“Great school! I have loved every minute of being here. Being from a small town, this is exactly the school I needed to attend right after high school to prepare me for the large university! The changes that have been made while I have been here have tremendously improved the school. Thank you all for such a wonderful learning experience. I can’t wait to see all that Chipola College has accomplished in 10, 20 or 50 years.”

2009 Graduating Student Survey

“Chipola is a great college! I have been very satisfied with all of my classes and my professors.”

2008 Graduating Student Survey

“Every college credit I have ever taken has been on Chipola’s campus. I’ll feel strange not to be there every day. I thank Chipola College for the opportunity to get my degree! I encourage anyone who is interested in going back to college to give Chipola a chance.”

Paige White, 2010 BAS Graduate

“I am very much in debt for the educational opportunity provided me by Chipola. Without that opportunity, higher education would probably not have been an option for me.”

Dr. Malcolm Gillis, Former President, Rice University and Outstanding Alumnus

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History

Documented Performance of Chipola and Its Students

Vision, Mission & Goals
History

Chipola College is a public, open-admissions institution in Marianna, Florida, serving the five Florida panhandle counties of Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington. Located in the Florida Panhandle, 70 miles west of Tallahassee, 60 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, and 30 miles from the Alabama state line, Chipola was established as the third oldest of Florida’s 28 state-supported community colleges. The institution’s name was changed from Chipola Junior College in 2003, after the Florida Legislature granted permission for Chipola to offer selected baccalaureate degrees to address documented workforce needs in the region. Chipola opened its doors in 1946 as a private institution with six full-time teachers and 65 students. The college served 3212 students in its regular degree and certificate programs in 2008-09 and about 2000 through Continuing Education and Public Service training.

Chipola was brought under state control and financing in 1947 when Florida’s Minimum Foundation Law initiated a plan to place two years of college education within commuting distance of every Florida citizen. The original district of Calhoun, Jackson and Washington Counties was expanded later to include Holmes and Liberty Counties.

A milestone in the college’s history occurred in 1953 when the campus moved from its original location at the former Graham Army Air Base to the present location near the banks of the Chipola River. The first permanent buildings were completed and occupied in 1954. Additions through the years have created a complex of 31 buildings arranged on a wooded campus, on about 50 acres of a 120-acre tract. The remainder is in its natural state—covered with pines, cedars and hardwoods. The campus also includes outdoor athletics fields and a pool. There are six buildings at off-campus sites.

Programs in workforce education began in 1967-68. Bachelor’s degrees were added in 2003. Chipola was named a State College in 2008.

Chipola operates under a nine-member District Board of Trustees appointed by the governor for four-year terms. All operations are governed by the Florida Department of Education and policies set forth by the District Board of Trustees. The college was accredited in 1957 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and has maintained continuous accreditation since that time. The most recent reaffirmation of accreditation of all programs occurred in 2008.

Chipola’s Teacher Education Program allows students to earn the Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education with emphasis in math or science. Chipola continues to prepare math and science teachers for area middle and high schools. Elementary Education and Special Education were added in 2006. The college initiated the Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Management in 2007 and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2008.

After 63 years, Chipola continues its efforts to meet the challenge of its own mission by addressing the postsecondary educational needs of local citizens.

“Chipola College promotes learning and student achievement through excellence, opportunity, diversity, and progress.”

Chipola College Vision
Chipola Named a State College

In June 2008, Chipola officially became a State College in Florida. The new Florida College System consists of community colleges where 2-year and 4-year academic degrees are granted. This means more students in the college district will be able to access Baccalaureate degrees in academic areas where the demand for educated workers is exceeding the supply.

Chipola’s programs are more affordable and cost-effective than those at the state university level—and that’s another benefit to both taxpayers and students.

Chipola now offers eight Bachelor of Science degrees in teacher education, nursing and business management.

Eight Bachelor’s Degrees Offered at Chipola College

Teacher Education
- Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education (grades 6-12)
- Bachelor of Science in Biology Education (grades 6-12)
- Bachelor of Science in Middle School Science Education (grades 5-9)
- Bachelor of Science in Middle School Mathematics Education (grades 5-9)
- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (grades K-5)
- Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education (grades K-12)

In 2004 Chipola established a Teacher Education Program to offer Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Science Education degrees. These degrees train middle and high school math and science teachers to address the critical shortage of qualified teachers in these academic areas.

The Florida State Board of Education also approved two additional Bachelor of Science degrees: Elementary Education and Exceptional Student Education.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN)

The RN to BSN degree program began in Fall 2008. Applicants for the BS in Nursing must have earned the AA degree and AS degree in Nursing, be licensed Registered Nurses, and have completed all required prerequisite courses.
Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Management

In 2007 Chipola was approved to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Business Management. and the first students enrolled in January, 2008. This program is for individuals who have earned an AS or AA degree and want to further their education and advance their careers in the business field. Three business majors are offered – Supervision and Management, Accounting, and General Management.

Documented Performance of Chipola and Its Students

Chipola is respected among post secondary institutions in Florida because of the success of its students. Shown below are highlights of success on a variety of indicators. Similar results have been achieved by Chipola each year since the identification of the college’s success factors and expected outcomes.

- **Florida Bright Futures Scholars**: State reports have ranked Chipola first in the percent of Florida’s Bright Futures Scholarship recipients. During a recent year, over 19% of the total degree-seeking student population were on these prestigious scholarships; 43% of entering freshmen were Bright Futures Scholars. Many of these students will transfer to professional schools in medicine, law, pharmacy, engineering, and business, but the fact that so many of these scholars receive their general education at Chipola speaks well for the college’s reputation for high standards and quality instruction.

- **Outstanding Instruction at All Levels**: There are many other indicators of instructional quality. State accountability reports consistently rank Chipola among the top colleges in Florida on reports of GPAs among transfers to state universities. Licensure passing rates and job placement rates are consistently above 80%. Among the underprepared students who are placed in college-prep/remedial courses on entry, Chipola has unprecedented success. According to the state’s accountability report, 82% of the students who take college prep/remedial reading go on to pass their required college-level reading course, compared to the statewide rate of only 63.4%. The grade point average of Chipola’s AA graduates who transferred three years ago to the State University System (all universities/all students) was 3.04, compared to the state average of only 2.92.

- **CAAP Performance**: Chipola’s graduating sophomores consistently exceed the national mean for public two-year college sophomores on every test and subtest of the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency Exam (CAAP). This includes a recent Critical Thinking score of 61.7, compared to the national average of 60.5.

- **Chipola Honors Program**: The Chipola Honors Program is a member of the National Collegiate Honors Council. The Honors Program at Chipola offers weekly seminars for the brightest and best students. Teachers of honors classes guide students through research projects, beyond the regular course requirements. Honors students often serve as tutors in the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE).

Nationally Recognized Scholars

**Phi Theta Kappa and Phi Beta Lambda Chapters**

Chipola’s students and academic organizations have earned state and national recognition, including Christiana Prichard, a former student named the number one college student among all students in Florida’s colleges and universities according to Florida Leader Magazine. Prichard was selected from hundreds of nominees from public and private colleges and universities in Florida. In 2010, several students were honored. Jessica Bradley was named to the Coca Cola Academic Scholars All-American Academic Gold Team and to the All Florida Academic First Team. Allison Ellis of Chipley is one of the most awarded students in Chipola history. She was named to the 2010 All-Florida Academic First Team, the All-USA Academic First Team and the 2010 New Century Scholar, the top student from the state of Florida. Additionally, Ellis was named a 2010 Guistwhite Scholar.

Campus organizations such as Phi Theta Kappa, Brain Bowl, Mu Alpha Theta, and Phi Beta Lambda reflect Chipola College’s commitment to academic growth among students both inside
and outside the classroom. The college nurtures and guides the students in these organizations, expanding their educational opportunities into regional and national arenas. Student members are encouraged to interact and sometimes compete with their peers at colleges nationwide. Through membership, students are exposed to new experiences through conferences in Florida and in distant locations like Los Angeles, Dallas, Boston, Denver, Nashville, Minneapolis, and Seattle.

The Chipola College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, an honor society for community college students, maintains a legacy of excellence. Chipola students and Phi Theta Kappa members have been named New Century Scholars for the state of Florida, members of the All USA Academic Team, recipients of the coveted $5,000 Guistwhite Scholarship, and the Coca Cola Scholarship. Among other awards, the chapter has been recognized as the Most Distinguished chapter in the state and nation.

Chipola College holds its Phi Theta Kappa members in high esteem and has created a wall of honor in the Literature/Language Building to recognize the most outstanding accomplishments earned by individual students throughout the chapter’s history. The chapter offers opportunities in scholarship, leadership, and service. Through the society, students learn to understand commitment to community. Although membership is restricted by GPA, the organization involves non-members in campus and community events.

- **Academic Center for Excellence (ACE):** In 2006, Chipola received a coveted Title III - Strengthening Institutions Grant through the U.S. Department of Education. This provided funds to establish the ACE for instructional support. The ACE features a comfortable learning environment for on-demand tutoring, Supplemental Instruction (SI), group study, “Exam Cram” sessions, and computer access to instructional software. Hundreds of students attend the ACE each week to receive free individual tutoring upon request and participate in Supplemental Instruction sessions.

- **Fine and Performing Arts:** Chipola College serves as the cultural arts center for five counties by bringing outstanding musical and theatre performances and art exhibits to the area.

  Chipola sponsors an annual Artist Series that brings visiting artists of national and international reputation to the campus each year.

  The Theatre Department’s 2009-10 student productions were *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* and *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* and last year’s hit comedy *Back to the 80’s...The Totally Awesome Musical!* both received Superior Awards for acting and choreography from the Florida Community College Activities Association. Chipola also received eight superior acting and technical acknowledgments for the Pulitzer Prize spring musical, *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying.*

  Each summer the department buses in thousands of area school children to witness live theatre, many for the first time. The past two summers Chipola presented the original scripted works, *Once Upon a Time* and *The Three Little... .

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**Congratulations**

**Jessica Bradley and Allison Ellis**

Chipola College’s 2010 Academic All-Americans

Jessica Bradley of Greenwood was named to the Coca Cola Academic Scholars All-American Academic Gold Team and to the All Florida Academic First Team. Allison Ellis of Chipley is one of the most awarded students in Chipola history. She was named to the 2010 All-Florida Academic First Team, the All-USA Academic First Team and the 2010 New Century Scholar, the top student from the state of Florida. Additionally, Ellis was named a 2010 Guistwhite Scholar.

“To have two students from the college named Academic All Americans is tremendous. When you consider that these students are ranked out of 11 million community college students, the magnitude of the honor is even more impressive,” states Pam Rentz, Phi Theta Kappa advisor.
Chipola College made FCCAA state history by garnering four 2007 state championship titles in Men’s Basketball, Women’s Basketball, Softball and Baseball. All four teams advanced to NJCAA National Championship tournaments.

The Chipola Softball team won the 2010 state championship and finished fifth in the national championship. The team won the college’s first national championship title in softball in 2007.

The Chipola Baseball team joined the national ranks winning Chipola’s first national title in baseball just weeks later.

In 2009 Chipola’s Men’s and Women’s Basketball teams won state championship titles and advanced to place third in their respective national tournaments.

Chipola’s six-member Women’s Cross-Country Team was named a 2008 Academic All-American Team by the National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA).

Theatre majors and director Charles Sirmon recently toured New York City and Broadway. Students participated in master’s class at Shelter Studios—in the heart of New York’s theatre district, attended Broadway and off-Broadway performances, and toured backstage at NBC Studios and The New Amsterdam Theatre.

The college’s three musical ensembles, Chamber Chorus, Rock and Jazz Ensemble, and Show Choir, perform throughout the Southeast. The Show Choir’s annual “Jazzmatazz” concerts are consistently performed to sold-out audiences. As one of the finest college show choirs in the Southeast, Chipola’s Show Choir routinely performs aboard cruise ships and at Walt Disney World in Orlando. Chipola’s Chamber Chorus performs major classical works and standard choral literature.

In affiliation with the Chipola Regional Arts Association (CRAA), the college hosts over a thousand students for musicals, operas, or plays. The CRAA annually funds programs for children, contributes to the Artist Series, provides mini-grants to area art, music, and theatre teachers, sponsors art exhibits, and offers scholarships for students in the arts at Chipola.

· **Emphasis on Instructional Programs and Student Outcomes:** Throughout Florida, Chipola is recognized for the quality of its instructional programs, all of which undergo annual program assessments according to specific student outcomes. A rigorous Program Viability Review helps deans, department chairs, and lead faculty determine program strengths and weaknesses. All academic departments require common course syllabi, departmental final exams, use of the same textbooks, and access to appropriate labs and instructional materials.

Many indicators confirm Chipola’s outstanding scholarship, not the least of which is that Chipola’s graduates in biology, chemistry, and physics are recruited as lab assistants in state universities, and engineering students consistently earn top honors in colleges of engineering.

· **College-Level Competencies:**

  Faculty have identified college-level competencies taught in the general education core courses of Associate degrees. Multiple measures are used to evaluate how well students learn to do the following:

  - Evaluate societal and ethical issues, problems, and values;
  - Understand the history, nature, methods, and limits of science;
  - Demonstrate basic mathematical skills and knowledge;
  - Comprehend and articulate effectively in English - reading, writing, and oral communication;
  - Interpret, evaluate, and appreciate works of human culture; and
  - Use technology effectively.

· **Excellent Advising and Orientation:** Chipola’s students get a good start during one-one advising sessions with faculty members and Student Affairs advisors. Academic plans and other aids in educational planning are available on the college’s website. Additional academic and career planning tools are also available for students from kindergarten through graduate school via the Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students (FACTS). Entering freshmen learn college survival skills during an orientation course. Recent Graduating Student Surveys show that 93% of the graduates were satisfied with academic advising. Over 88.6% felt that SLS 1101-Orientation had helped them “learn about programs and services,” and 91% felt that the course had helped them “learn about transferring to a state university.”

· **Athletics:** Chipola College marked its 60th anniversary in grand style by picking up two national championships—baseball and softball—and four state championships in all four of the college’s intercollegiate sports, which include men’s and women’s basketball.

The feat put Chipola in the Florida record books as the only team from the state ever to win four state championships in one year.

While Chipola is recognized for its excellent academic program, sports have always been a big part of the college community.

Chipola athletes have played men’s basketball and baseball since the college’s inception and even fielded a football team for a couple of years. Chipola hosted the first-ever combined men’s and women’s state basketball tournament in 1997, and has hosted every state tournament since then.

Athletics at Chipola enjoy one of the highest transfer rates of student/athletes to Division One schools. Many former players have also advanced to the professional ranks.

The Chipola Appreciation Club is one of the most active athletic booster groups in the nation.
The entire focus of athletics at Chipola is to make student athletes successful on the playing court or field while also ensuring success in the classroom.

For the last two decades, Chipola has competed in men’s and women’s basketball, men’s baseball and women’s fast-pitch softball. A women’s cross-country team was started in Fall 2007.

Course Offerings

Some of the most popular majors among AA/Transfer students are Business, Engineering, Education, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Social Work, and Psychology. Popular AS degree programs are Nursing, Computer Science, Child Care, and Recreation Technology. Popular certificate programs are Automotive Technology, Computer Electronics, Fire Science, Corrections, Cosmetology and Law Enforcement.

At the request of current students, most classes are now scheduled from 7:00 a.m -2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. To meet the needs of employed, commuting students with family responsibilities, all departments schedule evening and on-line classes. Several Friday-only classes are also available.

Training programs are changed or continued as dictated by documented need because needs assessments precede all major program changes. Program Reviews are based on indicators of student learning, cost effectiveness, faculty qualifications, and community impact. The college fosters training partnerships with area businesses and agencies. Responses to community training needs include: (1) establishing the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) to provide tutoring and Supplemental Instruction (SI); (2) offering high school Dual-Enrollment classes in district high schools at the request of parents, students, and school officials; (3) beginning a Child Care Training Program to provide the Florida Child Care Credential; (4) doubling the RN, LPN, and PCA programs and developing an integrated curriculum approved by the State Board of Nursing and local health care employers; (5) establishing a University Center to bring university bachelor’s and master’s degrees to Chipola in response to a community needs assessment; (6) initiating a Teacher Education Program to help address Florida’s shortage of qualified high school math and science teachers; and (7) initiating Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Management and Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees.

Outstanding Faculty

One of Chipola’s greatest assets is its outstanding faculty. Of the full-time faculty members, about 82% are tenured, with 16% within five years of retirement. About 24% hold doctorates; 63% hold Master’s or Education Specialist degrees. At least 10% of these are completing course work toward the doctorate.

Several instructors have received prestigious teaching awards and won state and regional recognition for instructional projects at Chipola. Faculty also regularly participate at state meetings and conduct in-service activities for public school teachers in the college district. When available, adjunct faculty are also engaged to teach classes, mostly in the arts, social sciences, criminology, and corrections.

Over 80% of student contact hours are taught by full-time faculty. Highly qualified instructors are hired in full-time positions. This has prevented fragmented approaches to instruction that are frequently reported in schools with high percentages of adjunct teachers. Inherent in the college’s philosophy is the belief that full-time teachers have a full-time commitment to teaching and that interaction in the workplace creates a willingness to learn from each other, share departmental resources, and gain expertise.
Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Professional Presentations and Appearances


Professional Publications

Awards and Recognition

- Rentz, Pam. Literature and Language – Named, 2009 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, Florida State University.
- Shook, Lee. Business. – Recipient, 2010 Faculty/Administrator/Professional Employee of the Year Award.
- Ward, Pat. Physical Plant – Recipient, 2009-10 Career Employee of the Year.
- West, Rachel. Literature and Language – Finalist, Distinguished Faculty of the Year, 2009 Professor-of-the-Year Competition, Florida Association of Community Colleges.

State, Regional, and National Leadership

- Cruz-White, Irma. Natural Sciences – Named, Board of Program Reviewers (BoPR), National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).
- Riviere, Marion C. “Bud.” Workforce Development – Member, Florida FFA Foundation Board of Directors.
- Riviere, Marion C. “Bud.” Workforce Development – Advisory Board, University of Florida College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni and Friends.
- Sirmon, Charles. Fine and Performing Arts – Adjudicator, Florida Junior College Activities Association (FJCAA), Theatre Division.

Growth of Facilities and Technology

During the last five years, the college has received over $20 million in funds to build or renovate 200,000 square feet. Over 90 percent of the classrooms are equipped with “smart” classroom technology. Chipola has student computer labs in every classroom building and a state-of-the-art library, which houses the student Technology Center and provides numerous databases as part of the Florida LINCC system. The new Academic Center for Excellence provides on-demand tutoring and additional academic support.

The new century ushered in a new age of technological integration into the curriculum. Automotive Service Technology students and Electronics Technology students now have some of the most advanced, computer-assisted diagnostic equipment available. Instructors have the capability to simulate equipment failures and track students’ progress toward diagnosing the failure. Students receive valuable “hands-on” training supplemented by expert instruction.

Shortages in the technology industry have not gone unnoticed by Chipola. Because of the college’s two software contracts with Microsoft Corporation, students are ensured of access to the latest releases of industry-leading software. Curricula in programming, networking, office applications, and business applications are all available at Chipola.

Credits and Official Standing

Chipola College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award Baccalaureate degrees, Associate in Arts degrees, Associate in Science degrees, Associate in Applied Science degrees, and Certificates of Training. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Chipola College. This accreditation was most recently reaffirmed in 2008.
The college is also a member of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, the Southern Association of Junior-Technical Colleges, the Florida Association of Colleges and Universities, the American Council on Education, Council for Resource Development, and other professional organizations for institutions of higher learning.

The college is also accredited by the Florida Board of Nursing, Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Florida Department of Children and Family Services, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, National Auto Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF), and International Conference on Automotive Collision Repair (I-CAR).

Being affiliated with these organizations means that credits earned at Chipola are recognized by other colleges and universities and employers throughout the United States. Students planning to earn advanced degrees at four-year colleges and universities may transfer work completed at Chipola, generally with no loss of credit.

Chipola College Vision, Mission, and Goals

Vision
Chipola College promotes learning and student achievement through excellence, opportunity, diversity, and progress.

Mission
Chipola is a comprehensive public college whose mission is to provide accessible, affordable, quality educational opportunities to the residents of Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington counties and to all others who choose to attend. The college creates a student-oriented atmosphere of educational excellence and maintains an intellectual environment which inspires the full development of each individual’s goals, abilities, and interests. Because there is no substitute for quality instruction, the college empowers faculty members to establish and achieve the highest possible standards. The college also promotes a strong working relationship with communities, businesses, state agencies, and other educational institutions.

Chipola provides the following
- Educational programs which include general and pre-professional classes leading to the Associate in Arts degree for transfer into baccalaureate degree programs;
- Selected Baccalaureate degree programs which produce educated and capable professionals;
- Workforce Development programs leading to Associate in Science degrees, Associate in Applied Science degrees, and Certificates of Training to prepare students for careers;
- Continuing Education programs related to professional and personal development; and
- A broad range of enrollment and student services and instructional and administrative support to facilitate student success.

—Adopted June 15, 2004

The Chipola College Center for the Arts is currently under construction. The 56,000 square foot center will house a new 650-seat proscenium theatre, black box theatre, recital hall, and art galleries. The center is scheduled to be completed in 2011.

The new Center for the Arts is to be constructed on the college’s new access road off River Forest Road.
Success Factors and Institutional Goals

Success Factor 1: Quality Educational Programs
Institutional Goal 1: Provide quality instruction in academic, workforce development, and continuing education programs, including sufficient instructional support to meet the needs of students.

Success Factor 2: Effective Marketing, Recruitment, and Enrollment
Institutional Goal 2: Present the college and its programs in positive ways, making every effort to attract and enroll as many students as possible by marketing the college in a variety of methods and enrolling students in efficient and customer-oriented ways.

Success Factor 3: Student Retention, Satisfaction, and Completion
Institutional Goal 3: Provide a wide-range of academic, developmental and support services to help retain students in programs by increasing the percentage of students who remain continuously enrolled through completion of a degree or certificate.

Success Factor 4: Responsible Resource Management
Institutional Goal 4: Promote the responsible management of resources by maintaining sound fiscal operations, seeking additional resources, improving college facilities, and providing an environment conducive to progressive implementation of technology.

Success Factor 5: Staff and Organizational Development
Institutional Goal 5: Encourage staff and organizational development by supporting an efficient and productive work environment where employees demonstrate competence, integrity, and professional excellence.

Success Factor 6: Community Involvement and Development
Institutional Goal 6: Foster strong community involvement and workforce development by supporting local and state economic growth and encouraging civic, cultural, recreational, and service activities.

Success Factor 7: Post-Chipola Student Satisfaction and Success
Institutional Goal 7: Maintain a strong reputation for promoting student satisfaction and long-term success by equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue their goals and become more productive citizens.