

**CHIPOLA** *this* **WEEK**  
*A newsletter for Chipola College Students, Employees, Alumni and Friends*

**Chipola ranked third best in U.S. by wallethub.com**

Chipola announced Tuesday, Sept. 1, that WalletHub.com ranked Chipola third on its list of the best community colleges in the U.S.

“We’re very proud of our number three national ranking,” said president, Dr. Jason Hurst. “We have an excellent record of educating students, and preparing them for promising careers.”

Hurst said the WalletHub ranking adds to a growing list of recent accolades, including three nominations for the prestigious Aspen Prize (2012, 2013 and 2014), and 14th best community college in the U.S. by Washington Monthly in 2013.

WalletHub is a group who researches the best value in financial and educational institutions, such as advisers and insurance brokers.

There are about 1,100 community colleges in the U.S., but WalletHub looked only at the 670 that were accredited and also disseminated to their students in 2013 the Community College Survey of Student Engagement, essentially an opportunity for students to grade their colleges.

Based on the survey and other data, WalletHub considered four areas: Education

Outcomes, Cost and Financing, Classroom Experience and Career Outcomes.

**Education Outcomes** measured retention rates, graduation rates and number who go on to universities.

**Cost and Financing** considers tuition, how much schools spent per student, and the total amounts of state and local financial assistance students received weighed against federal assistance and faculty and staff salaries.

**Classroom Experience** factors levels of involvement students have in their education and participation in teams and projects, how much students apply themselves to their education, how challenged students feel and how students feel about school services and access to faculty.

**Career Outcomes** compares initial salaries of students in their new career fields compared to the costs of the college education and the ratio of student loan defaults.

Dr. Sarah Clemmons, Senior Vice-President, said, “We believe our students and faculty are among the best in the country, but it is inspiring when this belief is validated by objective measurements.”



This study supports Chipola’s position in Florida’s new performance-based funding model which ranked Chipola eighth out of 28 community colleges statewide. The Florida College System placed Chipola in the Silver category and awarded the school \$400,000 in non-recurring funds as part of the state’s new performance-based funding matrix.

WalletHub reports that community colleges are slowly stacking up against their traditional four-year counterparts. Schedule flexibility, rigorous coursework and smaller class sizes supply the majority of their appeal to first-time college students.

The rankings and methodology are listed at: <http://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-community-colleges/15076/>

**O’Bryan is Career Employee of the Year**

Shanda O’Bryan, Chipola College’s Comptroller, has been named the college’s Career Employee of the Year for 2015.

As comptroller, she is responsible for overseeing many of the college’s financial transactions, including accounts payable, accounts receivable, student fees, college scholarships payments and fee waivers. O’Bryan has worked at Chipola since 1994. She is active in the Association of Florida Colleges and the Career Employees Association. In addition, she has served on several college committees including calendar, budget review and development and intercollegiate athletics.

Her supervisor Steve Young says, “Shanda is the most deserving person for this award. She spends countless hours serving students and fellow employees.

Her co-worker Kathy Dunaway, who nominated O’Bryan for the award, said, “Shanda is in the office late most evenings. We kid her about staying overnight, since she is here when we leave and here when many of us arrive in the mornings. She makes sure deadlines are met, and in Accounting, there are many. She always treats everyone in a courteous manner.”

O’Bryan and her husband, Randy, both attended Chipola, as did her parents Tommy and Connie Ayers of Altha. Shanda went on to receive her Bachelor’s degree in Accounting from Florida State University. Their son, Sawyer, is a senior at Altha High School and is a dual enrollment student through Chipola. Their daughter, Addison, is a seventh-grader at Altha. The family is active in sports and extracurricular activities.

The Employee of the Year award recognizes the exceptional work of Chipola’s career service employees. Candidates are nominated by fellow employees for exhibiting courtesy, motivation and professionalism. Annual winners receive a \$1,000 bonus, reserved parking for a year, a one-year membership in AFC, and a \$100 gift certificate from the college Book Store.



The quality of her work is second to none.”

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**SGA CLUB DAY**  
 Sept. 9 • 10:00-12:30

*give* **HOPE. Life. Blood.**  
 Sept 9 • 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. • In front of Bldg. Z

**THIS WEEK AT CHIPOLA**

**SEPTEMBER 7 MONDAY**  
 • Labor Day- College closed

**8 TUESDAY**  
 • BSU Mtg. noon, Bldg C-104  
 • Student Ambassadors Meeting 1:30 p.m., Bldg. Z 201

**9 WEDNESDAY**  
 • Dean’s Meetings 8 a.m.  
 • Club Day 10 a.m., front of Bldg. Z  
 • SGA Campus Blood Drive  
 • TRIO Society Monthly Meetings 1:30 p.m., Cafeteria

**12 SUNDAY**  
 • ACT Exam

## Business Credit Seminar

Chipola will offer a small business seminar “Building Business Credit and Managing Cash Flow,” Friday, Sept. 11, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., in Room M-108 of the Chipola Business and Technology building (M).

The FSBDC at UWF is presenting the seminar. Participants will gain tips on how to establish and grow a company’s business credit, effectively use a business Line of Credit, better manage cash flow and gain access to capital for business. The seminar will be presented by Shelly Wilson-Ayers, Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC.

Cost of the seminar is \$35 for the public and free for students and employees of GCSC, Chipola College or Florida State University who present a name tag or student ID. Pre-registration is recommended.

Register at [www.sbdc.uwf.edu](http://www.sbdc.uwf.edu) and click on Training Opportunities in Panama City for the Chipola College seminar. For information, call 850-718-2441.



### THIS WEEK

“Chipola This Week” is a weekly publication of the Chipola Public Relations Office. Deadline for the next issue is 8 a.m., on Wednesdays of the current week. Articles will be printed as space permits. E-mail information to Meri Mock at [chipolathisweek@chipola.edu](mailto:chipolathisweek@chipola.edu).

### BIRTHDAYS

- 21 Aug Olabode Ogedengbe  
(Belated- sorry we missed it!)
- 7 Sep Wayne Herring

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### SEPT

- 15-16 SSS Welcome/Orientation 1:30 p.m., ACE Lab
- 16 SGA Fall Elections 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Cafeteria K105
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- 17 Theatre Showcase 7 p.m., CFA
- 18 ACT Reg. Deadline - Oct Test
- 20-21 Auditions for Theatre production *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* 6 p.m., CFA
- 21 Deadline to Submit Athletic Eligibility Roster for Fall
- 21 Night Student Social 7 p.m., Cafeteria
- 24 Deadline to Apply, ADN Program for Spring '16
- 26 Showchoir Showcase 7 p.m.

## Law Enforcement Classes begin Sept. 3

The Chipola Criminal Justice Training Center will offer an evening Law Enforcement Academy and a Corrections to Law Enforcement Cross-over class beginning Sept. 3.

Application deadline is Sept. 1. Classes will meet weeknights from 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Completion of either program prepares candidates to take the State Board Examination to become certified by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, upon becoming employed with a law enforcement agency.

Prior to admission, all candidates must earn a passing score on the Criminal Justice Basic Abilities Test (CJBAT) offered at the college Public Service Building Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. Cost of the test is \$45.

Applicants must have a standard high school diploma or its equivalent and must undergo a medical physical examination, background check and drug screening. Financial assistance is available based upon need and eligibility.

For information, contact Steven Stewart, Law Enforcement Coordinator, at 718-2286.



Student Support Services (SSS) will provide a series of On Course seminars for Chipola students.

English instructor Kurt McInnis will lead two seminars in the Fall (Decision Making and College Survival). Decision-Making is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 9 a.m., in the ACE. College Survival is set for Oct. 20.

Two more seminars—Life Management and Non-cognitive Skills—will be offered in the Spring term.

Strategies used in the seminars aim to empower students to become active, responsible learners, and improve student academic success and retention.

For information, contact Kristie Mosely at 718-2417.

## Got Running Shoes? Cross Country team seeking runners

The Chipola Women’s Cross Country team has scholarships available for currently-enrolled students. Interested women should contact Coach Rance Massengill immediately.



Cross Country is a Fall sport which ends in November. For information, call 850-718-2420, or email [massengillr@chipola.edu](mailto:massengillr@chipola.edu)



### REHBERG IS TOP CHIPOLA EMPLOYEE

Kathy Rehberg has been selected the Chipola Faculty/Administrator/Other Professional Award for the month of August. Rehberg is the college Registrar and has worked at the college since 1977. Pictured from left are, Chipola president Dr. Jason Hurst, Kathy Rehberg and Dr. Jayne Roberts, Vice President of Student Affairs.

## Chipola Wellness Center Open to Spouses

Chipola encourages the health and wellness of all employees with the 90 for 90 Plan. With supervisor approval, employees may leave their work station for up to 90 minutes a week to engage in approved wellness activities as long as they engage in the activity for up to 90 minutes of their own time.

An example would be to leave work 30 minutes early Monday, Wednesday and Friday, to exercise for a total of one hour each of those days. Another example would be to arrive at work 15 minutes late four days a week and work out for a total of 30 minutes on those days.

Employees should complete a Wellness Center Administrative Leave and Personal Time Log and submit to Human Resources at the end of each month. Leave must be matched with personal time during the same calendar week – Sunday midnight to Saturday midnight. Personal time is not personal leave. It is time beyond the regular work schedule.

Spouses of full-time college employees are now eligible to use the Chipola Wellness Center.

To use the Center, spouses must:

1. Pay annual fee of \$100 at college Business Office. Membership is good for fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). Cards expire June 30th of each year.
2. Complete Informed Consent, Waiver Release in Human Resources to receive access card.
3. Take access card to Student Affairs (Kim Collins) for picture ID and activation. ID’s are made Monday–Thursday, 8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.

