Chipola to offer four-year programs

The Florida Board of Education on Tuesday approved a measure to allow Chipola Junior College to offer bachelor’s degree programs.

The Board adopted a plan to offer four-year degrees in selected disciplines on the campuses of Chipola Junior College, Edison Community College and Miami-Dade Community College.

Education Secretary Jim Horne said, “Today the Florida Board of Education, by encouraging collaboration among our community colleges and our universities, has thrown open the doors of opportunity to more Floridians.”

The board authorized Chipola to provide access to baccalaureate degrees in Business Administration, Nursing and Secondary Education through an articulation agreement with Florida State University. The agreement will be negotiated by Secretary Horner. If an acceptable agreement with FSU cannot be worked out within 30 days, Chipola will be authorized to grant four-year degrees directly.

“I’m excited about the prospects of making this available to our students,” Chipola Junior College President Dale O’Daniel said. “We have a large number of students who are place-bound and work-bound who cannot move beyond the two-year degree who have the desire and the ability. This will allow the opportunity and the avenue to do so.”

O’Daniel indicated that if CJC establishes its own programs, it would likely take a year to set up the programs and begin the accreditation process.

The board also authorized Edison Community College to receive funding to support a partnership agreement between Edison Community College and Florida Gulf Coast University, provided an acceptable agreement for baccalaureate degree instruction is established and approved by the Secretary.

Additionally, the board authorized Miami-Dade Community College to grant baccalaureate degrees in Exceptional Student Education and Secondary Education. In 2001, the Florida Legislature earmarked $3 million in the Department of Education budget in startup funds for community colleges to offer four-year programs.

St. Petersburg College, formerly St. Petersburg Community College, was granted permission to offer baccalaureate degree programs in 2001, making it the first community college to take advantage of the four-year opportunity. If Chipola Junior College eventually does offer the four-year degrees, state law would require the 54-year-old school to drop “junior” from its name.

Several bachelor’s and advanced degrees are presently offered on the Chipola campus through the University Center @ Chipola. The University of West Florida offers the following program on the Chipola campus: bachelor’s degrees in criminal justice, special/elementary education, social work and interdisciplinary information technology; a master’s degree in educational leadership with certification in administration; and specialist and doctoral degrees in curriculum and instruction. Chipola officials are also hopeful that UWF will expand their offerings in the near future.

Florida State University presently offers a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing through a combination of instruction on Chipola’s campus and through distance learning.
Clemmons is CJC Faculty/Admin of the Year

Dr. Sarah Clemmons is the recipient of the CJC Faculty/Administrator Employee of the Year award. Dr. Clemmons presently serves as Dean of Instruction at the college. She came to Chipola in 1979 from Marianna High School where she was chair of the English department. She began her career at Chipola teaching English composition and literature courses. During the next ten years, Dr. Clemmons taught courses across the English curriculum and served in a leadership capacity on numerous instructional committees. She was co-founder of the Honors Program as it exists today, and under her leadership, the Phi Theta Kappa and Academic Bowl were revived. She originated the Literature/Language Festival and secured an endowment to the Foundation to fund it.

Clemmons supervised Literature/Language and Fine and Performing Arts as the Division Chair beginning in 1988. In 1995, the areas of Business, the Library and Health Sciences were added. In 1996, Dr. Clemmons became Dean. Currently she is working on numerous grants, building committees and curriculum revisions.

Chipola President Dr. Dale O’Daniel said, “Dr. Clemmons is highly respected by her peers for her knowledge, management ability and leadership skills. She makes Chipola a better place.”

Clemmons earned a Ph.D. in English from Florida State University in 1980. She also holds a Master’s degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from Troy State University and a Bachelor’s degree in English from the University of West Florida.

She is married to Dr. Tracy Clemmons, superintendent of Sunland Center in Marianna. Their son, Martin, is a junior at FSU. Their daughter, Sarah Kathryn, is a freshman at Marianna High. The family is active in the First Baptist Church of Marianna.

The award includes reserved parking for a year, a $1,000 bonus, and a $100 gift certificate from the College Book Store.

Chipola men’s basketball signs Kansas State transfer

Nick Williams, a 6-4 combo guard, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Chipola. Williams, a native of Arlington, Texas, played this past season at Kansas State University.

Williams played in all 29 games, including 25 starts for Kansas State. He averaged 9 points and 2.5 assists per game, while shooting 46 percent from the field and 74.7 percent from the free-throw line. He scored in double figures 13 times, including five of the last six contests. In the Big 12 Conference, but one of the best guards in the Panhandle Conference, Williams posted back-to-back double figure games by scoring 16 points vs. Baylor and 15 points vs. Oklahoma.

“This is a very important sign for us,” said Coach Ryan Cross. “Nick has a chance to be not only one of the best guards in the Panhandle Conference, but one of the best guards in the country.”

Chipola offers summer programs for children in May

Chipola will offer summer programs for children of all ages this summer.

After School at the Pool for school-age swimmers will be offered May 20-24. Cost is $35 per week and includes swimming lessons, games and supervised playtime.

Swimming lessons will be offered for ages two and up. The first session begins May 28-June 6. Class times are 9 a.m., 10 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Sessions include eight 45-minute lessons that meet Monday through Thursday for two weeks. Cost is $40 and pre-registration is required, with a $5 fee for late registration.

Other camps being offered in May include: A Swim and Safety Camp will be offered May 28-31. For information, call 718-2473. A Baseball Skills Camp for ages 8-12 will meet May 28-31 from 9 a.m. to Noon. Cost is $70. For information, call 718-2237.

Things You Might Not Have Known

The lifespan of a taste bud is ten days.