



A TWELVE-MONTH REVIEW

THE REPORT

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we close another remarkable year at Itawamba Community College, I am filled with pride, gratitude and optimism. This year's theme, *Aspiring to New Heights*, is more than a title. This year-long theme provided us with a reflection of our shared commitment to progress, innovation and student success.

At ICC, we believe that every achievement today lays the foundation for a better tomorrow. Whether we are cutting the ribbon on a new robotics lab, launching a mobile planetarium to inspire the next generation or awarding scholarships that change lives and futures, our focus remains steadfast: to prepare students for the world ahead and to serve our communities with purpose and passion.

This year, our students have continued to rise – earning state and national honors, excelling in both academics and career education programs and leading with distinction. Our faculty and staff have remained innovative and dedicated, while new partnerships and generous grants have expanded opportunities for all who call ICC home.

The stories and milestones shared in this report are not just a look back but are simply a launching point. They represent momentum. They represent vision. And they represent the promise of what's possible when a college and a community share the journey together.

Thank you for being part of the ICC journey. The horizon is bright, and the future truly starts here.


JAY ALLEN, PH.D.

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FOUNDATIONS OF SUCCESS

ICC GRADUATES RECEIVE DIPLOMAS, CERTIFICATES DURING MAY 16 CEREMONIES

Approximately 1,000 Itawamba Community College graduates crossed the stage at the Davis Event Center on the Fulton Campus, May 16, during three commencement ceremonies and were rewarded with Associate of Arts or Associate of Applied Science degrees or certificates.

Among them included a 15-year-old and his mother, a native of South Africa, a 32-year-old high school equivalency graduate, an amputee and one who started the pursuit of her college diploma more than 20 years ago.

Lathan Jon Austin Nunley of New Albany said he “nervously but excitedly stepped into the world of college. Today, I’m proud to say I’m graduating with my first degree – alongside my mother, who has supported me every step of the way.” His educational journey began at home where his mother homeschooled him ‘from birth to eighth grade.’ “With her guidance and the encouragement of those around me, I was taught to believe that anything is possible. That mindset pushed me to graduate high school at just 13 years old through Penn Foster.” His ultimate goal is to work in the tech field. “I face an important decision within the next few weeks, choosing between two colleges, one focused on computer technology and the other on AI and cybersecurity,” Nunley continued. “Whichever path I take, I know I’ll reach my goals with the unwavering support of my family, friends and instructors who’ve inspired me throughout this journey.”

Among his support system is fellow graduate and mom, Tangenia Nunley, who in 2004 graduated with honors from ICC with a degree in Computer Networking and began a successful career in the tech field. She said that she eventually stepped away to become a stay-at-home mom and homeschooled her son. “Even during those years, I remained committed to my personal and professional growth,” she explained. In 2012, she returned to ICC to earn a certificate in Health Information Technology to help further expand her skill set. Nine years later she pivoted again into real estate, earning licenses in Mississippi and Tennessee. “Truth be told, it was my 13-year-old son who inspired the next chapter of my journey. He encouraged me to go back to college with him, I am graduating as an honor student and a proud member of Phi Theta Kappa, a recognition of my dedication and hard work.” She will be transferring to the University of Memphis this fall to continue her journey toward a bachelor’s degree in



computer science. “Today’s graduation represents more than just a personal achievement – it’s a family celebration. I’m incredibly proud to walk across the stage alongside my son. This moment symbolizes years of dedication, growth and the enduring belief that no dream is too big, no journey too long, and it’s never too late to pursue what sets your heart on fire.”

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 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."

The journey of South African native James Ross led him through China and subsequently to Tupelo and ICC. When he enrolled, Ross said that the instructors made him feel at home in both Tupelo and at the College. "I got to hear the anecdotal version from American history from Dr. (Bruce) Ingram and all about biscuits and chocolate gravy, and the fear of public speaking dissipated with Mrs. (Allyson) Cummings' stories of Southern life. I was encouraged by ICC instructors to share my writing at poetry events, become a Phi Theta Kappa officer, take part in setting up ICC events and write and act in a short film. I was able to embrace my South African experiences and also learn about Tupelo and America, and I've made forever friends."

The road to a college diploma hasn't been easy for 32-year-old Clifton Pierce of Nettleton, who was diagnosed with development delayed ADHD. At the age of 25, he started working toward his high school equivalency diploma, and two years later, he earned the credential, but because of the pandemic, walking across the stage was delayed. In 2021, Pierce had the opportunity to receive not only his diploma, but also recognition as Student of the Year from his GED instructors. The fall of that same year, he became a college student at the Tupelo Campus. "At first it was a rocky start, but later on I was more

and more comfortable with learning and working hard passing my courses leading me to today, when I will become an ICC graduate again with a major in communications."

"This has been by far one of the most challenging, yet best experiences of my life," said Rodney Hardy of Gordo, Ala., whose left leg was crushed during an accident one afternoon during a snow and ice storm when he left nursing school at the Tupelo Campus in 2014. Hardy was in the hospital for three months, doesn't remember he was on a vent and lost his leg. "I also lost a great job, my nursing career, went through every stage of the grieving process, battled depression and suffered from PTSD. His therapy at UAB included both Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy. "My OT was a lady who was no more than 5'2", 130 pounds, but she pushed a 5'8", 405-pound amputee to his limits and showed me that 'yes you can go back to school and although your new life will be in OT terminology 'adaptive,' it can be 'functional,'" Hardy said. Fast forward a few years, life and job connections led him to applying and interviewing for a spot in ICC's OTA class. Hardy has had to drive three hours round trip to school for 18 months. "My instructors took nothing less than maximum effort and pushed not only me, but the entire class to work with a spirit of excellence. I'm not the fastest, the smartest or the youngest, but my prayer and my goal is to be the most efficient in my craft as a future OTA, and this program has thoroughly prepared me. ICC's OTA program is more than just a program. This has been a life changing journey and experience."

Then, there's Carlee Morgan of Tupelo, a devoted wife and mother of two daughters, who will celebrate her 40th birthday in July. "What better way to mark this milestone than by finishing what I started over 20 years ago," she said. As the office manager and homeowner services coordinator for Habitat for Humanity, Morgan found unexpected inspiration from a Habitat homeowner who was earning her degree while raising her children as a single mom. "That moment sparked a determination," she said, "one that brought her to this day – walking across the stage for the very first time." Morgan said that she credits her friends and family for their unwavering encouragement and belief in her, but this is just the beginning of her educational journey. She's continuing on to Ole Miss to pursue her bachelor's degree. "It's never too late (to earn a degree), and you're never too old."

The Nunleys, Ross, Pierce, Hardy and Morgan are only six of the graduates who crossed the stage at the Davis Event Center to receive their diplomas from President Allen. So, there are still approximately 994 individual stories to tell about those who participated in the May 16 ceremonies. But, as Allen said, "It is indeed a special occasion as I celebrate with each of you! I can't wait to reconnect with every graduate who has crossed this stage today, to continue to share their stories."

ICC STUDENTS WIN STATE CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS

Several Itawamba Community College students recently received awards from the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association for their work.

They include **Jalynn Black** of McCool, third place in Short Stories for "The Voice That Wouldn't Fade;" **Sharlee Shumpert** of Mooreville, third place in Poetry for "I Am Ambitious" and **Sara Davis** of Smithville, second place in Poetry for "Preacher Man." In addition, ICC's literary magazine, *The Calliope*, placed second. Chief editor is **Shawn Whittington** of Slatillo, and English instructor **Keith Morris** of Tupelo, poetry editor.

State-level winners will receive certificates and a copy of *The Community College Writer*, which publishes the student winners. Statewide first, second and third place winners' monetary prizes include \$100, \$60 and \$40 respectively.

ICC'S PTK CHAPTERS WIN REGIONAL AWARDS

Both the Beta Tau Sigma (Tupelo) and Upsilon Sigma (Fulton) chapters of Phi Theta Kappa at Itawamba Community College received multiple awards at the organization's Mississippi/Louisiana Regional Conference, Mar. 6-7, at the University of Mississippi.

Both chapters were awarded five-star status, for which chapters must fulfill the following stars or milestones within a calendar year: Reach, Network, Engage, Lead and Discover, according to Makaala Salmon, adviser for the Upsilon Sigma chapter.

Beta Tau Sigma's awards included Jenny Bowers, Tupelo Campus adviser, Horizon award; Honors in Action Theme 8 award; 5-Star Chapter award and Allyson Johnson of Nettleton, Golden Key. Bowers said that in the summer, advisers meet with officers and review the themes in the Honors Program

Guide. "We make a list of topics that students are interested in and then we vote. Folklore, Fables, and Fairy Tales was selected. It centered around the traditional stories of the Chickasaw, who inhabited our area before us. We gave a presentation in November, and the Chickasaw Heritage Tree that we made is still on display in the Academic and Student Center on the Tupelo Campus."

Upsilon Sigma's awards included Distinguished Chapter officer award, Wesley May of Pontotoc; Scarlett Garrison of Tremont, Golden Key; Honors in Action Theme 5 Award; Top 10 Honors in Action Project Award (top 10 scoring regardless of theme placement) and Most Distinguished Chapter Finalist, which is the one with the highest combined score of Honors in Action and College Project scores. Salmon said that the Honors Study Topic for Upsilon Sigma was *The Power of Stories*. "Within this

topic, eight themes were provided from which students could select. Upsilon Sigma chose to study Theme 5: Representation through Stories. Our officer team decided to focus our project on the reintegration of incarcerated juveniles, specifically in Mississippi. After researching this topic, they created a resource guide of services, educational opportunities and organizations that may be of assistance to the incarcerated juveniles reintegrating into society. Their desire was for these individuals to receive this resource guide and utilize it for their benefit."

May is vice president of Scholarship for Upsilon Sigma as well as the regional reporter for the MS/LA regional officer team. Other college involvement includes STEM Club president, STEM tutor for ICC Instructional Support, pianist for CenterStage and team member for Community College Innovation.



STUDENT **AWARDS OF DISTINCTION**

Itawamba Community College presented its student awards of distinction in a special ceremony, Apr. 28, at 6 p.m. at the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center on the Fulton Campus.

Recipients and their awards include

Amory – Dawsen Grimes, Forestry Technology;

Athens, Ala. – Matthew McCarley, Mississippi Highway Patrol CORE graduate;

Booneville – Taylor Chapman, Practical Nursing;

Bruce – Jayke Logan, Mississippi Highway Patrol CORE graduate;

Caledonia – Braden Walters, Biology Department;

Ecrú – Alexis Derrick, Associate Degree Nursing; Eric Gonzalez, Electrical Technology, Hall of Fame;

Fulton – Catherine McFadden, Social Science Division; Drew Moore, Welding and Cutting Technology; Stone Collier, Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department; Landon Brown, Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic First Team; Madison Dillard, Criminal Justice Technology; Olivia Cantrell, Sociology Department; Shelby Franks, Journalism Department; Sherry Pharr, Jeanette Carr-Winkler Caring Award;

Golden – Ben Orr, Natural Science Division; Joe Clark, Industrial Maintenance Technology;

Hickory Flat – Austin Bryant, Construction Management Technology;

Horn Lake – Kenna Grant, Communications Division;

Houlka – Karly Huffman Linley, Diagnostic Medical Sonography; Prisila Martinez, Early Childhood Education; Timothy Smith, Computer Programming Technology;

Houston – Maddox Clouse, Computer Science Division, Computer Engineering Department, Applied Mathematics Department, Hall of Fame;

Iuka – Austin Cutrer, Janis Howell Nursing Excellence Award (Associate

Degree Nursing); Cole Richardson, Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Workforce Team

Kosciusko – Natalie Ryals, Journalism Department, Hall of Fame, Miss ICC;

Louisville – Theresa Holdiness, Health Information Technology;

Mantachie – Kaylin Perry, Criminal Justice Department;

Marietta – Cassidy Edwards, Music Department;

McCool – Jalyynn Black, Theatre Department;

Mooreville – Mary Puckett, English Department;

Nettleton – Allyson Johnson, Phi Theta Kappa Mississippi All-Academic Second Team, Hall of Fame, Phi Theta Kappa Beta Tau Sigma Chapter Order of the Golden Key; Rilee Maxwell, Associate Degree Nursing, Hall of Fame; Payne Hairald, History Department, Geography Department;

New Albany – Samantha Stelly, Public Health Technology; Jared Martin, Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Workforce Second Team

Oxford – Amanda Fortner, Earnest Ruth Agnew Spirit of Giving (Associate Degree Nursing); Jon Lamar, Mary Walden Professionalism in Nursing Award;

Pontotoc – Addison Clements, Fine Arts Division; Amanda Orman, Paralegal Technology; Amyah Pegues, Computer Networking and Cybersecurity; Analyse McMillen, Computer Science Department; Gracie Henley, Health, Physical Education and Recreation Division; Baylie Gann, Respiratory Care Technology; Eli Baker, Business Administration Division; Eric Hinton, Automotive Technology; Bailey Cox, Accounting Department; Jamailya Cummings, Hall of Fame; Faith Brown, Modern Foreign Language; Marlee Hoing, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Hall of Fame; Samira Brewer, Robotics and Automation Technology; Crossland Malone, Mississippi Highway Patrol CORE graduate, Business Statistics Department;

Saltillo – Charles Russo, Surgical Technology; Mary Belle Burg, English

Department; Matthew Armstrong, Mississippi Highway Patrol CORE graduate; Memory Willingham, Larry Loden Associate Degree Nursing Hall of Fame award; Jaden Willis, Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Workforce Second Team;

Shannon – Alanna Arledge, Phi Theta Kappa Cutturini, Prochaska and Hoots Service Award (Upsilon Sigma); Destiny Buchanan, Business and Marketing Management Technology; Nicole Vasquez, Physical Therapist Assistant Technology; Dale Earnest, Precision Machining Technology;

Smithville – Aleena Gregory, Economics Department;

Tremont – Scarlett Garrison, Mathematics Division and Phi Theta Kappa Wilburn Outstanding Officer Award, Upsilon Sigma Chapter;

Tupelo – Caleb Bowers, Phi Theta Kappa Outstanding Member, Beta Tau Sigma; James Tallent, Diesel Equipment Technology; Jasmier Coleman, Hall of Fame; Jordan Franks, Robotics and Automation Technology; Laura Thorne, Associate Degree Nursing; Sennett Watkins, Phi Theta Kappa Beta Tau Sigma Chapter Outstanding Officer; Sydney Ladd, Art Department; Wes May, Phi Theta Kappa Upsilon Sigma Chapter McCormick Award of Distinction, Hall of Fame, Physics Department; Yazmeen Alwaisi, Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Second Team, Beta Tau Sigma Officer of Distinction, Hall of Fame.

Vardaman – Michael Cruz, Psychology Department;

Vina, Ala. – Braiden Holcombe, Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Second Team, Hall of Fame, Mr. ICC, Public Speaking Department; Kent Humphries, Chemistry Department, Phi Theta Kappa Upsilon Sigma Outstanding President;

Walnut – Sarah Hill, Emergency Medical Sciences; and

Weir – Laken Busby, Radiologic Technology.



12 SELECTED FOR 2024-2025 ICC HALL OF FAME

Twelve Itawamba Community College sophomores were selected as members of its prestigious Hall of Fame for 2024-25.

They include Eric Gonzalez of Ecu; Maddox Clouse of Houston; Natalie Ryals of Kosciusko; Allyson Johnson, Rilee Maxwell, both of Nettleton; Jamailya Cummings, Marlee Elizabeth-Paige Hoing, Wesley A. May, all of Pontotoc; Yazmeen Alwaisi, Jasmier Coleman, both of Tupelo; Braiden Holcombe and Kent Humphries, both of Vina, Ala.

YAZMEEN ALWAIISI

At ICC, Alwaisi majored in pre-law/general studies at ICC,

where she was public relations and media officer for Phi Theta Kappa and secretary for the Student Government Association. A Middle College student, Alwaisi was a member of the National Honor Society, Middle College Ambassador and Northeast Mississippi Youth Foundation Historian at Tupelo High School, where she graduated in May. Her other activities included free youth tutoring and local community service. Alwaisi plans to transfer to Ole Miss, where she will double major in economics and political science and subsequently enter law school. She is the daughter of

Zamzam and Noman Alwaisi.

MADDOX CLOUSE

Clouse was a member of Honors College, Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society and the STEM Club at ICC. His honors included the president's list and recipient of an internship opportunity with Mueller Industries, which was offered by ICC's School of STEM. He plans to transfer to Mississippi State University where he will work toward a Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering. Clouse is a graduate of Houston High School, and his parents are Amy and Vince Clouse.

JASMIER COLEMAN

At ICC where she was a psychology major, Coleman was an Indian Delegate, Orientation Leader, vice president for both the Student Government Association and Women of Excellence and member of the Fashion Tribe, Phi Theta Kappa and Honors College. Her honors included Homecoming Freshman Maid (2023) and Homecoming Queen (2024). Coleman is a graduate of Pontotoc High School. Her activities are volunteer at churches and nursing homes, tutoring and Trading Post. Coleman plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi where she will continue work toward a degree in psychology. She is the daughter of Pondes Moore.

JAMAILYA CUMMINGS

A graduate of South Pontotoc High School, Cummings was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta and National Honor Society and youth leader at ICC Wesley. She also served as a tutor and worked in the Admissions office on the Tupelo Campus. Her other activities include Sunday School teacher and youth leader at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Cummings plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to work toward a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She is the daughter of Ida Judon.

ERIC GONZALEZ

An electrical technology major at ICC, Gonzalez is a graduate of North Pontotoc High School. He plans to become a full-time industrial electrician. He is the son of Jose Gonzalez.

MARLEE HOING

Hoing, a graduate of South Pontotoc High School, was an Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology major at ICC. Her activities included Indian Delegation, Indianette (dancer), Student Activities Board, Wesley Worship Leader, member of Phi Theta Kappa and class president of the Student Occupational Therapy Association. Hoing's honors included president's list and Academic Excellence scholarship. Her additional activities

are volunteer at Night to Shine and Special Olympics and active member of Ellistown Baptist Church. Following her graduation from ICC's OTA program and earning her certification, Hoing plans to seek a job in her chosen career, specializing in Handwriting Without Tears and Neuro-Developmental Treatment. She is the daughter of Melissa Hoing.

BRAIDEN HOLCOMBE

A mechanical engineering major at ICC, Holcombe was a member of the Indian Delegation (vice president, 2024-25), Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta and STEM Club; Orientation Leader, Baptist Student Union lead team; Fashion Tribe executive and Instructional Support tutor. His other activities include DNOW volunteer. Holcombe plans to transfer to Mississippi State University where he will major in Industrial Technology: Maintenance and Manufacturing. He is the son of Misty and Clint Holcombe.

KENT HUMPHRIES

Humphries, who is a graduate of Tremont High School, was a psychology major at ICC. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta, STEM Club, Film Club and the Humanities Club. His other activities include volunteering as a STEM tutor and at the Fulton Food Pantry. Humphries plans to transfer to Delta State University, where he will major in psychology and then enter medical school. He is the son of Jay and Jennifer Humphries.

ALLYSON JOHNSON

Johnson, who was enrolled in ICC's Middle College, graduated from Tupelo High School in May. Her ICC activities included Phi Theta Kappa vice president of leadership for the Beta Tau Sigma chapter; Tupelo Campus representative for the ICC President's Student Advisory Committee; member of both the STEM Club and Honors College and former Chickasaw County representative for the Tupelo Campus Student Government Association. She also participates in Taekwondo and the Tupelo Leo Club. Johnson plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to

continue working on additional degrees (master's and doctorate) in computer engineering. She is the daughter of Calandra Denman.

RILEY MAXWELL

At ICC, Maxwell's activities and honors included Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society, Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing Students and Alpha Delta Nu Honor Society, Dean's and President's list and MORA essay scholarship recipient. She is a graduate of Itawamba Agricultural High School. An Associate Degree Nursing major, Maxwell has accepted a job at North Mississippi Medical Center – Gilmore (Amory) in labor and delivery and plans to further her education through The W and the University of North Alabama. She is the daughter of Cory and Brandi Maxwell.

WESLEY MAY

May majored in engineering (pre-med) at ICC where his activities and honors included Phi Theta Kappa vice president of scholarship and Mississippi/Louisiana regional reporter, STEM Club president and tutor, Honors College and CenterStage pianist. He is a volunteer at Sanctuary Hospice House. May plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi where he will earn the bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering and subsequently enter the University of Mississippi Medical Center's School of Medicine. He is the son of Maggie Ellis.

NATALIE RYALS

Ryals, who is a graduate of Kosciusko High School, was president of the Student Government Association, Mirror (yearbook) editor, Fashion Tribe executive, game day crew photographer, Baptist Student Union lead team and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Her other activities included intramural sports at ICC and member of the First Baptist Church of Kosciusko. She plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to work toward her degree in Communications. Her parents are Tracey and Brad Ryals.

They are featured in the 2025 student yearbook, the Mirror.

FOUNDATIONS OF SUCCESS

HOLCOMBE, RYALS SELECTED MR. AND MISS ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2024-25

Braiden Holcombe of Vina, Ala. and **Natalie Ryals** of Kosciusko were elected Mr. and Miss Itawamba Community College for 2024-25.

Ryals, who is a graduate of Kosciusko High School, was president of the Student Government Association, Mirror (yearbook) editor, Fashion Tribe executive, game day crew photographer, a member of the Baptist Student Union Lead Team and Phi Theta Kappa. Her other activities included intramural sports at ICC and member of the First Baptist Church of Kosciusko. She plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to work toward her degree in Communications. Her parents are Tracey and Brad Ryals.

A mechanical engineering major at ICC, **Holcombe** was a member of the Indian Delegation (vice president, 2024-25), Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta and STEM Club; Orientation Leader, Baptist Student Union lead team; Fashion Tribe executive and Instructional Support tutor. His other activities include DNOW volunteer. **Holcombe** plans to transfer to Mississippi State University where he will major in Industrial Technology: Maintenance and Manufacturing. He is the son of Misty and Clint Holcombe.

Holcombe and **Ryals** are featured in the 2025 student





SEVEN ICC STUDENTS NAMED TO ALL-MISSISSIPPI TEAMS

Seven Itawamba Community College sophomores have been named to the All-Mississippi teams, including both workforce and transfer.

They include Landon Brown of Fulton, Braiden Holcombe of Vina, Ala., Yazmeen Alwaisi and Allyson Johnson, both of Tupelo, All-Mississippi Transfer; Cole Richardson of Iuka, Jared Martin of New Albany and Jaden Willis of Saltillo, All-Mississippi Workforce.

Yazmeen Alwaisi

Alwaisi, who was a Middle College participant, graduated from both Tupelo High School and ICC this spring. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Student Government Association at ICC, and her other activities included the North East Mississippi Youth Foundation. Alwaisi plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi where she will double major in economics and political science and subsequently to attend law school. Her parents are Zamzam Almulaiki and Norman Alwaisi.

Brown was a member of the STEM Club and vice president of Projects for Phi Theta Kappa. His honors included the President's List. A 2023 graduate of Itawamba Agricultural High School, Brown was a member of Tremont First Baptist Church. He plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to continue his mechanical engineering major. He is the son of Amy Brown.

Braiden Holcombe

Holcombe, who was a mechanical engineering major at ICC, was a member of the Indian Delegation (2024-25 vice

president), Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta and STEM Club; Orientation Leader, Baptist Student Union lead team; Fashion Tribe executive and Instructional Support Tutor. His other activities included DNOW volunteer. Holcombe plans to transfer to Mississippi State University, where he will major in industrial technology: maintenance and manufacturing. He is the son of Misty and Clint Holcombe.

Allyson Johnson

Also a participant in Middle College, Johnson was a computer engineering major at ICC, where her activities have included Phi Theta Kappa vice president of fellowship, Student Government Association Chickasaw County representative, Trading Post, STEM Club, President's Student Advisory Committee and Honors College. She is also president of the Tupelo Leo Misfits Club and serves as an intern with the Tupelo Public School District IT department. Johnson's other activities include Taekwondo (recommended Black Belt). She plans to attend Mississippi State University to continue work toward her degree with a minor in Environmental and Sustainability and subsequently earn the doctorate degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering with a focus in energy. She is the daughter of Calandra Denman and Idris Johnson.

Jared Martin

Martin majored in Surgical Technology at ICC, where he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He served as a junior volunteer

at the North Mississippi Medical Center in patient control and the emergency room from 1993-95 under the direction of Nancy Whitten and received an award both years for the most hours volunteered. He is a member of the First Baptist Church in New Albany.

Cole Richardson

Richardson's activities at ICC included Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta, band and band camp counselor. He was on the president's list for fall '23 and spring and fall '24. Richardson majored in Respiratory Care Technology. He plans to take the NBRC after graduation to obtain licensure to begin work as a Respiratory Therapist. Richardson plans to take online classes to earn the bachelor's degree and subsequently to apply for a physician's assistant program in the master's program. He is the son of Stephenia Richardson.

Jaden Willis

Willis, who majored in Construction Management Technology, was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He was an honor student at Saltillo High School, where he graduated in 2023. Willis plans to join the workforce and start working full time for a commercial construction contractor when he graduates in May. He is the son of Katie Hall.

Each two-year college in Mississippi may nominate students to the All-Mississippi teams. Nominations are based on academic performance and service to the college and community.



ENROLLMENT MILESTONES

ICC RANKS AMONG STATE LEADERS IN FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT INCREASE

Itawamba Community College ranks among the leaders in the state in full-time enrollment increase, according to figures released by the Mississippi Community College Board.

With spring enrollment at 4,774 at the end of the 10-day reporting period, figures from spring 2024-spring 2025 show a 6.7 percent increase, which comes after a multi-year increase in both fall and spring enrollments.

The continuing increase over the last two reporting periods can be attributed to multiple factors, according to ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. They include additional housing opportunities tailored to student needs, including the addition

of Magnolia Hall, exclusively for student leaders, and reopening of both Sheffield and Monroe Halls with spaces designed to accommodate the ICC student of today as well as an enhanced emphasis on activities."

"This very exciting news demonstrates a collaborative effort between all areas of the college to allow for continued enrollment growth," Allen said. "What the figures don't show is that residence halls remain at a more than 95 percent capacity this spring. The increase in the number of students that ICC is serving is significant because we have additional opportunities to provide a solid educational foundation and the best start for those in our five-county district and beyond."

"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 attracting 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 ICC's students and staff and providing programs/events that are of interest to all. "Student engagement is an opportunity

for students to make lifelong friendships and connections as well as to participate in fun activities, especially with the reopening of the Student Activities Center at the Fulton Campus during the 2024 fall semester, which is designed to provide the BEST opportunities for all students.”

In addition, Itawamba Community College 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 with those in the same area, such as academic transfer and career education.

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 and the lowest in north Mississippi. While the updated enrollment figures include online, academic and career education classes, they do not include workforce totals, which are not measured on a semester basis, Allen said.

“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 among the top 150 in the nation by the Aspen Institute and the continuation of a significant grant as part of the Metallica Scholars Initiative to provide scholarships to underserved students, only one of 60 colleges in the nation,” Allen said. “In addition, the work of our recruiters, enrollment services and community relations team and our entire institution has contributed to this increase in enrollment, a true collaborative effort by all members of the ICC family.”

Allen also noted that 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 ICC family,”

said Michael Holloway, director of Recruitment and Orientation. “Free spring orientation sessions will begin soon at both our Fulton and Tupelo campuses, and there are multiple opportunities to attend in April, June and July. Students who are joining our ICC family this fall will receive their BEST start as they learn about ICC, hear from college administrators, schedule their classes and begin to prepare for their transition to ICC. I truly believe that ICC provides the best instruction in academic transfer, career education and health sciences programs, including those that are online. The many resources and opportunities available to students at the Fulton, Tupelo and Belden locations enhance the overall student experience and help ICC students achieve success. From the first time a student arrives at an ICC location or begins one of our fully online programs to the day they complete their degree or certification, ICC provides wraparound services throughout the entire process. It’s an exciting time to be at ICC, where we ensure that the BEST start here.”

ICC HOMECOMING FEATURES PRESENTATION OF ALUMNI AWARDS, HOMECOMING COURT

Itawamba Community College celebrated Homecoming 2024 on Oct. 17 at the Fulton Campus beginning with a 4 p.m. ceremony at the Davis Event Center.

The event honored the Alumnus of the Year, Athletic Hall of Fame inductees, Young Alumnus of the Year and Distinguished Service award recipients. They included **Dr. Lance Evans** of New Albany, Alumnus of the Year; **Dr. David Rather** of Tupelo and **Jonathan Van Every** of Nashville, Tenn., Athletic Hall of Fame; **Jamey Logan** of Tupelo, Young Alumnus of the Year; and **Johnny Crane** of Fulton, Distinguished Service. They were also recognized during pregame ceremonies beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Eaton Field.

ICC’s Homecoming Court were presented at halftime of the ICC/Holmes football game. They included Queen **Jasmier Coleman** of Pontotoc; King **Tanner McCord** of Pontotoc; Fulton Campus Sophomore Maids **Ashanti Doss** of Nettleton and **Brandi Deloach** of Caledonia; Tupelo Campus Sophomore Maids **Gracie Corley** of Ecru and **Shelby Tigner** of Tupelo; Fulton Campus Freshman Maids **Shakira Kelton** of Golden and **Emma Carolyne Wright** of Amory; and Tupelo Campus Freshman Maids **Aryanna Phyfer** of Belden and **Sereniti Washington** of Guntown.

ICC'S DAVIS, MCMILLEN SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS DEPT. OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING SUMMER INTERNSHIP



Recent Itawamba Community College graduates Sara Davis of Smithville and Analyse McMillen of Pontotoc are having the opportunity of a lifetime as participants in the Summer Internship Consortium Experience in Indianapolis, Ind.

The paid 11-week internship with the Department of Defense for Research & Engineering (OUSD R&E) allows Davis and McMillen to get security clearance, DoD accessor training and exposure and is an opportunity to network with industry contacts in technology. They will collaborate with industries to evaluate future technologies relating to space, land, water and air with several opportunities to travel to Washington, D.C.

The experience affords students an opportunity to utilize their STEM skills doing research in emerging technologies for the U.S. government as well as addresses the need from the federal government's recent release of a strategic plan for advancing STEM education and cultivating STEM talent. According to Bradley Howard,

ICC's Computer Science division chair and STEM cosponsor, the federal government's plan highlighted the importance of work-based learning opportunities alongside the academic setting in a student's professional development and career readiness.

Both Davis and McMillen were active members of ICC's STEM Club, and Davis was one of four students who researched and prepared narration for its new planetarium recently. "This internship will be a shining achievement that employers will be able to recognize and appreciate," Davis, who was an aviation management major at ICC, said. "It will put me on a fast track to achieving my career ambitions." She plans to transfer to Delta State University to earn her degree in Commercial Aviation.

McMillen, too, is appreciative. "This internship is a wonderful opportunity to further my education, achieve my professional aspirations and cultivate my soft skills, such as adaptability, analytical thinking and collaboration. A career in cybersecurity requires education in cyber defense and operations. The Department of Defense SPICE internship will assist me in obtaining and improving the skills needed for a career in cybersecurity." She plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to earn a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity and a minor in data science.

Davis and McMillen are two of 14 students chosen nationally from both community colleges and universities to participate in this impressive internship. This is the first year that the opportunity was opened to community college students.

ONLINEU SELECTS ICC AS 2024 BEST ONLINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN MISSISSIPPI FOR AFFORDABILITY

Itawamba Community College was selected the 2024 Best Online Community College in Mississippi for affordability by OnlineU.

"Mississippi offers many online degrees through its network of online community colleges," said representatives of OnlineU. "These online degrees combine convenience with strong academic standards while maintaining low tuition costs for budget-minded students."

ICC took the top spot for its affordability with an annual tuition of \$2,750, placing it among the most cost-effective schools in the country, according to OnlineU. Additional highlights of its selection of ICC included 99 percent of students receive financial aid support through federal loans or grants and a support system that helps in managing educational expenses effectively. Adding to its appeal, ICC enrolls over 1,323 online students, which is within the top 31 percent of schools offering popular online programs.

"We are honored to be recognized by OnlineU as we strive each semester to teach our students the most relevant skills and provide the foundational knowledge that they will need to be successful as they either continue their educational journey or to enter the workforce," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "While we strive to always provide the best educational product and experience at the lowest price possible, it's always exciting for others to recognize the value! Being selected as the best for affordability by OnlineU is an example of how we at ICC are creating quality pathways and the best start for our students to meet them where they are and to help them

ICC offers a wide array of online degrees in fields such as Business and Marketing Management, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Health Information Technology, Hospitality Management, Paralegal Studies and Public Health Technology.

get to where they want to go cost-effectively."

Since 2004, it has been the mission of OnlineU to help students accomplish their education and career goals by finding the online degree with the best value. According to its website, it publishes rankings across hundreds of online degree programs, has collected reviews from more than 15,000 online students and publishes comprehensive guides and news articles to help students find the best degree for their aspirations. Their manual research on thousands of online degrees each year yields accurate, detailed cost and salary information of alumni of the colleges. OnlineU has been recognized by more than 475 colleges as a leader in higher education rankings.



ONLINEU

**BEST ONLINE
COLLEGES**
★ 2024 ★

CAMPBELL, MONTGOMERY SELECTED MAACE STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

Itawamba Community College Adult Education graduates Cristal Campbell of Tremont and Rosalyn Montgomery of Plantersville have been selected as Students of the Year for 2023-24 by the Mississippi Association of Adult and Community Education.

Montgomery, wife, mother, grandmother and family matriarch, passed her high school equivalency exam at the age of 68, less than a month after her birthday. She had to drop out of school at the age of 12 to care for her brothers and sisters while her parents worked. Over many years, she attended adult education classes, and she made a promise to her mother and herself that she would not give up, despite a medical condition that proves difficult for her to read for extended periods of time.

"I wanted to complete something I started," Montgomery said upon passing the high school equivalency test. "I wanted to be a role model and show people that if you put in the time and work, you will be victorious." Her teacher and nominator for the award Shundria Whitfield said, "Not only did Mrs. Montgomery come to class daily, but she was also a caregiver to her ailing husband and brother. She was able to be mother, grandmother and friend to so many of the students who were in class with her. Many times, she was a pillar in time of need to her peers because they depended on her for words of encouragement, guidance and structure. In addition to her academic success, she embodies qualities of leadership, integrity and resilience that make her an outstanding candidate for this award. Her positive attitude, work ethic and dedication to self-improvement make her an exceptional role model for others to follow for years to come."

Montgomery and her husband, James, have three children, Tasharee, Lacrista and James Eric, and four grandchildren, Zion and Zorah Barnes, Jaitlyn Kidd and Darius Morris. She volunteers at Small Beginnings Early Learning Center in Nettleton and participates in various activities at her church (Straight Gate Holiness Church in Nettleton). Montgomery plans to enroll in Itawamba Community College's interior design class and start her own business.

Campbell began working toward her high school equivalency diploma in 2020 as a referral from drug court. As she isn't hesitant to share, Campbell's life story has included a bad marriage, unfortunate peer associations, substance addiction and the loss of jobs, homes and relationships with friends and family. "It might help people who were in my situation to see that God can change your life after substance and spousal abuse and just not living right," Campbell said.

She struggled in the beginning with diminished ability to retain information, had some test failures and even dropped out of the program. However, with the help of church friends and through Bible studies, she realized that when she focused on one subject at a time with much repetition and immersion in that material, she was able to better retain information.

Campbell reenrolled in 2022, just as newly appointed instructor and nominator, Amy Emerson, joined the class. Emerson said that when she walked into the first class, she was "as green as a gourd and a little nervous" at the prospect of teaching adults as opposed to traditional school-age students. Campbell was the first student she met, and her welcoming smile and joyful spirit made Emerson immediately feel at ease. Emerson described Campbell as a "mainstay of the class, not only learning, but helping others as well." Soon, Campbell was ready to try testing again, and quickly began achieving excellent scores. The math test proved to be the most difficult and required Campbell to remember her "no quitting" mantra. "Finally, after extra tutoring, lots of prayer and much math repetition, Campbell destroyed the math beast in October 2023," Emerson said.

Campbell and her husband, Mitchell, attend the Open Door Worship Center in Fulton. In addition to always helping others, she leads a support group for women and distributes church invitation flyers. She enjoys visiting with her children (Phillip Rhyne/Tiffany and Jonathan/Krysta) and her grandchildren (Jackson, Kennedy, Sutton and Fallon).

The awards were presented at the 2024 Mississippi Association of Adult and Community Education conference in late July in Flowood.



INNOVATION AND EXPANSION

STATE-OF-THE-ART ROBOTICS LAB AT BELDEN CENTER

Itawamba Community College formally opened its state-of-the-art robotics lab at the Belden Center during a ribbon cutting ceremony May 8.

"It is an exciting day for our college, our students, our faculty and our region as we officially unveil our new state-of-the-art Robotics Lab, a facility that not only represents the future of workforce training, but also our steadfast commitment to innovation, opportunity and excellence," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "The \$1.2 million renovation made possible through the support of our friends in the Mississippi Legislature reflects a true investment in the lives and futures of our students and the communities we serve. At ICC, we don't just train for today's jobs, we prepare for tomorrow's careers. And this Robotics Lab is a shining example of that mission in action. As industry leaders consider locating in North Mississippi, this lab, and the facility as a whole demonstrates that we are ready – with the talent, training and technology to meet their needs."

Dr. Doug Ferguson, ICC Robotics instructor, concurs. "This new Robotics Lab is a game changer for our program. It gives our students the space, tools and technology to dive deeper into hands-on learning and real-world robotics. We're excited about the opportunities this opens up for preparing students for the careers shaping the future. We're thankful to everyone who helped make this happen."

Dean of Career Education Dylan Baldwin also expressed appreciation for those who were instrumental in the process. "This laboratory has changed Robotics Technology at Itawamba Community College. Although it has long been a focal point for tour groups of prospective students and industry leaders, Robotics has a new face, and subsequently, is more appealing to those who are investigating a career. Thank you isn't adequate for the buildout of this lab. It could be the catalyst that encourages both traditional and adult learners to either start or reinvent their futures."

In addition to the lab, the 8,280 square foot buildout includes a classroom and breakroom and space for storage.

For students like Samira Brewer of Mooreville, "The facility is bright and inviting and offers more space than before."

ICC's Robotics program, Brewer said, "is the perfect mix of a trade program and a traditional degree pathway. We get hands-on training with the kind of devices that companies use out in the field. We don't just watch PowerPoints and do bookwork. We get to install the devices, power them up and program them ourselves. You can't put a price tag on the knowledge we gain through this program, but for this to come out of a community college (meaning the cost of attendance) is amazing!"

All of the robots are sectioned out, and tour groups can watch the students program them in real time. "The new lab lets students take pride in knowing the school believes enough in the Robotics program to invest in such a massive upgrade," Brewer said.

Because of her participation in an annual ICC-sponsored job fair, Brewer has secured an internship with Southern Automation and Controls. "I had a very well-paying job before I went back to school, but I wanted a career that I enjoyed. So, I quit, moved into a much smaller place, and now I work two jobs to pay my tuition and bills. I knew it would not be easy going back to college, but I don't have a single regret. ICC has already done so much to help me prepare for my future, and I'm only halfway through the program."

So, with the formal opening of the "new and improved" Robotics Laboratory at the Belden Center, which will provide an exceptional learning space, Itawamba Community College students in that area, both now as Samira Brewer, and in the future, will benefit not only from the skills that they learned, but also from the connections that they have made, ensuring a better future, not only for themselves, but also for their families, their communities and beyond.





ICC OFFICIALLY OPENS MOBILE PLANETARIUM

Officials from the Tennessee Valley Authority joined Itawamba Community College representatives for a ceremonial ribbon cutting for the grand opening of its planetarium, Apr. 10 at the Fulton Campus.

The planetarium is currently located in the John S. Crubaugh Education Building, but plans are being developed to make it more mobile, according to Heather McCormick, mathematics division chair and one of three STEM sponsors, who are leading the project.

"We are extremely grateful to TVA for their generous donations which have made the planetarium possible," McCormick said. "In addition, TVA's generosity has given our students research and leadership opportunities as they prepared the narration for the planetarium shows. We are proud of our students and their hard work." They include Sara Davis of Smithville, Allyson Johnson of Nettleton, Lawson Laird of Guntown and Remington Reed of Carthage, whose research material and written narration scripts for the planetarium disks, allows four available shows including Northern Hemisphere with Constellations, Aurora Borealis, Day Side Earth and Moon and Warped Andromeda.

The planetarium as well as a weather balloon experiment were made possible by a \$15,000

contribution from TVA to benefit ICC's School of STEM. Following the announcement in March 2024, Dr. Jada Mills, Natural Science Division chair and STEM sponsor, said that the planetarium opportunity will include STEM Week, afternoon planetarium sessions and is an exceptional recruiting tool for the School of STEM. "We hope to host community STEM events and allow our students to volunteer, narrate and be part of this exhibit. A large part is sparking an interest in STEM at all age levels."

The mobile planetarium will be available to visit local elementary schools on Fridays beginning this fall. Schools that are interested in scheduling should email Dean of Academic Instruction Chris Stevenson at castevenson@iccms.edu.

Additional guests invited to the event, which featured four shows from 1-2:30 p.m., included ICC employees and students, STEM Advisory Board members and state and congressional leaders.

Most recently, TVA made an additional donation to the project which funded research stipends and STEM Club travel to such locations as Skylake Boardwalk and TVA Wilson Dam. A portion of the funds were earmarked for ICC's Trading Post to provide necessities to students who need the basics to continue their college careers.

ICC LAUNCHES LIL INDIANS CLUB

Itawamba Community College has an exciting opportunity for kids ages 3-12 to join its recently launched Lil Indians Club.

The annual \$30 membership dues include free admission to regular season home athletic events, Lil Indians gift box, membership card and special events exclusively for those who join.

"We at ICC can't wait to see our Lil Indians at all athletic events," said Dr. Chad Case, Athletic Director. "We hope that you won't miss this fantastic opportunity to ignite your child's passion for all of our sports while making new friends and memories along the way!"

For more information or to join, email jemarquez@iccms.edu, call 662.862.8122 or visit the homepage of LetsGoICC.com.





ICC EXHIBITS NEW SOFTBALL AND TENNIS COMPLEX



ATHLETIC AND COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Itawamba Community College formally opened its softball and tennis complex Sept. 18. with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Fulton Campus.

"Today, we are formally opening our softball and tennis complex," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen, "and as I shared on March 7 last year when we broke ground for this magnificent facility, it's not just any softball and tennis complex. It's the best in the league."

The 6,010-square-foot complex in addition to the softball stadium includes separate locker rooms for both men's and women's tennis and softball (each is equipped with lockers, restrooms, showers, ICC athletic branding and nutrition area), laundry facilities and training area and storage rooms for both softball and tennis, all on the first floor; a press box with radio booth, scorekeeper and announcing booth and President's hospitality suite and two large open party decks at the top of the stadium on the second floor. The softball stadium includes both chair back and bench seats.

"We appreciate all of those who have played a significant role in this project," Allen said. "As with tennis and softball and all sports, it truly took a team to bring us to today. We appreciate the members of the Board of Trustees and our ICC administrative team for their leadership

and collaboration on this project, which will provide not only a new home for our softball and tennis teams, but also a space that is not only functional, but is a vital component of ICC's attracting future tennis and softball student-athletes."

In sharing his excitement and appreciation, tennis coach Michael Metz said, "Among the facility improvements that have been made at ICC over the years, this is certainly one of the most exciting things that has happened to Itawamba tennis in the history of the program. As you know, our tennis courts are named after two significant individuals who shaped the sport at ICC, longtime coaches Paul Johnson and the late Linda Partlow. Both of these legendary coaches would share my pride in this opportunity for ICC tennis." The courts were built in 1979, refurbished in 2001 and most recently with this project in 2023. "Our players and coaches are grateful for the opportunity to represent you and most appreciative of this beautiful addition to our athletic facilities."

First-year softball coach Carson Owens also expressed his gratitude. "We appreciate the thoughtfulness and willingness of our Itawamba leadership who understands the vital importance of having a facility designed and tailored for the needs of



our softball program. This facility will allow our players, both current and future, to have their own space, a beautiful and well-thought out and planned space. It will also be a tremendous asset in the recruitment of future ICC softball players to show the College's commitment toward providing our students the BEST environment we can offer them while they are on our campus for two years."

In speaking on behalf of both tennis and softball, ICC Athletic Director Dr. Chad Case noted, "This facility will enable our coaches to recruit some of the best players because it serves as a visual reminder that ICC cares enough about our student-athletes to provide top-notch accommodations. Our investment in all of our student-athletes, such as this facility is an investment in their future, one that will reap significant dividends for many years to come."

Following the ceremony, those who attended had the opportunity to be among the first to tour the facility and were treated to a tailgate on the party deck.

ICC FORMALLY REOPENS MONROE, SHEFFIELD HALLS

DURING JULY 30 CEREMONIES



Itawamba Community College formally reopened both Monroe and Sheffield Halls during two ribbon-cutting ceremonies at the Fulton Campus July 30.

Residents moved into Monroe's now single-occupancy rooms and benefited from the first of a two-phase renovation of Sheffield Hall.

"This morning, we are standing in front of one of our oldest residential facilities, Monroe Hall," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "This building, which consisted of our smallest rooms, housed two students per room. With the complete renovation of this hall, we are now able to offer single occupancy rooms with a shared bathroom for every two rooms. Each floor is customizable to house separated males and females under the same roof, just

like Magnolia Hall."

The \$2.2 million renovation of Monroe Hall, which first opened in 1968, was designed with students' needs and aspirations in mind, Allen said. "The upgraded facilities provide modern amenities, increased comfort and spaces that foster community and collaboration. From the improved common areas and enhanced living quarters, every aspect of this residence hall has been planned to enrich our students' lives...all without having to disturb the exterior of the facility."

"As we cut this ribbon today, we are not just opening a building, we are opening a chapter for both Itawamba Community College and our students, a chapter filled with opportunities for learning, growth and connection." Allen

emphasized. “It is my hope that Monroe Hall becomes a place where every resident feels at home, supported and inspired to reach their fullest potential.”

At 10 a.m., the second ribbon cutting commemorated the completion of the first of a two-phase renovation of Sheffield Hall, which opened in 1991. With 296 beds, the female residence hall is the largest of ICC’s residential facilities. Today’s event showcased half of the facility with remodeled rooms, a completely updated lobby and common space. For many years, Allen said, the facility housed 2-to-5 females per room. “We made a change a few years ago to allow all rooms to house a maximum total of three females.” The total cost for phases one and two, which will be completed next summer, totals \$1.275 million in local funds.

“Thank you, once again, to everyone who played a significant role in making this renovation a reality,” Allen said. “And to our students, welcome to your new home. We look forward to seeing the incredible things you will achieve here.”

Allen expressed appreciation to PryorMorrow Architects (both projects), M&N Construction (Monroe Hall) and Hooker Construction, LLC (Sheffield Hall) for their work.





ICC BREAKS GROUND ON COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVING TRAINING CENTER

Itawamba Community College broke ground Oct. 21 for its Commercial Truck Driving Training Center which will be located at the new driving range across the street from the Tupelo Campus at 2176 So. Eason Blvd.

The 8,504-square-foot facility will include multiple truck bays, lab with a truck driving simulator, classroom, exterior wash bay, three offices and storage space.

"Today we break ground on a facility that will not only enhance our institution but will also help us to better meet a need in our region and beyond," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "This new Commercial Truck Driving Training Center symbolizes more than the start of another construction project, but represents our continued commitment to education, workforce development and the future of our students. Our goal, as always, is to provide sustainable pathways to success, and this center will do just that by providing a space for our students to learn and train for a critical role in today's

economy."

ICC Vice President of Career and Workforce Education Barry Emison shared the importance of the trucking industry and the new facility. "We all know how vital the trucking industry is in almost every aspect of our lives. From what we wear, what we eat, our tools, toys, gadgets – almost everything as well as the materials to make it get to ride in a truck at some point."

Emison said that according to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security, there are 10,000 truck drivers in North Mississippi alone, and projections indicate that there will be 1,200 openings annually. "Three years ago, new federal regulations forced many programs across the country to close, and it allowed us (ICC) to take a pause, reevaluate, bring our industry partners together and make a plan to, not only comply with new federal regulations, but enhance the commercial truck driver training at ICC. This facility will allow ICC to train



hundreds of professional truckdrivers annually at a cost that is substantially less than the commercial companies. Thank you to our industry partners, President and Board of Trustees for their commitment and investment.”

Allen expressed appreciation to ICC’s significant partners in this project, including support from Governor Tate Reeves, Community Development Foundation, Three Rivers Planning and Development District, Appalachian Regional Commission and Accelerate MS.

Allen recognized ICC’s Commercial Truck Driving faculty, Jeff Reeder, Greg Taylor and Kenneth Lee. “Your dedication to our students and your commitment to excellence are what make programs like this one so impactful,” he said. “With this new facility, you’ll have even greater resources to continue your exceptional work.”

He also noted that the center is being built with current and prospective students in mind. “We want you to have access to the best possible training, equipment and opportunities. I look forward to seeing how you will shape the future of this industry.”

ICC’s CTD program prepares individuals to drive Class A semitrucks and other commercial vehicles. It includes four-week or six-week training options.

“As we turn the shovels today, we are turning toward a future filled with opportunity, growth and innovation. This is more than just a building – it’s another step toward fulfilling our mission to enrich lives and build stronger communities through education.”

Hooker Construction of Thaxton is the contractor, and PryorMorrow PC, the architect.





ICC ANTICIPATES OPENING OF INNOVATIVE CONNECTION CENTER



Itawamba Community College ceremonially broke ground June 18 for its Connection Center, which is expected to open on the Fulton Campus during the 2026 spring semester.

In bringing greetings on behalf of the ICC Board of Trustees, Chairman Steve Coleman of Pontotoc called the ceremony “a celebration of the future of ICC and our continued focus on student, employee and community engagement. This outstanding facility will not only serve the students who are enrolled in 2026 but countless students and community members for many years to come.”

ICC President Dr. Jay Allen said that today’s ceremony was an opportunity to participate in and celebrate another milestone for the College since he arrived as president in 2017. “This groundbreaking is another significant milestone along this ever-changing journey. The building of this \$4.9 million innovative student- and community-friendly Connection Center will provide state-of-the-art meeting space and a new dining option for all to enjoy.”

The facility, which is being built in the front portion of the Band Hall parking lot, will include a multi-use conference center space and a Chick-fil-A.

The approximately 10,000 square feet of meeting space will provide all audio/visual capabilities and can be configured into one large meeting space or two smaller meeting spaces, Allen said. It will be used for college and community meetings, events and instructional activities. The remaining 3,000 square feet will house Chick-fil-A through Sodexo, ICC’s food service provider. It will be open to students, employees and the community. Although it will not have a drive-thru, it will provide the same great service and dedication to detail, according to Allen.

Allen also said that construction will begin soon on a new sidewalk that will begin on the Fulton square and continue to the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway made possible through a partnership with the city and a grant from the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

“ICC’s Connection Center will not only serve as a new staple for our college experience, but it will serve as an asset to our local communities with its convenient location adjacent to the new pedestrian walkway,” Allen noted.

Additional program participants included Michael Taylor, president of PryorMorrow Architects, and Charles Diggs, district manager for Sodexo, which has been in discussion with ICC for this opportunity for more than three years. Fulton and Itawamba County-based JESCO Construction will be the contractor.

Local and state funds are supporting the construction of this facility, in addition to a more than \$1.2 million investment by Sodexo.

ICC INITIATES INNOVATIVE BLOOM NEURODIVERGENCE PROGRAM

ANDREA HARDIN
PROGRAM COORDINATOR ➔



With the beginning of the 2025 spring semester, Itawamba Community College has initiated an innovative Bloom program, which is for neurodivergent students who need extra support although they either have a high school diploma or certificate or looking to gain work credentials through career education.

Areas of assistance include, but are not limited to, social skills lessons, extra tutoring help with navigating college life and all Bloom support opportunities.

Andrea Hardin of Corinth is employed as the program's coordinator.

The Bloom Academy, which consists of a four-day orientation and customized four-semester program, focuses on developing essential life, academic and career readiness skills.

Hardin said that each student will be evaluated and transitioned to a high school equivalency path or provided enhanced assistance with daily life skills. "We will meet the students where they are and help them meet their full potential."

One of the goals for the program, Hardin said, is to create employment-ready individuals who take great pride in their jobs/careers. "We are anticipating partnerships with area companies to ensure we are meeting their needs for future employees as well as making a significant difference in the lives and futures of our Bloom program participants."

She is currently scheduling appointments with area employers to learn about the specific needs of transitioning students and how ICC can support these students more effectively. The program's first cohorts will be on the Tupelo Campus.

Hardin earned the associate's degree from Northeast Mississippi Community College and both the bachelor's degree and master's degree (school counseling) from Freed-Hardeman University. She has taught seventh-ninth grade English, twelfth grade technical English and special education and has served as a high school counselor and a positive behavior specialist. She is a member of the Foote Street Church of Christ in Corinth. Hardin has four children and one grandchild.

For more information about Bloom, visit www.iccms.edu/bloom.

ICC FORMALLY OPENS NEWLY-RENOVATED STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER AT THE FULTON CAMPUS



Itawamba Community College reopened its Student Activities Center with a formal ribbon cutting ceremony, Aug. 14, at the Fulton Campus.

"It is with great pride and excitement that we gather to celebrate the opening of the newly renovated Student Activities Center," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "Just as with our recent residence hall ribbon cuttings at Monroe and Sheffield Halls, this is not just a physical transformation but a renewal of our commitment to providing a vibrant and supportive campus environment for our students."

ICC's approximately 13,000-square-foot Student Activities Center, which opened in 1961 and the oldest building on the Fulton Campus, has had numerous facelifts over the years, but this renovation touched every aspect of the building, including a completely redesigned interior to maximize open space for seating and the addition of a new covered space on the back to provide students a place to dine in the event of inclement weather. Allen said that the new space will be called "The Yard." It includes outdoor furniture and outdoor TVs. "Our goal was to make this feel like a home on the outside with the style and rocking chairs while providing modern accommodations on the inside," Allen noted.

"With this renovation, we are now able to offer a modernized space for study, play and programming for the entire student body," Allen said. "The renovation is



not 100 percent complete today. While temporary audio-visual items are in place today, new TVs and projectors will be installed soon."

Additionally, landscaping and a potential arcade were also planned. By Christmas, an updated grill space with mobile ordering hot lockers were housed in this building. ICC's Student Activities Department is also located in this facility as well as new offices.

"As you have heard me previously mention, here at ICC, we know our students living, gathering and learning spaces are critical to their overall college experience," Allen said. "This is a place they will form lasting friendships, engage in study sessions and create memories that will stay with them long after graduation. We believe that the environment in which they live and their opportunities for student activities and engagement play a significant role in their academic success and personal growth."

Allen said that the \$4.1 million renovation of the Student Activities Center was designed with ICC's students' needs and aspirations in mind. The upgraded facilities provide modern amenities, increased comfort and spaces that foster community and collaboration.

PryorMorrow was the architect, and JESCO, the contractor.





INVESTING IN PEOPLE



METALLICA'S ALL WITHIN MY HANDS GRANT SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTS LIVES, FUTURES OF ICC STUDENTS

A \$50,000 grant from Metallica's All Within My Hands foundation is significantly impacting the lives and futures of more than 50 Itawamba Community College career education and health sciences students.

They were selected based on an application process, which included information about the difference that receiving the scholarship will make in continuing their educational journey, according to **Dylan Baldwin**, dean of Career Education, who wrote the grant proposal.

"This significant opportunity is making the difference in enabling many of the recipients to continue enrollment in their programs," Baldwin noted. "Sometimes we don't realize the struggles that students have to overcome to earn their ICC degrees to ensure a better future not only for themselves, but also in many instances, their families."

Among the student stories are, "My husband and I are struggling with money because of doctor bills...I am a 40-year-old veteran, 80 percent disabled trying to do something different with my life, something that's not as physically hard labor as I'm used to...I am a 4.0 honor roll student, have maintained a 4.0 GPA since being in college and have exhausted 80 percent of my Pell Grant...This scholarship will benefit

me in multiple ways, including easing the financial burden on my parents. They make just enough for us to get by but too much for financial aid."

"With an hour drive to school every day, gas goes quick, and the prices aren't cheap, so with the money from this scholarship, I could focus more on my studies and not have to work every day just to make sure I won't break down on the way to school," said **Skylar Breland** of Ripley, Respiratory Care Technology major.

"This scholarship would be incredibly beneficial for me as it would help ease the financial burden of attending college, especially as my family is already managing the costs of my sister's education at the same time," said **Maggie Caldwell** of Pontotoc, who is majoring in Occupational Therapist Assistant Technology. "My dad didn't have the opportunity to attend college, so I'm striving to set a new standard for our family by pursuing higher education. I am a dedicated and involved student, consistently working hard to maintain my academic standing while also participating in extracurricular activities."

Respiratory Care Technology major **Krista Ihle** of Fulton reinforces the importance of alleviating a college student's financial burden,

even though ICC's tuition is among the lowest in the state. "This scholarship will provide much-needed financial relief, allowing me to focus more on my studies rather than worrying about tuition fees or living expenses. With the support of this scholarship, I can pursue my academic and professional goals without the added stress of financial hardship. Ultimately, this scholarship will empower me to succeed in my education and make a meaningful contribution to my community and beyond."

And the stories would fill pages and tug at the heartstrings like this one. "My mother is a single parent to my brother and me and has worked as a surgical technologist throughout my high school years," said **Isabella Hayes** of Pontotoc. "Last December during my freshman year of college, she decided to return to nursing school, meaning she's now working part-time on weekends. The financial burden of paying for my education has been challenging for her, and receiving this scholarship would significantly ease that burden. It would allow her to focus more on her studies and less on the stress of financing my education, which would help avoid student loans. I am genuinely grateful for the opportunity this scholarship would

provide for me and my mother.”

When the grant was announced just prior to the fall semester, ICC President **Dr. Jay Allen** said, “It is a tremendous honor for Itawamba Community College to be selected as one of the continuing recipients of the prestigious All Within My Hands grant, which will significantly impact our career education programs and the lives of those who will receive scholarships to pursue a pathway and their best start. It is another indication of the success of the College and reinforcement of the mission that students and their success are our top priority.”

ICC’s grant is focusing on recruiting underserved populations to enable individuals to attain job skills and opportunities to equip them for employment to better position them for success and a better future.

With the launch of year six, 18 new colleges have joined the roster of existing Metallica Scholars Initiative, which now has a presence in 60 colleges across all 50 United States and the territory of Guam. ICC, which is in year two, and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College represent Mississippi.

Additional scholarship recipients include **Sarah Coleman** of Amory; **Keaton Cager** of Baldwin; **Katie May**, **Diana Reyes**, both of Booneville; **Claire Carter** of Bruce; **Kaitlyn Harris** of Caledonia; **Josie Nesom** of Columbus; **Luis Rojas** of Derma; **Kathryn Smith**, **Emily Speck**, both of Ecu; **Rodney Hardy** of Gordo, Ala.; **Pablo Arce** of Holly Springs; **Shavar Gladney** of Houlka; **Latisha Hamilton**, **Graciela Soto-Juarez**, **Graylon Pulliam**, **Allaunah Tumblin**, all of Houston; **Carolos Jones** of Okolona; **Liana Logan** of Oxford; **Joshua Campbell**, **Lauribeth Childers**, **Morgan Gunter**, **Tristen Hargrove**, **Marlee Hoing**, **Anna Jenkins**, **Christine McKnight**, all of Pontotoc; **Alantyon Swinney** of Thaxton; **Breanna Deckley** of Tishomingo; **Nicholas Hamner** of Tremont; **Saja Dawish**, **Amari Jamison**, **Timothy Russell**, **Justin Simmons**, all of Tupelo; and **Katrina Freely** of Water Valley.

ICC’S BALDWIN, GAMMILL COMPLETE MCCPF PROGRAM



Itawamba Community College’s Dylan Baldwin of Pontotoc, dean of Career Education, and Josh Gammill of Fulton, director of Continuing Education, have recently completed the prestigious Mississippi Community College Policy Fellowship Program.

Baldwin earned the associate’s degree from ICC, the bachelor’s degree from the University of Mississippi and the master’s degree from Mississippi State University. He joined the ICC faculty in 2013 as Collision Repair Technology instructor. His honors include 2023 Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy, 2017 Mississippi Community College Board Leadership Academy, Community College representative for the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development and secretary of the Mississippi Career Technical Officers Association. Baldwin, and his wife, Monica, are the parents of a 10-year-old daughter, Mia.

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 Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA), 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.

The Mississippi Community College Policy Fellowship 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. Two participants are nominated for the MCCPF by each of the 15 public community college presidents. The year-long program culminated with a trip to Washington, D.C. to advocate specific educational changes and meet with Congressional delegations and members of the Association of Community College Trustees.



ICC'S STEVENSON, HARRIS COMPLETE DISTINGUISHED MCCLA

Itawamba Community College's **Chris Stevenson** of Fulton and **John Wayne Harris** of Shannon have recently completed the 2024-25 Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy.

A member of the ICC family since 2010, Stevenson, who is the dean of Academic Instruction, previously served as American History instructor and chair of the Social Science Division. He earned the associate's degree from ICC, bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University and master's degree from the University of Mississippi. His honors include William Winter Scholar (2014) and John and Beth Cleveland Instructor of the Year (2018). Stevenson is a member of Mississippi Professional Educators. He and his wife, Jessi, have two children, Rourke and Riley. They attend the Orchard in Fulton.

Harris, who is the director of Physical Plant Operations, joined the ICC family in 2008. His previous positions

include sound technician, maintenance technician/energy manager and director of projects and energy management systems. He earned the associate's degree from ICC and the bachelor's degree from Everglades University. Harris's honors are Eagle Scout, Siemens Building Technologies – Master Operator (2012), ICC Support Staff Employee of the Year (2015), Outstanding Administrative Professional Staff of the Year (2020) and ICC Leadership Development Institute (2022-23). He is a member of Brewer Baptist Church in Shannon.

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.

11 GRADUATE FROM ICC'S PRESTIGIOUS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



Eleven members of Itawamba Community College's faculty and staff have graduated from its prestigious Leadership Development Institute.

They include **Lindsey Patterson** of Amory, Natural Science instructor/eLearning A&P lead and A&P department chair; **Audra Perry** of Belden, Adult Education director; **Lee Adams**, Bookstore manager; **Kaitlyn Stanfield**, Housing and Residence Life director; 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., TIS 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.

"I'm honored to have been a part of LDI, and the experience was very special," **Lee Adams** said. "It helped me gain a broader understanding of the three locations of the college as well as how the (ICC) cabinet and administration work to benefit the college, students, employees and surrounding communities. The program, Dr. (Jay) Allen and all of the speakers expanded my knowledge of how to lead so that I can apply it professionally, personally and as the manager of the Bookstore. I'm forever grateful for this opportunity."

Rachel Steele concurred. "The LDI experience is a gift for which I am truly grateful," she said. "Throughout the program, Dr. Allen often stated, 'The picture is always bigger than you realize.' With each session, the significance of this statement advanced. My favorite session was 'ICC in the States,' where the entire class met at the state capitol. Understanding how my day-to-day tasks impact discussions and decisions at the state level was incredible. Additionally, getting to know my classmates was a treasure and joy I will never forget."

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 Moody Institute Trust Fund recipient. She and her husband, Linzy, have three children.

Perry, who is a native of Pontotoc, served for 12 years at Mississippi Delta Community College before she joined the ICC family in 2022. Her educational background includes the associate's degree from ICC in 2006 and master's degree from Mississippi State University in 2008 and Auburn University in 2011. She is currently working toward her doctoral degree from Delta State University. Perry's Honors are 2024 Mississippi Association of Adult and Community Education Eloise Richardson Administrator of the Year award recipient, Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy graduate, Education Policy Fellowship Program Fellow, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Certified Practitioner and Employee of the Month at Mississippi Delta. She and her husband, Hunter, have two children.

Adams, who joined the ICC family in 2014, previously served as assistant Sports Information director. His honors include more than 70 College Public Relations Association of Mississippi awards and one grand award since 2014 and recipient of the 2021 ICC Meritorious award. He earned the associate's degree from ICC in 2012. Adams and his wife, Morgan, have two children.

Stanfield earned the bachelor's degree from Lipscomb University in 2016 and the master's degree from the University of North Alabama in 2018. She joined the ICC family in 2020 as residence hall director for Monroe Annex and Monroe Hall and subsequently administrative assistant to the vice president of Student Services and the director of Housing.

Steele's educational background includes the bachelor's degree from Central Baptist College and the master's degree from Arkansas Tech University. Her previous positions at ICC include academic mentor and Instructional Support Services coordinator. She and her husband, Jake, are the parents of two children.

Dickinson previously served as chief investigator with the Itawamba County Sheriff's office before joining the ICC family in 2021. He earned A.A.S. degrees in agribusiness (1995) and law enforcement (2017) from ICC. Dickinson's honors include president of the Mississippi Police Chief College Association and certifications in

law enforcement, state and national instructor, SWAT operator, K-9 bomb handler, firearms instruction, state investigator, emergency driving instructor and active shooter instructor. He and his wife, Amanda, have two children and one grandchild.

Williams, who has been employed at ICC since 2023, earned the associate's degree from ICC in 1995. He and his wife, Ruth Ann, are the parents of two children.

Ramey began his employment at ICC in 202 at the Telecommunications and Information Services helpdesk. He earned the associate's degree at ICC and both the bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of North Alabama. His honors include a five-year service award from Acco Brands. Ramey and his wife, Alaina, have two children.

Denton served as director of clinical education at ICC from 2006-16. He earned the associate's degree in Respiratory Therapy from ICC in 2001 and the bachelor's degree in Health Sciences from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 2008. He received the NISOD Excellence Award in 2016. Denton and his wife, Noelle, have three children.

Loden joined the ICC family in 2017 as a SNAP E&T pilot program Career Navigator. Her educational background includes the associate's degree from ICC and the bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi. Loden's honors are the Jim Ingram Community Leadership Institute Class of 2013 and NEWMS Success Skills graduate in 2018. She is a member of the First Baptist Church in Tupelo, AAA/ISMA certified cycling instructor and BLS CPR instructor. Loden and her husband, Justin, are the parents of one son.

Thornton, who joined the ICC family in 2022, was surgical first assistant at Baptist Golden Triangle for 10 years and program director at East Mississippi Community College for two years. She earned by the Associate of Arts and Associate of Applied Science degrees from ICC and the bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Thornton's honors include Black History Health and Wellness award and member of the AST Mississippi State Assembly Board of Directors. She and her husband, Jirmichael, have two children.

The LDI, which is a one-year program that seeks to promote leaders from within ICC's family, includes selected courses as well as customized monthly workshops and seminars that include professional talks and interactive sessions while focusing on the impacts of the College on its communities, state and region. The LDI program is administered by the office of the President. "LDI is intended to increase the field of upcoming leaders by providing ICC employees with a structured opportunity to enhance their leadership skills through a program of self-assessment, skill development and personal and professional growth," according to Tyler Camp, chief of staff and special assistant to the President. "LDI fosters a spirit of collaboration, enhances the concept of shared leadership and provides networking opportunities."



ICC'S DAYTON HIPPS RECIPIENT OF MISSISSIPPI AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Itawamba Community College industrial maintenance major **Dayton Hipps** of Smithville was one of 14 recipients of the Mississippi Automotive Manufacturers Association scholarship for 2024-25.

According to the announcement, MAMA awarded the scholarships to community college and university students interested in pursuing a career in the automotive manufacturing industry. "MAMA has supported the growth of a strong workforce essential to the health of all industries in the state since its inception in 2006. This year's scholarships were awarded to technical and engineering-related majors as well as nontraditional majors that can be applied within the automotive industry."

"After speaking with a life coach right after my first year at Itawamba Community College, I finally realized what I enjoy doing and want to do for the rest of my life," Hipps said. "After starting the Industrial Maintenance program at ICC, I quickly started to fall in love with it...Hearing about these different types of industries has really made me want to become a maintenance technician at an automotive plant because of my love for vehicles." His experience includes an internship/co-op at Tronox in Hamilton, supply chain associate at Fastenal and a lawn technician at Scott's Lawn Care. He said that he plans to continue to work for Tronox as an industrial maintenance technician after graduation from ICC. Hipps' honors at Smithville High School include academic leadership award, honor graduate, member of the National Honor Society and Beta Club and recognition in football as both first team all-state and all-division. He is the son of Leslie and Chad Hipps.

MAMA serves its members by promoting growth, development and improvement in the automotive industry in Mississippi as well as serving as a forum for interaction among automotive manufacturing companies in the state. "Mississippi has an environment conducive to advanced manufacturing," said Skip Scaggs, MAMA's President. "We are proud that Mississippi's higher education system has invested heavily in educational opportunities and facilities which ensure the state will be able to produce the talented workforce necessary to keep the automotive industry strong. MAMA is committed to doing our part to recognize that workforce. I congratulate each of these students and wish them success in completing their degree, followed by a successful start in our industry!"

Safety and environmental issues, along with the potential to make cars safer and more accessible for everyone, particularly individuals with disabilities, were recurring interests expressed in essays submitted by this year's recipients. The students discussed the possibilities of integrating innovative technologies into vehicle production to create a world where each driver and passenger could embark on safe and enjoyable journeys. They expressed excitement about the opportunity to be part of this transformative process and to witness the continuous advancements in automotive technology.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOLADES



JESSI STEVENSON 2025 WILLIAM WINTER SCHOLAR

Jessi Stevenson of Fulton, fine arts instructor, was selected as Itawamba Community College's William Winter Scholar for 2025.

She was among statewide recipients honored during opening and closing ceremonies at the 36th Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, March 27-29.

Stevenson currently teaches public speaking and theatre at ICC, where she has been a faculty member since 2006. Known for her creative approach to teaching in the communication classroom, Stevenson strives to incorporate weekly hands-on learning opportunities, such as pop-up speech assignments, board game days designed to enhance interpersonal engagement and yoga days focused on stress-relief and delivery techniques, all aimed at improving students' overall podium performance.

Stevenson has earned numerous recognitions, including the Lamplighter Award, NISOD Excellence Award, two-time Meritorious Achievement Award recipient, Humanities Teacher Award, Mississippi Communication Association Top Presenter Award, QEP Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award and multiple recognitions as an athletics faculty awardee for volleyball and basketball. She has served as president of the Mississippi Faculty and Staff Association as well as local (ICC) president and vice president. For five years, Stevenson directed ICC's short-

term student abroad program, The Global Experience.

Her educational background includes the associate's degree from ICC, both bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi State University and graduate work from the University of North Alabama. Prior to joining the ICC family, she taught public speaking and communication courses at Beville State Community College.

A Bruce native, Stevenson and her husband, Chris, have two sons, Rourke and Riley. They are members of Orchard Fulton.

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 "Follow the Frenchman through Natchez: The Farewell Tour of Lafayette," celebrating the 200th year of Gilbert du Mortier, the Marquis de Lafayette's farewell tour of the United States. The two-and-a-half day event was in partnership with the Sons of the American Revolution and featured a living history educational encampment for high school students.



MEGAN LEWIS EIDT 2025 MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES TEACHER AWARD

Megan Lewis Eidt of Tupelo was selected as Itawamba Community College's Mississippi Humanities Teacher Award nominee for 2025.

Eidt was among those honored at the Mississippi Humanities Council Awards Ceremony March 28, 2025 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.

Since 2004, she has taught history at ICC, where her activities have included former two-term president of the Tupelo Campus Faculty Association and former adviser to the ICC Political Science and Humanities Clubs. Her professional memberships include ICC Faculty Association, National Council on Public History, Atlanta History Center and American Historical Association.

Eidt earned the bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi; master's degree from Mississippi College and additional coursework from the Center of Bi-Lingual and Multi-Cultural Studies in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Her other activities include member of the Tupelo First United Methodist Church and supporter of both the Tupelo Community Theatre and the Lee County Humane Society.

Eidt's honors and awards include recognition as an outstanding Honors College instructor and the author of numerous publications.

Of all whom she has met who have impacted the course of history, both at home and abroad, Eidt feels

most fortunate to have had the honor of meeting Nobel Peace Prize laureates Bishop Desmond Tutu, the late South African Anglican Bishop and anti-apartheid activist, and Lech Walesa, the first democratically elected President of Poland, and former leader of the Polish Solidarity movement. She has traveled extensively throughout Great Britain, Ireland, continental Europe and several countries in the Middle East. She has lived in Belfast, Northern Ireland and Mexico and has worked on behalf of the U.S. Government in Washington, D.C. Eidt is a former Parent of the Year for Rankin Elementary School. She grew up in Tullahoma, Tenn., the daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. James Waller Lambuth Lewis, both natives of Natchez. She and her husband, Michael, have two children, Susannah Butler Eidt and Harrison Lambuth Crawford Eidt, both Tupelo High School and Ole Miss graduates, who live in Nashville, Tenn. The Eidts are also parents of three dogs, Archie, Sadie and LeBron.

Eidt presented "In Your Face History: How Technology and Mass Media Have Transformed the Study of History," February 4, 2025 at 6 p.m. at the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center at the Fulton Campus.



AUDRA PERRY 2024 MAAACE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Audra L. Perry of Pontotoc, director of Adult Education at Itawamba Community College, was selected as the recipient of the 2024 Mississippi Association of Adult and Community Education Eloise Richardson Administrator of the Year award.

Perry joined ICC's Adult Education department as director in August 2022. She began her professional career in 2011 at Mississippi Delta Community College, serving as lead counselor, interim Dean of Career-Technical and Adult Education and director of Advising. She was selected to participate in the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy and Mississippi Community College Policy Fellows Program.

One of Perry's nominators for the award said, "In a brief time, Mrs. Perry has found a way to bring change. She stepped into a role, and I know it has not always been easy for her, especially at a time when multiple positions had to be filled. She had the task of hiring new employees and bringing the team together as well as learning new responsibilities. She has successfully accomplished all those things. Often, when a person steps into a role where you combine old with new, there is an adjustment

period. She is effectively managing to bring the new team together."

Another nominator said, "She came into her new position, making a strong impact. She is willing to listen to each student and employee, and I have seen multiple individuals come in and out of her office even when she was busy and had deadlines to meet. She has never made me feel like my opinion didn't matter. Among her other attributes include willingness to embrace change when and where it's needed, good heart and spirit, a calmness that even in difficult situations allows her to respond in a poised manner and always willing to go the extra mile to help a student achieve his or her goals. She has also taken money out of her own purse to purchase things for students who may be in need."

Perry attributed her success and the award to ICC's Adult Education team. "I am extremely honored and humbled to receive this award," she said, "but the praise truly belongs to the team of professionals I work alongside each day. They are extremely hard workers who genuinely care about the success of their students. They believe they have a higher calling to serve individuals

living across Itawamba Community College's five-county district who need their support and expertise to reach their educational goals. As a department, we continually strive to improve our services and grow in knowledge, allowing us to help our students more effectively.

"It is a blessing to highlight the positive impact our team is having on countless lives across Chickasaw, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe and Pontotoc counties," Perry continued. My hope is that this award places a spotlight on the Adult Education program at Itawamba Community College and encourages individuals to reach out to us for assistance with earning a high school equivalency diploma."

Perry also expressed her appreciation to ICC President Dr. Jay Allen and Vice President of Career and Workforce Education Barry Emison for their unfailing support of the adult education program.

"Directors such as Audra Perry are what makes ICC such a special place," Allen said. "She takes a personal interest in both our adult education faculty and students

because she knows their stories. Ms. Perry understands how best to provide the students' keys to success in their journey not only to attain a high school equivalency credential but also for their next step in life. This award demonstrates that she is changing lives and futures of our students, many of whom have had difficult beginnings."

"I'm excited to congratulate Ms. Perry on receiving the Administrator of the Year award," Emison said. "Her exceptional leadership has not only inspired her team, but also significantly advanced ICC's adult education program. Her dedication, innovative thinking and unwavering commitment to student success makes her truly deserving of this special recognition."

The award was presented during the 2024 annual adult education conference, July 16-18, at the Sheraton Refuge and Conference Center Flowood. The conference theme was The Greatest Show: Celebrating 90 Years of Adult Literacy in Mississippi."



LINDSEY PATTERSON 2024 MOODY INSTITUTE FELLOW

Lindsey Patterson of Amory, Itawamba Community College Natural Science instructor/eLearning Anatomy and Physiology lead and department chair, was 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.



VISION AND PARTNERSHIPS

ICC/THE W SIGN MOU FOR BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN ELEMENTARY/SPECIAL EDUCATION

Itawamba Community College and Mississippi University for Women signed a memorandum of understanding Nov. 1 to offer an undergraduate program of study that will lead to a bachelor's degree in elementary education or special education from the School of Education at The W.

"We are excited to announce this partnership with ICC that strengthens our commitment to providing access and new pathways for our students," said W President Nora Miller. "Together we are dedicated to fostering academic growth and preparing teachers for their classrooms."

"This agreement will allow our students to now have an opportunity to transfer their credits and work toward a bachelor's degree at MUW in a discipline in which they are truly passionate," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "This degree opportunity recognizes the value of both elementary and special education degrees offered at Mississippi's community colleges and the impact they are making not only on Mississippi's workforce but to provide an unparalleled foundation for our children in the state and beyond. This allows our previous, current and future elementary education or special education majors a natural progression for post-ICC educational endeavors while transferring academic credits."

Both ICC and The W advisers will collaborate to ensure seamless transition between programs. The W's School of Education offers students the ability to complete a bachelor's degree in elementary education online with the expectation of fieldwork, which will be available for students to complete in a local



school, potentially where a student may want to teach. The W accepts up to 90 transfer credit hours toward the 120 credit hours required for a bachelor's degree.

"The MOU with MUW is an excellent opportunity for our students to have a smooth transition from ICC's School of Education into MUW's School of Education," said Chris Cox, Education Department chair. "There is a big need for quality educators, especially in elementary and special education in our area and state. This partnership is another step in ensuring that ICC is helping to produce great educators that will not only help eliminate the teacher shortage but also make a major impact on our local communities. We are excited about this opportunity and hope to continue to find ways to partner with our local universities."

"We've been very successful in

helping students onboard to teacher education at The W. We want them to get to know us early, complete key courses as soon as possible and move seamlessly from completion of their associate's degree to starting their bachelor's teacher education program with us, said Dr. Martin Hatton, dean of the School of Education at The W. "The MOU represents our commitment to work together to make that happen to each student transferring into a teacher education program at The W."

In 2021, ICC and The W signed an MOU to provide educational opportunities for students pursuing careers in early childhood education. The agreement establishes a pathway for ICC students who are earning an associate's degree in early childhood technology to have the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree at The W.



ICC'S PRECISION MACHINING TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS RECEIVE NEW TOOLBOXES, COURTESY OF A GENEROUS HAAS FOUNDATION GRANT

Students in Itawamba Community College's Precision Machining Technology program have a new toolbox, courtesy of a generous grant by the Gene Haas Foundation.

Among the items in the five-drawer steel tool roller cabinet are a micrometer set; caliper; steel rule; tape measure; adjustable wrench; hex key, drill bit and L-handle sets; hammer; sharpening stone and flat file.

"We would like to thank the Gene Haas Foundation for their generous contribution and support of our program and for the difference the toolboxes will make not only in the success of our students but also when they graduate and enter the workforce," said instructor Jerry Pettigrew. The students will be allowed to keep them as a gift from the Foundation. "In addition, we appreciate MSC Industrial Supply Co. for their assistance in putting together this starter toolbox for our students." MSC is a leading North American distributor of a broad range of metalworking and maintenance, repair and operations products and services.

Recipients include Caleb Johnson, Cole Nichols, Parker

Rogers, all of Blue Springs; Tyrus Lowe of Columbus; Colten Winter of Houlka; Dylan Bramlitt, Jonathan Whitt, both of Pontotoc; Trent Rowan of Saltillo; Justin Carwile of Thaxton; and Landon Talley of Tupelo.

"The toolbox and tools provided will allow me to complete any job I come across in the shop," Cole Nichols said. "They are really a great head start to obtaining all the tools I will need for the remainder of my career." Caleb Johnson agrees, "Thank you to everyone involved with supplying us with these toolboxes. Every tool that was given is used daily by me and will make my career a little bit easier having the right tools for each job."

"The (Gene Haas) Foundation's goal is to help students attain skills in the machining industry," according to a letter received with the \$20,000 grant check. "We do this by providing scholarships for CNC machine technology students and also by providing students with the experience of competing in team skills competitions that highlight design, engineering and manufacturing with CNC-machined parts as a primary component."

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 the 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.



ICC SCHOOL OF STEM, TRADING POST RECEIVE \$20,000 TVA CONTRIBUTION



Itawamba Community College's School of STEM and its Trading Post will benefit from a recent \$20,000 contribution from the Tennessee Valley Authority.

"The School of STEM is very excited about the TVA donation," said Heather McCormick, Mathematics Division chair and STEM lead. "Through field trips, student research and special speakers, this donation will support our study of clean water and energy as we explore conservation in our area and encourage our community to be good stewards of our natural resources."

"TVA is proud to support both the Itawamba Community College School of STEM and the Trading Post," said Amy Tate, regional executive for the Southwest

Region of TVA. "This investment in the future workforce is invaluable, and we are incredibly grateful to partner with ICC in preparing our students for future job opportunities and success right here in Mississippi."

The School of STEM will use its gift to support students through a variety of activities such as field trips, speakers, research and campus/location projects and STEM student support. ICC's School of STEM includes programs for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, STEM Club and experiential learning.

Funds designated for the Trading Post will allow the student-led resource to fully restock supplies to serve ICC students in need. It has evolved from a food pantry to

provide essential items to students at Fulton, Tupelo and Belden, where they can request in advance and pick up from specified lockers.

"This generous gift from TVA will play a vital role in our Trading Post's ability to serve our community," said Nathan Ward, coordinator. "The Trading Post is a cornerstone resource for our college, and this support will help us continue meeting the important needs of our ICC students."

"It's an honor for Tombigbee (Electric Power Association) to partner with our communities to try to better the way of life for those around us," said Scott Hendrix, chief executive officer for Tombigbee Electric Power Association. "This has been our mission from the beginning to enrich lives through power, fiber or in this case, outreach. We are proud to work with TVA to support ICC. What better thing than to invest in our youth?"

"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. "And the gift to ICC's Trading Post will immediately impact the lives of our students who struggle with food insecurity and need the basics of living to succeed."

Last year's support from TVA allowed the School of STEM to create a special studies course with a Weather Balloon research opportunity as well as the purchase of a planetarium for use by STEM courses.

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 STEM activities.

ICC COLLABORATION PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FIVE SHORT-TERM TRAINING PROGRAMS

Students who enroll in five short-term training programs at Itawamba Community College could have the opportunity for financial assistance through Upskill Mid-South, which is a collaboration with the Three Rivers Planning and Development District and the University of Memphis.

The programs include Commercial Truck Driving, Electrician Assistant, Google IT, Residential Carpentry Assistant and Welding, according to Josh Gammill, director of Continuing Education.

"Upskill Mid-South has introduced the new initiative to provide targeted training programs aimed at supporting unemployed and underemployed individuals across a 42-county tristate region," Gammill noted. The program is designed to address critical workforce needs.

Among the Mississippi counties include Alcorn, Benton, DeSoto, Lafayette, Lee, Marshall, Panola, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo, Tunica and Union.

"The Itawamba Community College, the University of Memphis and UpSkill Mid-South Partnership offers accelerated job training and education programs to people in the community as well as help finding a job," said Diane Pabich, director, University of Memphis, Upskill Mid-South program. "Our programs help individuals develop and refine skills that are highly valued in today's workplace. All are completely sponsored."

To be eligible for Upskill Mid-South training sponsorship, individuals must be 18 years of age or older, U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen with authorization to work in the U.S. and comply with the Military Selective Service Act registration provisions. They must be either unemployed or underemployed (working fewer than 30 hours a week or pay rate less than \$15 per hour), a legal permanent resident and currently living in the 42-county tri-state service area. In order to document the eligibility information, participants will be required to upload documentation to demonstrate eligibility for sponsorship before beginning a skills training program, Gammill said. Included are age and identification verification, region verification (proof of residency in counties covered) and unemployment or underemployment verification.

For more information, contact jegammill@iccms.edu or continuingeducation@iccms.edu.



INSIGHT LUNCHEON SHOWCASES ICC/TPSD MIDDLE COLLEGE INITIATIVE

An Insight Luncheon, Dec. 16, at Itawamba Community College's Belden Center showcased and highlighted its partnership with Tupelo High School and the success of its Middle College as well as recognized individuals who have been instrumental in both implementing and continuing its significant journey.

"Today we gather to celebrate an incredible partnership and program that is making a meaningful impact in our community," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "We are honored to host many distinguished

guests today, including educators, administrators, community leaders and supporters who share our vision for empowering students and shaping the future. Your presence here speaks volumes about your commitment to education and your desire to invest in the success of our young people." Among those Allen recognized was Stewart McMillen, who before she joined the CREATE Foundation staff, assisted with the original coordination of Middle College in her role with the Tupelo Public Schools.

During the luncheon, attendees heard inspirational stories of success, learned about the program's achievements and witnessed firsthand the transformative impact the program has had on the students, their families and communities. It also helped provide a better understanding of its value and the importance for continued support.

"The Middle College program is a powerful example of what can happen when we come together with a shared vision for empowering our young people," according to Allyson Cummings, speech instructor, who served as emcee for the program. "As an instructor for Middle College students who take public speaking at ICC, I can personally attest to the impact of this program. Through the Middle College program, students are gaining an incredible head start on their educational and career journeys, blending high school and college-level opportunities, all while building the skills and confidence to succeed in today's world."

Tupelo High School and Middle College counselor Brittany Terrell, who with ICC dean of Advising and the Tupelo Campus Mande Miller, has been involved in the journey since its inception. Her question-and-answer panel discussion with current participants yielded insight regarding student expectations and experiences, including student involvement, opportunities to make friends and memories and enhanced study to prepare for the rigor of the college classroom. A student-friendly schedule at ICC enables participants to have work and study flexibility, according to multiple members of the panel. "I am proud of the success these students have shown," Terrell said previously. "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."

Tupelo Public School Superintendent Dr. Rob Picou also expressed appreciation for the Middle College partnership with ICC and noted the importance of the opportunity that the innovative program provides in today's educational system. "Education is an industry," he said. "We are equipping our students with the skills to compete in a highly competitive workforce in a global, highly technical environment." He noted that Middle College is one of five career academies within the Tupelo Public School District, calling the initiative one that has the greatest possible impact and a positive innovation. Picou called Middle College the tip of the iceberg and "what could be the most promising innovation to come along in education in our lifetime. It is a fusion between K-12, community college and industry to provide employees that will elevate the state of Mississippi and our communities to their fullest potential."

More than 70 students have successfully participated in Middle College since its creation in 2019 with a 91 percent completion rate, Allen said. "What a testament to the many individuals and services that work daily to



Brittany Terrell, *Tupelo High School and Middle College counselor*, moderates a panel discussion, which provided insight from current Middle College participants.

help these students thrive. Often this support starts at home. Parents and guardians play a role in helping Middle College students navigate this transition to higher education." Among those are Liz Autry, who shared a parent's perspective as the mother of two participants. Students who are involved in the Middle College journey are not alone, she said. In telling her story, she encouraged students to consider participating. "Sometimes students who have potential need a change of scenery (from high school)."

Through the innovative Middle College, students can simultaneously earn their high school diploma and 60 plus hours of college credit. 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, all imperative for overall preparedness at the university level. 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.

Attending were Tupelo community and industry leaders, state elected officials/leaders, local superintendents of education, current THS Middle College students and representatives from ICC and the Tupelo Public School District.



ICC FORESTRY PROGRAM CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY

Itawamba Community College's Forestry Technology program celebrated Arbor Day at 9 a.m., February 13, with a special ceremony on the Fulton Campus.

"Thanks to the Mississippi Forestry Commission and Walton's Greenhouse, three 15-gallon trees, including an Eastern Redbud, Chinese Fringetree and Sweet Bay Magnolia was planted to replace those that have been removed because of weather damage or age," said Emily Loden-Jones, Forestry Technology instructor.

The event was in front of a ceremonial tree of love, a large water oak in the courtyard area between the eLearning Building and Community Relations. Loden-Jones said that students, faculty, staff, alumni and Early "ICC is working toward achieving Tree Campus USA

recognition with the Arbor Day Foundation," Loden-Jones said. "A healthy tree canopy is the hallmark of a beautiful campus, and we are committed to restoring and strengthening ours after suffering losses from wind damage and drought in recent years. By taking these steps, we aim to create a safer, more sustainable environment where both nature and learning can thrive for generations to come. We are grateful for the guidance and support from the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the dedication of our Grounds Department as we move forward with this important initiative."

ICC's Forestry Technology program prepares individuals in the management and production of

forest resources. It includes instruction in woods and field skills, tree identification, timber measurement, logging and timber harvesting, forest preparation and regeneration, forest fire fighting, resource management, equipment operation and maintenance, recordkeeping, sales and purchasing operations and personnel supervision. Upon completion of the two-year curriculum, students are awarded an Associate of Applied Science degree in Forestry Technology.



ICC CELEBRATES STEM WEEK WITH SPECIAL SPEAKERS, EVENTS

Itawamba Community College celebrated February 3-6 as STEM Week with special events through its organization.

They included STEM Club meetings featuring Ole Miss representatives, Feb. 3 and Mississippi State University representatives, Feb. 4; debut of ICC's planetarium in the John S. Crubaugh Education Building, Feb. 5; and Community College Innovation Challenge, Feb. 6.

Although the special events took place at the Fulton Campus, they were open to all members, including those from both the Tupelo Campus and Belden Center. The STEM Club connects students with an interest in STEM-related fields. Members have an opportunity to attend events with speakers from different fields, network with other students in similar fields of study, meet representatives from universities and local companies, discover and engage in new technologies and support ICC's five-county district through community service.

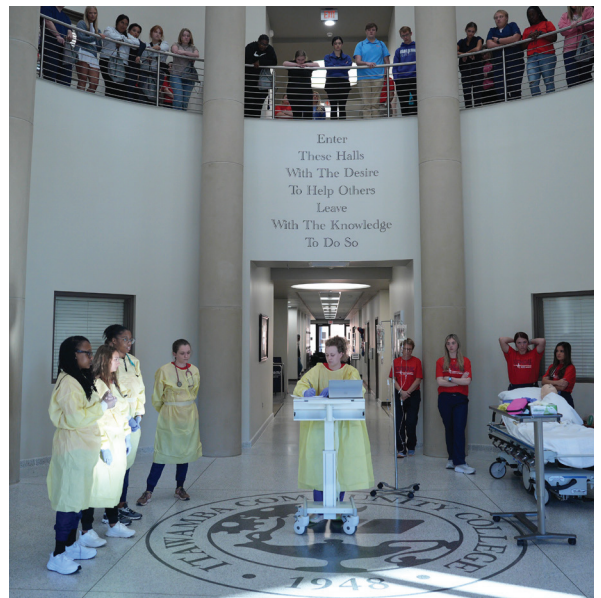
ICC HOSTS CODE BLUE AND RED

Itawamba Community College's Health Sciences Division hosted a Code Blue and Red event from 8:30 a.m.-noon, Feb. 21, in the Health Science Education Center at the Tupelo Campus.

Students from area high schools were on campus in two shifts beginning at 8:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. to participate in three simulated scenarios that highlight each of ICC's 11 Health Science programs, said Michael Holloway, director of recruitment and orientation. A North Mississippi Medical Center ambulance arrived, and 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 see the 'real-life' expertise used by the graduates of ICC's programs."

Participating programs included 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, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care and Surgical Technology.

Dean of Health Science Instruction Tonya Vaughn said that this event was an exceptional interprofessional education opportunity. "IPE is a new emphasis area in healthcare education. The goal is 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."





EVENING OF THE ARTS

Itawamba Community College hosted an "Evening of the Arts," at 7 p.m., Mar. 6, in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center auditorium at the Fulton Campus.

The show featured 10-minute performances including a theatre scene from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," wind ensemble, steel drum ensemble, live art demonstration by Shawn Whittington, CenterStage, Jazz Band and Chamber Singers.

Admission included a pre-event social at 6 p.m. that featured light appetizers and an opportunity to experience the Steinway and Sons Spirio Piano, which was in residency at ICC for one month.

Those who contributed more than \$50 during the event were eligible for a drawing for the live art piece. Funds will benefit the College of Arts to purchase much-needed instruments and for other departmental needs.

PryorMorrow PC was a presenting sponsor.







CHOP DAY

Chop Day '25, on Apr. 24 at Itawamba Community College, not only previewed the Indians fall football season but also provided an opportunity for both students and the community to participate in fun events and sample some tasty food at the Fulton Campus.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., food trucks, including Korny Dog, Crawfish Commander and Just Chillin' Ice Cream, were available beside the Crane Pavilion.

The gate for the football scrimmage opened at 6 p.m. at Butch Lambert Stadium with a free kid zone. Concessions and Chick-fil-A food options were also open.

From 6:30-7:30 p.m., ICC's Indians scrimmaged at Eaton Field, and from 7:30-9 p.m., Chop Like It's Hot, an on-field dance party featured DJ Cole.



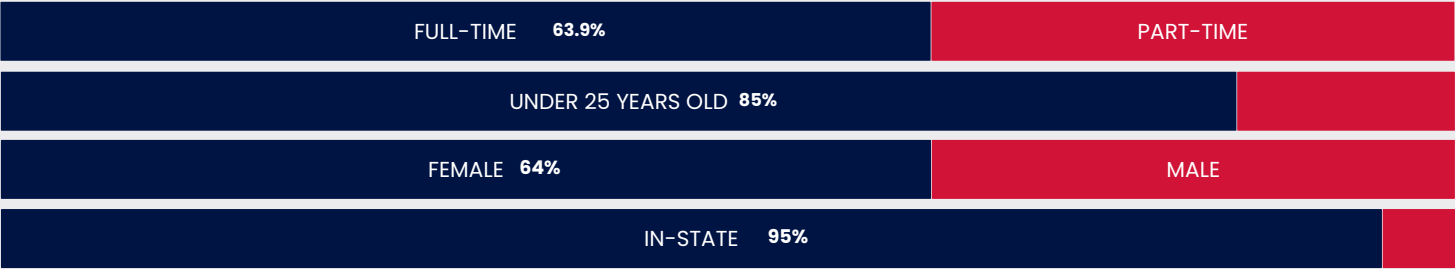
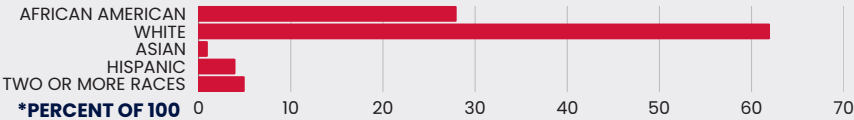
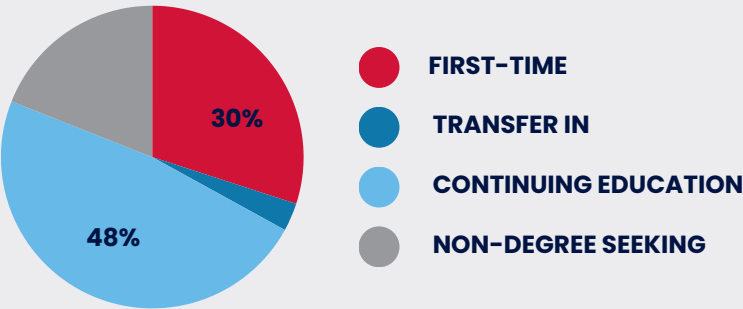
ANNUAL DATA

2024-2025

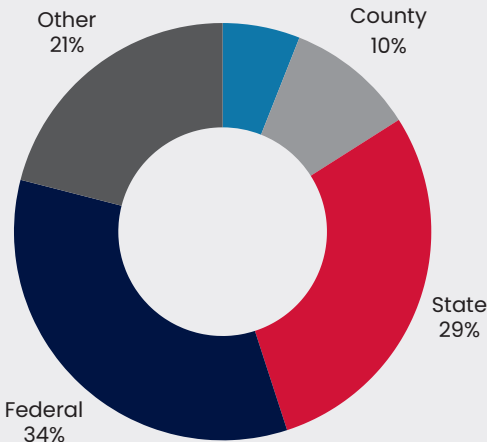


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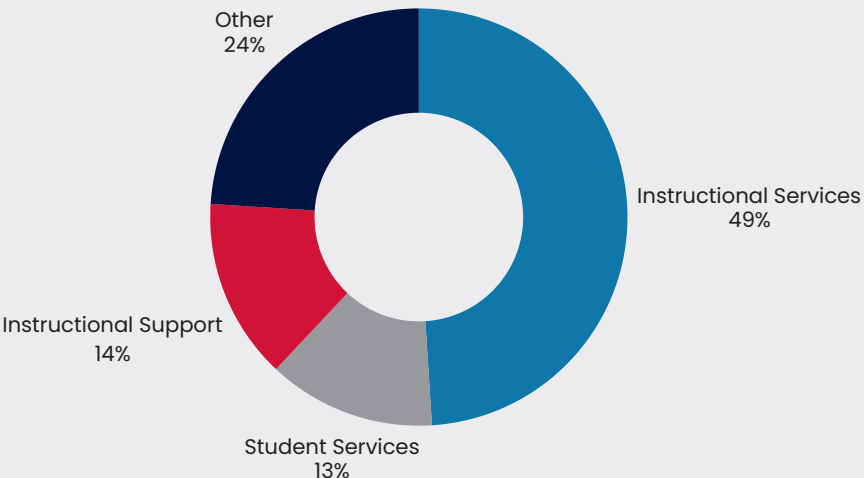
*53% of Degree-Seeking Students were enrolled in at least one or more eLearning courses.



Revenue



Expenses



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