Chipola becomes state college

With the expected signature of Florida Governor Charlie Crist on June 12, Chipola College will officially become a State College.

The signing ceremony will be in the Mattie Kelley Fine Arts Center at Okaloosa-Walton College in Niceville.

Chipola is one of nine community colleges in the State College pilot project established for Florida community colleges which offer four-year degrees. The list of State Colleges include: Chipola College, Daytona Beach College, Edison College, Indian River College, Miami Dade College, Okaloosa-Walton College, Polk College, Santa Fe College and St. Petersburg College.

Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough, said, “This is an important day in the life of Chipola College. As a state college, we will be able to expand our offerings to provide more opportunities to the people in our district and beyond.”

State Colleges are established in Senate Bill 1716 which creates the new Florida College System consisting of institutions that grant 2-year and 4-year academic degrees. The bill was initiated by House of Representatives Speaker-Designate Rep. Ray Sansom, R-Destin. “We are appreciative of Gov. Crist’s interest in this important legislation,” said Sansom. “As a result of this new law, nine community colleges will be eligible to expand more easily the number of bachelor’s degree programs they offer. This means more students in Florida will be able to access higher education degrees, especially in academic areas where the demand for educated workers is exceeding the supply. We expect these programs to be more affordable and cost-effective than those at the state university level—and that’s another benefit to both the taxpayers and the students.”

The newly-created Florida College System is a middle-tier system of higher education which is expected to maximize student access to baccalaureate degrees. Continued on page 2

Chipola gets high marks on state accountability report

Chipola is doing an outstanding job of recruiting students and preparing them for university work or professional careers according to the Florida Division of Community Colleges’ 2007 Accountability Report.

Chipola enrolled 42% of the 927 district high school graduates from 2005, exceeding the state average of 31%. Chipola recruited its two major ethnic groups much more successfully than most Florida community colleges. African-American students were recruited at a 45% rate, compared to 28% statewide.

White students were recruited at a 41% rate, exceeding the average rate of 30% statewide. Chipola graduates also outperformed other community colleges graduates after transferring to a state university. Chipola’s 146 transfer students earned an overall GPA of 3.30 in the SUS, which exceeded the state average of 2.93.

Chipola also achieved success with under-prepared students. Chipola graduates who required college prep/remedial courses earned a 3.39 GPA in the SUS, compared to a 2.87 GPA for college prep transfers from other community colleges.

Chipola’s Vocational Placement rate also was outstanding for the 2004-05 school year. Placement is defined as training-related by virtue of related work, continuing education, or enlisted in the military. A total of 233 students completed Chipola’s vocational programs in 2004-05 with a 100 percent placement rate. And all of the 93 vocational students who left the college in 2004-05 without completing their programs were also designated as placed. Correction Officer training was the largest vocational program with 80 graduates, followed by Firefighting with 37 and Nursing with 36 graduates.

Gail Hartzog, Chipola Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, says, “The Accountability Report is one of many reports which give evidence that student learning at Chipola compares favorably with other colleges across the state and nation.”

For information about this report, contact Hartzog at (850) 718-2342.
State College, continued from page 1

respond to community needs for postsecondary education, and provide the degrees that best meet Florida’s employment needs.

The bill creates the Florida College System Task Force, comprised of community college presidents and others with expertise in higher education in Florida, to develop recommendations for establishing and funding state colleges, including a program approval process for new baccalaureate degree programs, a funding model that ensures cost-effective delivery with substantial savings to the student and the state over the cost of providing degrees at state universities, and identification of geographic and academic areas of need for degree programs.

Community colleges will be eligible to use the “State College” designation with approval of their local Board of Trustees. State colleges must maintain open-door admissions in associate-level and workforce programs and continue to provide outreach to underserved populations and remedial education. State colleges also must comply with the statewide articulation agreement and require the CLAST exam for associate degrees and admission to junior level.

State colleges are prohibited from using the term “university” and from granting graduate degrees. Intercollegiate athletics for state colleges will remain at the two-year level. State Colleges also must provide cost-effective delivery with substantial savings over state university system costs.

Chipola College was founded in 1947 to provide the first two years of college and workforce programs for residents of the five-county district of Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington Counties. In 2002, Chipola and Miami Dade became the second and third community colleges authorized to offer bachelor’s degrees. Chipola originally was approved to offer degrees in Secondary Education with majors in math and science. Chipola now offers a total of eight bachelor’s degrees, including: Elementary Education, Exceptional Student Education and Nursing which were approved in February. A Bachelor’s of Applied Science degree in Business Management began classes in January of 2008.

College president Dr. Gene Prough said, “Chipola has been providing opportunities to the people of this area since 1947. I am so proud that, 61 years later, we are still working to expand the opportunities for our students.”

For information about Chipola’s four-year programs, call the New Baccalaureate Hotline (850) 718-2492.

Baseball and Softball All Americans named

Pictured from left, are: Chipola pitcher Brook Muth named to NJCAA Division I Softball All American Second Team. Infielder Carolyn Moore named to NJCAA Division I Softball All American Third Team. Chipola Pitcher and infielder Adam Duvall was named to the NJCAA Division I Baseball World Series All Tournament Team.

UPCOMING EVENTS

This Week

“Chipola This Week” is a weekly publication of the Chipola PR Office.

Deadline for the next issue is 8 a.m., Wednesday, June 18. Articles will be printed as space permits. E-mail Evelyn Ward at warde@chipola.edu.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

16-Jun Robert Brown
16-Jun JoAnn Everett
18-Jun Lucinda Baker
18-Jun Amie Baker

Retirees honored at Chipola

Pictured from left, are: Harrell Glisson, Mary Lu Andreu and Freddie Foran. Not pictured is Louise Neel.

Chipola College honored four of its retirees—Mary Lu Andreu, Harrell Glisson, Louise Neel and Freddie Foran—at the recent end-of-year luncheon.

Presentation roasts were the order of the day. Director of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Dr. Willie Spires highlighted the career of Social Science Professor, Mary Lu Andreu for 35 years of service. Workforce Dean Bud Riviere highlighted the careers of: Harrell Glisson, Director of Public Service, for 20 years of service; Freddie Foran, Professor of Welding, for 30 years of service and Louise Neel, Senior Office Assistant in Continuing Education, for 25 years of service.

Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough presented resolutions citing each retiree’s accomplishments, and presented Chipola Gold Cards which provide lifetime admission to college events. Andreu, Glisson and Neel also were awarded lifetime memberships in the Florida Association of Community Colleges (FACC).

The event was sponsored by FACC and the Council of Chipola Educators (CCE).

Rehberg wins employee award

Kathy Rehberg, Department Associate in Enrollment Services, was named the Chipola College Career Employee of the month for June. Rehberg has worked at the college since 1977.