The three-semester program enabled students to graduate in July 2024. Upon completion of the program, they received a 45-hour certificate, demonstrating their mastery of precision machining techniques.

The revised program incorporates several new classes to enhance students' understanding and proficiency in precision machining. Courses such as Metallurgy, Die Repair and Jigs, Fixtures and Tools along with another Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Operations course have been added to the curriculum, ensuring that students receive comprehensive training in cutting-edge machining technologies and industry best practices. These courses will provide students with a well-rounded education and equip them with the skills demanded by the rapidly evolving manufacturing industry, Baldwin said.

In addition to the 45-hour certificate, students will have

the opportunity to pursue an Associate of Applied Science degree by completing five additional academic courses. They can be taken before, during or after the program, allowing students the flexibility to tailor their educational journey to their individual needs and preferences. The AAS degree will further enhance graduates' career prospects and enable them to pursue advanced opportunities in the field.

Recognizing the financial challenges many students face, ICC's Precision Machining Technology program has secured a generous grant from the Gene Haas Foundation. It provides financial assistance to qualified students, offering them the opportunity to receive up to the full cost of tuition. The availability of this support will help students pursue their passion for precision machining without the burden of excessive financial constraints.

"We are excited about the revamped Precision Machining Technology program," Baldwin said. "By condensing the program into a one-year format and incorporating new classes, we are providing our students with an efficient and comprehensive education that aligns with industry needs. We are grateful to the Gene Haas Foundation for their generous support, which will open doors for deserving students and empower them to pursue successful careers in this dynamic field."

BESTCOLLEGES.COM
RECOGNIZES ICC
**AS BEST IN
MISSISSIPPI
AND AMONG
NATION'S TOP 10**



Itawamba Community College has been recognized as the best online community college in Mississippi and among the top 10 in the nation by BestColleges.com, a leading online resource for college planning and advice.

"It is a tremendous honor for Itawamba Community College to be selected the best in the state and among the best in the nation by BestColleges.com," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "Exceptional recognitions such as this are indications of the success of the College, its continuing status as a premier community college and a testament to our exceptional faculty and staff, without whom it would not be possible. Success breeds success, and our students and alumni are proof that the BEST start here."

This year, BestColleges.com revised its approach to school rankings, focusing on the most important factors that students consider in their college-decision making process," according to information from Nicholas Linden, senior communications manager. The metrics were taken directly from its College Choice and Admission survey, reflecting the top preferences and priorities of students from across the country.

In the 2023 College Choice and Admissions Survey, current college students shared what mattered most when selecting a school or program. To rank colleges, BestColleges.com considered the top factors they identified, including affordability, student outcomes, flexibility and accessibility, reputation, ease of admissions and student diversity. Minimum requirements for associate degree programs are accredited public or private nonprofit institution, offer an online associate degree program in the given subject and submit an annual report to the National Center for Education Statistics.

"We are thrilled to introduce these signature rankings, which are tailored to meet the needs and interests of students, providing them with valuable insights into the colleges and universities that align with their goals and values," Linden said.

Since 2014, the mission of BestColleges has been to provide an objective assessment of school and program quality. It is dedicated to empowering students with the information they need to make informed choices about their education and career journeys.

ICC CONTINUES TO ELEVATE STUDENT EXPERIENCE WITH CONSTRUCTION OF CONNECTION CENTER, CHICK-FIL-A



Plans to elevate the ICC Experience continue with the announcement of the construction of The Connection Center, a multi-use conference space, and a Chick-fil-A on the Fulton Campus.

According to Tyler Camp, Chief of Staff, the facility, which will be built in the front portion of the Band Hall parking lot, is expected to open during the spring 2026 semester.

Following the announcement, Camp said that initial estimates for the project have been received, but bids will be accepted within the next 45 days. Capital from unexpended plant allocations or local monies with an injection of funds from Sodexo, ICC's dining services provider, which will operate Chick-fil-A, will be used for construction of the facility.

"We have been in negotiations with Sodexo and Chick-fil-A over the past three years," Camp said. "We are continuously looking at ways to expand our experiences for our students, employees and the communities that we serve. CFA is a household name and exemplifies the customer service and experience we always strive for at ICC. We also knew

CFA was something the local Fulton community was missing in its rolodex of food options."

The 9,900-square-foot facility will include approximately 6,200-square-feet for the multi-use meeting space and roughly 3,000-square-feet for the Chick-fil-A. "The Chick-fil-A will look, feel and operate as a traditional CFA," Camp said. "It will have inside seating for approximately 80 and a covered outside area." There will be no drive-thru.

The meeting space can be configured as one large room or two smaller ones. It will include all presentation AV, modular tables and chairs and a catering prep kitchen that services the space.

"Ideally, this will become the new hub for community meetings, sessions and small events by both on- and off-campus groups," Camp noted. "Our Student Activities team will be able to use the space for some programming events, and CFA can provide catering for events onsite." Its hours will be the same as traditional Chick-fil-A restaurants.

The architect for the project is PryorMorrow and the contractor is JESCO.



ICC CUTS RIBBON FOR NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS

President Dr. Jay Allen cut the ribbon for Itawamba Community College's new pickleball and updated basketball courts at the Fulton Campus Nov. 13.

The space that once housed two basketball courts is now lined off as one for basketball and three for pickleball, which is currently exploding in popularity. Portable netting will allow the court to be cleared for multipurpose use.

Allen said that the courts will be an exciting addition to the ICC Fulton Campus, and "we believe that our students will love this as well as our community members."

"Several students have asked for intramural pickleball," said Taylor Tutor, then-coordinator of Student Activities, "and these new courts will provide an opportunity for students to either learn to play or advance their skills."

"We are all about creating engagement opportunities at Itawamba Community College," Allen said. "It is a rising sport, and our college students are excited about that. The College has been actively promoting intramural sports for the last couple of years, and it's a great way to get students engaged and involved and to build memories. We are excited that pickleball will be an intramural sport, and we can't wait to see the competition."

ICC's new courts are available to all, including both students and individuals in the community, at no charge.



FORBES ADVISOR RANKS ICC BUSINESS AND MARKETING MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM SIXTH IN NATION, ONLY MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE RECOGNIZED

Forbes Advisor has ranked Itawamba Community College's Business and Marketing Management Technology program sixth in the nation, the only community college in Mississippi to be recognized.

Forbes Advisor's ranking methodologies use data from the National Center for Education Statistics, education providers and reputable educational and professional organizations to produce its unbiased rankings. An advisory board of educators and other subject matter experts reviews and verifies its content to provide trustworthy, up-to-date information.

"We are honored to be recognized by Forbes Advisor as we strive each semester to teach our students the most relevant skills they'll need to be successful in the workforce," said Jodi McCrimon, ICC's Business and Marketing Management Technology program director. "As one of the top 10 best online community college programs in the nation, we enthusiastically offer this degree to meet the needs of students and adult learners in our community. The best start here!"

ICC President Dr. Jay Allen joined McCrimon in appreciation for the honor. "While we strive to always provide the best educational product and experience, it's always exciting for others to recognize the value! This recognition is an example of how we at ICC are creating

pathways to meet individuals where they are and to help them get to where they want to go."

Forbes Advisor selected ICC's program based on, among other factors, "the delivery of an online associate degree in business and marketing management that full-time students can complete within two years, or four semesters. The program's 61-credit curriculum does not include any in-person requirements."

Forbes Advisor said that "the degree delves into advertising, entrepreneurship, human resources management and retail management. ICC delivers online coursework asynchronously through the Canvas platform."

Through a combination of online classes, projects and practical application, ICC's Business and Marketing and Management Technology students receive the training they need to successfully enter the sales and marketing workforce. Upon completion of the two-year program, the student receives an Associate of Applied Science degree in Business and Marketing Management Technology. After graduation, students have the option to transfer their associate's degree and continue working toward their bachelor's degree online at Blue Mountain Christian University, Mississippi State University, Mississippi University for Women, University of North Alabama and University of Southern Mississippi.

THREE YEARS LATER...NEITHER ICC NOR TPSD COULD HAVE IMAGINED MAGNITUDE OF MIDDLE COLLEGE SUCCESS



Three years ago, neither Itawamba Community College nor the Tupelo Public School District could have imagined the magnitude of success of its Middle College partnership.

The accelerated journey to simultaneously achieving diplomas from both institutions has grown significantly, according to Brittany Terrell, transition counselor. "When reflecting on the past three years of the Middle College program, I am proud of the success these students have shown. I have witnessed students come out of their shell and find confidence in their academic abilities. Not only have they blossomed academically, but they are heavily involved with ICC's extracurriculars, clubs and organizations."

Jay Salters of Tupelo, who received both his Tupelo High School and Itawamba Community College diplomas, was president of the Tupelo Campus Student Government Association, one of only 12 members selected by faculty and staff members to the prestigious Hall of Fame and a member of the ICC Indian Delegation and a THS Ambassador. He was invited into membership in both Phi Theta Kappa (ICC) and the National Honor Society (THS). However, he's not the only example.

Austin Acosta, majored in engineering at Mississippi State University, where he transferred in 2022 with two years of engineering classes from ICC. Originally from Mexico, Acosta and his family moved to the United States in search of better opportunities. Encouraged by his family to apply for the Middle College program while in high school, Austin became a first-generation college student. At first, he was undecided about his decision and intimidated about being a college student while still in high school. However, he flourished during his time at ICC, where he was selected as a tutor for ICC's Instructional Support Team and was awarded the Phi Theta Kappa transfer scholarship to MSU. "Middle College helped me network with instructors and other peers in my major," Acosta said. "I excelled academically because I learned how to step out of my comfort zone to form study groups with my peers and ask for help from my instructors. The sciences I took at ICC were demanding, and I had to learn how to study at the collegiate level rather than a traditional high school course. I was able to carry these tools to MSU, and I am grateful for everything I learned while at ICC."

Through the innovative Middle College, students can simultaneously earn their high school diploma and 60 plus hours of college credit. "It is truly a partnership between ICC and TPSD, a collaboration that focuses on the students and how we can work to best prepare them for the next level, whether that is a senior college or directly to the workforce," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen.

Terrell said that students are placed in a more supportive and transitional environment that bridges the gap to higher education. With the support of ICC and THS personnel, students learn soft skills such as communicating with instructors, time management skills and responsibility that are imperative for overall preparedness at the

university level. "This program encourages independence, dedication toward the students' educational interests and opportunities for career exploration as well as offers opportunities to build their résumé with club involvement. Lastly, participants are exposed to more scholarship opportunities at the university level through different organizations offered at ICC, including Phi Theta Kappa.

"This is a great opportunity for our students to get ahead and graduate high school with two years of college under their belts," said Dr. Rob Picou, superintendent of the Tupelo Public School District. "The Middle College isn't designed for every student, but for those who qualify, it's the perfect model to graduate high school and enter college as a junior."

At its inception in 2020, Middle College consisted of 10 students. There has been a significant increase of students interested in the program, and currently there are 40 participants. Prior to their junior year, THS students must have a 3.0 grade point average or higher, ACT math score of 19 and English score of 17.

"The obvious advantages of the Middle College program include college credits, time and cost savings and bridging the gap from high school to college," Terrell said. Participants are introduced to the academic rigor, expectations and responsibilities of higher education. Students thoroughly enjoy taking college level courses tailored to their individual interests and are able to explore potential career paths thus making more informed decisions about their future. They gain a sense of self-confidence, independence and personal growth through this process.

As a vital part of the partnership between TPSD and ICC, Terrell serves as a designated counselor to remain at the college with the students to ensure academic, personal/social and career needs are met, thus maintaining the program's success.

With its ever-expanding participation in the Middle College initiative, ICC continues to make accommodations in terms of spacing and academic resources to ensure overall student success.

Additionally, since the inception of the Middle College, ICC has transitioned to an innovative determination of majors method that is designed to enable students to connect better with their field of study as well as with their cohorts in the same area. All academic majors are now being grouped into schools which are tailored to the institution where students plan to transfer or career fields in which they wish to work. In addition, this transition creates more peer support and intensive preparation for college and career success.

"Any and all options through the schools of academics are also available for Middle College students and open up more opportunities for collaborative learning and internships," said Mande Miller, Dean of Advising and director of the Tupelo Campus, who collaborates with Terrell to ensure the success of program participants.

DONATIONS



ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES \$100,000

AND JOINS 41 OTHER SCHOOLS ACROSS
THE U.S. AS ALL WITHIN MY HANDS
METALLICA SCHOLARS INITIATIVE
EXPANDS IN YEAR FIVE

Metallica's foundation, All Within My Hands, continues its multimillion-dollar investment in critical workforce programs at community colleges nationwide. Among the schools, Itawamba Community College was selected from a competitive pool of applicants to receive \$100,000 to transform the futures of students in the community.

"It is a tremendous honor for Itawamba Community College to be selected as one of the recipients of the prestigious All Within My Hands grant, which will significantly impact our career education programs, providing funding for students to pursue a pathway and their best start," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "It is another indication of the success of the College and reinforcement of the mission that students and their success are our top priority."

The Metallica Scholars Initiative (MSI) was launched in 2019 by Metallica's foundation, All Within My Hands (AWMH), in partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The workforce initiative marks its fifth year with an ambitious expansion into new curricula. MSI now directly supports 42 community colleges across 33 states, and by the end of this year, it will have helped over 6,000 students pursuing careers in the trades. To date, Metallica and AWMH have invested over \$6M in the American workforce.

"The Metallica Scholars Initiative is so important to us because we are seeing results," said Lars Ulich of Metallica. "Five years in, with the help of community colleges across the country, we are helping people fill these essential jobs which require skills and training. We are so proud and grateful that we can facilitate this program."

Reaffirming a commitment to career and technical education at the local level, each new school brings incredible opportunities to a thriving and growing community.

"The Metallica Scholars Initiative is a strong and cooperative assemblage of the nation's best community colleges, creating a supportive climate for participants to communicate directly and share best practices," said Peter Delgrosso, AWMH Executive Director.

"We are happy to continue to partner with Metallica's All Within My Hands foundation to support the vital career and technical work of the nation's community colleges," said Dr. Walter G. Bumphus, AACC's president and CEO. "Colleges across the country provide pathways to well-paying jobs through programs, services and training that lead to in-demand skills, certificates and degrees for students. These programs are responsive to the needs of local businesses and provide a pipeline of qualified workers to local industry. Partners like Metallica that continue to provide support for community colleges help us to showcase the importance of investing in the transformative power of community college education."

What began with 10 colleges and mostly manufacturing programs has developed into a diverse offering of workforce opportunities for students interested in gaining the skills and training necessary to find meaningful and well-paying careers in fields and positions including: Agriculture, Automation and Robotics, Automotive Technology, Aviation, Computer-Aided Drafting and Design, Carpentry,

Computerized Manufacturing (CNC), Construction Technology, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Cybersecurity, Diesel Technology, Dental Hygiene, Electrical Engineering, EMT, Fire Technology, Healthcare, Heating and Ventilation (HVAC), Heavy Equipment Operator, Hospitality, Industrial Maintenance Technology, Lineworker, Manufacturing and Machining, Mechanical Design, Mechatronics Engineering, Process Technology, Trucking (CDL), Welding and Wind Energy.





ASHLEY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION DONATES \$500,000 TO ICC'S COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVING PROGRAM

Itawamba Community College's Commercial Truck Driving program will benefit from a \$500,000 donation from the Ashley Charitable Foundation (ACF), a nonprofit organization founded by Ashley Furniture Industries, LLC and committed to supporting education and workforce development.

Among those participating in the presentation were Ron Wanek, Founder and Chairman of Ashley Furniture Industries, and Dr. Jay Allen, President of Itawamba Community College. The event also included a special congratulatory video by Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves. This contribution marks ACF's continued dedication to partnering with higher education institutions to drive growth in the workforce.

"Itawamba Community College exemplifies successful educational programs that adequately equip students to enter the workforce," Wanek said. "We strongly believe in providing individuals with opportunities in the areas of STEM, and our partnership with Itawamba aligns perfectly with this vision." Wanek said that Ashley started in a 35,000-square-

foot facility in Ecu with 35 employees and has had a strong presence in the state since 1994. "Mississippi is the best place to do business. We appreciate growing in Mississippi." The facility has expanded nine times, and Ashley now has plants in Ripley, Verona and Saltillo. Wanek noted that Ashley is the number one furniture manufacturer in the world and the number one furniture store in the United States."

In addition to the partnership with Commercial Truck Driving Technology, Wanek said that he expects collaboration with ICC in the areas of artificial intelligence and automation, which will require different skill sets. We are passionate about the furniture industry, and we continue to invest."

ICC also facilitates internships and apprenticeship opportunities with companies such as Ashley Furniture Industries, further preparing students for successful careers.

The funds from the Ashley Charitable Foundation will be used to further enhance infrastructure at ICC as it continues

to expand its Commercial Truck Driving program with the construction of a new driving range just across the street from the Tupelo Campus, Allen said. Additional phases will include the construction of a storage facility for training equipment and phase three, a state-of-the-art training lab and garage.

"After years of productive conversation with Mr. Wanek and his outstanding team, we are honored to accept this donation of a half million dollars to the ICC Foundation, Inc.," Allen said. "This significant contribution marks a pivotal milestone in the growth and development of our institution. It is a testament to the enduring commitment of our community and industry partners to the success of our students and the advancement of our programs. Those community partnerships allow us to expand educational opportunities not only for our students but also for all in our region and beyond. These collaborations will enable us to offer a broader range of programs, training and resources that directly address the needs of our local job market. We can ensure that our curriculum is aligned with the skills and knowledge that are in demand, ultimately preparing our students for successful careers."

ICC's Commercial Truck Driving program prepares individuals to drive Class A semitrucks and other commercial vehicles and is designed to give the future driver a complete and thorough knowledge of logbooks, trip records and the motor carrier safety regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

In his congratulatory remarks, Gov. Reeves expressed appreciation to the Ashley Charitable Foundation, Ashley Furniture Industries, LLC and Itawamba Community College. "I'm excited to congratulate Itawamba Community College on receiving this incredibly generous donation from Ashley Charitable Foundation for your Commercial Truck Driving program...a big thank you to Mr. Ron and the entire team at Ashley Furniture for making this incredible investment into one of our state's amazing community colleges...Your generosity has truly moved us all. To ICC, I am confident that today's investment will help strengthen your efforts in meeting the needs of your communities. Mississippi has seen tremendous success due in large part to our community colleges and our workforce development efforts. These opportunities and investments aren't just helping us succeed in the present, but they are helping us to build a long-term pathway to more comprehensive training and business opportunities. In short, we are just getting started. There is no question that our trucking industry will see the positive benefits from this historic donation for generations to come...Thank you, all, for helping to make this state that we love an even better place."

ACF has been a proud supporter of STEM Initiatives in Mississippi, actively contributing to organizations such as SkillsUSA, Technology Student Association and VEX Robotics. By championing these initiatives, ACF aims to nurture and inspire future leaders in the areas of STEM education. With this donation, ACF has donated over \$1 million to support the Mississippi community since 2013.

ICC SELECTED AMONG WINNERS OF MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS JOURNAL'S BEST PLACES TO WORK IN MISSISSIPPI

Itawamba Community College has been selected among the winners of the Mississippi Business Journal's 2023 Best Places to Work in Mississippi.

ICC was a finalist in the large category, which includes businesses with 150 or more employees.

"On behalf of our Itawamba Community College family, we appreciate this significant honor from the Mississippi Business Journal, which is a testament to how our employees see us," said President Dr. Jay Allen. "At ICC, we are more than administrators, faculty and staff members. We are friends, and most importantly, we are family."

According to Mississippi Business Journal Publisher Tami Jones, "We are so pleased to have such great companies that set the example of a great place to work. It is even more exciting that this award comes from how the employees view their employers. What better way to gauge and interact with your employees and the success of your company?"

ICC opened its doors, Sept. 1, 1948, and is celebrating its diamond anniversary. It is situated on what was once a cotton and corn field on a 100-acre parcel of land purchased for \$4,000. "The founders established Itawamba Junior College to give hope for a better future to those who had little at that time," Allen said, "and our mission continues to provide opportunities for those in our region to have their best start. ICC, as we became known in 1987, has transitioned from meager beginnings to three locations in Fulton, Tupelo and Belden, 200-plus acres and 1,414,873 square feet, and most importantly, a significant imprint on thousands of lives and thousands of futures for those of all ages. Thank you, Mississippi Business Journal, for this exceptional recognition."

The program is produced each year in concert with Researcher Vicki Autwater, which surveys employees of all nominated and participating companies.



ICC'S SCHOOL OF STEM RECEIVES **\$15,000 CONTRIBUTION FROM TVA**

Itawamba Community College's School of STEM is benefitting from a \$15,000 contribution from the Tennessee Valley Authority.

"Because of TVA's generosity, ICC's students, who are majoring in STEM-related areas, can experience a weather balloon experiment and a mobile planetarium, both significant additions to our curriculum and opportunities that will enhance learning," said Dr. Jada Mills, Natural Science division chair and one of three lead contacts for the School of STEM.

"Our mission at TVA is to improve the lives of those in our region," said Carolyn Ward, Community Relations specialist. "One of the ways we are able to make an impact is funding contributions through our partnership with Tombigbee Electric Power Association, and we are incredibly thankful for their support. We know that STEM learning prepares students to be the workforce of tomorrow – preparing them for steady, good-paying careers that will see them through a lifetime of prosperity right here in Mississippi. I am proud that TVA played a role in bringing STEM exposure to Itawamba Community College, which will help to create a

powerful workforce in the future."

The Weather Balloon Research opportunity will be connected with Mills' Special Topics in Biology course, and the students will learn how to conduct research.

The project includes general information about weather balloons, determining the purpose of the experiment, deploying the weather balloon at the Fulton Campus and collection and analysis of data. Mills said that the planetarium STEM opportunity will include STEM Week; afternoon planetarium sessions rotating at all ICC locations, including Fulton, Tupelo and Belden; STEM camp and a recruiting tool for the School of STEM. "We hope to host community STEM events and allow our STEM students to volunteer, narrate and be part of this exhibit," Mills said. "A large part is sparking an interest in STEM at all age levels."

Currently, STEM at ICC includes the School of STEM, STEM Club and experiential learning, Mills noted.

"Tombigbee for 90 years has been proud to work to better our region and the lives of our members," said Scott Hendrix, chief executive officer for Tombigbee Electric Power Association. "Certainly, to foster educational



DONATIONS TO ENHANCE INSTRUCTION FOR ICC'S ROBOTICS/ AUTOMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Significant donations to Itawamba Community College's Robotics and Automation Technology program will enhance instruction for students in the career pathway.

On behalf of Red Lion, which is based in York, Pa., Barry Turner of Tupelo, technical business development manager for the company's industrial data controls in Mississippi, donated an edge controller, which will enable students to learn about data acquisition, data monitoring and remote access to computerized industrial automation platforms.

In addition, Kevin McCool, regional manager of Automated Dynamics Corp., presented Banner Sx5-B6 laser scanners. "The laser scanners will be integrated with the program's FANUC robots to create a safety barrier around the work area," said Dr. Doug Ferguson, program director and instructor. "Students will use the scanners to learn how to set up and monitor safe workspaces around automated equipment to protect people working around the robotic equipment."

"ICC appreciates Jack Cameron, owner of Automation Resources of Sherman, for arranging these significant donations and keeping ICC and our students in the forefront of industrial automation data acquisition and safety," said Dylan Baldwin, ICC dean of Career Education.

ICC's Robotics and Automation Technology program, which is located at the Belden Center, provides students with technical knowledge and skills necessary for gaining employment as an automated technician in maintenance diagnostics, engineering or production in an automated manufacturing environment. The program focuses on electricity/electronics, fluid power, motors and controllers, programmable controls, interfacing techniques, instrumentation and automated processes.

Students can earn a 30-hour career certificate and a 45-hour technical certificate.

opportunities in conjunction with TVA and ICC is a large part of that mission. We hope with grants such as this to enrich the lives of our students and give them science and technology opportunities ultimately encouraging them to stay in our region."

"Itawamba Community College is extremely grateful to the Tennessee Valley Authority and Tombigbee Electric Power Association for this significant contribution that will make a difference in the lives of many of our students who are now able to explore STEM areas and are now seeing evidence of its translation into more majors and more graduates in these fields," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "It will be exciting to see the integration of a weather balloon and planetarium into STEM instruction and activities."

In September 2021, ICC was selected as one of the winning colleges in the American Association of Community Colleges' MentorLinks: Advancing Technological Education program, which was the catalyst for beginning STEM activities including utilization of a mentor in establishing an Introduction to STEM Professions course, a STEM Club and STEM Week.



ICC'S PRECISION MACHINING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM **RECEIVES \$20,000 GENE HAAS FOUNDATION GRANT**

Itawamba Community College's Precision Machining Technology program has received a \$20,000 grant from the Gene Haas Foundation.

According to Dylan Baldwin, ICC's dean of Career Education, the funds are being used for financial aid for several students. "We appreciate very much the investment by the Haas Foundation in ICC's Precision Machining Technology program," Baldwin said. "Not only is it an investment in the program, but it is an investment in the futures of our students."

In 1999, Gene Haas formed the foundation, which bears his name because he grew up with a strong social conscience instilled by his family. It was initially designed to fund the needs of the local community. Haas Automation is now a billion-dollar company. The focus of the foundation has shifted to current outreach and methodology. Its purpose is to introduce students to careers in machine technology and manufacturing, to build skills in the machining industry and to help military veterans enroll in programs that train them to become skilled machinists.

ICC's Precision Machining Technology program is designed to prepare individuals for various-level positions in precision high-tech manufacturing. It includes instruction and practice in manufacturing techniques and processes, including standard conventional machining, computer-numerical-control machining and computer-aided design and manufacturing. Students develop skill sets that are valued by manufacturers nationwide and validated by national accrediting agencies such as the National Institute for Metalworking Skills and the National Association of Manufacturers.

"We would like to thank the Gene Haas Foundation for their generous contribution and support of our program," said Jerry Pettigrew, instructor. "This grant will be used to help offset some of the financial burdens of these students, and for this, we are extremely grateful."

STUDENT HONORS



MR. AND MISS ICC

◀ **Whitt Willis** of Madison and **Anna Beth Brown** of Pontotoc have been elected Mr. and Miss Itawamba Community College for 2023-24.



HALL OF FAME

▶ Including **Jolie Anna Bishop**, **Ally Thompson**, both of Amory; **Addison Pletzke** of Clinton; **Jordan Allen** of Jackson; **Whitt Willis** of Madison; **Michaela Heitger** of Mooreville; **Lucy Vaughn** of Nettleton; **Lexie Kent** of New Albany; **Sara Francis Kitchens** of Pontotoc; **William Gibson**, **Gabrielle Pearce**, both of Tupelo; and **Aubrey Eaton** of Woodland.



ICC'S MOST BEAUTIFUL

▶ **Laney Howell** of Amory, center, was selected Itawamba Community College's Most Beautiful 2024 at the conclusion of the Feb. 16 pageant at the Fulton Campus. Alternates, from left, include **Nealee Turner** of Tupelo, first; **Anna Beth Brown** of Pontotoc, second; **Howell**; **Reese Griffith** of Amory, third; and **Alivia Tipton** of Fulton, fourth. All winners received a scholarship presented by the Itawamba Community College Foundation, Inc. The event was sponsored by ICC's The Global Experience.

HOMECOMING



ICC's Homecoming Court includes (front, from left,) **Jolie Bishop** of Amory, Fulton Campus Sophomore Maid; **Madison Williams** of Drummonds, Tenn., Fulton Campus Freshman Maid; **Emma Mask** of Plantersville, Queen; **Macy Dean** of Tupelo, Tupelo Campus Freshman Maid; **Nealee Turner** of Pontotoc, Tupelo Campus Freshman Maid; back, **Jasmier Coleman** of Pontotoc, Fulton Campus Freshman Maid; **Ryleigh-Kate McVay** of Pontotoc, Tupelo Campus Sophomore Maid; **Hayes Merritt** of Millport, Ala., King; **Aubrey Eaton** of Woodland, Fulton Campus Sophomore Maid; and **Lucy Vaughn** of Nettleton, Tupelo Campus Sophomore Maid.

ICC HONORS FIVE DURING HOMECOMING

Itawamba Community College honored its 2023 Alumnus of the Year, Athletic Hall of Fame inductees, Distinguished Service and Young Alumnus of the Year award recipients during Homecoming activities, Oct. 5, at the Fulton Campus.

They include Ret. Col. Sheldon Morris of Oxford, Alumnus of the Year; Anthony Brock of North Little Rock, Ark. and David Schumaker of Jacksonville, Ala., Athletic Hall of Fame; Donna Thomas of New Albany, Distinguished Service award; and Mari-leen (Linkie) Marais of Fort, Lauderdale, Fla., Young Alumnus of the Year award.

Morris, who is the executive vice president for

programs at Delta Health Alliance, completed 22 years of honorable service as the Military Deputy Director for the Army Profession and Leadership. He began his career in the 3rd Brigade, 1st cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Tex. A 1997 graduate of ICC, he earned the bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi and the master's degree from the U.S. Army's Command General and Staff College. His activities at ICC included wide receiver for the football team (statistician during his red-shirt year), Fashion Tribe, Baptist Student Union and Gospel Sounds. His honors include multiple awards and distinction from the U.S. Army.



**ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME
YOUNG ALUNUS OF THE YEAR
ICC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**



In 2010, Morris was named the Ole Miss Alumni Association's Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipient. He served on the Ole Miss Alumni Board of Directors from 2018-20. He and his wife, Chelsea, have two children, Lauren and Dylan.

Brock earned the associate's degree from ICC and the bachelor's degree at the University of Alabama. A member of the ICC men's basketball team, he also played at the University of Alabama. Brock was named National Junior College Athletic Association All-American second team in 2008. His 36 points in a game against Copiah-Lincoln led to ICC's winning its first state championship in 40 years in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Tournament. He went 10 of 11 at the free throw line in that win. He was the Region 23 Player of the Year and was selected compete as a member of the North Team in the MACJC All-Star Basketball game. Brock served as head coach and trainer for Team Arkansas, which he also organized. In addition, he hosts Skills and Drills youth camps. He and his wife, Lora, are the parents of Miyah Brock and baby Brock, who joined the family in November.

Schumaker, who attended ICC from 2008-10, earned the bachelor's degree from Atlanta Christian College. His work history includes The Little Tree Preschool and Head Start Preschool. Schumaker played soccer at ICC, where he was nationally ranked (top 2) in goals, assists and points during both years and earned All-Region 23 Player of the Year honors. In 2007, he was first in career assists (as well as four in one match) and career points as well as goals, assists and points in a season. He ranked no. 2 with 31 career goals. Additional honors included top three finish in scoring, points and assists in the nation in his final season at ICC. His team was the first in program history to receive votes in the NJCAA poll, best winning percentage in program history for a season, most wins and fewest losses

and a team-record 73 goals and 68 assists. Schumaker was invited to play overseas. He and his wife, Bethany Warren, are the parents of Austin, Abbey and Alexis.

Marais has been a yacht chef/private chef/travel chef since 2018. She also conducts demos and cooking classes/appearances at high end events around the country and is an influencer for Big Green Egg. Noteworthy events in her career include finalist on Food Network Star season 8, feature in People Magazine, FireMasters Season 3, menus and desserts for Barack Obama and John McCain during the 2008 presidential debate, lunches for Colin Powell, the 80th birthday cake for Franki Valli and contracts on the yacht of Jack Nicklaus and other high-end customers. Marais earned the associate's degree from ICC and the bachelor's degree from MUW. Her ICC activities were Indian Delegation, Dance Line, CenterStage, choir, Miss ICC pageant and the 2004 Homecoming Court. She is engaged to Justin Flanagan.

Thomas has been a member of the ICC family for more than 50 years, serving as producer of an adult education newspaper, which was distributed throughout Appalachia; continuing education director; journalism instructor; director of media relations; director of public relations and currently, director of communications. She has been the adviser for both the *Chieftain*, college newspaper, and the *Mirror*, college yearbook, which have won multiple awards from the Mississippi Press Association. Thomas is secretary of the ICC Alumni Association and treasurer of the College Public Relations of Mississippi, from which she has received numerous awards. She earned the associate's degree from Northeast Mississippi Community College and the bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi. In May 2023, she was awarded ICC's first Golden Employee Award.

ICC TEAM, ONLY ONE FROM MISSISSIPPI, COMPETES IN FINAL ROUND OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Itawamba Community College was among the 12 teams and the only one from Mississippi that participated in the final round of the Community College Innovation Challenge set in June in Washington, D.C. Sponsors are the American Association of Community Colleges in partnership with the National Science Foundation.

"ICC's project is ViruShield: Next-Generation Care for HIV Patients. ViruShield is a subcutaneous pump that tests for HIV viral loads and administers doses of medication to an HIV-positive patient to help with the prevention of AIDS and to increase treatment compliance within this minority community," according to Heather McCormick of Fulton, ICC mathematics division chair and team mentor. "Normally, a multitude of drug combinations are used along with a treatment schedule of daily pills and then monthly injections to keep HIV at an undetectable level."

The team included Cortney McCord, Shaan Nagra, both of Saltillo; Jillian Babb and Matthew Butler of Tupelo. "I'm so proud of these students, their innovation and their

hard work," McCormick said. "Despite the busyness of the semester, they worked together to find a possible solution to problems in STEM and developed an idea that has the potential to help millions with HIV around the world. At Boot Camp, they had the opportunity to learn how to turn their idea into reality as they visited with stakeholders from across the nation. This was an experience that they will not soon forget and one that will deepen their education."

Now in its eighth year, the competition seeks to strengthen entrepreneurial thinking among community college students by challenging them to develop STEM-based solutions to real-world problems. It also enables students to discover and demonstrate their capacity to use STEM to make a difference in the world and translate that knowledge into action.

Teams consisted of two-to-four students and a faculty or administrator team mentor. Finalists attended an Innovation Boot Camp in June and interacted with entrepreneurs and experts in business planning, stakeholder engagement, strategic communication and marketplace dynamics. The Boot Camp culminated in a Student Innovation Poster Session on Capitol Hill with STEM leaders and congressional stakeholders and a pitch presentation to determine the first, second and third place winning teams.

"Congratulations to the 2024 CCIC finalists," said Walter G. Bumphus, president and CEO of AACC. "Once again, I am inspired by the incredible level of talent and creativity our community college students showcase through the CCIC. Along with our partners at the National Science Foundation, we know this program is a foundation for future scientists, entrepreneurs and engineers and are very proud to shine the spotlight on these talented future leaders."

ICC'S '23 ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING GRADUATES EXCEL ON RECENT NCLEX

Itawamba Community College's 2023 May Associate Degree Nursing graduates achieved a 96 percent pass rate on their National Council Licensure Examination, according to Dr. Dana Walker, program director.

Walker said that the Nex Gen NCLEX went into effect in April 2023, making ICC's graduates some of the first to see the exam. All but two graduates passed the newly formatted exam on the first attempt. "That is commendable as many times the pass rate drops on a new exam format."

"I am beyond proud of the hard work the (ICC) nursing faculty did to accomplish this," Walker said. "I know that the transition to the new exam concepts and format was not easy during a pandemic and post pandemic,

but the faculty stuck to the strategies planned and made the students successful."

Walker noted that the May 2023 graduates started their nursing school journey in the fall of 2021, and some had never taken a face-to-face college course.

"I am immensely excited and proud of this accomplishment by our nursing students, faculty and staff," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "I know it took a team effort to accomplish such a pass rate on a new exam. I appreciate the hard work and dedication to our students in leading them to such a level of success."

Associate Degree Nursing at ICC is a two-year (five-semester program). Graduates receive an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree.



ICC'S MATTHEW BUTLER ONE OF EIGHT PTK MEMBERS NATIONWIDE TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS GUISTWHITE SCHOLARSHIP

Matthew L. Butler of Tupelo, a recent Itawamba Community College graduate, is one of eight Phi Theta Kappa members selected as a 2024 Guistwhite Scholar and received a \$5,000 scholarship for baccalaureate studies.

Butler, majored in biochemistry and participated in the Middle College program. He graduated from both Tupelo High School and ICC in May. His ICC activities included vice president of Scholarship for the Upsilon Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Instructional Support team member, 22-23 Monroe County Representative for the Tupelo Student Government Association, STEM Club president, Exam Cram tutor and member of the Humanities Club. His honors included president's list and recipient of the PTK Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise scholarship in 2023. His civic activities included Time for Tupelo, among other local community service events and tutoring. At Tupelo High School, his activities and honors were Science Olympiad, ACT 30+ Club, Poetry Out Loud State Finalist and National Rural and Small-Town Recognition program. He plans to transfer to Mississippi State University this fall to continue working toward his degree in biochemistry with a focus on pre-research. He is the son of Joyce Butler.

"The Guistwhite scholarship ensures that I can continue being a student leader among my peers without my having to worry about as much financial strain," Butler said. "Overall, the scholarship is an amazing opportunity for any student willing to go above and beyond for their honor

society, and I am honored to receive it."

Winners were chosen from among 3,000 applicants nationwide, and their selection was based on academic excellence, leadership accomplishments and engagement in PTK programs. They also received a commemorative medallion.

This is the second-highest scholarship offered by Phi Theta Kappa. It is named in honor of the late Margaret and Dr. Jack Guistwhite, who established the first transfer scholarship designated exclusively for Phi Theta Kappa members to Florida Atlantic University in 1975.

"What Dr. Guistwhite started nearly 50 years ago has become a transformational force in the lives of PTK members and has resulted in more than 800 colleges and universities designating transfer scholarships for our students," said PTK President and CEO Dr. Lynn Tinchler-Ladner. "It is fitting that we continue to honor our students who excel in scholarship and leadership as Guistwhite Scholars in celebration of Jack and Margaret."

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them grow as scholars and leaders. The Society is made up of more than 3.8 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 countries with approximately 240,000 active members in the nation's colleges.



STUDENT **AWARDS OF DISTINCTION**

Itawamba Community College presented its student awards of distinction in a special ceremony, Apr. 29, at 6 p.m. at the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center on the Fulton Campus.

Recipients and their awards include

Aberdeen – Tirisha Fort, Jeanette Carr-Winkler Caring; Tiree Jones, Mary Walden Professionalism in Nursing;

Amory – Jolie Bishop, Hall of Fame; Ally Thompson, Hall of Fame; Brady Houston, Precision Machining Technology; Jayden Green, Construction Management Technology; Peyton Wilkinson, Sociology Department;

Beaverton, Ala. – Sara Roberts, Physical Therapist Assistant Technology, All-Mississippi Workforce Second Team;

Belmont – Meagan Whitt, English Department;

Blue Springs – Cole Nichols, Precision Manufacturing and Machining Technology;

Caledonia – Sydney Wiggins, Radiologic Technology;

Calhoun City – Evan Stoddard, Computer Science Department;

Carthage – Jakori Cooper, C.O.R.E. Graduate;

Clinton – Addison Pletzke, Hall of Fame, Wilburn Outstanding Officer (Upsilon Sigma Chapter, Phi Theta Kappa);

Corinth – Graci Laird, Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department;

Ecrú – Jessie Leigh Corley, All-Mississippi Workforce Second Team; Jose Ramirez, Automotive Technology; Brennan Westmoreland, C.O.R.E. Graduate;

Falkner – Christopher Keys, Emergency Medical Sciences;

Fulton – Hunter Prestage, Computer Engineering Department; Ethan Davis, Computer Networking Technology; Jack Spencer, Forestry Technology; Stone Collier, Health, Physical Education and Recreation Division; Brayden Summerford, Social Science Division; Grant McArthur, C.O.R.E. Graduate; Savannah Rose Scruggs, Delena Hukle Outstanding Member (Phi Theta Kappa); Keyelle

Holder, Modern Foreign Language Department;

Golden – Lane Shewbart, Biology Department;

Guntown – McKenzie Armstrong, Psychology Department; Alexis Graham, Public Speaking; Eric Passmore, Diesel Equipment Technology;

Houlka – Jerry Patton, Computer Programming Technology;

Jackson – Jordan Allen, Hall of Fame;

Louisville – Mamie Sullivan, Diagnostic Medical Sonography;

Madison – Whitt Willis, Natural Science Division, Hall of Fame, Mr. ICC;

Mantachie – Jackson Williams, Criminal Justice Technology;

Millport, Ala. – Hayes Merritt, Chemistry Department;

Mooreville – Kaley Gholston, Cutturini, Prochaska and Hoots Service Award (Upsilon Sigma Chapter, Phi Theta Kappa); Gabrielle Pearce, Hall of Fame; Michaela Heitger, Hall of Fame;

Myrtle – Jonna Lumpkin, Public Health Technology;

Nettleton – Reagan Elise Gilmore, Paralegal Technology; Emily Payne, Health Information Technology; Cannon Von Coleman, Electrical Technology; Lucy Vaughn, Hall of Fame;

New Albany – Faith Marie Drain, Associate Degree Nursing; Brad Williams, Larry Loden Associate Degree Nursing Hall of Fame; Lexie Kent, Hall of Fame;

Okolona – Brooke Roberts, Occupational Therapy Assistant;

Olive Branch – Griffin Davis, Physics Department;

Plantersville – Emma Mask, Mathematics Division, All-Mississippi Transfer Second Team, Outstanding President – Upsilon Sigma Chapter (Phi Theta Kappa);

Pontotoc – Eli Baker, Accounting Department; Emily Sauerwein, Art Department and Fine Arts Division; Tucker Cowser, Associate Degree Nursing; Anna Scott Thomas, Communications Division, Omicron Zeta Sigma Kappa Delta Scholarship; Asteric Whitt, Criminal Justice

Department; Zoe Newsom, Economics Department; Sara Francis Kitchens, Hall of Fame; Kristin Ray, History Department; Addison Clements, Music Department; Juan Ramirez, C.O.R.E. Graduate; Sherman Ross, Janis Howell Nursing Excellence; Ashton Maffett, Mathematics Department; Anna Beth Brown, Miss ICC;

Potts Camp – Tyler McGregor, Physical Therapist Assistant;

Randolph – Logan Purdon, Computer Science Division;

Saltillo – Maricela Ortega, Early Childhood Education Technology; Caleb Clark, Welding and Cutting Technology;

Smithville – Kyla Ratliff, Theatre Department;

Southaven – Holly Reed Carrington, Earnest Ruth Agnew Spirit of Giving, All-Mississippi Transfer First Team;

Starkville – Kaitlin Brown, C.O.R.E. Graduate;

Thaxton – Kagen Ezell, Business Statistics, All-USA Transfer Second Team; Evan Funderburk, Industrial Maintenance Technology; Mackenzie Sneed, Journalism Department;

Tupelo – Nyesha Nicole Banks, All-Mississippi Transfer Second Team; Maggie Laney, Business and Marketing Management Technology; James Craig Ross, English Department, Fall Sigma Kappa Delta Poetry Slam (both first and third places); Serra-Avery Erwin, Golden Key (Phi Theta Kappa – Beta Tau Sigma Chapter), Linda McEachern Outstanding Officer; Glenn Best, Heating and Air Conditioning Technology; Will Gibson, Jennifer Rigby Officer of Distinction, Hall of Fame; Matthew Butler, McCormick Award of Distinction, Upsilon Sigma Chapter (Phi Theta Kappa), Guistwhite Scholar Selection; Evan Clement, Robotics and Automation Technology; Rosalinda Figueroa, Surgical Technology; Staci Fox, Respiratory Care Technology;

Vardaman – Jamie Davis, Business Administration Division;

West Point – Lakeshia Edwards, Practical Nursing; and

Woodland – Aubrey Eaton, Hall of Fame.

ICC GRADUATE AND AMORY NATIVE WHITT WILLIS ACCEPTED INTO PRESTIGIOUS MISSISSIPPI RURAL PHYSICIANS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Whitt Willis of Madison, formerly of Amory, a recent graduate of Itawamba Community College, has been accepted into the prestigious Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship program.

In 2007, the Mississippi Legislature authorized the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship program, creating a unique program that identifies rural college students who aspire to return to their roots to practice medicine. Academic enrichment, faculty and physician mentoring as well as solid medical school financial support through the MRPSP will enable Willis and other capable young Mississippians to address the challenge of Mississippi's healthcare crisis.

"We are excited to have Whitt be a part of the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program," said

Tabora Cook, executive director of the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program. "His passion for rural medicine is exactly what our program and the state of Mississippi need. We look forward to supporting Whitt on his journey to become a rural physician."

While at ICC, Willis, who is a graduate of Amory High School, was president of the Student Government Association and a member of the Academic Calendar, Financial Aid and curriculum committees and Student Activities Board; Orientation Leader, Food Pantry Representative, Natural Science Instructional Support Tutor; and a member of the STEM Club, PEAK Club, Humanities Club, Honors College, Phi Theta Kappa and Sigma Kappa Delta and former Student Activities student worker. His honors included Mr. ICC 2024, Hall of Fame and President's List. Willis volunteers at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and for the Jackson Free Clinic. He will transfer to Mississippi State University to earn a degree in microbiology and subsequently to enter medical school to prepare for a career as a Family Medicine Physician. He is the son of Walt and Susan Willis.

The MRPSP offers scholarships to medical students in Mississippi who agree to practice in underserved rural areas of Mississippi after completing their training for one year for each year after they receive the scholarship. Participants receive mentoring, rural clinical experience, MCAT preparation and a support system on their pathway to becoming a physician. As part of the MRPSP, he joins a network of undergraduate students, medical students, residents and practicing physicians, all offering support throughout his medical education and into his future practice.

ICC ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING FACULTY, STUDENTS WIN STATE AWARDS

Itawamba Community College's faculty and students won prestigious awards at the Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing conference in Biloxi.

ICC's students won the College Bowl, which consisted of correct responses to NCLEX-RN questions, over opponent teams from nine other community Colleges. Members include **Tiree Jones** of Aberdeen, **Alexis Derrick** of Ecu, **Kaci Wood** of Mantachie and **Alexis Koonce** of Saltillo.

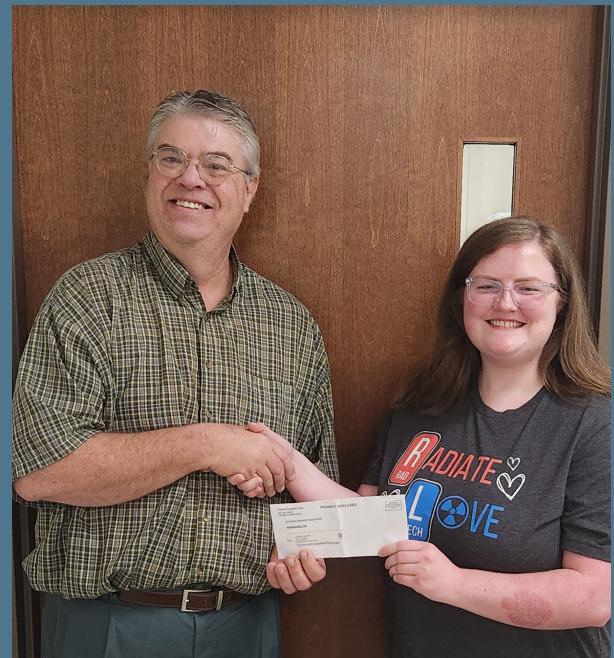
Of the three faculty awards presented this year, ICC brought home two. **Anna Lewis** of Mantachie won the Professional Development Award, which was established by the MOADN Board of Directors to support the professional development efforts of associate degree nurse educators. Criteria include employment by an accredited ADN program in Mississippi, membership in MOADN either as an individual or program member and willingness to present the professional development activity at the next annual convention. She will be reimbursed for up to \$1,000 for certification as a certified nurse educator.

Lauren Murphree of Bruce won the Innovative Faculty Award for the Escape Room that she developed for Fundamentals content as an active learning strategy. The Innovative Teaching award was established by the MOADN Board of Directors to support creative teaching strategies of Associate Degree Nurse Educators. Criteria include employment by an accredited ADN program in Mississippi, membership in MOADN either as an individual or program member and willingness to present the creative teaching strategy at the next annual convention. She received a plaque and \$250 from MOADN.

As a winner of the faculty awards, Lewis and Murphree will present at the 2025 MOADN conference.

"The state event is very important for ICC because it promotes Associate Degree Nursing," said Dr. Dana Walker, program director. "The Associate Degree nursing role is important to keep up with the needed workforce in our community. Congratulations to all of our winners! They are excellent representatives for our program and most deserving."

ICC STUDENT RECEIVES 2024 MISSISSIPPI RADIOLOGIC SOCIETY SCHOLAR'S AWARD



Sydney Wiggins of Caledonia, a student in Itawamba Community College's Radiologic Technology program, is the recipient of the 2024 Mississippi Radiologic Society's scholar's award.

At ICC, Wiggins is a member of the Beta Tau Sigma chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Her honors include Merit scholarship, president's list and Outstanding Achievement Award for Radiologic Technology. At East Mississippi Community College, she received the Outstanding Baking and Pastry student award for 2021-22. She serves as a volunteer for numerous church and community events. Her parents are Mitch and Stephanie Wiggins.

The purpose of the Mississippi Society of Radiologic Technologists is to advance the profession of Radiologic Sciences disciplines and specialties, maintain high standards of education, enhance the quality of patient care and further the welfare and socioeconomics of Radiologic Technologists.



ICC RECENT GRADUATE, **JORDAN ALLEN,** SELECTED AS CANDIDATE FOR PRESTIGIOUS PROMISE PROGRAM

Jordan Allen of Jackson, recent graduate of Itawamba Community College, has been selected as a candidate for the Promoting Recruitment Opportunities in Medicine with Individual Study Experience (PROMISE).

The early assurance program for economically/educationally disadvantaged students with a commitment to pursuing a career as a physician is sponsored and managed by the School of Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

At ICC, Allen was a member of the women's soccer team, STEM Club, Trading Post, Phi Theta Kappa and Honors College, Instructional Support Leader and Chemistry II tutor for NASA (Mississippi Space Grant Consortium) as well as 2023 Orientation Leader. Her other activities include assistance in the nursery and singing in the choir at New Jerusalem Church in Jackson. She will continue her education at Mississippi College where she plans to major in biology/pre-medicine with a minor in communication. She is the daughter of Althea Allen.

"We are excited to welcome Jordan to the PROMISE program this summer," said Dr. Dan Coleman, director of Outreach at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. "This program will offer her a unique opportunity to explore diverse areas of medicine and gain insight into the life of a medical student. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the ICC faculty and leadership for their outstanding support in helping her build a solid foundation in her core classes."

Among the major goals of the PROMISE program are introduction to career opportunities in medicine; engagement in enrichment programs that help strengthen individual academic foundation; integration with faculty who are active in medicine, encouragement in pursuing a career as a physician; and guidance through the processes and preparation required to apply to and attend medical school, including preparation for the Medical College Admission Test.

Students who complete the PROMISE program and meet the metrics established by the admissions executive committee of the UMMC School of Medicine will be eligible for a position there. Eligibility also depends upon completion of all undergraduate degree requirements and the PROMISE program requirements.

ICC ART STUDENTS WIN FIVE STATE AWARDS

Itawamba Community College's art students brought home five awards from the annual MCCAIA State Art Competition at Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, tied for the top spot with both Hinds Community College and Holmes Community College.

They include **Keyelle Holder** of Fulton, first place, drawing, for "Dinosaur With Lettuce;" **Emily Tibbs** of Fulton, honorable mention, drawing, for "Feline Fantasy" and third place, 3-D design, for the sculpture "Gorgeous Golden Lady;" **Mak Masters** of Pontotoc, honorable mention, 3-D design, for the sculpture, "The Wandering;" and **Noah Sartin** of Tupelo, first place, 3-D design, for the sculpture, "Faerie Trifeta."



ICC'S MHP C.O.R.E. CADETS WIN INAUGURAL GAMES CHAMPIONSHIP

Itawamba Community College's Candidates on Rapid Entry cadets participated this spring in the inaugural C.O.R.E. games at East Central Community College and won the championship.

ICC's team defeated both East Central Community College and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in the event that featured physical fitness, drill and ceremony and a thorough inspection of assigned barracks and uniform. Each candidate also competed in an obstacle course designed to highlight the physical and mental aspects a law enforcement officer may face during the course of their duty, according to MSGT Heath Mullins, C.O.R.E. program supervisor.

ICC's team members include **Jakari Cooper** of Carthage, **Brennan Westmoreland** of Ecru; **Grant McArthur** of Jonesboro, Ark.; **Kaylee Hankins** of Nettleton; **Jayke Logan** of Pittsboro; **Matthew Armstrong** of Saltillo; and **Matthew McCarley** of Athens, Ala.

From August 2023 to May 2024, C.O.R.E. candidates from the three participating colleges received hands-on training directly from Mississippi Highway Patrol Troopers to help prepare them for the rigorous training of the MHP School, Mullins said. Candidates were required to attend physical training along with academic classes throughout each semester and were tested on physical fitness and academic knowledge periodically.

ICC's MHP C.O.R.E. program is targeted toward students who are focusing on a degree in criminal justice with the goal of providing a direct avenue of employment with MHP. The 15-week curriculum focuses on exposing students to many aspects and responsibilities of the Mississippi Highway Patrol.

EMPLOYEE HONORS

ICC'S STEVENSON BEGINS TERM AS MFSACC PRESIDENT



Jessi Stevenson of Fulton, Fine Arts instructor at Itawamba Community College, has been elected as president of the Mississippi Faculty and Staff Association of Community Colleges.

The Bruce native, who has been employed with ICC since 2006, teaches public speaking and theatre courses and serves as the sponsor of Communication Chiefs and the college's Study Abroad program, The Global Experience. During her 17 years at ICC, Stevenson has received an extensive list of honors, including the NISOD award, Lamplighter, Humanities Teacher of the Year, multiple QEP Outstanding Faculty Mentor awards and the College's highest honor, the Meritorious Achievement Award, twice.

Stevenson has served as both president and vice president of the Fulton Campus Faculty and Staff Association multiple times. She earned the associate's degree from ICC and bachelor's and master's degrees in communication studies, public relations and community college leadership from Mississippi State University and has graduate work from the University of Alabama in theatre arts. Previously, she taught public speaking and communication courses at Beville State Community College in Alabama. She and her husband, Chris, are the parents of two sons.

The MFSACC advocates on behalf of all community colleges each year, especially during the legislative session. Stevenson's duties during her term, which began June 1, 2023 will also include providing leadership to the MFSACC Executive Board and local Faculty and Staff Associations and supporting legislative priorities adopted by the Mississippi Community College Board.

"Our state's community college system strives to educate and train Mississippi's future, and I am honored to be entrusted to advocate on behalf of this important mission," Stevenson said. "I am a proud graduate of Itawamba Community College, and I always share my success story with students and community members. I am excited to have a larger platform to share the opportunities community colleges offer and the impact these integral institutions of higher learning make on our great state."



ICC'S SHANNON, UPTON SELECTED FOR JIM INGRAM COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Angeelas Shannon of Saltillo, transition specialist for the Itawamba Community College Adult Education program for the last five years, and Michael Upton of Mooreville, director of Advancement for Itawamba Community College have both been selected as a participant in the 2023-25 Jim Ingram Community Leadership Institute.

The Jim Ingram Community Leadership Institute is a two-year program designed to develop community leadership skills and to enhance personal and professional growth. It consists of one year of training and one year of community reinvestment during which participants reinvest what they have learned in institute training in a nonprofit organization or a defined community need. Additional components include community orientation and enhancement of leadership skills.

"I am honored to be nominated and chosen to participate in this prestigious opportunity, which will allow me to grow both personally and professionally," Shannon said. "I am excited for this special distinction, and I am thankful for the support of Itawamba Community College," says Shannon.

A lifelong resident of Lee County, she graduated from Shannon High School and earned the bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and the master's degree from Kaplan University.

As transition specialist at ICC, Shannon assists adult learners with the transition from the classroom to attending college, workforce training and/or

employment. She is a board member for the Mississippi Association of Adult and Community Education.

Shannon is a member of White Hill Missionary Baptist Church. She has one daughter, Maleyia, 14.

"The Jim Ingram Community Leadership Institute provides wonderful insights and training to create leaders in North Mississippi," Upton said. "I am honored to have been chosen to be a part of this year's class," said Upton.

At ICC, he leads both the Foundation and the Alumni Association. He is responsible for overseeing and directing their functions through cultivating, soliciting and stewarding fundraising, events and principal relationships at the direction of the office of the President.

Upton has 17 years of fundraising and development experience. His previous professional work includes serving as major gift officer/regional philanthropy officer for the American Red Cross of Mississippi. Prior to that, he was director of development at Ole Miss for several areas including the University Libraries, Center for the Study of Southern Culture, Gertrude C. Ford Center for Performing Arts, University Museum and Historic Houses and the School of Applied Sciences.

A native of Lee County, he graduated from Tupelo High School and ICC before earning both the bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Mississippi. He has a son, Gage.



12 SELECTED FOR ICC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

They include **Lindsey Patterson**, Natural Science instructor/eLearning A&P lead and A&P department chair, and **Madison Robinson**, recruiter, both of Amory; **Audra Perry** of Belden, Adult Education director; **Lee Adams**, Bookstore manager, **Kaitlyn Stanfield**, Housing and Residence Life coordinator, and **Rachel Steele**, director of Admissions/Registrar, all of Fulton; **Jason Dickinson**, Campus Police chief, and **Jason Williams**, Transportation director, both of Mantachie; **Caleb Ramey** of Red Bay, Ala., systems administrator; **Adam Denton** of Saltillo, Respiratory Therapy program director; **Stacey Loden**, Workforce accountability and information specialist, and **Alicia Thornton**, Surgical Technology program director, both of Tupelo.



CHRISTY GRIFFITH ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES TEACHER AWARD NOMINEE

Christy Griffith of Amory was selected as Itawamba Community College's Mississippi Humanities Teacher Award nominee for 2024.

Griffith was among those honored at the Mississippi Humanities Council Awards Ceremony in March 2024 at the Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson. The event pays tribute to outstanding faculty in traditional humanities fields at each of the state's institutions of higher learning.

In her 25th year as a music educator, Griffith serves as associate band director at ICC. Her responsibilities include conducting the concert band, applied woodwind studio, mixed woodwind ensemble, Rush Hour Saxophone Quartet, CenterStage show choir and color guard director/choreographer and teaches music appreciation. As needed, she also coaches the Indianettes and the spring pom squad.

A graduate of Aberdeen High School, Griffith earned the associate's degree from ICC and both the bachelor's and

master's degrees in music education from the University of Mississippi. She was color guard captain and choreographer and started the first winter guard at ICC while a student. She held multiple leadership roles while at the University of Mississippi, including captain and choreographer for the Pride of the South color guard, Tau Beta Sigma officer, vocalist in the Ole Miss Early Music Ensemble, director/creator of the Ole Miss Winter Guard, teaching assistant for the Pride of the South Marching Band and Graduate Student of the Year. Before joining the ICC family, she was assistant band director at South Panola and Tupelo.

Griffith has been involved with the pageantry arts as a performer, choreographer, designer, instructor and adjudicator for the past 33 years. Her competitive winter guard teams have earned eight first-place state championship medals participating with the Mississippi Indoor Association, two first-place championship medals with the Southeastern Color Guard Circuit and two third-place regional placements with Winter Guard International. She received the Rookie of the Year award while marching color guard with the Spirit of Atlanta Drum Corps in 1993 and worked with ICC Impact, Magnolia and Colibri.

Griffith's most recent professional achievements were recipient of the 2020 Meritorious Excellence in Teaching and the 2019-20 Faculty Mentor awards. She is a member of the honorary fraternity Phi Beta Mu, a lifetime member of Tau Beta Sigma, Northeast Mississippi Bandmasters Association, Mississippi Bandmasters Association, National Saxophone Alliance and Women Band Directors International.

She is active in St. Andrews Methodist Church in Amory, where she sings in the chancel choir, volunteers for events and serves on the Lay Leadership committee. She is also a member of the board of directors for Amory Strong, a 501©3 Disaster Recovery organization.

Griffith lives in Amory with her husband, Tommy. Together they have five children, Claudia, 27; Erin, 26; Logann, 22; Ada Claire, 19; and Reason, 17. She also spends time chasing after her golden doodle, Elvis Beauregard (Ebo).

ICC'S BOWERS RECEIVES PTK DISTINGUISHED ADVISER AWARD



Jenny Bowers of Tupelo, English instructor and Phi Theta Kappa adviser for the Beta Tau Sigma chapter at the Itawamba Community College Tupelo Campus, has been selected as the recipient of a Hallmark Distinguished Adviser Award from the honor society.

The award, which can be received only once, is presented to advisers with at least four or more years of service as of January 10, 2024. She received the award during the organization's annual convention, PTK Catalyst, in Orlando, Fla., Apr. 4-6.

Bowers joined the ICC faculty in 2002 as an adjunct instructor and became full-time in 2011. Also, she has served as Writing Center consultant and director.

She earned both the bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi State University. Her PTK awards and honors include the 2024 Outstanding Adviser and Horizon Award Adviser, PTK Mississippi/Louisiana Regional Advisory Board for 2023-25, Five Star Adviser, Bennie Warren Outstanding Adviser for the MS/LA Region (two years) and the Horizon Award for New Advisers. Additional honors include William Winter Scholar for 2022 and National Merit Finalist.

Bowers is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, National English Honorary, and Delta Kappa Gamma, Organization of Women Educators. She is also a scorer for AP Language Exams. Bowers served as a presenter at the Transitioning to College Writing Conference at the University of Mississippi in 2016.

She and her husband, Michael, have two children.

ICC'S MILLER AMONG GRADUATES OF MCCPF PROGRAM

Itawamba Community College's **Mande Miller** of Saltillo, dean of the Tupelo Campus and Advising, is among the 2024 graduates of the Mississippi Community College Policy Fellows Program.

Miller joined the ICC family in 2002 as an academic counselor. For 11 years she was director of advising and instructor of College Life classes, which she continues. She earned the bachelor's degree from Delta State University and the master's degree from the University of Mississippi. Miller came to ICC from the Community Development Foundation, where she served as administrative assistant and marketing.

Her professional accomplishments include NEWMS Women's Leadership Skills Series graduate, Tombigbee Counseling Association College Counselor of the Year, Mississippi College Counselor of the Year, ICC Leadership Development Institute graduate, ICC Meritorious Award recipient and Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy graduate.

"It was an honor to participate in this prestigious program, and I appreciate ICC's affording me the

opportunity to collaborate with colleagues to benefit the community colleges in Mississippi," Miller said. "The program was extremely beneficial, expanded my knowledge and provided a deeper insight into areas covered by its focus."

The Mississippi Community College Policy Fellows Program, which began in 2012, has more than 120 alumni. It is sponsored by the Mississippi Community College Board in partnership with Washington, D.C.-based AdvocacyBuild. The program focuses on leadership, networking, policy and advocacy. The group met throughout the academic year to discuss state and national policies on education and to determine successful ways to continue to advocate on behalf of community college students. The fellowship culminated with a trip to Washington, D.C. for a legislative summit and meeting with education policymakers. "I look forward to sharing my experience and the knowledge I have gained with my colleagues at Itawamba Community College," Miller said.



ICC MERITORIOUS AWARD WINNERS

SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR

Donna Wileman, *Administrative Assistant, Physical Plant*

SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR

Brandy White, *Administrative Assistant, Office of the President*

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Jason Guntharp, *System Engineer and Project Manager, Telecommunications and Information Services*

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Tonya Vaughn, *Dean of Health Science Instruction*

FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Dr. Dee Dee Lomenick, *director, Occupational Therapy Assistant program*

FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Dr. Timothy Ross, *chemistry instructor*

JOHN AND BETH CLEVELAND ENDOWED EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD

Dr. Dana Walker, *director of the Associate Degree Nursing program*

ICC'S PATTERSON SELECTED AS 2024 MOODY INSTITUTE FELLOW

Lindsey Patterson of Amory, Itawamba Community College Natural Science instructor/eLearning Anatomy and Physiology lead and department chair, has been selected as a 2024 Moody Institute Fellow.

The MITF Board evaluated a number of outstanding applications and selected Patterson's as one of the successful proposals, according to an email from Dr. Erin Eaton, assistant executive director for Academic and Student Affairs of the Mississippi Community College Board.

She received a \$500 award check for her proposal which provided an opportunity for her to attend the Gross Anatomy for Teacher Education session this summer at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. The 3-4-day experience in June included cadaveric dissection. "Each summer they focus on a different area of the body," Patterson said. "It takes four different workshops to complete the entire body; however, they

have incorporated more imaging in the program, so I wanted to attend again."

Patterson served as an adjunct instructor at ICC from 2015-16. She earned the associate's degree from ICC in 2006; bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi in 2010 and the master's degree from the University of West Alabama in 2015. Her honors include 2024-25 ICC Leadership Development Institute participant and 2023 Moody Institute Trust Fund recipient. She and her husband, Linzy, have three children.

The Moody Institute Trust Fund was established in 1990 in honor of Dr. George V. Moody, the first executive director of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges. Its purpose is to provide funds for enrichment experiences for faculty members employed in Mississippi's public community and junior colleges. The Moody Fund and program is administered by the Mississippi Community College Foundation.

Kyle Davis of Fulton, choir director/music instructor, was selected as Itawamba Community College's William Winter Scholar for 2024.

He was among statewide recipients honored during opening and closing ceremonies at the 35th Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Feb. 22-24.

Davis joined the ICC family in fall 2018. Before his appointment, he served as the music director, vocal coach and instructor for the University of Alabama's Department of Theatre and Dance.

He earned the bachelor's degree from Blue Mountain Christian University and the master's degree from the University of Mississippi and is scheduled to receive the doctoral degree from William Carey University this summer.

Davis's honors and awards include the Ed Ludlow Alumni Award for Servant Leadership in Music, Linda Berry Music Award and Purser Speech Award, all from Blue Mountain Christian University; the Outstanding Faculty Award from Alpha Psi Omega at the University of Alabama; Target Award for Most Outstanding Teacher in the South Tippah County School District; and the Most Outstanding Graduate Singer Award and Most Outstanding Opera Singer Award from the University of Mississippi.

Davis, who is the music director at the First United Methodist Church of Pontotoc, is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and the American Choral Directors Association.

Among his musical performances include singing with the North Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and Mississippi, Arkansas and Nashville Symphonies. He also sang for President Barak Obama at the White House and had the opportunity to world premiere the Opera Hamlet by Nancy Van de Vate in Prague, Czech Republic.



KYLE DAVIS

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S
WILLIAM WINTER SCHOLAR

Davis and his wife, Kala, have one child.

The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration is one of the state's most significant annual conferences devoted to literature, history, film and culture. It is cosponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the city of Natchez, the Adams County Board of Supervisors, Visit Natchez, Mississippi Arts Commission, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Mississippi Humanities Council and The National Park Service. This year's theme was "Rites, Rituals and Religion in the Deep South."

ICC'S GAMMILL, GRAY GRADUATE FROM MCC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Itawamba Community College's **Josh Gammill** and **Holly Gray**, both of Fulton, are among the 2024 graduates of the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy.

Gammill, who is director of Continuing Education, has been a member of the ICC family since 2015, previously serving as career navigator and pathway coordinator. He earned the bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University and the master's degree from the University of Mississippi. Gammill's honors include graduate of the ICC Leadership Development Institute, successful completion of DDI Leadership Facilitator Training, Certified Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) and Certified Career Pathways Leadership (NCPN). He is a deacon of Bethel Baptist Church. Gammill and his wife, Sara, are the parents of three children, Reed, Nora and Charlie.

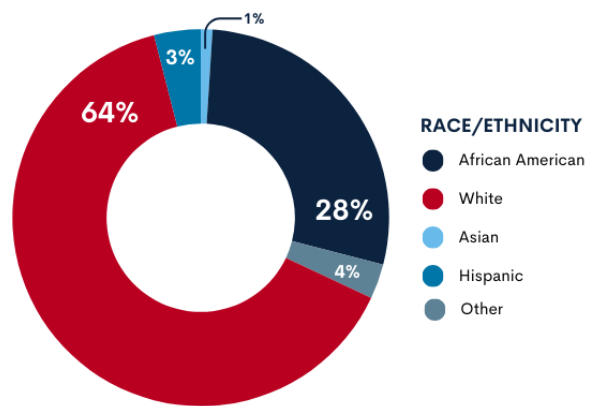
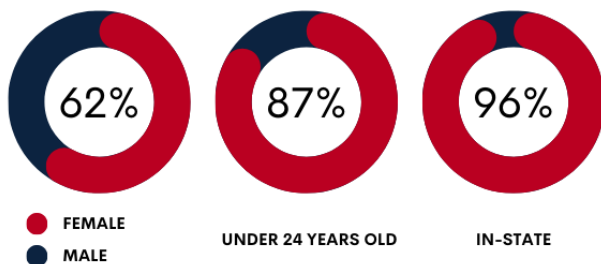
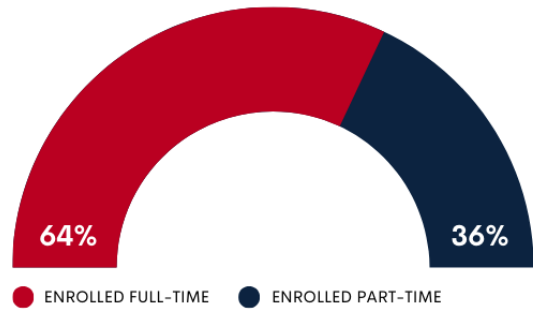
Gray, director of ICC's libraries, began employment at the college in 2016, following

serving as media specialist at Tupelo High School. She earned the associate's degree from ICC, bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi and master's degrees from both Mississippi State University and the University of Alabama. Her honors and awards include graduate of the ICC Leadership Development Institute, community college representative for the MAGNOLIA steering committee and member of both the Mississippi Library Association and the ICC Wesley Foundation board. She and her husband, Jim, have two children, Jacob and Cara.

The Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy was developed in the spring of 2009 to address the projected need for upper-level leaders in the Mississippi community college system. The MCCLA is organized around the practical needs for future community college leaders, specific to the Mississippi community college system.

ANNUAL DATA

4,937
FALL 2023 ENROLLMENT



20:1

STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO

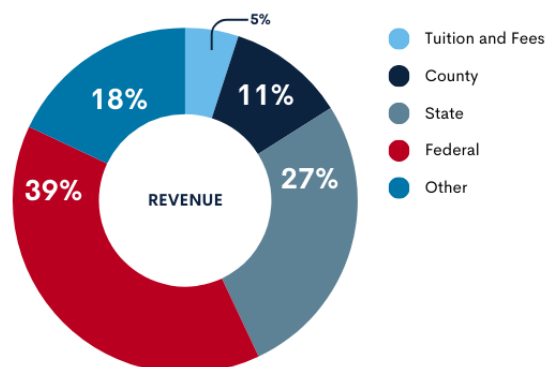
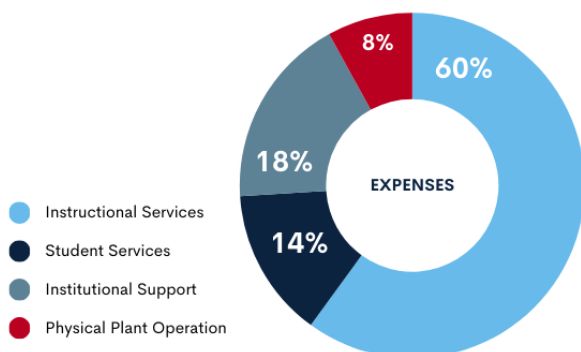
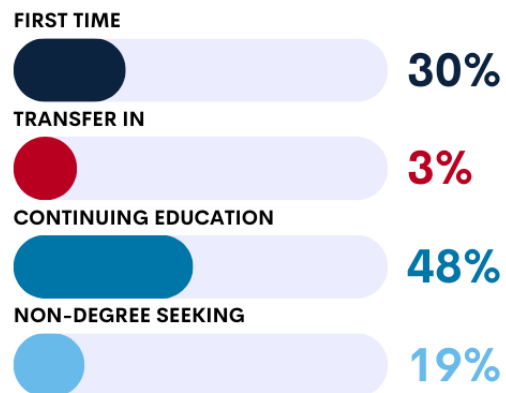
134 FULL-TIME INSTRUCTORS

214
PART-TIME
EMPLOYEES

422
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

636
TOTAL
EMPLOYEES

ENROLLMENT TYPE



ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Itawamba Community College is an equal opportunity institution. For more information, contact the Vice President of Student Services, 602 West Hill Street, Fulton, MS 38843, 662.862.8271, or email TitleIXCoordinator@iccms.edu.