Chipola ranked in top 150 Community Colleges

Eligible for $1 Million Aspen Institute Prize

For the third straight year, Chipola College has been named one of the nation’s top 150 community colleges by the Aspen Institute based on exceptional levels of student success.

Chipola is among 15 Florida College System institutions eligible to compete for the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and $1 million in prize money. Florida colleges named to the list, are: Broward, Chipola, Eastern Florida State, Edison, Indian River, Lake-Sumter, Miami Dade, Northwest Florida State, Palm Beach State, Pasco-Hernando State, Santa Fe, South Florida State, State College of Florida, Tallahassee and Valencia.

Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough, says, “I am proud that Chipola has once again been recognized by the Aspen Institute. This nomination affirms the work being done by our faculty to ensure that our students receive a quality education.”

The Aspen Institute identified the top community colleges through an assessment of institutional performance, improvement, and equity on student retention and completion measures. A full list of the colleges is available at www.AspenPrize.org.

Chipola was named to the the top 150 list from a national pool of over 1,000 public two-year colleges using publicly available data on student outcomes. Chipola had a first-year retention rate of 62.2 percent compared to the national average of 52 percent. Chipola’s three-year graduation/transfer rate was 61.2 percent compared to the 39.8 percent national average. Chipola awards 38.3 credentials per 100 Full Time Equivalent students compared to the national average of 17.9.

The 150 eligible community colleges have been invited to submit applications containing detailed data on degree/certificate completion (including progress and transfer rates), labor market outcomes (employment and earnings), and student learning outcomes. They must demonstrate that they deliver exceptional student results for all students – including those from racial minority and/or low-income backgrounds – and also use data to inform decisions and continually improve over time.

Ten finalists will be named in fall 2014. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data, including employment and earnings data from states and transfer data from the National Student Clearinghouse. A distinguished Prize Jury will select a grand prize winner and a few finalists with distinction in early 2015.

Teacher workshop Feb. 8

The Chipola Future Educators Club will host its sixth Annual Teacher Workshop, Saturday, Feb. 8, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in Building Z. Teachers and students interested in a career in education are invited to attend.

RSVP to Casey Bush at bushc@chipola.edu or phone 526-2761, Ext. 2449.

Chipola will host a Black History Month Program, Friday, Feb. 21, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the Cultural Center. Dinner will be served. The theme for the program is “It’s a Family Affair.” The guest speaker is Elder William McCray.

For information about the event, contact Dr. Willie Spires at 718-2232.

10 MONDAY
- Deadline For Spring C Changes
- Last Day to Withdraw for Spring B
- SGA – 2 p.m., Z116

11 TUESDAY
- Admin. Council – 9 a.m., Foundation Conf
- Student Ambassadors – 1 p.m., Z201
- CC Basketball vs. Gulf Coast – 5:30 & 7:30

12 WEDNESDAY
- Black Student Union – 10 a.m., C104
- SSS in ACE – 1 – 4 p.m., ACE Lab
- Phi Theta Kappa – 2 p.m., Z204

13 THURSDAY
- Spanish Club – 2 p.m., Z113
- FCA – 7 p.m., Cafeteria

14 FRIDAY
- Last Day for Vertical Transfer for Spring A
- SSS: UF Tour Sign Up Deadline
- Literature/ Language Festival

16 SUNDAY
- FCA Worship Service – 8 p.m., Chapel
Nursing advances in national accreditation process

The Chipola School of Health Sciences recently completed the first step in a three-step process for national accreditation for the college’s nursing programs by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

During the week of Jan. 27, five nursing professionals representing ACEN conducted a site visit to Chipola. The team recommended Chipola’s Associate Degree Nursing and Baccalaureate Nursing programs for national accreditation for five years.

The second step is the Evaluation Review Panel (ERP) meeting in Atlanta on June 2-6. The third and final step is July 10-11 when the ACEN Board of Commissioners will make the final decision. Chipola will receive notification within 30 days of the board decision.

The accreditation journey began in February 2013 with the acceptance of candidacy status for national accreditation of both programs. Chipola’s nursing programs have maintained continuous accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) since their inception. The Health Sciences Department pursued the national accreditation status for both programs. Statistics reveal that graduate nurses from nationally-accredited programs have enhanced opportunities for employment and educational advancement.

Dr. Vickie Stephens, Chipola Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Chipola, says, “This ACEN recommendation is a testament to the professionalism of our educational team. We embrace the opportunity to provide quality health education through innovative teaching and partnerships with our community.”

Dr. Jason Hurst, Chipola Executive Vice President of Chipola, says, “I congratulate Dr. Stephens, the nursing faculty and staff for their hard work in this effort. This is an important milestone in the life of our Nursing programs. National accreditation by ACEN will greatly expand the career and educational opportunities for our graduates.”

Chipola offers the RN to BSN Degree with all upper level classes available online. The Associate Degree Nursing program provides training to prepare students for certification as Registered Nurses. The college also offers two bridge programs: LPN to RN and Paramedic to RN.

For information about Chipola’s Nursing programs, call 850-718-2316 or visit www.chipola.edu

Future Educators win at state competition

Faculty and students from the School of Education brought home three awards from the recent Florida Future Educators Association State Conference/Competition in Orlando.

Chipola students competed against other postsecondary institutions in categories including: Lesson Plan, Essay, Speech, PowerPoint, Public Service Announcement and Display.

Meagan Sanders placed first in the Lesson Plan competition. Kristin Eaton was second in the Public Service Announcement and Display.

Meagan Sanders placed first in the Lesson Plan competition. Kristin Eaton was second in the Public Service Announcement and Display. The team of Frances Martin, Mallory Gibbons, Kristin Eaton and Meagan Sanders placed second in the Display competition.

Casey Bush is faculty sponsor of the Future Educators Club.

Term ‘C’ registration-Feb. 26

Registration for Chipola College Spring Term C is Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Classes begin Feb. 27.

Term C courses are offered in a condensed format of approximately seven weeks compared to the traditional 15-week semester. Late registration is Thursday, Feb. 27, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Term C is open to current students and to new students who have never enrolled at Chipola. Current students may add Term C courses to their existing schedules.

Term C courses include: (ENC 0025) Develop Writing II, 5:30-9:30, Tuesday and Thursday; (AMH 2010) American History to 1865 (online); (PSY 2012) General Psychology (online); (SLS 1101) Orientation (online) and (SYG 1010) Contemporary Sociology (online).

Chipola’s open-door policy guarantees acceptance to any student with a standard high school diploma or its equivalent. Prospective students should complete a college application, available in the Office of Admissions, or online at www.chipola.edu. Students must provide an official high school or college transcript. Students should visit an academic advisor in the Student Services building to register.

Student Support Services (SSS) students will visit the University of Florida campus Friday, Feb. 21. Students need to sign up for this trip by Friday, Feb. 14. See Donna Chandler in the TRiO Office, A-119, or phone 718-2431.
Chipola hosts Gulf Coast Tuesday in league clash

Both Chipola basketball teams host Gulf Coast on Tuesday, Feb. 11. The women play at 5:30 p.m. followed by the men at 7:30 p.m. Chipola travels to Pensacola on Feb. 8.

The top-ranked Lady Indians improved to (8-0) in conference play and clinched a spot in the FCSAA State Tournament with a 53-52 win over Northwest on Feb. 5.

Chipola (8-0) leads the league. Northwest (6-2) is second. Tallahassee is (3-5). Gulf Coast is (3-5) and Pensacola is (0-8).

The Lady Indians scored a 61-22 win over Tallahassee on Feb. 1. Evelyn Akhator led Chipola with 19 points.

Chipola scored an 81-70 win over Gulf Coast on Jan. 25. Akhator led Chipola with 25 points and 12 rebounds. Tiffany Lewis had 23 points and 4 rebounds. Diamonisha Sophus scored 13 with 6 assists. Brianna Wright added 12.

Chipola is the top-ranked team in the FCSAA State Women’s Poll. Northwest is second. Gulf Coast is fourth. Tallahassee is seventh and Pensacola is ninth. The Lady Indians are fourth in the NJCAC National Poll.

The Indians lost to Northwest 90-83 on Feb. 5 to put both teams in a tie for first in the conference at 5-3.

With four games remaining in league play, the league race is tighter than ever. Chipola (5-3) and Northwest (5-3) are tied for first. Gulf Coast (4-4) and Pensacola (4-4) are tied for second. Tallahassee is (2-6). The top two teams earn a berth to the FCSAA State Tournament.

Chipola scored a 63-57 win over Tallahassee on Feb. 1. Carlos Morris led the Indians with 18 points. Sam Cassell, Jr., had 16. Demetrious Floyd had 15. The Indians are still tied for first in the FCSAA State Poll with Northwest. Gulf Coast is fifth. Pensacola is eighth.

Chipola to retire Russell Martin’s jersey

Chipola baseball alumni, families, and fans are invited to participate in the 2014 Chipola College Baseball Alumni Weekend set for Feb. 7 and 8. Chipola will hold a Jersey Retirement Ceremony for MLB All-Star Russell Martin, Saturday, Feb. 8, at 12:30 p.m. Martin led Chipola to a second place finish in the State tournament in 2002. He was drafted by the Dodgers in 2002. The three-time MLB All Star spent five years in L.A, before moving on the Yankees where he was starting catcher in 2011-12.

In 2012, the Pirates signed Martin for two years and $17 million.

The weekend begins with two Chipola baseball games on Friday, Feb. 7: Chipola vs. Shelton State at 10 a.m. and Chipola vs. Walters State at 1 p.m. A Golf Tournament tees off Friday at 12:30 p.m. at Indian Springs Golf Club. A casual Alumni Social is set for Friday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m.

Saturday’s events kick-off with Chipola vs. Walters State at 10 a.m. At 12:30 p.m., the annual Alumni Home Run Derby will commence with the Martin Jersey retirement. A silent auction of MLB memorabilia will run during the derby with an MLB/MiLB autograph session to follow.

The annual Alumni Dinner will begin at 7 p.m., Saturday, at Citizen’s Lodge with special guest speakers and entertainment to be announced. For information, visit www.chipola.edu or phone Coach Johnson at 850-718-2237.

Kristie Mosley has been selected the Top Employee for February. Mosley serves as the Coordinator of Student Support Services Grant and has worked at the college since 2003. Pictured Kristie Mosley with Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Jayne Roberts.

All Conference games will be broadcast on WJAQ-100.9 FM and on the web at PSBLIVE.com. For the latest news about Chipola Athletics, visit www.chipolaathletics.com.

Chipola will host the Twenty-fourth Annual Throssell Literature/Language Festival on Friday, Feb. 14.

The festival will begin at 8:15 a.m. and conclude with the awards ceremony at 12:30 p.m.
Chipola will celebrate Homecoming 2014, Feb. 12-22. Candidates for the Homecoming Court will be introduced at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 12, in the Cafeteria. Voting will take place Feb. 12 in the following locations: Cafeteria, 10-11 a.m.; Student Activities Office (K-105), 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lobby of Building Z, 5-6 p.m. Voting will continue Feb. 13 in the Student Activities Office (K-105) from 8 a.m. to noon. Students must be currently enrolled to vote.

The top two freshmen vote winners (women and men) and the top three sophomores or upper classmen vote winners will be named to the Homecoming Court. The sophomore or upper classmen winners will be crowned Homecoming Queen and Mr. Chipola at the Homecoming game on Feb. 22.

SGA will sponsor a Building Decoration Contest among campus organizations to be judged at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 18. Buildings must be decorated on Monday, Feb. 17. Campus groups should contact Nancy Johnson about the building their club would like to decorate.

Dress up days for the week include: Monday, Feb. 17, Pajama Day; Tuesday, Feb. 18, Superhero Day; Wednesday, Feb. 19, Blue and Gold Day; Thursday, Feb. 20, Sports Day; and Friday, Feb. 21, Harry Potter Day.

The Homecoming Talent show is Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 10 a.m. in the Chipola Cultural Center (formerly known as the Arts Center). The contest is open to any campus group or individual currently enrolled. Cash prizes will be awarded to: Best Overall - 1st, 2nd and 3rd; Best Solo, Best Group and Best Band. Performances are limited to 4 minutes. Sign-up deadline is Feb. 17 in the SGA Office.

The Homecoming games between Chipola and Northwest Florida are set for Saturday, Feb. 22. The women game tips off at 5:30 p.m. Chipola president Dr. Gene Prough and his wife, Priscilla, will host an Alumni Reception in the Hospitality Room beginning at 6 p.m. All alumni, college retirees and friends of the college are invited. The homecoming court will be presented during halftime of the men’s game which begins at 7:30 p.m. For information about Homecoming, call Nancy Johnson at 718-2314.

Chipola will offer a small business seminar, “Business Finance,” Friday, Feb. 21, from 9 a.m. to noon, in Room M-108 of the Business and Technology building (M). The seminar will cover grants, personal loans, lines of credit, small business loans, SBA guaranteed loans 7(a), SBA 504, building and long-term equipment loans.

The first six Chipola students to sign up will receive free admission. Cost of the seminar is $15. Participants may register online at www.northfloridabiz.com. Contact Elissa Severson at 718-2441 seversone@chipola.edu or sign up in Building M.

Tickets on sale for Sound of Music opening night gala


Tickets for the Opening Night Gala are on sale now in the Center for the Arts Box Office. Gala dinner tickets are $30. Play tickets—$8—must be purchased separately and can be purchased at the same time as the Gala ticket. Deadline for dinner reservations is Feb. 19. No additional dinner seating will be available the night of the event. The Opening Night Gala will include dinner in the Center for the Arts Experimental Theatre and a pre-performance chat with Director Charles Sirmon before the show.

Show tickets without the dinner go on sale to the public, Wednesday, Feb. 12. The Center for the Arts Box Office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday, from 9 a.m. to noon. All proceeds will go to the Chipola ACT Fund. For ticket information, call 850-718-2420 or online at chipola.edu.