Enrollment up at Chipola this Fall

Chipola College is enjoying two percent enrollment increase this Fall.

A total of 2,060 students were enrolled through the final day of registration compared to 2,000 students at the same time last year.

In addition to the headcount increase, students also are taking more classes. Full Time Equivalency (FTE)—an average calculation of the number of hours that students take—is also up half of one percent, just slightly over last Fall.

College president Dr. Gene Prough said, “We are glad that so many students are taking advantage of the opportunities to improve their lives through higher education. Our goal is to provide access to all the citizens of our district.”

Enrollment in the college’s four-year degree programs is a big part of the college’s increase. With 187 juniors and seniors, enrollment in bachelor’s programs account for nearly ten percent of the college’s total enrollment. Chipola offers ten bachelor’s degree programs including math or science education for middle and high school, English education, elementary education, exceptional student education, nursing and business administration (with concentrations in management or accounting).

Dr. Jayne Roberts, Vice President of Student Affairs, says, “Engaging outreach programs such as the Educational Talent Search Program and College Reach Out Program with area high schools have had a tremendous effect.” Roberts also reported that the college is offering more classes on-line which has made college more accessible for more students.

Most Chipola students are enrolled in the Associate in Arts (AA) program, a two-year degree that guarantees acceptance to Florida’s 11 public universities. Chipola also offers Associate in Science degrees and certificates in Workforce Development programs that provide training for various career fields. Two of the college’s Workforce Development programs—Cosmetology and Automotive Technology—have maximum enrollment with students on waiting lists. Students who missed the regular registration have another opportunity to attend college this Fall during Term ‘C.’ Classes begin Oct. 14. Registration for the six-week term is Oct. 13.

Applications for Admission are available in the Admissions Office located in the Student Services Building or on-line at www.chipola.edu.

For information, call 850-718-2211, or visit www.chipola.edu

Chipola Baseball fall schedule

The reigning state champion Chipola College baseball team will play a pre-conference Fall schedule beginning with four home games, Sept. 15-16.

On Thursday, Sept. 15, the Indians will host Wallace-Dothan, at 10 a.m. and Darton College at 6:30 p.m. On Friday, Sept. 16, Chipola will host Pensacola at 10 a.m. and Gulf Coast at 5:30 p.m.

The Indians will host the Next Level Baseball squad, Sunday, Oct. 16, at 1 p.m.

Chipola will play at Gulf Coast, Sept. 21; in Lakeland, Sept. 24; at the University of West Florida, Sept. 30; at Gulf Coast, Oct. 7; in Montgomery, Oct. 8 and in Tallahassee, Oct. 28.

For the latest scores, visit www.chipola.edu or call 718-2CJC.
Chipola Softball fall schedule

The Chipola College softball team will play a pre-conference Fall schedule beginning with a Tournament for 18 and Under players on Sept. 17.

The Lady Indians will travel to Troy University, Sept. 30; to Auburn University, Oct. 7; at LSU, Oct. 15-16; at University of Southern Mississippi, Oct. 17 and at the University of Florida, Nov. 6.

For the latest scores, visit www.chipola.edu or call 718-2CJC.
The Chipola Baseball “Factory”

Chipola College, in the rural Florida panhandle, long has been recognized as a basketball powerhouse, with countless state junior college titles and national tournament appearances to its credit. Not quite so well known are Chipola’s accomplishments on the baseball diamond, from which it has launched more players into the professional ranks than perhaps any school of its size in the country.

This season, for example, no less than seven former Chipola players have represented the school in major league baseball -- including Baltimore Orioles manager Buck Showalter and all-star players Jose’ Bautista (Toronto Blue Jays’ outfielder) and Russell Martin (New York Yankees catcher). Other big leaguers this year include Tyler Flowers (Chicago White Sox catcher), Rene Tosoni (Minnesota Twins’ outfielder), Mat Gamel (Milwaukee Brewers’ third baseman) and Darren Ford (San Francisco Giants’ outfielder).

Last season the hard-hitting Bautista led the major leagues with 54 home runs, a Blue Jays’ franchise record. He was voted to the American League all-star team and was honored with the league’s Hank Aaron Award. This year he received more all-star votes than any player in major league history.

Martin is a three-time all-star – twice for the Los Angeles Dodgers (2007 and 2008) and this year for the Yankees. As a Dodger, he led all-star voting in 2007 – when he also received the National League’s Gold Glove and Silver Slugger awards.

Within the past two years, 14 former Chipola players have appeared on professional rosters at the double-A level or higher. In addition, others were playing in Class A or the rookie leagues. Three years ago, the Chipola baseball “factory” absolutely dominated the minor league ranks when six of its alums won either league MVP honors or batting championships.

Chipola Coach Jeff Johnson, who has compiled a 531-272-2 record and won a national championship (2007) as the Indians’ skipper for the past 15 years, presently has 26 former players in professional baseball. He is outspoken about their accomplishments, pointing out that San Jacinto Junior College (in Texas) is the only other two-year school in the nation with comparable success in sending players to the pros. “We’ve probably sent more guys to the pros than most Division I schools – and we’re very proud of that. We’ve been fortunate to have many dedicated, hardworking young men with tremendous ability in our program. They’ve done Chipola proud.”

Buck Showalter played at Chipola in 1976, before Johnson’s arrival. Showalter went on to Mississippi State, where he was an All-American. After playing seven seasons in the Yankees minor league organization, the Yanks selected him to manage their big league club in 1992. He later managed the Arizona Diamondbacks and Texas Rangers before taking the reins at Baltimore.

Other former Chipola players poised to make the leap to the major leagues include outfielder Adam Loewen (Toronto’s Las Vegas AAA farm team), catcher Cole Armstrong (Los Angeles Angels’ AAA Salt Lake City team), pitcher Jaye Chapman (Atlanta’s AAA Gwinnett team), outfielder Ricardo Nanita (Toronto’s AAA Las Vegas team), pitcher Pat Corbin (Arizona’s AA Mobile team) and Steve Clevenger (Chicago Cubs’ AA Tennessee team).

Although Chipola dropped “Junior” from its name in 2003, it still functions as a junior college for most of its 2,300 students. While the school now awards baccalaureate degrees in several areas, it competes in interscholastic sports at the junior college level. Established in 1947 to serve rural northwest Florida, the school has a rich tradition of excellence in both academics and athletics.

Nowhere is that excellence more evident than in the ranks of professional baseball.

Chipola to host High School Baseball Showcase

Chipola College’s annual Select Baseball Showcase, is set for Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Chipola field.

The event is open to all high school sophomores, juniors or seniors who are current members of a varsity baseball team. Chipola head coach Jeff Johnson says, “This is a great opportunity for players to showcase their skills and to gain national exposure while being evaluated by JUCO and Division I coaches, as well as professional scouts.” Johnson says he is expecting from 50 to 100 pro and college scouts to attend.

Check-in opens at 8 a.m. on Sept. 17. The event will continue rain or shine with indoor facilities available. Skill evaluation for running, hitting and fielding begins at 9 a.m. with skill evaluation for hitting, pitching and catching to follow. Players should wear baseball pants and bring their own bats, spikes, gloves, hats and protective cups.

Registration deadline is Sept. 14. Participants must provide proof of insurance and sign a waiver of liability. Cost is $100. For information, call 850-718-2237, or visit www.chipola.edu.
Automotive program receives national accreditation

The automotive training program at Chipola College has received accreditation by NATEF and The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

Chipola’s automotive program has Master NATEF Certification in all eight areas of certification: Electrical, Engine Performance, Brakes, Steering and Suspension, Air Conditioning and Heating, Engine Repair, Automatic Transmission and Transaxles and Manual Drive Trains.

To achieve this coveted recognition, the school’s automotive training program underwent rigorous evaluation by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF). Nationally accepted standards of excellence in areas such as instruction, facilities, and equipment were used in the evaluation.

Upon completion of the evaluation, NATEF recommended that Chipola be accredited by The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). ASE is a national non-profit organization which tests and certifies repair technicians, in addition to accrediting automotive training programs.

The 1,800 hour automotive program features a state-of-the-art training facility with the latest software, simulators, and diagnostic equipment. The program is competency-based and self-paced with open-entry. The TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) is required for entry. There is no charge for the test.

Automotive instructor John Gardner says, “Technology in the automotive industry is moving at lightning speed and there is a shortage of trained technicians.”

Small business seminars set at Chipola

Chipola College will offer a series of small business seminars in the coming months.

“Steps to Starting a Business” is Friday, Sept. 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants will learn about organizational requirements and licensing for a small business in Florida, personal financial assessments, credit checks, defining customers, location considerations, and employee requirements.

On Oct. 7, a seminar entitled, “How to write a Business Plan,” will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants will learn to create an impressive, professional business plan to get it right the first time. Participants also will review a software program and walk through the business plan process.


The workshops will meet in Room M-108 of the Chipola Business and Technology building. Cost of each seminar is $30.

For more information call (850) 718-2441 or e-mail seversone@chipola.edu.

According to the Florida Department of Labor Handbook, the job outlook for automotive technicians is expected to grow 12 to 15 percent over the next decade. The outlook for long-term job security also is positive, as the automotive repair industry has historically affected by general economic trends and should thus be able to survive any economic downturns.

Entry level pay ranges from $21,000 to $32,000 with mid-range technicians earning up to $55,000 and experienced technicians earning up to $72,000. Master mechanics can expect salaries in the $58,000 to $108,000 range.

In 2009, the Chipola Automotive Technology program was named one of the Top 20 Schools in the country by Tomorrow’s Technician and Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company.

Chipola’s Automotive program is part of the college’s Workforce Development Division.

For more information, call 850-718-2306.