Ace Lab named finalist for Bellwether Award

The Chipola College Academic Center for Learning (ACE) has been named a finalist to compete for a 2015 Bellwether Award.

The project, entitled, “Chipola College, ACE Is the Place: Providing New Pathways to Graduation,” was one of 10 outstanding community college programs in the Instructional Programs and Services category which highlights programs or activities designed and successfully implemented to support teaching and learning in the community college.

Chipola’s tutoring center, known as the ACE (Academic Center for Excellence) has helped improved student success since its inception in 2005. Chipola’s three-year graduation rates for AA degree-seeking students increased from 24% in 2005 to 30.9% in 2013.

Chipola’s ACE recently was recognized by Florida College System (FCS) Chancellor Randy Hanna for innovation and excellence through the Chancellor’s Best Practice Awards.

Bellwether finalists were announced at the Community College Futures Assembly. The field of nominations was competitive with over 300 applications. Prior to the application process, some 1,000 community college programs were nominated. The ten finalists were selected in three categories.

Chipola College officials will present at the Assembly on Jan. 26, 2015 in Orlando, and one winner will then be selected from each category by a panel of national experts. The winners will be announced on Jan. 27.

For more information, visit http://education.ufl.edu/futures.
**Theatre majors get rave reviews at Conference**

Theatre majors recently attended the Florida Theatre Conference at Santa Fe College in Gainesville.

Sophomore theatre majors Seth Alderman and Kate Burke received overwhelming reviews on their auditions. Charles Sirmon, Director of Theatre said “Kate and Seth are very strong and dedicated actors and I’m sure they will succeed wherever they go. I’m very proud of both of them.”

Chipola came away with a record number of callbacks. Several colleges, universities expressed interest in Chipola students, including; CAP 21 America’s Musical Theatre Conservatory; The American Musical and Dramatic Academy of NY; UWF; UF; UAB; NOVA; Loyola; The National Theatre Institute; The Atlantic Acting School and FIU.

Students will spend the next few month visiting colleges and universities and discussing scholarship opportunities as they make plans to continue their education in Theatre.

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**Wizard Of Oz audition workshop set for Dec. 7**

Chipola Theatre will hold a Wizard of Oz audition workshop, Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m., in the Dance Studio of the Prough Center for the Arts.

Charles Sirmon, Director of Theatre, will lead the free workshop to familiarize those interested in auditioning for the Wizard of Oz in January.

No previous experience is required. Singing and light dance will be a part of the workshop. Minimum age for cast members is six years, with one completed year of elementary school. Most lead roles will be cast as college age and adults. Munchkins and some other supporting roles are open to children or anyone under 60” in height.

Open call auditions for all actors except munchkins are set for Sunday, Jan. 4, at 2 p.m. Munchkin auditions are Monday, Jan. 5, at 5 p.m., with other roles at 6 p.m. The show will run Feb. 25 to March 1, 2015.

For information, call 718-2227 or email sirmonc@chipola.edu

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**Chipola sociology instructor Latresha Bighem required students to create poster presentations of their family trees. The wall of trees is on display in the Social and Behavioral Sciences building.**

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**Holiday Festival Weekend December 11-13, 2015**

Chipola will present a Holiday Festival featuring Chipola’s Music Ensembles, Thursday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., in the Prough Center for the Arts.

This holiday musical extravaganza will feature Chipola’s Chorus, Community Chorus, President’s Ensemble, Rock and Jazz Band, Show Choir, First Baptist Church of Marianna Handbell Choir, Sneads First Methodist Church Handbell Choir, area dancers and more. Patrons will enjoy the sounds of the season in this holiday show with a variety of music for all ages.

Tickets—$10—may be purchased online at www.chipola.edu, and at the Center for the Arts Box Office, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, and one hour before the show.

For ticket information, call 718-2420.
Chipola basketball to host 8 games in December

Chipola basketball fans will have the chance to see eight home games in the newly-renovated Johnson Center in December.

Action begins Dec. 5 when the Indians host the Panhandle Classic sponsored by the Jackson County Tourist Development Council. The Indians play Santa Fe, Friday at 7 p.m. Gulf Coast and Brunswick meet at 5 p.m. Chipola plays Brunswick, Saturday, Dec. 6, at 3 p.m. Gulf Coast and Santa Fe play at 1 p.m.

The Indians are fresh off a big 83-77 road win over Miami Dade on Nov. 25. Dejuan Marrero led Chipola with 23 points and 12 rebounds. Tra-Deon Hollins had 18 points and 7 assists. Junior Saintel had 11 points and 5 rebounds.

The (10-0) Lady Indians host the Chipola Women's Classic, Dec. 12-13. Chipola plays Georgia Highlands, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 13, the Lady Indians play Eastern Florida State at 4 p.m. Gulf Coast plays Georgia Highlands at 2 p.m.

Both Chipola teams play in the Chipola Classic set for Dec. 16-18. The Indians host Motlow State, Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 5 p.m., followed by the Lady Indians vs. ASA at 7 p.m.

The Lady Indians host East Georgia State, Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. The Lady Indians play South Georgia Tech, Thursday, Dec. 18, at 4 p.m.

The (10-0) Lady Indians are number one in the nation and in the state topping both the FCSAA State Poll and the NJCAA National Poll.

Chipola's Evelyn Akhator is the FCSAA Women's Player of the Week for the second time this season. She averaged 15.7 points and 16.3 rebounds in three wins at the Capital Courtyard Classic, including a 70-39 win over nationally-ranked Walters State in which she racked up 17 points and 13 rebounds, along with five steals. Akhator recorded double-doubles in each game, including with 11 points and 15 rebounds against Central Florida on Nov. 25.

Hudson appointed to Chipola board

Governor Rick Scott on Nov. 25 announced the appointment of Kyle Hudson and the reappointments of Hannah Sumner Causseaux and Daniel Ryals, III, to the Chipola College District Board of Trustees.

Hudson, 33, of Westville, is the Holmes County Clerk of the Circuit Court. He previously was a teacher in Holmes County. Hudson currently serves as a board member of the Holmes County Fair Board. He received his bachelor’s degree from University of Florida and a master’s degree for the University of West Florida. Hudson succeeds Dr. Leisa Bailey and is appointed for a term beginning November 25, 2014, and ending May 31, 2017.

Causseaux, 30, of Bristol, is the former director of appointments in the Executive Office of the Governor. She received her bachelor’s degree from Florida State University. She is reappointed for a term beginning November 25, 2014, and ending May 31, 2018.

Ryals, 63, of Blountstown, is a real estate broker and currently serves as chair of the Chipola College Board. He is chairman of the Calhoun County School Board, and a board member of the Take Stock in Children Scholarship Committee and the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce. Ryals is reappointed for a term beginning November 25, 2014, and ending May 31, 2017.

The three appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

Nine trustees—appointed by the Florida Governor—represent Chipola’s five-county district on the board. Other trustees include: Jan Page of Chipley, CEO of Community South Credit Union; Gary Clark of Chipley, vice president of West Florida Electric Cooperative; Gina Stuart of Marianna, a Realtor; Tommy Lassmann of Marianna, a commercial banker with Cadence Bank; and John Padgett of Marianna, a retired Jackson County Commissioner.
Auto instructor to host National TV Show

Chipola Automotive instructor John Gardner has signed on as the host of a new television show, “Tech Garage,” presented by Advance Auto Parts and airing on Discovery’s Velocity Channel. Tech Garage is an automotive how-to show focusing on theory, operation and diagnostics of vehicle systems. The series will air beginning in January at 8 a.m. on Saturdays, and replay at 8 a.m. on Sundays. More than 52 million American households receive Velocity. The show also will be available on the web.

Tom Gee Supervising Producer and Butch McCall Executive Vice President of Masters Entertainment Group filmed the first 13 episodes in Chipola’s Automotive Technology Shop. Discovery and Advance Auto Parts executives were on campus Nov. 25 for a Press Conference to announce the series.

McCall says, “John Gardner has a knack for explaining cars in a way that regular people can comprehend. I’m not a car guy, but I understand what he’s talking about. This show should have great appeal for everyone from the professional mechanic to the guy who just wants to know how something works.”

Chipola’s Gardner is no stranger to the camera. Since 2013, he and fellow automotive instructor Chase Vlieg, have been the national faces for Advance Auto Parts’ team member video training series used by thousands of employees. Gardner says, “I want to thank the college and our Advisory committee for supporting me in this project. I am very lucky to have so many friends who have helped me. Chase Vlieg, Chipola’s other automotive instructor, has been my right hand man throughout this whole process.”

Darwin Gilmore, Chipola’s Dean of Workforce programs, says, “John is an incredible talent. We are so proud of his accomplishments that have led to this opportunity, but his automotive students are the real winners. They get to learn from a world-class instructor every day which puts them in line for a great career in the automotive industry.” For info, visit www.velocity.com and www.chipola.edu

Retired Chipola accounting professor Lee Shook is hanging up his computer after more than a decade of helping college local citizens file free income tax returns. As a volunteer, Shook has helped hundreds of area residents file taxes for free and get maximum returns.

Shook plans to continue his amateur acting career and to support Chipola Theatre and the Spanish Trail Playhouse in Chipley. Residents may get free help with tax returns, by calling 482-9620.