“While I’ve been here at college I’ve been on my own. When I moved here I left behind my family and friends. Since I started Chipola I have felt like I have made a new family and many new friends.”

James Spooner
Theatre Major
Sophomore

“The most enjoyable part of Chipola is the way people treat me. Chipola is like a second family to me.”

Georgia Britt
Sophomore

“Chipola was a generally fun experience for me. With it being so close to home, I am glad that I had the opportunity to attend.”

2004 Graduating Student Survey

“Choosing Chipola was one of the most beneficial decisions that I have made since graduating from high school. The knowledgeable faculty and staff have definitely helped prepare me for my future.”

Tracy Brock
Accounting Major
Transfer Student to Florida State University

“Chipola is a place where teachers care, students try, excellence is achieved, and life begins!”

Seabron Chad Fears
Business Administration/Political Science Major
Transfer Student to the University of Florida

“I am very much in debt for the educational opportunity provided me by Chipola. Without that opportunity, higher education would probably not have been an option for me.”

Dr. Malcolm Gillis
Outstanding Alumnus
President, Rice University

History

Documented Performance of Chipola and Its Students

Vision, Mission & Goals
History

Chipola College is a public, open-admissions institution in Marianna, Florida, serving the five Florida panhandle counties of Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington. Located in the Florida Panhandle, 70 miles west of Tallahassee, 60 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, and 30 miles from the Alabama state line, Chipola was established as the third oldest of Florida’s 28 state-supported community colleges. The institution’s name was changed from Chipola Junior College in 2003, after the Florida Legislature granted permission for Chipola to offer selected baccalaureate degrees to address documented workforce needs in the region. Chipola opened its doors in 1946 as a private institution with six full-time teachers and 65 students. The college served 3063 students in its regular degree and certificate programs in 2003-04 and an additional 2,667 through Continuing Education and Public Service training.

Chipola was brought under state control and financing in 1947 when Florida’s Minimum Foundation Law initiated a plan to place two years of college education within commuting distance of every Florida citizen. The original district of Calhoun, Jackson and Washington Counties was expanded later to include Holmes and Liberty Counties.

A milestone in the college’s history occurred in 1953 when the campus moved from its original location at the former Graham Army Air Base to the present location near the banks of the Chipola River. The first permanent buildings were completed and occupied in 1954. Additions through the years have created a complex of 26 buildings, arranged on a wooded campus, on about 50 acres of a 120-acre tract. The remainder is in its natural state—covered with pines, cedars and hardwoods. The campus also includes outdoor physical education fields and a pool.

Programs in workforce education began in 1967-68. In January 2004, Chipola enrolled its first students in the new Teacher Education Program to earn the Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education with emphasis in math or science. Most of these students will graduate in 2006 and begin teaching careers in middle and high school math and science classrooms in the district.

Chipola operates under a nine-member District Board of Trustees appointed by the governor for four-year terms. All operations are governed by the Florida Department of Education and policies set forth by the District Board of Trustees. The college was accredited in 1957 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and has maintained continuous accreditation since that time. The most recent reaffirmation of accreditation of all programs occurred in 1998. SACS granted Chipola permission to offer baccalaureate degrees in December of 2003.
Documented Performance of Chipola and Its Students

Chipola is one of the top-ranked community colleges in the state because of the success of its students. Shown below are highlights of success on a variety of indicators. Similar results have been achieved by Chipola each year since the identification of the college’s success factors, institutional indicators, and the state’s accountability measures.

- **Florida Bright Futures Scholars**: A recent state report ranks Chipola first in the percent of Florida’s Bright Futures Scholarship recipients. Over 16% of the total student population is attending Chipola on these prestigious scholarships; 24% of the 2003 entering freshmen were Bright Futures Scholars. Most of these students will transfer to professional schools in medicine, law, pharmacy, engineering, and business, but the fact that so many of these scholars receive their general education at Chipola speaks well for the college’s reputation for high standards and quality instruction.

- **Outstanding Instruction at All Levels**: There are many other indicators of instructional quality. Chipola ranks consistently among the top colleges in Florida on CLAST scores and GPAs among transfers to state universities. Licensure passing rates and job placement rates are consistently above 90%, including Registered Nursing Exam passing rates of 100%. Among the underprepared students who are placed in college-prep/remedial courses on entry, Chipola has unprecedented success. Some 73% of the students who take college prep/remedial math go on to pass their required college-level math courses, compared to the statewide rate of only 46%. Chipola ranks fourth in the state in the percentage of students (76%) who take any college prep/remedial math, reading, or writing course and then go on to pass or exempt the CLAST exam. The state rate is only 63%. In 2003-2004, the grade point average of Chipola’s AA graduates who transferred to the State University System (all universities/all students) was 3.04, compared to the state average of only 2.93. Chipola’s most recent CLAST overall passing or exemption rate was 94%.

- **Chipola Honors Program**: The Chipola Honors Program is a member of the National Collegiate Honors Council. The Honors Program at Chipola offers weekly seminars for the brightest and best students. Teachers of honors classes guide students through research projects, beyond the regular course requirements.

- **Nationally Recognized Scholars, and Phi Theta Kappa and Phi Beta Lambda Chapters**: Chipola’s students and academic organizations have earned state and national recognition, including the number one college student among all students in Florida’s colleges and universities - Chrissie Prichard. Prichard was selected from hundreds of nominees from public and private colleges and universities in Florida. In addition, at the Phi Theta Kappa National Convention in Anaheim, California, Chipola’s PTK chapter was named the 2003 Most Distinguished Chapter among 1200 chapters nationwide. During the last six years, Chipola has had Florida’s Top Scholar named in USA Today/All American and recognized at the AACC National Convention. Three of these scholars received the prestigious Guistwhite Scholarship, a $5,000 cash award. Another received a coveted summer internship with the National Science Foundation in Washington, DC. Members of Phi Beta Lambda have also won special recognition for themselves and the college by competing in state and national contests.

> **PREVIOUS HONOREES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Chrissie Prichard</td>
<td>Chipola College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Jose Diaz</td>
<td>University of Miami</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Brian Dassler</td>
<td>University of Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Rick Vidal</td>
<td>Florida State University</td>
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**In the last six years, six Chipola scholars have been named to the USA Today—All American team and recognized at the AACC Convention.**

**A Chipola scholar received a prestigious 2003 summer internship at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Washington, D.C.**

**Chipola’s Phi Theta Kappa Chapter was named the 2003 Most Distinguished Chapter among 1200 chapters internationally.**

**Chipola’s Chrissie Prichard earned the title of the 2003 Florida College Student of the Year over the state’s best and brightest student leaders.** After her graduation in Spring 2004, Prichard transferred to Mississippi State University where she has not slowed down in her commitment to campus involvement. Prichard has become involved in the Student Association as a member of the External Events committee, Chi Omega sorority, Golden Key International Honour Society, and the American Society of Civil Engineers. She has accepted an Engineering Congressional Fellowship for Spring 2005. This program offers engineering students an opportunity to intern in a senator’s office. She plans to work for Senator Trent Lott’s Office.
contests in business-related fields. In addition, the faculty sponsor was recently named The Florida Sponsor of the Year. Chipola’s first place winners in state contests have represented Florida in national competitions in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Long Beach, Nashville, Orlando, and Dallas.

- **Fine and Performing Arts**: Chipola College serves as the cultural arts center for five counties by bringing outstanding musical and theatre performances to the area as well as art exhibits.

  Chipola sponsors an annual Artist Series that brings visiting artists of national and international reputation to the campus each year.

  The Theatre Department’s 2003-04 student productions, the comedy “Last Night of Ballyhoo” and the classic musical “Gypsy”, were both rated “superior” by the Florida Community College Activities Association and were enjoyed by sold-out audiences. Chipola theatre productions have been ranked “superior” for the past five consecutive years.

  Each summer the department buses in thousands of area children to see its annual children’s theater production. This past summer the production was the popular “Charlotte’s Web.”

  The college’s three musical ensembles, Chamber Chorus, Rock and Jazz Ensemble, and Show Choir, perform throughout the Southeast. The Show Choir’s annual “Jazzmatazz” concerts held in January are traditionally performed to sold out audiences. As one of the finest college show choirs in the southeast, Chipola’s Show Choir routinely performs its popular show aboard cruise ships and at Walt Disney World in Orlando. Chipola’s Chamber Chorus performs major classical works and standard choral literature. In addition to its spring concert, the Chamber Chorus serves and performs at the very popular Christmas Dinners.

  The Fine and Performing Arts Department sponsors a “Music Through Performance” program which brings together area private music teachers and their students four to five times a year for performances and workshops.

  Visual art students and visiting art exhibitors display their work in the student gallery of the McLendon Building as well as mount art shows and exhibits in the Arts Center.

  In affiliation with the Chipola Regional Arts Association (CRAA), the college hosts over a thousand students for musicals, operas or plays. In the spring of 2004 students enjoyed a musical adaptation of “Lewis and Clark”. The CRAA annually funds programs for children, contributes to the Artist Series, provides mini-grants to area art, music and theatre teachers, and offers scholarships for students in the arts at Chipola.

- **Emphasis on Instructional Programs and Student Outcomes**: Throughout Florida, Chipola is recognized for the quality of its instructional programs, all of which undergo annual program assessments according to specific student outcomes. A rigorous Program Viability Review helps deans, department chairs, and lead faculty determine program strengths and weaknesses. All academic departments require common course syllabi, departmental final exams, use the same textbooks, and provide access to the same labs and instructional materials. Data show that, by many measures of success, students excel. Students must take the CLAST when approaching graduation (60 sem. hrs.) unless their grades allow them to exempt.

  In addition, Governor Jeb Bush recently named Chipola’s Fire Science program “Best in the State” because of its high retention and graduation rates and 100% passing rates on the state licensure examination. Many other indicators

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**Chipola is a Rural Cultural Arts Center with outstanding drama and music programs.**

In the last five years, Chipola’s theatre productions have received “superior” ratings by the Florida Community College Activities Association (FCCAA).

Chipola’s production of *Big River* won 2003 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) scholarships and Irene Ryan awards. Chipola Theatre Majors Jill White and Mavis Flowers earned chances to perform at Kennedy Center.
confirm Chipola’s outstanding scholarship, not the least of which is that Chipola’s graduates in biology, chemistry, and physics are recruited as lab assistants in state universities, and engineering students consistently earn top honors in colleges of engineering.

- **Excellent Advising and Orientation:** Chipola’s students take fewer excess hours in state universities. In fact, the college’s effective advising and orientation were recently confirmed when a special “Excess Hours Report” showed that graduates who transfer and graduate from state universities have completed fewer unnecessary hours. Chipola’s transfer students have completed only 12.31 “excess hours” (more than required for the degree they actually received), compared to the highest mean in the state, 39.03. This confirmed that Chipola’s students get a better start and receive better information about degree requirements than students in other community colleges in Florida. Curriculum guides and other aids in educational planning are now available electronically for all students from kindergarten through graduate school via the Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students (FACTS). Also, results of the 2003 Graduating Student Survey showed that 96% of the graduates were satisfied with academic advising. Over 94% felt that SLS 1101—Orientation had helped them “learn about programs and services”; 100% felt that the course had helped them “learn about transferring to a state university”; 81% of the graduates reported that the course had helped them “develop college survival skills.”

- **Excellent Student Retention Rates:** Chipola ranks among the best in retaining students and helping them complete their degrees or certificates. The state’s 2002 “Enrollment, Retention, and Success Report” ranked Chipola first in the percent of students still enrolled (74.65%), second in its retention rate (83.1%), and third in its overall completion rate (44%). The 2003 report showed Chipola’s retention rate at 73%, compared to a state retention rate of only 62%. The total success rate for the same cohort at Chipola was 91%, compared to only 81% at the state level. The 2003-04 “Fall-to-Spring Retention and Enrollment Profile” shows that 83% of the students in the Fall returned in the Spring. An additional 12 percent returned to Chipola after stopping out. This excellent performance results from a coordinated effort, including academic advising by faculty, report and follow-up of excessive absences, counselor phone and mail contacts with at-risk students, and extensive analysis and publication of retention data. The college’s retention program has been featured at five regional and national meetings, including the 2001 AIR Forum in Toronto, Canada.

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Governor Jeb Bush named Chipola’s Fire Science Program, “Best in the State.”

Chipola’s advising program was a finalist for the 1999 League for Innovation’s Terry O’Banion “Shared Journey” Award.

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On April 16, 2004, Chipola College sophomore Kimberly Rogers was named an Honorable Mention winner in the Florida College Student of the Year competition. Florida Leader magazine selected Rogers from among thousands of exceptional campus leaders. The prestigious awards program recognizes students who support themselves financially through college, excel academically, and are involved in community service and political activism.

As a microbiology major, one would expect Rogers to focus solely on her academics. But Rogers, 19, concentrates just as much on the betterment of the community surrounding her as she does on her own academic performance.

Rogers implemented the Adopt-a-Grandparent program in two Blountstown nursing homes. She enlisted more than 30 of her fellow Chipola classmates and local high school students to volunteer time with a local senior citizen. More than 50 “grandparents” have been adopted.

Rogers also volunteers her time at the McLane Community Center, mentoring and tutoring children from financially unstable homes. There she organized the First Annual McLane Center Fall Festival and raised over $700 to buy Christmas gifts for the children.

For all her excellence in service and scholarship, Rogers has earned several awards, which include the Academic All American Third Team, Phi Theta Kappa Most Outstanding Officer Award, All USA Academic Team, a spot on the National Dean’s List and the Phi Theta Kappa Leaders of Promise Scholarship.

Rogers hopes to study medicine and specialize in pediatrics. She has been accepted to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is considering attending Duke University.
The nationally ranked Chipola Indians are the 2004 State Basketball Champions and placed sixth in the FJCAA National Championship.

Chipola’s Phi Beta Lambda has won numerous state and national awards. The faculty sponsor was named Florida’s 2003 Sponsor of the Year.

- **Athletics:** Although Chipola has fewer than 3,000 students, it is a “big name” in sports and always has been. Its basketball and baseball teams regularly appear in the state tournaments. Chipola hosts the men’s and women’s state basketball tournament each year in the Milton H. Johnson Health Center on Chipola’s campus.

  Playing in one of the toughest leagues in the nation—the Panhandle Conference—Chipola’s men’s basketball teams have won seven state basketball championships — more than any other Florida community college. It has won 12 Panhandle Conference championships and made ten trips to the national tournament, placing sixth in the nation in 2004. The women’s basketball team also earned a berth in the state tournament in 2004.

  Chipola’s Baseball and Softball programs have great winning traditions with successful conference and state championship competition.

  Athletics at Chipola enjoys one of the highest transfer rates of student/athletes to Division One schools.

  The Chipola Appreciation Club is one of the most active athletic booster groups in the nation.

  The entire focus of athletics at Chipola is to make student athletes successful on the playing court or field while at same time insuring success in the classroom to allow them to move on to the next level.

**Course Offerings**

The most popular majors among A.A./Transfer students are Business, Engineering, Education, and Computer Science. Most A.S. degree students enroll in Nursing, Criminal Justice, Corrections, and Firefighting. The most popular certificate programs are Automotive Technology, Computer Electronics, and Fire Science.

At the request of current students, most classes are now scheduled from 7:00 a.m -2:00 p.m., to meet the needs of employed, commuting students with family responsibilities. All departments schedule classes on Monday through Thursday evenings. Saturday classes are offered in some departments.

Training programs are changed or continued as dictated by documented need. Needs assessments precede all major program changes. Program Reviews are based on indicators of student learning, cost effectiveness, faculty qualifications, and community impact. The college fosters training partnerships with area businesses and agencies. Recent responses to community training needs include: (1) initiating a special Para-Professional Program to help public schools meet the requirements of the “No Child Left Behind” law; (2) offering high school Dual-Enrollment classes in 16 district high schools at the request of parents, students, and school officials; (3) beginning a Child Care Training Program to provide the Florida Child Care Credential and establish on-campus child care; (4) doubling the RN, LPN, and PCA programs and developing an integrated curriculum approved by the State Board of Nursing and local health care employers; (5) expanding Public Service training programs at the request of the Department of Corrections and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; and (6) establishing a University Center to bring university bachelor’s and master’s degrees to Chipola in response to a community needs assessment.
Outstanding Faculty

One of Chipola’s greatest assets is its outstanding faculty. There are 62 full-time faculty members. About 87% are tenured, with 21% within five years of retirement. About 18% hold doctorates; 66% hold Master’s or Education Specialist degrees. At least 10% have completed course work toward the doctorate.

All faculty members meet the requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Several instructors have received prestigious teaching awards and won state and regional recognition for instructional projects at Chipola. Faculty also regularly participate at state meetings and conduct in-service activities for public school teachers in the college district. When available, adjunct faculty are also engaged to teach classes, mostly in the arts, social sciences, criminology, and corrections.

Over 80% of student contact hours are taught by full-time faculty. Highly qualified instructors are hired in full-time positions. This has prevented fragmented approaches to instruction that are frequently reported in schools with high percentages of adjunct teachers. Inherent in the college’s philosophy is the belief that full-time teachers have a full-time commitment to teaching and that interaction in the workplace creates a willingness to learn from each other, share departmental resources, and gain expertise.

Awards and Recognition

- Rose Cavin, Math—Recipient, 2004 Kirkland Teaching Excellence Award
- Rachel Cooley, English—Recipient, 2003 Horace Mann Scholarship for Educators and the 2002 Louis W. Bender Endowed Scholarship for graduate students at Florida State University
- Dr. Jayne Roberts, Enrollment Services—Recipient, 2004 Faculty/Administrator of the Year Award
- Jody Spooner, English—Recipient, 2004, Faculty Connection Award, Student Development Commission of the Florida Association of Community Colleges (FACC)

State/Regional Leadership

- Dr. Laurie Culbreth, English —2004 Chair of Curriculum Commission, FACC
- Dr. Carolyn Poole, Library—2003-04 Chair of Learning Resources Commission, FACC and 2004-05 President, Florida Association of College and Research Libraries (FACRL)
- Lindsay Roach, Counselor— FACC Student Development Commission: 2002, State Chair; 2003, Immediate Past Chair; 2004, Corresponding Secretary/Membership Chair

Compositions/Performances


Professional Presentations

- DeFelix, Geraldine, English/Reading—Statewide 2003 FLARE Summer Reading Workshops for public school teachers.

Professional Publications

- Spooner, Jody. “Cities and Public Spaces,” a research project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Community College Humanities Association, to be published Fall 2004.
Growth of Facilities and Technology

During the last five years, the college has received over $16 million in funds to build or renovate 174,000 square feet. Since 1998 the college has also undergone a technological renaissance and has been recognized by Yahoo’s Internet Life Magazine as one of the nation’s 100 “most wired” colleges. Over 85 percent of the classrooms are equipped with “smart” classroom technology. Chipola has student computer labs in every classroom building and a state-of-the-art library, which houses the student Technology Center and provides numerous databases as part of the Florida LINCC system. During this unprecedented period of growth in facilities and technology, the state has strengthened the college’s ability to meet the educational needs of district citizens.

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 College. From “hand-holding” the beginner to supplementing the proficient, Chipola provides the technological resources for students to advance their skills, no matter their level of expertise.

The new century 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 track students’ progress toward diagnosing the failure. Students receive valuable “hands-on” training supplemented by expert instruction.

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 because of the college’s 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.

Credits and Official Standing

Accreditation & Affiliations

Chipola 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, Certificates of Training, and selected Baccalaureate degrees.

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.
Chipola College Vision, Mission, and Goals

Vision

Chipola College promotes learning and student achievement through excellence, opportunity, diversity, and progress.

Mission

Chipola is a comprehensive public college whose mission 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.

Chipola provides the following:

- Educational programs which include general and pre-professional classes leading to the Associate in Arts degree for transfer into baccalaureate degree programs;
- Selected Baccalaureate degree programs which produce educated and capable professionals;
- Workforce Development programs leading to Associate in Science degrees, Associate in Applied Science degrees, and Certificates of Training to prepare students for careers;
- Continuing Education programs related to professional and personal development; and
- A broad range of enrollment and student services and instructional and administrative support to facilitate student success.

—Adopted June 15, 2004

Success Factors and Institutional Goals

Success Factor 1: Quality Educational Programs

Institutional Goal 1: Provide quality instruction in academic, workforce development, and continuing education programs, including sufficient instructional support to meet the needs of students.

Success Factor 2: Effective Marketing, Recruitment, and Enrollment

Institutional Goal 2: Present the college and its programs in positive ways, making every effort to attract and enroll as many students as possible by marketing the college in a variety of methods and enrolling students in efficient and customer-oriented ways.

Success Factor 3: Student Retention, Satisfaction, and Completion

Institutional Goal 3: Provide a wide-range of academic, developmental and support services to help retain students in programs by decreasing the percent of students who drop- or stop-out during their studies and increasing the percentage who persist through completion of a degree or certificate.

Success Factor 4: Responsible Resource Management

Institutional Goal 4: Promote the responsible management of resources by maintaining sound fiscal operations, seeking additional resources, improving college facilities, and providing an environment conducive to progressive implementation of technology.

Success Factor 5: Staff and Organizational Development

Institutional Goal 5: Encourage staff and organizational development by supporting an efficient and productive work environment where employees demonstrate competence, integrity, and professional excellence.

Success Factor 6: Community Involvement and Development

Institutional Goal 6: Foster strong community involvement and workforce development by supporting local and state economic growth and encouraging civic, cultural, recreational, and service activities.

Success Factor 7: Post-Chipola Student Satisfaction and Success

Institutional Goal 7: Maintain a strong reputation for promoting student satisfaction and long-term success by equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue their goals and become more productive citizens.

Success Factors are “the things that must go right for an organization to flourish and achieve its goals.”

DeAnza College