SACS approves Chipola College for mid-point accreditation

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) has informed Chipola of its approval of the institution’s Fifth-Year Interim Report. This means the college has been found in compliance with all Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, and Federal Requirements addressed in the report.

“SACS accreditation is vital to our institution, so this is great news,” said Chipola President Dr. Jason Hurst. “Our faculty, staff and administrators work together every day to ensure that our students receive a quality education. I am proud of the diligent work that resulted in a positive outcome from this fifth year report.”

Chipola submitted its Fifth-Year Interim Report in 2013, five years after the college’s most recent reaffirmation of accreditation in 2008. According to SACS Liaison Gail Hartzog, the Fifth-Year Interim Report is considered accreditation at the mid-point. It required the college to submit 17 reports on specific SACS Principles.

The college was required to include a QEP Impact Report on the success of its QEP, which SACS approved in 2008. A committee developed the five-year plan entitled “Learning to Persist.” The overall goal was to increase student persistence and graduation. The plan was implemented from 2008 through 2013. Since 2008, three-year graduation rates at Chipola have increased by over 28% among all AA degree students.

The Impact Report outlined the QEP’s impact on the student learning environment and lessons the institution has learned as a result of the QEP. Chipola has been named among the top 10% of the nation’s community colleges (120 colleges) and eligible to compete for the Aspen Prize for the last three years. Also, last year Washington Monthly ranked Chipola 14th among the top 20 community colleges in the nation.

The ACE (Academic Center for Excellence), an on-demand tutoring center, was established as part of the QEP. Student enthusiasm for the ACE has been overwhelming. ACE provides free academic assistance for all students. ACE operates with administrative staff and more than a dozen student, peer-tutors who have excelled in the courses in which they tutor. Nearly 900 students made about 8,000 visits to the ACE during the 2013 Fall semester.

Chipola is serving as a model as other institutions learn of the success of the QEP. Visitors to campus have included a team from Missouri, which established a similar effort to increase persistence. A group from FSU established an ACE on their campus. College personnel have also presented at state and regional meetings.

College officials have learned a great deal from the QEP process. Hartzog said, “We learned that some students cannot be retained with academic support alone. Though three-year graduation rates have increased by over 28%, the fall-to-fall persistence rates of entering students have not increased during the same period. This means that, while the college’s efforts have helped many students, some students face issues which cannot be addressed by academic support.”

The QEP also included workshops to help faculty and staff learn to retain students. Hartzog says that changes facilitated by faculty development occurred gradually over the last five years. “Faculty came to realize that they were the only real link to the students. Other college personnel interact with students periodically, but the teachers in the classrooms must engage students and help them feel connected.”

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THIS WEEK AT CHIPOLA

22 TUESDAY
- Last Day to Withdraw from a Class for Summer II

24 THURSDAY
- Units submit annual Report Cards (Improvement Plan checked off) to Planning Office

25 FRIDAY
- College Closed - Four Day Work Week

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Prepare now for Fall Registration

New students planning to enroll in Fall semester classes at Chipola College are encouraged to make application as soon as possible.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application should be completed and all required documents must be received in the Chipola College Financial Aid Office by July 21 in order to use Federal Financial Aid to cover Fall tuition and fees.


The schedule of classes is available online at www.chipola.edu. For information, call 718-2211.
### Chipola alum is Miss Florida USA

Chippola alumna Ashleigh Lollie was crowned Miss Florida USA in the pageant held July 12 in the Parker Playhouse in Ft. Lauderdale.

Lollie, of Grand Ridge, was crowned Miss Emerald Coast earlier this year. Seventy women were vying for the crown. She was a freshman member of the Chipola Homecoming Court in 2010.

A law student at Florida State University, Lollie goes on to represent Florida in the Miss USA pageant next year. A win there would earn her a spot at Miss Universe.

### Bautista captains home run derby and leads all-star voting

Former Chipola College player Jose Bautista, an outfielder for the Toronto Blue Jays, was selected to play in the Major League Baseball All Star Game and also to serve as American League Captain of MLB Home Run Derby.

For the second time, Bautista received the highest number of All-Star Game votes in the Majors, with 5,859,019. The American League won the All-Star game 5-3 which gives the league home field advantage in the World Series.

As captain of the 2014 Homerun Derby, Bautista hit 10 homers in the first round to earn him a bye to round three where hit four. His American league teammate Yoenis Céspedes repeated as derby champion for the second straight year.

In the 2010 season, Bautista became the 26th member of the 50 home run club which includes Babe Ruth, David Ortiz and Mickey Mantle. Bautista led the major leagues in home runs in 2010 and 2011. He has won two Hank Aaron Awards and two Silver Slugger Awards, and has appeared in four MLB All-Star Games.

During his time in the majors, the 34 year-old has also played for the Pirates, the Orioles and the Royals. Bautista played at Chipola before being drafted by the Pittsburg Pirates in the 20th round of the 2000 amateur draft. His official signing came in May 2001, the same year the Indians captured the Panhandle Conference Championship and were the NJCAA Region VIII Runner-up.

Bautista is a regular at Chipola’s Alumni Baseball Weekend, an event that helps raise money for the college baseball program and gives local fans a chance to rub elbows with some of the great players in pro baseball. This year’s event is slated for Feb. 7, 2015.

For the latest news about Chipola Athletics, visit www.chipolaathletics.com.

### Chipola to offer new P.E. courses for coaches

This Fall Chipola will be offering two new Physical Education courses that, in conjunction with a third course, will satisfy the requirements for the Florida Department of Education Athletic Coaching Endorsement, Administrative Rule 6A-4.0282.

Chipola Athletic Director Dr. Steve Givens, says, “This is the first time we have ever offered this opportunity to both our students and the community at large.”

Two of the courses will be offered during the Fall semester: Theory and Methods of Coaching, (PET 2760) will meet Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m. Care & Prevention of Athletic Injuries (PET 2622) will meet Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. During the Spring 2015 semester, Theory & Practice of Coaching Specific Sports (PEO 2004) will meet Tuesday and Thursday, at 10:30 a.m.

For information, contact the Chipola Athletic Department at 850-718-2299.