Chipola makes history with four-year programs

Chipola Junior College made history on Monday, June 23.

After operating for 55 years as a community college, Chipola has been given approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to offer four-year degrees in Secondary Mathematics Education and in Secondary Science Education. Classes will begin in January of 2004.

The news was greeted with shouts of joy from several CJC administrators who have worked on the project since last summer when the Florida Board of Education gave CJC the authority to offer four-year degrees in response to a critical shortage of math and science teachers in secondary schools.

Dr. Kitty Myers, Associate Vice President of Instructional and Bachelor’s Degree Program Development, said, “I’m just ecstatic for the people of this area. I think this will have a long range positive effect on the economy in our community.”

Gail Hartzog, Associate Dean of Institutional Development and Planning, said, “CJC currently is accredited at Level I to offer two-year degrees. We applied for permission to make a substantive change from our present status and begin offering four-year degrees.” As a Level II institution Chipola is required to make a name change. Chipola College will be the new name of the institution.

Dr. Sarah Clemmons, Vice President of Instruction and Student Services, said “I’m just so excited to be here during this historic time, and I’m elated that the long process is over. Many people worked so hard to bring this together. I think it was meant to be.”

Hartzog said the college will be notified of any questions or concerns of the SACS committee. Chipola plans to begin offering classes in the program in January 2004. A SACS team will visit CJC in the spring of 2004 to evaluate the program. This evaluation is the next step toward accreditation as a Level II institution.

Also on Monday, Governor Jeb Bush signed the 2003-04 state budget, which included $333,000 to help Chipola begin the bachelor’s degree programs. CJC president Dr. Gene Prough said, “I am pleased that we will have the funds needed to continue providing quality two-year programs, certificate programs and new four-year degrees for the people in our district.”

The change will not affect the college’s other programs. Chipola will continue to compete in intercollegiate athletics at the junior college level. Dr. Clemmons said, “The only changes that our students will notice should be positive ones. Our library already has benefited from additional money for new books and research materials to support the four-year programs.”

In 2001, the Florida Legislature earmarked $3 million in startup funds for community colleges to offer four-year programs. St. Petersburg Community College was granted permission to offer bachelor’s degrees in 2001, making it the first community college to take advantage of the four-year opportunity.

The Florida Board of Education in May 2002 adopted a plan to offer four-year degrees in selected disciplines on the campuses of Chipola and Miami-Dade Community Colleges. Chipola was given 30 days to negotiate with Florida State University to decide which school would provide access to baccalaureate degrees in Business Administration, Nursing and Secondary Education. In a June 18, 2002 memorandum, Florida Education Secretary Jim Horne granted Chipola the authority to offer a bachelor’s degree in Secondary Math and Science Education. FSU began offering bachelor’s degrees in Nursing and Business Administration on the CJC campus last fall.

FSU proposed offering the Secondary Education program at the FSU Panama City campus. But Horne said he adopted Chipola’s proposal in the interest of local students. “The CJC approach was constructed to provide greater program delivery flexibility for community members,” Horne said.

Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough said, “We’re glad these programs will finally be available in our area. We have a large number of students who cannot move beyond the two-year degree because of work and family circumstances. These programs will provide invaluable opportunities for them.”

For information about four-year and advanced programs at CJC, call Dr. Kitty Myers at 850-718-2260.
PEANUT SCHOLARSHIP.
The Florida Peanut Producers Association announces their 2003 Scholarship Program.
Two $1,200 scholarships will be awarded to deserving high school seniors and/or college students. The winners must be the son or daughter of an actively producing peanut grower, not necessarily a member of the FPPA.
For an application contact the FPPA office at 2741 Penn Ave, Suite 1 Marianna, FL 32448 or call (850) 526-2590.
Applications must be postmarked no later than July 1.

PARKING REMINDER. White and unpainted spots are for students. Green parking spots are for CJC employees. Red designates fire lanes and blue is for disabled persons.
CJC Parking Services will issue parking tickets. Parking fines are $5 and up, if paid within 24 hours. Students are required to display CJC parking decals. Failure to pay fines will result in a hold on registration and student records.

CONGRATULATIONS. The Chipola family welcomes Alisia Deann Purvee, daughter of Howard and Lisa Purvee, and granddaughter of Kim Collins, CJC Registrar’s Office. Alisia was born on June 23 and weighed 6 lbs 10 oz, and was 19 1/2” long.

LOST AND FOUND.
Lost: Set of keys
Lost and Found is located in Student Services (Building G).

FACC wants your gently used items
FACC will be sponsoring a yard sale September 5-6 in the Arts Center. Donations of gently used items in good, clean condition are needed. Items can be brought in on Thursday, September 4.
All monies raised will go toward the FACC Scholarship Fund.
Everyone is asked to clean out their closets, garages, and hiding places and donate the items to the sale, so we can continue providing scholarships for our children.
If you have any questions, please contact Kim Collins, Dana Johnson or myself. Thanks again for your continued support.
Lou Kind
FACC Fundraising Chair

Be a part of it!
If you are not a member of the Chipola Chapter of the Florida Association of Community Colleges (FACC) and would like to become a member, please contact Joyce Traynom (ext. 2201) or Janet Wise (ext. 2395). FACC sponsors social events, community service activities, fundraising activities, as well as being your voice in the Florida legislature. The FACC scholarship fund awarded 10 scholarships for a total of approximately $6,000 this year to dependents of Chipola FACC members. Join today!

Summer Programs at CJC