Chipola Ranked in top 150 U.S. Community Colleges

Eligible For $1 Million Aspen Institute Prize

Chipola has been named one of the nation’s top 150 community colleges by the Aspen Institute.

Chipola is among 14 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 College, Chipola College, College of Central Florida, Daytona State College, Eastern Florida State College, Florida SouthWestern State College, Florida State College at Jacksonville, Indian River State College, Northwest Florida State College, Palm Beach State College, Saint Johns River State College, South Florida State College and Tallahassee Community College.

The Aspen Prize, awarded every two years since 2011, is the nation’s signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America’s community colleges. Chipola has been nominated for all four of the Aspen Award cycles—2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017.

Chipola president Dr. Jason Hurst, says, “We are proud to be nominated for the Aspen Prize for a fourth time. This nomination affirms that Chipola College is committed to improving our educational programs to ensure student success.”

The Aspen Prize recognizes exceptional student outcomes in persistence, completion, and transfer; consistent improvement in outcomes over time; and equity in outcomes for students of all racial/ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Highlighting the critical importance of improving student success, the Aspen Institute identified the top community colleges through an assessment of institutional performance measures.

Chipola was named among the top 150 colleges from a national pool of over 1,166 public two-year colleges using publicly available data on student outcomes. In First-Year Retention rate, Chipola ranked 23rd in the nation. In three-year graduation rate, Chipola ranked 28th. In Credentials Awarded per 100 Full Time Equivalent, Chipola ranked 20th, and in Credentials Awarded per 100 Minority Students, Chipola ranked 14th in the nation.”

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

Ten finalists will be named in Fall 2016. Aspen will conduct site visits to finalist colleges to collect additional data. A distinguished Prize Jury will select a grand prize winner and a few finalists with distinction in early 2017.

Nearly half of America’s college students attend community colleges, with more than seven million students – youth and adult learners – working towards certificates and degrees in these institutions across the country.

Chipola is designated as a state college in the Florida College System. Established in 1947, Chipola offers the Bachelor of Science Degree, the Associate in Arts Degree, the Associate in Science Degree and Workforce Development programs.

**THIS WEEK AT CHIPOLA**

**8 MONDAY**
- SGA Mtg 1:30 p.m., Z 116

**9 TUESDAY**
- SGA Campus Blood Drive
- BSU Mtg. noon, Bldg C-104
- Student Amb Mtg 1:30 p.m., Z 201

**10 WEDNESDAY**
- SSS Seminar (Life Management), 1:30 p.m. Bldg K, upstairs
- Dean's Meetings 8 a.m.
- TRIO Society Monthly Mtg 1:30 p.m., Cafeteria

**12 FRIDAY**
- CAAP Reg. Deadline for March Administration
- Throssell Literature/Language Festival, Bldg. Z
- FPU Softball Classic TBA

**13 SATURDAY**
- FPU Softball Classic TBA

**14 SUNDAY**
- FPU Softball Classic TBA

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**Baseball Alumni Weekend**

**Fri, Feb. 5, 2016**
- Chipola’s All-Star Dinner & Celebrity Auction 6:30pm
- Sat, Feb. 6, 2016
- Chipola vs Walters State 10am
- Grouper Fish Fry 11:30 - 1pm
- Alumni Home Run Derby 12: 30pm
- MLB Autograph Session 1:30 - 3:30pm
Chipola hosts Gulf Coast for Homecoming

Both Chipola basketball teams host arch-rival Gulf Coast, Saturday, Feb. 6, for Homecoming. The women’s game tips off at 5:30 p.m., with the men’s game at 7:30 p.m.


As of Feb. 4, the men’s Panhandle standings are: Northwest (6-2), Tallahassee (6-2), Gulf Coast (4-4), Chipola (2-6) and Pensacola (2-6).

The Lady Indians are second in the Panhandle Conference race and still looking for their first victory over Gulf Coast. Chipola’s only two league losses came at the hands of Gulf Coast (76-68) on Jan. 23, and a (91-77) home loss to the Lady Commodores on Jan. 2.


As of Feb. 4, Gulf Coast (8-0) leads the women’s conference race. Chipola (6-2) is second. Tallahassee (3-5) is third. Northwest (2-6) is fourth. Pensacola is (1-7).

The Lady Indians are ranked third in the FCSAA State Poll behind top-ranked Gulf Coast and second ranked Daytona. Other Panhandle teams in the state ranking include: Northwest (4) and Tallahassee (6). Chipola is sixth in the NJCAA National Poll.

Chipola’s Homecoming festivities include: a reunion of former Chipola players will return to their alma mater for the weekend which will include live college baseball action, a Homerun Derby, great food and the chance to rub elbows with the pros, including two-time MLB Homerun champ Jose Bautista and his Toronto Blue Jays teammate, All-Star catcher Russell Martin. Honorary Chipola alumni Jeff Mathis of the Marlins, Braves catcher Tyler Flowers and Diamondbacks pitcher Patrick Corbin also are expected to attend.

An Alumni Dinner and Auction is set for Friday, Feb. 5, at 6:30 p.m. Big-leaguers have donated thousands in memorabilia for the auction. Tickets are $100, with table sponsorships available for $1,000. Sponsors earn recognition at the dinner, 8 tickets, an autographed baseball and a group photo with MLB players.

A full day of activities is set for Saturday, Feb. 6, at Chipola Field. At 10 a.m., the Chipola Indians will face Walters State. An MLB Alumni Homerun Derby starts at 12:30 p.m. with guest prizes and MLB memorabilia for sale.

The MLB autograph and photo session runs from 2:30 to 3:30. For $10, fans can get one item signed by each professional. Player photos and MLB baseballs will be available for purchase.

Passes to the day’s events are $10 per person for all ages. Fans are also invited to purchase fresh groupner lunch plates for $10.

For information about alumni happenings, contact Nathan Marks at nathan@marksinsurance.com or 850-718-2237.

The Chipola Homecoming Court will be presented during the halftime of the Chipola vs Gulf Coast game on Saturday, Feb. 6. Pictured from left, are: (front) freshman Cianna Harris of Marianna, freshman Maddy Christmas of Marianna, sophomore Keionna Mitchell of Marianna, sophomore Aaliyah Raines of Sneads, sophomore Olivia Saunders of Chipley, (back) freshman Tripp Taylor of Blountstown, freshman Anthony Severson of Graceville, sophomore Andrew Bennett of Blountstown, sophomore Edward Arroyo of Marianna and sophomore Patrick Spires Malone. The Homecoming Queen and Mr. Chipola will be selected from the sophomore candidates.

Chipola Baseball Alumni Weekend Feb. 5-6

The annual Chipola Baseball Alumni Weekend is set for Feb. 5-6. Major league baseball stars and other former Chipola players will return to their alma mater for the weekend which will include live college baseball action, a Homerun Derby, great food and the chance to rub elbows with the pros, including two-time MLB Homerun champ Jose Bautista and his Toronto Blue Jays teammate, All-Star catcher Russell Martin. Honorary Chipola alumni Jeff Mathis of the Marlins, Braves catcher Tyler Flowers and Diamondbacks pitcher Patrick Corbin also are expected to attend.

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The Chipola Future Educators Club will host its Annual Teacher Workshop, Saturday, Feb. 6, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sessions will include resources and strategies in Math, Science, Reading, English, ESOL and ESE. The free workshop will be held in Literature/Language (Building Z). Registration is at 8 a.m., with the first session at 8:30 a.m. RSVP to Casey Dowgul at dowgulc@chipola.edu or phone 850-718-2449.

Throssell Literature/Language Festival set at Chipola

Chipola will host the 26th Annual Throssell Literature/Language Festival on Friday, Feb. 12.

Currently enrolled juniors or seniors from high schools in the Chipola District will compete in writing, speech, oral interpretation, humanities, grammar/mechanics/usage, literature, reading and Spanish competitions.

Festival coordinator Dr. Rachel West says, “Recognition will be given to first, second, and third places and two honorable mentions in each competition. A monetary award will be given to the first place winner of the President’s Reading contest. Many students have competed throughout the years, and some are now returning as high school sponsors for their own students.”

The festival will begin at 8:15 a.m. and conclude with the awards ceremony at 12:30 p.m. Lunch, compliments of the college, will be provided to the contestants and their sponsors. Participants also will see a preview of the upcoming Chipola musical The Addams Family.

Chipola Senior Vice-President Dr. Sarah Clemmons says, “We are looking forward to hosting our 26th festival. It is always a pleasure to have area high school students on our campus for a day of academic competition.”

CAAP Test registration deadline Feb. 12

Students planning to graduate with an Associate in Arts (AA) degree in May or Summer I or II 2016 are required to take the CAAP test. Students must attain a score of 45 or higher on each of the following subtests: Writing Skills, Reading, Mathematics, Critical Thinking and Science.

The CAAP is given three times per academic year, Fall, Spring and Summer Session 1. Deadline to register is Feb. 12 for the March 12 test. Summer graduates may take the CAAP May 14 with an April 26 registration deadline.

Registration forms are available in the Testing Center in Building A. To view and print a form online, visit http://chipola.edu/instruct/testing/caap.htm A Student User Guide with sample questions is available in the Testing Center. More information is available at http://www.act.org/caap/pdf/userguide.pdf

Again, this is a graduation requirement. The AA degree will not be awarded to those who do not meet the minimum scores on the CAAP. For info, call Becky Davis at 850-718-2283 or davisr@chipola.edu.

Chipola Future Educators win at State—Members of Chipola’s Future Educators Club (FEC) won five major awards at the recent Future Florida Educators of America (FEEA) Annual State Conference. Students attended workshops and competed with other post-secondary schools in state-wide competitions. Chipola FEC winners are, from left: (front) Rena O’Bryan (second place in speech), Olivia Howell (first place in public service announcement), (back) Niki Ferguson (first place in lesson plan) and Katherine Waller (first place in essay). The Chipola group also won first place in the chapter display competition. Chipola’s FEC Advisor is Casey Dowgul.

Chipola’s Addams Family Tickets—The Chipola production of The Addams Family Musical runs Feb. 24-28. Here, main characters pose during rehearsal. Tickets go on sale Feb. 10 at www.chipola.edu/boxoffice. Play tickets are $8 for adults and $6 for ages 18 and under. A Sunday Brunch and show is set for Feb. 28. Tickets ($30) include brunch and play admission. Brunch show tickets go on sale Feb. 3. For brunch tickets, contact Evelyn Ward at 850-718-2257 or warde@chipola.edu. For the Box Office, call 718-2420.

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Chipola to host Financial Aid Day Feb. 20

Chipola College will host a Financial Aid Day, Saturday, Feb. 20, from 9 a.m. to noon, in the Student Services Building.

Prospective students can get free, expert help applying, registering and paying for college. Participants may use college computers for online forms, and receive one-on-one assistance. Academic counselors will be available to help new and returning students and their parents through the admissions and registration steps.

Participants also will get help in completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), a mandatory first step to receiving financial aid. To expedite processing of the FAFSA form, students and parents should apply for a federal FSA ID # at www.fcaid.ed.gov.

To complete FAFSA, please bring: FSA ID number, the legal electronic signature to access the federal student aid on-line system; 2015 IRS Tax returns and W-2 statements; Social Security Number; Driver’s License or other valid photo ID; Alien Registration card. Participants should also bring Untaxed Income records for 2015, which may consist of payments to tax-deferred pensions or retirement savings, child support paid or received, housing or food or living allowance (assistance from government agencies: Florida Department of Children and families), Social Security benefits, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, WIC and/or HUD, Veterans non-education benefits (disability compensation).

For more information, call Beverly Hambright at 850-718-2223.

CHIPOLA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Chipola Foundation Scholarship list for Fall 2016 will be available the first week of March.

The McLendon Educational Trust applications for Summer I and Summer II are available online at www.chipola.edu and in the Foundation office. Application deadlines are: Summer I, March 15 and Summer II, May 16. Summer II applications should include Spring 2016 semester grades if student is enrolled in Spring 2016 classes. For information, call the Chipola Foundation at 718-2404.

Chipola's Student Support Services will sponsor several events:
- Feb. 10, 1:30 p.m., On-Course seminar (Life Management), Chipola Café, upstairs
- Feb. 24, 1:30 p.m., SSS Annual Financial Aid/ Scholarship Workshop, Z117
- March 9, On-Course seminar (Non Cognitive Skills), Chipola Café, upstairs
- March 23, Transfer Day @ Chipola, Social Science Lawn.

Chipola Take Stock to host night-time 5K

All runners and walkers are invited to participate in the Ignite the Night 5K Fun Run/Walk, Friday, March 11, at 6 p.m., at Citizens Lodge.

The Jackson County Take Stock in Children Program along with the Lighting the Way for Kids Foundation of Jackson County are the co-hosts.

Mary Helen Smith, Take Stock Program Manager, says, “Come get your glow on and help us raise dollars for scholars. The race is meant for everyone, not just avid runners. If you can run, jump, walk, skip, or even crawl, we’d love for you to join us wearing your glow-in-the-dark gear.” The entire race will be run inside the Citizens Lodge Park to ensure safety. Award medals will be given for first, second and third places overall and in each age division.

All money raised will go to Chipola scholarships to help low-income/at risk students in Jackson County.

Cost is $20 for adults, $15 for students and free for kids under five. Participants who register by Feb. 26 get a long sleeve t-shirt. Registration will also be held at the race.

For info, contact Smith at (850)718-2428 or email: smithm@chipola.edu. Visit www.chipola.edu/tsic or on Facebook at Take Stock in Children-Chipola.

Rentz recognized for service to PTK

Dr. Pam Rentz, Dean of the School of Education at Chipola College, was recently recognizes for 10 years of service as adviser to the college chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Here, Dr. Rentz receives a pin from Chipola president Dr. Jason Hurst.

Course Evaluations on Canvas

Students are asked to complete course evaluations online in Canvas from Feb. 29—Mar. 14, 2016. Confidential feedback provides information on effective instructional practices and instructional needs.