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Report Card

"Though Chipola has changed on the outside, what goes on inside these buildings remains the same: caring, professional instructors - teaching, and the finest students anywhere - learning."

Dale O’Daniel, President

At a recent graduation ceremony, Dr. Dale O’Daniel provided an explanation of why Chipola after 54 years is still one of the top-ranked community colleges in the state: the success of its students.

Some of Chipola's most successful alumni include: Malcolm Gillis, president of Rice University; Johnnie Mae Gibson, once the highest-ranking Black woman in the FBI; Buck Showalter, former manager of the New York Yankees and the Arizona Diamondbacks; Amos McMullian, the president and CEO of Flowers Industries; and Col. Westanna Harvey Bobbitt, once the chief protocol officer at the Pentagon.

In 1999, Chipola ranked first in the percentage of Florida Undergraduate Scholars enrolled. One of every 17 students attending Chipola had received one of the prestigious scholarships. These scholars are students whose high school grade point averages and SAT scores entitle them to state scholarships of over $2,000.

“The credit for preparing students to become undergraduate scholars belongs to their grammar and high schools,” Dr. O’Daniel said, “but the fact that so many of them choose to attend Chipola says a lot about our reputation for quality instruction.”

“Undergraduate Scholars are going to succeed, no matter what college they attend, but Chipola also has great success with below-average or underprepared students,” the president said. “We have an open door policy, which means we accept students no matter what their previous level of achievement. We accept students who cannot get into the universities at the freshman level. Then we ‘add value’ to them by getting them ready to compete successfully at the universities.”

In support, Dr. O’Daniel cited three state reports.

• One report shows that CJC ranks first in the percentage of students who have to take college prep or remedial math courses when they enroll at CJC, but who then go on to pass their required college-level math courses. CJC’s success rate for these students is 73 percent; the statewide rate is 63 percent.

• CJC ranks sixth in the state in the percentage of students who have to take college prep or remedial reading when they enroll, but who go on to pass their required college-level English courses. CJC’s success rate is 77 percent, while the state rate is 62 percent.

• CJC ranks fourth in the state in the percentage of students who have to take college prep or remedial courses when they enter college, but who go on to pass the CLAST exam. Chipola’s success rate with these students is 76 percent, while the statewide rate is 63 percent.

Whether individuals start out as Undergraduate Scholars, average students or below-average students, by the time they graduate from Chipola, they are ready to compete with university students who began as freshmen at the university.

The grades of CJC students who are now attending the universities give CJC a fourth place ranking statewide in the percentage of students who make passing grades (2.0 or better). Chipola's passing rate is 91 percent; the state average is 87 percent.

Chipola ranks fourth in the state in the percentage of job placements of students who complete one of its Workforce Development programs. State reports show that 97.40 percent are placed in jobs; the statewide average is 83 percent.

Credits and Official Standing

Accreditation & Affiliations

Chipola Junior College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4098; telephone number 404-679-4501) to award Associate in Arts degrees, Associate in Science degrees, and Certificates of Training.

The college is also a member of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, the Southern Association of Junior Colleges, the Florida Association of Colleges and Universities, the American Council on Education, and other professional organizations for institutions of higher learning.

Being affiliated with these organizations means that credits earned at Chipola are recognized and accepted by other colleges and universities throughout the United States. Students planning to earn advanced degrees at four-year colleges and universities may transfer work completed at Chipola, generally with no loss of credit.

Veterans Approval

Chipola is approved by the Florida State Approving Agency for the training of veterans and eligible dependents under the provisions of the “Cold War G.I. Bill” (Title 38, U.S. Code) and other applicable legislation administered by the U.S. Veterans Administration. The college’s policies and procedures are applicable to all eligible students who make application for, and receive, V.A. Educational Assistance benefits under Chapters 30, 31, 32, 34, 35 or 106 while enrolled in an approved program of study. All degrees, certificates and courses offered by the college must be approved by the Florida State Approving Agency to allow payments to eligible students.

Complete information will be furnished to veterans or eligible dependents upon request.

Civil Rights Compliance

Chipola Junior College subscribes fully to a policy of nondiscrimination with regard to all employees, students, and services to
the community. Specifically, the college has given assurance of compliance with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and of Executive Order 11246, as amended. All members of the college faculty, staff, and student body are expected to subscribe to this assurance of compliance and to assist in making such assurance valid in fact.

Chipola is dedicated to the concept of equal opportunity. The college will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, age, sex, veteran’s status, disability, or marital status in its employment practices or in the admission and treatment of students.

The Equal Access/Equal Opportunity Office is in Building G.

Philosophy and Purpose

Chipola is a comprehensive public community college whose primary purpose is to provide accessible, affordable, quality educational opportunities to the residents of Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington counties and to all others who choose to attend. The college creates a student-oriented atmosphere of educational excellence and maintains an intellectual environment which inspires the full development of each individual’s goals, abilities, and interests. Because there is no substitute for quality instruction, the college empowers faculty members to establish and achieve the highest possible standards. The college also promotes a strong working relationship with communities, businesses, state agencies, and other educational institutions.

Mission and Programs Revised in 1996

The Chipola Junior College mission is to serve students in four major areas:

1. Providing educational programs which include general and pre-professional classes which lead to the Associate in Arts degree for transfer to other colleges and universities.
2. Providing Workforce Development programs which lead to Associate in Science degrees which prepare students for jobs in their communities, and Certificates of Training to develop or upgrade career skills.
3. Providing continuing education opportunities related to cultural and governmental changes and personal development, both mentally and physically.
4. Providing a broad range of student services and instructional and administrative support.

Goals

To fulfill this mission, Chipola Junior College is committed to the following:

1. Providing quality academic, Workforce Development and continuing education programs, including sufficient instructional support to meet the needs of students.
2. Presenting the college and its programs in positive ways, making every effort to attract and enroll as many students as possible by marketing the college through a variety of methods, and enrolling students in efficient and customer-oriented ways.
3. Providing a wide range of academic, developmental and support services to help retain students in educational programs, to decrease the percentage of students who drop out, and to increase the percentage who complete their programs of study.
4. Promoting the responsible management of college resources by maintaining sound fiscal operations, seeking additional resources, improving college facilities, and providing an environment conducive to progressive implementation of technology.
5. Encouraging staff and organizational development by supporting an efficient and productive work environment where employees demonstrate competence, integrity, and professional excellence.
6. Fostering strong community involvement and Work force Development by supporting local and state economic growth and encouraging civic, cultural, recreational and service activities.
7. Maintaining a strong reputation of promoting satisfaction and long-term success by equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue their goals and become more productive citizens.
Innovations and Achievements

Chipola is one of the oldest junior colleges in the nation. Thus, it might be presumed a traditional institution. The reverse is true.

The college has been known as an innovator since shortly after its founding in 1947 when the U.S. Department of Education coined the term, “the Chipola Index,” an index of the effect that having a community college in a geographic area will have on the number of students from that area who go to college.

Technology

People of all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens, are embracing technology as never before. This increased dependence has been recognized, and embraced, at Chipola Junior College. From “hand-holding” the beginner to supplementing the proficient, Chipola provides the technological resources for students to advance their skills, no matter the level of expertise.

2000-2001 ushered-in a new age of technological integration into the curriculum. Automotive Service Technology students and Electronics Technology students now have some of the most advanced, computer-assisted diagnostic equipment available. Instructors have the capability to simulate equipment failures and electronically track students’ progress toward diagnosing the simulated failure. Supplemented by expert instruction, students receive valuable “hands-on” training.

Shortages in the technology industry have not gone unnoticed either. Students interested in the high-demand field of computer support may now take advantage of a state-of-the-art lab designed to help students certify as Microsoft Certified Service Engineers (MCSE). Supplemented by two software contracts with Microsoft Corporation, students are insured of access to the latest releases of industry-leading software. Curricula in programming, networking, office applications and business applications are all available at Chipola.

Chipola’s networking infrastructure was upgraded in March 2001. All new Cisco switching equipment was installed to support a new Gigabit Ethernet backbone. Additional fiber optics were also installed to supplement data/video transmission. In addition, Internet bandwidth was quadrupled, with the capability of expanding seven times more.

Plans for 2002-2003 include newly renovated business/networking/programming facilities, installing multimedia capability in more classrooms, additional student services via the Web, and the addition of an electronic bulletin board system.

Arts

In 1987-88 Chipola was one of ten institutions—and the only community college—selected by the Southern Arts Federation as a Minority and Rural Arts Initiative Center. In recognition of its special attention to the arts, the college was given grants of $450,000 by the State Division of Cultural Affairs to remodel a campus building to serve as a regional arts center. This facility, the Chipola Arts Center, was dedicated in April of 1991. Since its opening it has been in continuous use for traveling art exhibits, concerts and recitals.

The college also sponsors an Artist Series that provides performances by visiting artists each year.

The 2001-2002 season saw outstanding productions of “Rumors” and “Footloose.” All performances were sold out. “Footloose” sold out in a record breaking less than two days box office.

Each summer the department buses in thousands of area children to see its annual children’s theater production.

The college’s three musical groups, Chorus, Rock and Jazz Ensemble, and Show Choir, perform throughout the Southeast. Show Choir routinely performs its popular show at Walt Disney World in Orlando.

Athletics

Although Chipola—with fewer than 3,000 students—is one of the smallest community colleges in the state, it is a “big name” in sports and always has been. Its basketball and baseball teams regularly appear in the state tournaments.

Playing in one of the toughest leagues in the nation—the Panhandle Conference—Chipola has won more state basketball championships than any other Florida community college—seven. It has won 11 Panhandle Conference championships and made nine trips to the national tournament.

The 2001-2002 year was memorable for several reasons. In March 2001, the Men’s and Women’s State Basketball Tournament returned to CJC for the seventh year. The tournament is co-spon-
sored by the state’s most active community college booster organization—the Chipola Appreciation Club. The group has successfully captured a five-year contract for Chipola to host the tournament through 2006. The Appreciation Club has raised over $500,000 for CJC athletics over the past ten years.

In 2001, the baseball team continued its winning tradition with wins over nationally ranked teams, winning the conference title and finishing second in the state championship tournament. Many graduating sophomores have accepted scholarships in Division I schools.

The softball team and the women's basketball team continue to be competitive in conference play, including a state tournament appearance in 2000.

Background

Chipola Junior College was founded in 1947 and operated for one year as a private educational institution.

Florida’s Minimum Foundation Law, passed in 1947, included provisions for public support of junior colleges. Under the provisions of this law, a junior college district consisting of Jackson, Calhoun, and Washington Counties was approved to operate as a public institution with financial support from the three counties and the State of Florida. This approval was granted by the State Board of Education, and Chipola Junior College became a public institution effective September 1, 1948.

The original district of Calhoun, Jackson and Washington Counties was expanded later to include Holmes and Liberty Counties.

A milestone in the history of CJC occurred in 1953 when the campus moved from its original location at the former Graham Army Air Base to the present location. The first permanent buildings were completed and occupied in 1954. Additions through the years have brought the number of buildings to 26. The campus also includes outdoor physical education fields and a pool. Programs in vocational education were begun in 1967-68.

Evidence of growth with regard to official recognition by other institutions of higher learning came in 1957 when the college was accepted into membership and fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. This accreditation was reaffirmed in 1967, 1977, 1987, and 1997.

Location

The Chipola District, composed of Jackson, Washington, Holmes, Calhoun and Liberty Counties, is located in the Florida Panhandle—a rural area abounding in forests, rivers, and lakes. Part of the district borders on the Georgia and Alabama state lines. The main economic base of the region is agriculture and forestry. Situated in Marianna near the banks of the Chipola River, the campus uses only about 40 of its 105 acres. The remainder is in its natural state—covered with pines, cedars and hardwoods.

Facilities

Over the past several years, the college has undergone a multimillion dollar modernization of its buildings and instructional facilities, including the equipping of four computer labs that are open five days and several evenings each week.


New headquarters for the Chipola Foundation were opened in Spring 1995 in a remodeled home located across College Street from the Administration Building. A new softball diamond for the Lady Indians also was completed in Spring 1995.

A new road through the campus and additional parking spaces were completed during the Summer of 1995.

A new wing on the Fink Natural Science Building, housing state-of-the-art science labs, opened for the Spring Semester of 1996.

A Child Care Center was dedicated by the Board of Trustees in February of 1996 and is caring for up to 80 children. A new parking lot, adjacent to the Workforce Development Building, was completed during the Summer of 1996.

During the Spring of 1996, crews laid fiber optic and copper cabling for Chipola’s new $380,000 telecommunications upgrade. Telephone service over the system was implemented during the Summer of 1996, followed by electronic linkage of all computers on campus during the 1997-98 school year.

The 1998-99 year saw the completion of the Public Service Building. A new Literature/Language Building opened in the Summer of 2000. Also during the 2000-2001 year, the college saw the completion of the renovation of the Continuing Education/Conference Center building and the Cafeteria. A new Literature/Language parking lot, Firing Range Classroom and Defensive Driving Range were also added. The Physical Education Complex/Health Center addition, a new Health Sciences facility and a substantial Library renovation will be completed by the Fall of 2002.
Demographics

The majority of students who attend Chipola Junior College are natives of the five-county district served by the college. Thus, most students are from a rural or small town background. Marianna, with a population of about 10,000, is the largest city in the district. The population of the entire district is less than 94,000. Most regional students commute to the campus. Most out-of-state and foreign students live in Chipola’s Residence Hall.

The major industries of the Chipola District are agriculture and forestry. The district is Florida’s top producer of peanuts and a major producer of beef cattle. The second largest income producing industry in the area is corrections. A federal correctional facility, six state prisons, and a juvenile corrections center are located within the five counties. Unlike most of the state, tourism is not a major industry in the district, although thousands visit annually to fish in Lake Seminole and the many other rivers, lakes, streams and ponds.

The racial makeup of the college is 77 percent white, 20 percent black, 2 percent Hispanic and 1 percent Native American or other.

The gender mix at CJC is 55.6 percent female and 44.4 percent male.

In contrast with most urban community colleges, students 17 to 24 years old make up the majority of Chipola’s student body, some 61 percent. The remaining age groups are represented as follows: 11 percent 25 to 29, 24 percent 30 to 49, and 4 percent 50 and above.

Because the majority of students commute and some 60 percent hold part or full time jobs, most classes are scheduled between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Evening classes meet Monday through Thursday. During the summers, classes meet four days a week, Monday through Thursday.