### THE ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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<th>Trustee Name</th>
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<td>J.E.B. Shell</td>
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<td>Matthew Woods</td>
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<td>Valerie Gray</td>
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<td>Milton A. Davis</td>
<td>Chair, District 6</td>
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<td>Dr. Yvette Richardson</td>
<td>Ex-Officio Member</td>
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<td>The Honorable Kay Ivey</td>
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<td>Mr. Jimmy Baker</td>
<td>Chancellor</td>
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<td>The Alabama Community College System</td>
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### MISSION

Calhoun Community College promotes student success and community development through quality education, cultural enrichment, and workforce training.

### VALUES

- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Diversity
- Equity
- Innovation
- Integrity

### VISION

Success for every student, the community, and the College.
A Message from our President

Greetings Calhoun Community College family and friends! I will always remember 2021 as the year I was given the opportunity by Chancellor Baker and the Alabama Community College System to join the Calhoun family as Interim President. I can truly say that it has been an experience I will never forget. Together, we hit the ground running, and in my opinion, we have accomplished a lot in a short period of time.

2021 will also be remembered as the year of recovery. We began to return to a somewhat normal routine as we provided opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. It has been refreshing to see students on campus in our classrooms and hallways. We are thankful that we were able to restore face-to-face teaching and learning. Even more refreshing is that we can report an increase in enrollment of about 500 students. We acknowledge that the pandemic is still with us, but we are encouraged by progress and hopeful that we will soon get the virus behind us.

In this annual report, you will read about Calhoun remaining number one in the United States in Advanced Manufacturing. We expanded our Health Sciences division and opened a new Dental Assisting learning lab that I believe is the best in the state. New students enrolled in our programs at the Alabama Center for the Arts and sell-out crowds attended student performances. The Business and CIS division launched the nation’s first Systems Engineering Technology program and just like our other “Learn While You Earn” programs, Systems Engineering allows students to earn a paycheck while completing their degrees.

We offered new scholarships in Career and Technical Education, while forging new relationships with business and industry. Calhoun is clearly the region’s leader in workforce development and training. We also announced the return of basketball and the addition of volleyball to Calhoun Athletics after a community survey and extensive input from all stakeholders. Last, but certainly not least, our instructors, throughout all disciplines are to be commended for their hard work during challenging times. They have given personal attention to make sure students have the training and education needed to go to work or transfer to a four-year university.

None of this would have been accomplished without the dedication of our students and the commitment of our faculty, staff, foundation members, alumni, supporters, and friends. Without a doubt, you are the driving force behind everything good at Calhoun Community College. I hope you will enjoy this 2021 year in review.

Jimmy Hodges, Ed.D.
Interim President

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Calhoun Names New Interim President

In June, Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Chancellor Jimmy H. Baker announced the appointment of Dr. Jimmy Hodges as Interim President at Calhoun Community College.

Dr. Hodges’s 40 years of experience span higher education administration, manufacturing, and drafting and design technology. He currently serves as a Regional Workforce Director for the Alabama Community College System and previously served as Dean of Applied Technologies at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville.

“Dr. Hodges’s familiarity with the ACCS coupled with his skills and industry experience makes him an ideal leader during this time of transition,” Baker said. “Jimmy’s commitment to student success is evident and his work to improve the lives of Alabama’s students will be well received at Calhoun. The students, faculty, staff, and administration at Calhoun will be in great hands with Dr. Hodges at the helm.”

Hodges began his career as a machinist and served in various manufacturing industry roles for 20 years. In 2000, he utilized his experience to begin training the next generation as a Drafting Instructor at the Earnest Pruett Center of Technology. He then joined the faculty at Wallace State as Drafting Department Chairman and Instructor and was later promoted to Dean of Applied Technologies. Hodges earned a Diploma in Machine Shop Technology from Wallace State and an Associate of Applied Science in Machine Tool Technology from Calhoun. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Career and Technical Education and a Bachelor of Science in Management of Technology from Athens State University. He also earned a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership and a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration from the University of Alabama.

Calhoun Remains #1 for Advanced Manufacturing

Calhoun Community College has again been recognized as the nation’s top higher education institution in the annual Emsi (Economic Modeling Specialist International) Manufacturing Engineering Technology/Technician degree rankings, one of the most respected assessments among colleges and universities.

According to the latest ranking, which includes more than 350 institutions across the United States, Calhoun remains No. 1 for the second year in a row. Colleges such as Texas A&M University-College Station, Jacksonville State University, Kansas State University and Los Angeles Valley College were among the competition.

“The Technologies Division at Calhoun faced many tough challenges during the pandemic,” commented John Holley, Calhoun Dean of Technologies. “Hands-on instruction is extremely difficult to teach while social distancing. Not only did we adjust our programs to keep our students and instructors safe, but we were able to do that and remain number one across the nation for awarding advanced manufacturing degrees. That is most certainly a feather in the hat for our team and I couldn’t be more proud.”

The need for skilled manufacturing workers continues to rise across the nation as more high-tech and defense jobs are in great demand. Calhoun’s technology programs prepare students to quickly enter the workforce. The curriculum and core training is mirrored to real-life work scenarios in the manufacturing industry. This unique form of training not only provides students with a mock workplace, but it helps them to become quickly acclimated to the manufacturing working environment.

“Excited is an understatement for how I felt when I heard the great news about our ranking,” said Calhoun Interim President Dr. Jimmy Hodges. “Advanced Manufacturing and workforce training are very near and dear to my heart. I truly believe what we do here at Calhoun with our training is life-changing for any student that walks through our doors. Not only do we provide students with a skill set that will land them a great job with great pay, but we connect them with partner companies to earn an income while they train,” added Hodges.
Calhoun Named Among 2021 Best Colleges in Alabama

Calhoun Community College has been recognized as one of the best colleges in the state of Alabama by Intelligent.com. The recognition comes from the college’s proven ability to provide graduates with career opportunities that have an increased earning potential through its various educational programs.

Receiving a status of this magnitude is confirmation that Calhoun programs and training are truly transforming lives for the students who enroll. “To be placed in a category with colleges such as The University of Alabama, Auburn University, Tuskegee University and Troy University is proof that Calhoun instructors are providing the same quality education as our 4-year counterparts.

The 2021 rankings are calculated through a unique scoring system, which includes student engagement, the potential return on investment, and leading third-party evaluations. Intelligent.com analyzed 177 schools, on a scale of 0 to 100, with only 49 making it to the final list. The methodology also uses an algorithm which collects and analyzes multiple rankings into one score to easily compare each school.

Calhoun and Drake State Kick-Off New Training for Adult Learners

Calhoun Community College and Drake State Community & Technical College officials announced they have entered into a joint partnership that will not only address learning obstacles for adult learners, but job training as well.

GOAL is a brand new initiative which stands for Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners. This FREE program is designed specifically for individuals who do not have a high school diploma and want to become more employable. Individuals have access to educational resources focused on improving their reading, math, and language skills. Students can also earn their GED (General Education Diploma), learn to speak English as a second language, as well as earn a manufacturing or logistics certification.

“The Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) had a vision of oneness for our colleges, which is now called One ACCS,” commented Dana Wolfe, ACCS North Regional Director of Adult Education. “The presidents of Calhoun and Drake embraced that vision and felt we were better together. They jointly decided that adult education had the biggest need and was the best place to combine efforts to start a cohesive program to address that area,” added Wolfe.

GOAL will enable both colleges to broaden its services to students in need, the community, as well as industry partners. This initiative will allow the opportunity to offer more work-based learning, short certificates, MSSC (Manufacturing Skill Standards Council) training, and national certifications to adults who want to increase their knowledge and skillset to earn better wages. “There are 364,000 individuals in the state of Alabama who have not earned their high school diplomas. We hope the hard work that accumulated into making this vision a reality will help bridge that gap as we have so many educational and career pathways established that will assist adult learners throughout their career journey,” commented David Walters, ACCS State Director of Adult Education.

“When thinking about where we would kick-off our first neutral location for GOAL, Asbury Church stepped right in and has been a wonderful partner in this amazing adult education partnership. I absolutely love adult education and feel it is a major heartbeat of the community college system. We are the answer for that individual who believes it is too late to go back, for that individual who believes this is the best they can do in their current employment situation,” commented Dr. Jimmy Hodges, Calhoun Interim President.

The program accepts applications year-round for individuals who are interested in obtaining a GED, learning English as a second language, learning basic computer skills training to obtain a job, or even retraining for individuals who may be interested in working at a local manufacturing company such as Mazda/Toyota, YKTA, Nucor Steel, or Polaris
Calhoun Receives Grant for Dual Enrollment Workforce Scholarships

Calhoun Community College recently received a supplemental grant of $65,429 from the Alabama Community College System as part of a statewide reallocation of funds to all Alabama community colleges for Dual Enrollment Workforce Scholarship Programs. During the spring 2021 semester, the College awarded $357,284.76 in Dual Enrollment scholarships to over 528 students from local high schools and home schools.

The funds are in addition to a $700,000 grant previously received by the College for career technical scholarships. Calhoun’s Dual Enrollment Department plans to use the funds to purchase equipment to support high school technical programs as well as provide additional student scholarships. Students were allowed to use the scholarships during the summer or fall semesters for tuition, books and other school supplies required for Career and Technical Education programs.

The technical programs eligible for scholarship funding include Advanced Manufacturing (Aerospace Technology, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Automotive Technology, Additive Manufacturing Drafting Technology, Electrical Technology, Industrial Maintenance, Machine Tool Technology, Process Technology, Welding, Computer Information Systems (CIS), Emergency Medical Services, and Certified Nurse Assistant. In addition, students can also use the scholarship towards introductory coursework in Criminal Justice and Child Development.

The Scholarship program is not designed for academic transfer but to allow students to obtain college credit towards a two-year technical degree or certificate, which can prepare them early for the workforce. To assist with this initiative, Calhoun has developed a group of short-term certificates in Advanced Manufacturing and CIS. Students in these programs can earn a college certification while continuing to work towards their Associate of Applied Science degree.

Calhoun Named Among Five ARC Grant Winners

Recipients will use funds to expand skilled workforce capacity for Appalachia’s energy, aerospace, aviation, automotive, and petrochemical industries

Calhoun Community College was selected as one of five grant winners by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) for their Advanced Welding Workforce Initiative (AWWI), which is a partnership to invest $1 million in education and training for advanced technical workers in Appalachia.

Projects were selected based upon their anticipated impact on the Region’s advanced welding and manufacturing workforce, particularly their capacity to meet growing demand across a number of industries. Awards were also made on the basis of connecting proposals with pressing regional needs, including expanding offerings into economically distressed areas, targeting designated Opportunity Zones and recruiting workers in long-term recovery from substance use disorder.

“We are so proud of the hard work and time that was put in to making this announcement possible,” commented Calhoun Interim President, Dr. Jimmy Hodges. “Our goal at the College is to equip our students with the knowledge and hands-on experience employers seek in their future workforce”.

Calhoun was awarded $198,000 to purchase training equipment to strengthen robotic welding programs on its Decatur and Huntsville campuses. The addition of robotic welding equipment and subsequent courses will equip students with much-needed skills sets while incumbent workers will be able to obtain a Certificate in Robotic Welding to advance their careers. The robotic welding equipment will support a broader range of courses than currently offered in both the Welding Technologies and the Aerospace Welding programs with the potential to create a new short-term certificate. The programs will train 110 degree-seeking students during the project period.
COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive Offered to Fully-Vaccinated Calhoun Students and Employees

The administration at Calhoun Community College announced plans to offer an incentive of $150 (one-hundred-fifty) dollars to each fully vaccinated Calhoun student enrolled in the fall 2021 semester and taking credit-bearing classes as well as Calhoun employees.

“Our first concern is the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff. We are attempting to do our part. According to the Centers for Disease Control, The Alabama Department of Public Health, as well as health experts around the world, the vaccines are effective in significantly reducing the potential for severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. We hope offering the vaccine and the incentive is a step in the right direction to get COVID behind us,” commented Dr. Jimmy Hodges, Calhoun Interim President.

To maximize vaccinations across the country and throughout the state of Alabama, colleges and universities offered incentives to students and employees who are vaccinated. Vaccine clinics and incentives were also offered at all 24-community colleges within the Alabama Community College System.

In addition, Calhoun also held free vaccination clinics on both the Decatur and Huntsville campuses. The Moderna vaccine was offered to individuals 18 years or older.

Calhoun Distributes $5.3 Million Stimulus to Students

Calhoun Community College distributed 5.3 million dollars to students taking credit hour classes. Students enrolled in credit classes for the spring 2021 semester and qualify under the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) received a stimulus payment. The grant allocation also included high school students taking classes at Calhoun through the Dual Enrollment Program. More than seven thousand students qualified. The payments ranged from approximately $500 to $1000. The stimulus grant was provided by the United States Department of Education for any component of a student’s cost of attendance (COA). Students may use the money for expenses including tuition, food, housing, course material, technology, healthcare, and childcare.

“We were excited to do this for our students. We know many of them suffered hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The stimulus check allocations helped students recoup some of their losses suffered during the pandemic. Students who were enrolled for the spring semester are investing in their futures and we’re excited to invest back in them. Research tells us the more you learn, the more you earn,” commented Dr. Pat Wilson, Calhoun Vice President of Student Services.

Calhoun and Huntsville Hospital Partner for CNA Training

Calhoun Community College partnered with Huntsville Hospital to offer a free certified nursing assistant training program for the summer of 2021.

Certified Nursing Assistants, also known in the healthcare industry as CNA’s, are in high demand across the region. Calhoun and Huntsville Hospital have created an accelerated five-week training program that will not only provide the instructional training necessary for individuals to enter this field but also hands-on training with clinicals at the hospital. Upon completion of the program, students are guaranteed a Certified Nursing Assistant position at a Huntsville Hospital System facility in North Alabama.

“This is a great opportunity for Calhoun to have a direct impact in providing the training and education needed to fill positions in healthcare,” commented Dr. Jimmy Hodges, Calhoun Interim President. “We are always excited to partner with Huntsville Hospital. It’s a win-win for both of us. More importantly, it is an even bigger win for the students who will complete the program and get hired.”

The cost of the course was $799, of which Huntsville Hospital paid $500 towards tuition upfront for all students selected into the program. After 90 days of employment at a Huntsville Hospital System facility, students received another $500 payment and after 6 months of employment, an additional $250 was paid.
New Dental Hygiene Lab

Calhoun leaders cut the ribbon on a new state-of-the-art dental hygiene lab. The 4,000 square foot lab features ten operatories, four radiology chairs and four simulators, giving students the opportunity to learn on the same equipment found in today’s modern dental offices.

According to Bret McGill, Calhoun’s Dean of Health Sciences, Calhoun was the first community college in the state to have a dental hygiene program. With 14 students actively enrolled in its first cohort, the program is off to a great start. “This has been a long time coming,” commented Sunnie McWhorter, Calhoun’s Dental Hygiene Program Director. “The College has been working diligently for years to get this program’s curriculum created and approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Things didn’t go as planned when COVID hit and we had to reschedule our accreditation site visits several times. So, I hope today that the College and the community are proud of what we built,” said McWhorter.

The goal of this two-year program is to not only prepare students with the theoretical knowledge and technical competencies necessary to obtain a job as an entry-level dental hygienist, but also to also teach them how to provide safe, effective, ethical, and compassionate care to their future patients.

“This ribbon cutting means so much more to us aside from starting a new program and opening a new lab for students to learn. We made this happen in the middle of a pandemic, which speaks volumes of the hard work and dedication of Calhoun’s faculty. There were so many individuals instrumental in making this dream a reality, and for that, all of us at Calhoun are extremely grateful,” said Dean Bret McGill.

The program’s primary focus is high-quality patient care. Students are currently practicing routine treatments under direct faculty supervision such as dental cleanings, x-rays, and mouth examinations. Once the students advance to their next level of training, they will begin accepting appointments in the spring to provide limited dental services to the local community.

“Dental hygiene is one of the most vital components of everyone’s health,” commented Dr. Jimmy Hodges, Calhoun’s Interim President. “This program has a strong mission and that is to graduate knowledgeable, skilled, professional, and service-oriented dental hygienists to provide quality patient-centered care meeting the needs of employers and promoting the health of our community, and that is exactly what we will do”.
Calhoun Community College and The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that streamlines the transfer of Honors Program students between the two schools.

As per the agreement, which began in the spring of 2021, students from the Honors Program at Calhoun seeking admission to the Honors College at UAH should follow the standard admissions procedures for transfer students. They must first be admitted to UAH as a transfer student and then apply to the Honors College at UAH as a transfer applicant. If the student is in good standing in the Honors Program at Calhoun and if they follow this admission process, they will be granted automatic admission to the Honors College at UAH.

“This is a great milestone not only for both colleges but also for the students who are enrolled in our prestigious Honors Program,” commented Dr. Jimmy Hodges, Calhoun Interim President. “A lot of work was placed into getting these agreements written and executed, and we are grateful for the hard work and collaborative efforts from members of both institutions.”

All students who have been admitted to the Honors College at UAH from the Honors Program at Calhoun must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25. Also per the agreement, students may transfer up to 15 hours of honors credit, which will count as honors credit towards the UAH Honors Diploma.

New Scholarship to Address Skilled Labor Shortage

Calhoun Community College allocated more than two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars in new scholarships to fill a void in many skilled labor positions.

The newly created Career Development Scholarship provided funding for students pursuing degrees and certificates in programs designed for direct entry into the workforce. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, there are more job openings in skilled labor positions than there are people trained to fill the positions. “As more skilled workers continue to retire, skilled jobs continue to become open and unfilled due to the lack of qualified individuals available to fill those roles. The goal of this new initiative is to not only help fill those industry gaps, but to also invest in our students financially. We hope that through this scholarship, students will obtain the hands-on training necessary to jump-start their careers,” commented Nicole Yost, Calhoun Financial Aid Clerk.

The Calhoun Community College Advisory Committee has identified the following divisions for new scholarships:

Aerospace Technology  Machine Tool Technology
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration  Medical Laboratory Technician
Automotive Technology  Music Technology
Business Administration  Nursing
Child Development  Paramedic
Computer Information Systems  Physical Therapist Assistant
Criminal Justice  Process Technology
Dental Assisting  Robotics / Mechatronics
Dental Hygiene  Surgical Technology
Design Drafting  Visual Communications
Electrical Technology  Welding Technology
Industrial Maintenance

“This was good news for our students. These scholarships paid tuition and fees for students ready to enter the workforce through our Career and Technical Education programs. We are providing great opportunities for students to receive money to get the education and training needed to be successful,” commented Dr. Jimmy Hodges, Calhoun Interim President. Scholarships awards ranged from $2,000 to $4,940 per student.
Foundation Hosts Black and White Gala

More than 300 Calhoun students, faculty, staff, and friends attended the inaugural Calhoun Black and White Gala in November. The event was held in Monarch Hall at Cook Museum of Natural Science. Although it was held in Decatur, the gathering was attended by Calhoun supporters from across the North Alabama region. Thirty-three generous community businesses and individuals sponsored the gala. It was a black tie, after five affair. Guests were greeted with a glass of sparkling champagne as they strolled through the spectacular two story museum lobby to view an array of silent auction items before the filet mignon dinner. “It was a wonderful gathering of friends and supporters,” said Calhoun Foundation Director, Johnette Davis. “In fact, it is the beginning of what will be an annual event for the Calhoun Community College Foundation. We were glad to finally get it scheduled after several delays due to COVID. We are pleased that we were able to raise more than 130 thousand dollars with net proceeds of $100,537 dollars.” Gala proceeds benefit student scholarships across all academic disciplines at Calhoun Community College.

Calhoun and Athens State Students Present the Musical Comedy ‘Something Rotten’

The Calhoun Community College Theatre Program and the Athens State University Athenian Players teamed up in a joint musical production, ‘Something Rotten’. The summer production was held in the Black Box Theatre at the Alabama Center for the Arts in downtown Decatur.

According to Lauren Cantrell Salerno, Calhoun Theatre Instructor and Musical Choreographer, this is the first time the two schools have ever performed in a joint production.

The musical was created by Grammy Award-winning songwriter Wayne Kirkpatrick and successful screenwriters Karey Kirkpatrick and John O’Farrell. The hilariously outrageous and crowd-pleasing musical ‘Something Rotten,’ was lauded by audience members and critics alike, receiving several Best Musical nominations and hailed by Time Out New York as “the funniest musical comedy in at least 400 years”.

‘Something Rotten’ featured large song and dance numbers and a wacky cast of over-the-top characters, each given his or her own special moment in the show to shine,” said Cantrell. “Throughout its Broadway run, the musical received a show-stopping standing ovation from audiences from the beginning until the ending act and we really enjoyed doing it.”

The show was a tremendous success with a sell-out crowd each night of the performance. In fact, an additional show was added to accommodate the demand.
Calhoun Introduces Course in Home Brewing

Calhoun Community College Workforce Solutions (CWS) has teamed up with Fractal Brewing Project to offer an Introduction to Home Brewing course.

“When the College was initially approached by Fractal Brewing with the opportunity to offer a home brewing course, we were excited as this is something we have never offered at Calhoun,” commented Houston Blackwood, Director of Calhoun Workforce Solutions. “We immediately researched the terms and liabilities and presented the proposed course layout to the Alabama Community College System and received approval to proceed.”

According to the American Homebrewers Association (AHA), more than one-million people in the United States are homebrewing beer. Research also shows that 40% of those individuals began the hobby in recent years. “Here in Workforce Solutions, we always try to think outside of the box with our course offerings,” commented Doug Brazier, Calhoun Workforce Solutions Business Developer. “Having an opportunity to learn brewing inside of a brewery taught by real-world experts is not only fun for those who want something to do in their spare time, but it is also a great experience for anyone interested in opening a private brewery as well.”

The course will be taught by Bradley “Robo” Robison, a Huntsville native and veteran in the brewing industry. Having brewed for over 10 years and holding several certifications from Cicerone Certification Program for German beer, Robison brings a wealth of knowledge to this program. Class participants will gain hands-on experience with brewing equipment, proper cleaning, brewing process, fermentation and packaging.

Calhoun Partners with Lockheed to Train Aerospace Technicians

Calhoun Community College and Lockheed Martin announced plans to partner together to provide training to future pre-apprentice aerospace electrical assembly technicians.

“The gap between open pre-apprentice aerospace jobs and trained technicians has become a growing trend in this industry,” commented Houston Blackwood, Calhoun’s Director of Workforce Solutions. “My job at Calhoun is to help industry partners close that gap by providing them with training solutions to their internal problems, and creating opportunities to train individuals to enter the workforce and fill those positions.”

Calhoun’s non-credit division, Workforce Solutions, met with representatives from Lockheed Martin to further discuss this problem and provided a cost-effective solution with a pre-apprentice training program. The two-month, hands-on training program provides individuals with the following training:

- Introduction to Blueprints and Schematic Drawings
- Basic Math
- Wire Harness Assembly
- Electrical Fundamentals and Torque

“I believe in these types of programs and know first-hand how they can change people’s lives and incomes,” commented Keith Davis, Calhoun Aerospace Instructor. “In my previous career, I worked for an international aerospace company and learned all of the things we are teaching in this program. Not only did I continue to grow with the company to learn more about my field, but they also provided me with financial assistance to complete my college degree. Many companies in this field do the same to retain their employees as well as provide growth opportunities for them.”

Individuals who complete this training will also earn an IPC 620 certification, OSHA 10 certification, J-Standard Module 1 certification, and will be guaranteed an employment interview with Lockheed Martin. “Training classes of this magnitude that include the certifications typically cost in the $1,200 range,” said Davis. “Calhoun is strategic in offering high-quality, cost-effective courses in a shorter period to get individuals trained as quickly as possible to fill those open positions across the industry.”

Students completing this course are eligible for credit articulation towards an Associate’s Degree in Calhoun’s Aerospace Technologies programs. Calhoun’s Pre-Apprentice Aerospace Electrical Assembly Technician course is also approved by the Alabama Office of Apprenticeships and transfers directly to Lockheed Martin’s Apprenticeship program.
National Apprenticeship Week Spotlights Paid Programs

Calhoun Community College kicked off its celebration for National Apprenticeship Week by highlighting three paid pre-apprenticeship programs FAME, EPIC, and AMP. These paid hands-on training programs provide students with the rare opportunity to complete courses necessary to obtain their degree or certificate while getting paid. The programs are currently accepting applications through April 15, 2022.

The Alabama FAME (Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education), EPIC (Excellence in Process Industrial Controls) and AMP (Alliance for Machining Professionals) programs are ideal opportunities for individuals who have the desire to secure a career in the manufacturing or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) industries. “This is a big win for employers who partner with us to provide co-op jobs to our students as they have a hand in providing them with customized on-the-job training, which helps them not only become acclimated with their working environment and processes, but it also makes them ideal picks for current or future openings at their companies,” commented Nathan Steele, Calhoun Advanced Manufacturing Instructor and Collaborative Programs Coordinator. “It’s also a really big win for the students because they have the opportunity to obtain current industry knowledge in robotics, pneumatics, hydraulics, motor controls, AC/DC machines, and Programmable Logic Controllers. Students gain this knowledge as they complete the educational portion of the program at Calhoun while earning an income.”

Individuals who are interested in applying to either of the programs must test into credit-bearing math and English courses based on their ACT or Accuplacer score. About 60 students are selected each year to participate in the highly competitive programs.

Upon acceptance into the program, students are paired with a sponsor company during the summer before beginning coursework in the fall. Starting wages are very competitive and performance-based raises and bonuses are available to students throughout the program.

“Many of our sponsor companies hire students to work full-time after they graduate. These companies include, but are not limited to Asahi Kasei, Brown Precision, Bruderer Machinery, CerroWire, EFI Automotive, GE Appliances, Mazda Toyota, Packaging Corporation of America, Plasma Processes, Polaris, Remington, Shape Corp, Snap-on Tools, Sonoco, Toyota, and Westrock,” said Steele.

The programs boast 100% in field job placement rate with local companies, which is a win-win for employers and graduates. The employer gets to know the students and fill vacant skilled labor positions. The students work, learn and earn income while studying for an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Advanced Manufacturing without accumulating school-related debt.
Health Students Work with Human Cadavers

There is no better way to learn anatomy than to study with human cadavers rather than models. The Calhoun administration provided students with this unique opportunity. Students enrolled in surgical technology, nursing, dental and other allied health programs received hands-on training and education in the classroom with individuals who elected to donate their bodies to science. Calhoun is one of only a few two-year colleges providing health sciences students with this rare experience.

According to Bret McGill, Calhoun’s Dean for Health Sciences, “The cadavers provided valuable insight for our students on how the human body works. This experience allows our students the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how the body systems function together, as well as provides them the opportunity to gain broader knowledge of the concepts covered in the lecture and labs that could otherwise only be gained in a traditional clinical setting.”

This opportunity was offered to all health students in a manner that is specific to their respective programs. For instance, the surgical technology students can work on the bodies as if they were in a real-life hospital setting undergoing a medical procedure. The paramedic students practice an IO (Intraosseous) procedure, where a needle is placed into the canal of a bone. Physical Therapist Assistant students used their classroom skills to dissect muscular and bone structures, while emergency medical services students practice intubation and rescue trauma training techniques.

Additionally, healthcare professionals from across the region are also participating in the labs. “A local dentist who currently works with our dental assisting and dental hygiene programs was also on campus to conduct a class on forensic identification using the teeth of one or more of the cadavers,” commented McGill.

The Medical Education and Research Institute (MERI) in Memphis, Tennessee provided the cadavers. MERI is a non-profit organization that specializes in hands-on training and medical education of health professionals and students. Calhoun received grant funding to cover the college’s cost to transport the cadavers, and is partnering with Alabama EMS Region One (AERO). AERO is a not-for-profit organization with the goal of building better emergency medical services across the following North Alabama counties: Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall and Morgan.

“This very unique opportunity allows our students to practice life-saving skills such as advanced airway technique on actual human bodies instead of the simulated mannequins we have in our labs,” McGill said. “In addition, because the experience is being facilitated by trained healthcare professionals, our students are able to ask questions and to participate in meaningful discussions on-site which further expands their skills and understanding of the concepts they are learning.”

Surgical Technology Program Receives $115,000 Grant from Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded a grant for $115,689 to Calhoun Community College for the Surgical Technology Program.

According to Dr. Debi Hendershot, Calhoun Dean for Planning, Research and Grants, the grant funding will be used specifically to purchase a digital endoscopy training system which will enhance the College’s Surgical Technology Program and drastically improve safety outcomes for patients in Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, and Morgan counties. The equipment students currently use is outdated and incomparable to healthcare clinic standards. “The new training equipment will not only provide up-to-date hands-on training to those enrolled in the program, but it will also provide employment opportunities for our students as well as underemployed residents seeking better wages,” commented Grant Wilson, Calhoun Director of Surgical Technology. “Students who are on track to become surgical technologists will receive additional preclinical training with the new equipment which will greatly assist them in successfully completing the clinical phase of the program.”

Surgical technologists are allied health professionals who function as part of the medical teams providing surgical care to patients. They are required to demonstrate functional knowledge of surgical procedures, instrumentation, equipment, and technologies. “The new equipment the college is now able to purchase through this grant will provide our students access to the same kind of equipment they will see and use in their everyday work environments,” commented Calhoun Interim President, Dr. Jimmy Hodges. “I am proud of the hard work that went into obtaining this grant and thankful to the ARC for their continued support of Calhoun and our many programs that directly impact the community.”
ATHLETICS UPDATE

Basketball and Volleyball Added to Athletics

Calhoun Community College announced plans to bring back men’s and women’s basketball as well as add volleyball to the athletic program. The college began searching for coaches for both sports right away. Interim President, Dr. Jimmy Hodges conducted a survey to gauge the community’s interest in expanding Calhoun athletics. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of basketball and volleyball.

“The survey confirmed what we thought we already knew, but we wanted to be sure we had the community’s support before moving forward to expand our athletics. I’m excited about where we’re headed. I believe the expansion of our sports programs will help grow the college and have a positive impact on the lives of our students. We also look forward to providing opportunities for athletes in our area, as we will make a commitment to recruit locally,” said Hodges.

The survey included input from Calhoun students, employees, foundation, alumni and the community at large. More than 96% of those surveyed believe athletic programs are important in the college setting and have a positive influence on student success.

Calhoun Athletic Director Dr. Nancy Keenum said, “It’s been a long time coming! This is something I’ve advocated for since the college suspended athletics in 2001. We have gradually brought back our programs a little at a time. Now, with the reinstatement of basketball and the addition of volleyball, I think we will present more of a collegiate atmosphere and attract new students to attend Calhoun.”

Calhoun received approval from Chancellor Jimmy Baker and the Alabama Community College System. The new Warhawks basketball and volleyball teams will compete in the fall 2022 season in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Alabama Community College Conference. The basketball program will compete in Division I and the volleyball program will compete in Division II.

Calhoun Announces Cross Country Coach

The Calhoun Community College Athletics Division announced Tiffany Bain as the new men’s and women’s cross-country coach.

The University of Alabama graduate brings over 11 years of coaching and marathon experience. She has personally completed two marathons, more than ten half marathons and over fifty 10K and 5K marathons placing in various age groups multiple times.

“We are excited about adding the cross-country program to our athletics offerings,” commented Dr. Nancy Keenum, Calhoun’s Athletics Director. “Coach Bain will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to this program with her vast experience of personal training as well as hosting 5K’s.”

Bain currently serves as Calhoun’s Physical Therapist Assistant Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education and Allied Health Department Chair.
Golf Team Advances to National Competition

The Calhoun Community College Men’s Golf Team qualified to compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association’s National Golf Tournament. This event was held on May 8 – 15, 2021, at the Rawls Country Club in Lubbock, Texas.

According to Richard Morgan, Calhoun Men’s Golf Coach, the six students who qualified are Brayden Bendall, Luke Cantrell, Matt Walker, Hunter Franks, Spencer Warren, and Brooks Malone. “We were very excited for the opportunity to advance to Nationals and compete on a larger scale,” said Morgan. “These young men have trained extremely hard and are focused and ready to perform on this very challenging course”.

Calhoun boasts a successful history competing in NJCAA events. For example, Kaylee Bryant, Calhoun’s Women’s Golf Player, also qualified to compete individually at the Women’s NJCAA National Tournament in Daytona Beach. “Kaylee has always been a strong player both mentally and physically since she arrived at Calhoun,” commented Arin Eddy, Calhoun Women’s Golf Coach. “She has been consistent in golf and coursework and we are proud that she was asked to join the Honors Program at Calhoun,” added Eddy. Bryant has had six top 10 finishes and three top 5 finishes with an average scoring of 87.

Full Tuition Scholarships for Esports

Calhoun Community College unveiled a new Esports gaming competition studio in 2020, and now the college is offering full tuition scholarships.

According to Dr. Pat Wilson, Vice President of Student Services, the program currently has ten full tuition scholarships which will cover the student’s tuition and fees. Students who have been accepted into the College’s Esports Program, are in good academic standing, and enrolled full-time in 12 or more semester hours are eligible for the scholarship.

“This is a huge milestone for our program,” commented Casey Knighten, Calhoun’s Multimedia Audio/Video Technician and Esports Gaming Coach. “Scholarships are not only vital for students to complete their academic courses, but it is also an excellent way to reward the hard work and dedication they put forth in the gaming competitions.”

Esports has changed the sports industry drastically as it continues to grow across the nation while becoming a billion-dollar industry. Within the past few years, esports has seen a tremendous increase, attracting individuals in their early 20’s and 30’s to the platform of gaming. Since 2019, viewership of esports competitions on platforms such as YouTube and Twitch have exceed 450 million worldwide.

Calhoun is one of 105 schools currently competing in the NJCAA. The team competed in Super Smash Bros, Ultimate, Rocket League, and Rainbow Six Siege competitions.
Calhoun Team Wins First Place at Project MFG

The Calhoun Community College Student Technologies Team received first place during a remote Project MFG-Manufacturing competition that landed them a spot to compete virtually at the International Machine Tool Show.

According to Tad Montgomery, Calhoun Machine Tool Instructor and Team Sponsor, the five-member student team competed in a two-day virtual event, which tested their skillset in producing complex parts made of aluminum. The timed events provided a real-world experience as the students operated on a tight budget and were charged hourly rates just as they would in the real world of manufacturing. Students were able to demonstrate their diverse manufacturing skills in competition that included welding, CNC 5 Axis, metrology, and CAD/CAM. The team consisted of Andrew Adams (welder), George Cassimus (computer numerical control programmer), Cody Kirkland (Computer Numerical Control Programmer and Operator), Clayton Giles (computer numerical control programmer and Operator), Jacob Lott (computer-aided design and Metrology), Larry Owens, and Matt Jones, all members of Calhoun’s Technologies department and Team Sponsors.

“The Project MFG competitions replicate real-life manufacturing floors to ensure the events provide a true experience for the participants. The goal is to generate interest and engagement in skilled trades as well as unite local institutions, communities, and educational leaders who train, hire, and nurture those interested in this career field,” commented Montgomery.

“We are very proud of our students for advancing to the national competition,” commented John Holley, Calhoun Dean of Technologies. “The team sponsor and mentors devote a lot of time to our students by practicing and training them on how to perfect their skills. This milestone is evident that the quality training and time we spend with our students is extremely effective.”
**Calhoun Project MFG Team Featured on “Clash of Trades”**

Calhoun Community College was one of four teams in the Project MFG National Challenge Competition and featured in a pilot episode of “Clash of Trades”. The filming and competition took place in March on Calhoun’s Decatur campus in the Advanced Technology Center.

The five member student team competed against Danville Community College, Tennessee College of Applied Technology and Southwestern Illinois College. Students competing had the opportunity to win scholarships and prizes, as well as receive the national champion title. The final four colleges were selected based on rigorous judging of each team’s complex advanced manufacturing project. The teams worked together on a challenge, which mirrored a real-life manufacturing industry. During that challenge, students had to rely on their hands-on skills training to complete each task.

President Dr. Jimmy Hodges said, “We have an outstanding team of students and instructors. Their training and preparedness have landed our team on a national stage. With so many Baby Boomers retiring, this leaves many high-paying jobs waiting to be filled. This team represents the future of manufacturing and their future is bright.”

John Holley, Dean of Technologies at Calhoun Community College, is excited to see his students work hard and compete nationally. “We hope to change some misconceptions about jobs in the manufacturing industry. This just goes to show that students at community colleges are highly trained and well skilled. These students work hard. Once they graduate, they’ll immediately join the workforce and earn a good salary.”

**Lineworker Program Making History with Female Graduate**

In April 2021, Calhoun Community College received a grant from The Women’s Fund of Greater Birmingham to afford women the opportunity to participate in the Pre-Apprentice Lineworker Program. Four months later in August, the college made history as Massie Calvin became the first female to complete the program under the women’s recruiting initiative.

In an industry that has been historically dominated by males, Calvin is blazing new trails as Calhoun’s first graduate under new recruiting efforts. “To say this program is tough is an understatement,” commented Calvin. “When I joined the program, I was told one of the toughest weeks of training is known as “Hell Week,” and boy did I quickly understand how it received that name”. During this week, students are critiqued and graded as they are required to complete drills climbing 20, 40 and 80-foot utility poles multiple times. “Typically in the first week of climbing, students climb two 40-foot poles to get comfortable with not only the height of the poles but also learning to maneuver up and down them while wearing their lineman gear,” commented Mike Lowery, Calhoun Pre-Apprentice Lineworker Instructor. Massie, with no fear, boldly asked her instructor if she could climb the 80-foot pole instead.

He looked at her in shock, as that is not a typical request for students who have never worked in this field before, but he allowed her to do so. Not only did she successfully climb the pole, but she was the first one in the program to climb it. At that moment the instructors knew, she was a hard worker,” said Lowery.

A mother of two sons ages 2 and 5, the Jemison, AL native is the epitome of tough. “Not only did she do an amazing job completing the grueling days of training in the blazing heat and rain, but she leaves the pole yard to begin her second shift as a mom, which is just as demanding if not harder,” commented Houston Blackwood, Calhoun’s Director of Workforce Solutions. As the granddaughter of a retired Lineman, Massie knows exactly what she is signing up for and is ready for the long, hard hours. Massie Calvin is living her dream of becoming a lineworker.
Calhoun Student Semifinalist for National Transfer Scholarship

Calhoun student Daymara Ayala was named a semifinalist for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation’s highly competitive Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. This year’s 406 semifinalists were chosen from a pool of over 1,500 applicants attending 398 community colleges in 44 states. Ayala is one of three students named from the state of Alabama.

Ayala, a native of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, moved to Alabama in 2016 during her junior year of high school. Shortly after graduating, she enrolled in Calhoun during the fall of 2018 as a General Studies major. She served as a Calhoun Warhawk Student Ambassador and is currently active in Phi Theta Kappa.

“I felt as if I had flown over the moon when I received the news that I had been named a semifinalist for this scholarship,” commented Ayala. “It’s an absolute dream come true.” She applied for the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship because she wanted to be part of a community with like-minded students who strived to better themselves both academically and professionally.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation supports exceptionally talented community college students seeking to complete their bachelor’s degrees. Today, nearly half of postsecondary students begin their college journey at a two-year institution.

Students Deliver 300 Blankets to Huntsville Hospital NICU

Calhoun Warhawk Student Ambassadors visited the Huntsville Hospital Women’s and Children NICU to deliver 341 blankets collected during their annual community blanket drive.

The students plan various community service initiatives each year to benefit local businesses, non-profits, and service organizations. “The ambassadors met during their weekly meeting to brainstorm on where to help. After much research and consideration, we learned that the NICU ward at Huntsville Hospital needed blankets,” commented Madison Richter, Communications Officer for the Calhoun Student Ambassador Program.

Hunter White, Recruiting Officer for the Calhoun Warhawk Student Ambassador Program, recalls a story he heard from his mother about him being born 4-weeks early with collapsed lungs at Decatur General Hospital. He remembers his mother explaining how terrified she was when he was taken by MedFlight to the Huntsville Hospital NICU ward. At the time, she was enrolled at Calhoun and studying to become a teacher. After her experience with the NICU nurses, she decided that was a place she wanted to remain and make a difference. After returning to Calhoun, she immediately changed her major to Nursing and now works in the hospital’s NICU ward.

Students accepted into the ambassador program receive scholarships during their fall and spring semesters and can serve up to two-years. They receive professional development training by volunteering in various community service initiatives, serve as Calhoun’s official ambassadors and build life-long friendships with other members of the group.
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Students Featured in National Publication

Calhoun Community College has been chosen among 17 other community colleges across the nation to be featured in the 2021 Civic Scholar: Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Journal of Undergraduate Research publication.

A unique journal of its kind, The Civic Scholar is a dynamic publication which features substantive research and community engagement by community college scholars. “We are excited to share the spotlight with some of the top community colleges across the United States”, commented Dr. Pat Wilson, Vice President of Student Services. “We are thankful for the hard work and research placed into this project by our PTK students and advisors”. Other community colleges such as Bergen Community College in New Jersey as well as Onondaga Community College in New York were included in the journal as well.

Civic Scholar features 18 research projects by high-achieving community college students across the country on a wide range of topics, including Progress in Mental Health Treatment, which is the selected research topic of Calhoun’s members. Other topics include Racial Disparities in Perceptions toward Flu and HPV Vaccinations, as well as Support Small Sustainable Businesses and Keep Inherited Trades and Craftsmanship Alive.

Despite the many challenges students faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were over 400 submissions for this edition of Civic Scholar. “To say I am extremely proud of these students would almost seem like an understatement. Our students take so much pride in the work that they do as well as their research, and it feels great to see how their efforts and perseverance have paid off,” commented Dana Burton, Calhoun Speech Instructor and PTK Faculty Advisor.

The research for this journal was conducted as part of Phi Theta Kappa’s honors program, Honors in Action, and based on the topic, “To the Seventh Generation: Inheritance and Legacy”. The works published in Civic Scholar include both substantive research and community engagement chapters who ultimately turned their research into action by using their findings to meet specific community needs.

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The Society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 10 countries.

PTK Chapter Receives Top Rankings

The Calhoun Community College Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) chapter received four awards of distinction at their most recent Alabama Regional Convention.

The PTK members along with their advisors spend several months each year drafting and editing write-ups for two major projects that are evaluated and judged during the Annual PTK Regional Convention. “The write-ups are scored by PTK headquarters, and chapters receiving high scores in various categories are recognized at both regional and national conventions,” commented Dana Burton, Calhoun Speech Instructor and PTK Advisor. “We are so proud of the time and dedication each of the students put into each project submitted.

A total of 33 PTK chapters across the state of Alabama competed in this year’s regional convention, placing Calhoun’s chapter in the top five for the region with the following awards:

- **Distinguished College Project**: This award goes to the top five projects in the region. Calhoun won for “Student Success in Online Classes.”

- **Distinguished Honors in Action Project**: This award goes to the top five projects in the region. Calhoun won for “Evolving Attitudes Toward Men’s Mental Health Treatment.” This project also included a virtual mental health panel discussion event, which was held last fall.

- **Distinguished Chapter**: This award goes to the top five chapters in the region based on their combined scores for their projects.

- **First Runner Up, Most Distinguished Chapter**
Student Survives Life-Threatening COVID and Graduates

Spring 2020 was no ordinary semester for Calhoun Community College Nursing student Elizabeth Ovalle. Ovalle enrolled in Calhoun immediately after high school during the fall of 2017. A Presidential Honors Student and a potential candidate for Calhoun’s Nursing School, she began taking general education courses to jump-start her educational journey.

The Athens, AL native remembers growing up as a child and always wanting to pursue a career that helped people. “Even at a very young age, I was always interested in working with mothers and their babies and found that type of work fulfilling,” commented Elizabeth Ovalle, Calhoun nursing graduate.

Close to the end of March, while most students were on spring break, Ovalle experienced difficulty breathing. When the symptoms persisted, she rushed to the emergency room at Athens-Limestone Hospital where she was admitted immediately. After a few tests, Ovalle received the news that she tested positive for COVID-19 and would be placed on a ventilator.

After two weeks on the ventilator, she was informed that her breathing had improved enough that she could be taken off. Once stable, she recalls a very sweet patient care aid who came to speak with her. Amid the conversation, the aid informed Elizabeth that her mother had also tested positive and was very sick in a room a few doors down the hall.

Struggling to gather her thoughts and emotions, Elizabeth felt helpless as there was nothing she could do for her mother. She began thinking about nursing school and all of the required clinical hours, exams and coursework that must be completed to graduate successfully from the program and became discouraged. “The time I had alone, my mind wandered to the encouraging and motivating words my mom always said to me and that was to never give up, and if I could physically do something, then what was stopping me?” said Ovalle. She recalls that memory giving her hope and strength to fight. She contacted Calhoun’s nursing department to explain what was going on. She was greeted with warm comments, encouragement and messages to focus on getting better and to try again next semester. That is when she informed her instructors that she wasn’t calling to say she was sitting out, she was calling to find out how she could access her courses online and keep going. “When we heard the news about Elizabeth, we were all heartbroken as she is one of those students who is determined and doesn’t let anything get in her way,” commented Dr. Lynn Hogan, Calhoun Nursing Department Chair. “When she requested her coursework and exams we were floored because not only did she pass them, but she passed them with high scores despite everything she was going through.

A month later, both Elizabeth and her mother were better and out of the hospital. But everything changed in June as Elizabeth once again began experiencing difficulty breathing and was placed on a ventilator at Huntsville Hospital. Likewise, her mother also tested positive for COVID the second time.

Elizabeth had to fight for her life as doctors informed her that her case of COVID was much more aggressive than the previous case. Doctors became even more concerned because in addition to dealing with COVID, Elizabeth had to be resuscitated after experiencing cardiac arrest. Elizabeth’s recovery would be long and hard, but she never gave up or lost hope.

Out of the hospital and recovering, Elizabeth immediately contacted her instructors to make up and catch up on all of her assignments.

As the spring 2021 semester was coming to an end and final grades were posted, Elizabeth learned that not only would she graduate from Calhoun’s nursing program for 2021, but that she was also nominated for the “Most Outstanding Student Award for 2021,” by the Calhoun nursing faculty. “I am so thankful for all of my Calhoun nursing instructors for being patient with me and understanding. It was my strong will and personality that made me want to keep going and not quit even when it looked like I would not make it” said Ovalle. The support system was more than she could have ever imagined. They even sent her a gift basket, as well as a check from the Calhoun Foundation Emergency Fund for Students. I am beyond grateful for the amazing people at Calhoun,” she added.

Despite the health challenges, Elizabeth Ovalle is now officially a registered nurse.
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**TOTAL:** $4,340,300

(New grants, does not include student financial aid)
### OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE

#### REVENUES (2018-2021)

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#### EXPENDITURES (2018-2021)

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FOUNDATION UPDATES

Calhoun and Huntsville Police Award Scholarship Honoring Fallen Officers

Calhoun Community College and the Huntsville Police Department announced that Kayla Lewis, a law enforcement officer with the City of Huntsville, has been selected as the first recipient of the Clardy Memorial Scholarship. She is currently enrolled at Calhoun as a Criminal Justice major.

Lewis is a 24-year old graduate of the Huntsville Police Academy. She says she always dreamed of working in the criminal justice field since she was a teenager. “Neither of my parents had the opportunity to attend college while growing up. They both faced many obstacles that interfered with the chance of them furthering their education,” commented Lewis.

She remembers an incident while growing up that left a lasting impression on her to work in law enforcement. “I am from a very small town where violence and drugs were a common thing among the locals. I remember a horrible accident taking place not too far from my house. My next door neighbor was at our door covered in blood, as she begged my mother to call the police. My mom invited her in the house and asked what happened. I remember the horrified look in her eyes as she told us that she had been beaten up by her boyfriend who also took her three small children. The police came to our home, got our neighbor and not only placed her in a safe house, but they were also able to reunite her with her children. It was from this experience and the environment in which I lived, that ignited the fire in me to not only help people but also to save those who were perishing daily in my community,” Lewis added.

The Clardy Memorial Scholarship was created to not only honor the memory of fallen Officers Bill Clardy, Jr., who died in 1978 and STAC Agent Billy Clardy, III who died in 2019, but also to provide an opportunity for an officer to obtain an associate’s degree in a criminal justice-related field.

“The Huntsville Police Department places great importance in providing the best police service to its citizens through highly professional police officers. In order to provide this level of professional service, it is important to ensure that its officers are well trained and educated,” commented Huntsville Police Chief Mark McMurray.

According to Johnette Davis, Calhoun’s Foundation Director, the annual scholarship fund has exceeded $12,000, and individuals who are interested in donating to the fund can do so by contacting Calhoun’s Foundation Office at 256-306-4823.

$25K Endowment Scholarship and Bucket Truck Enhance Lineworker Program

The late Walter McGlocklin, a retired lineman for Athens Utilities, spent more than 30 years doing what he loved: helping utility customers, particularly during inclement weather. Often times, the work kept him on the clock late at night, early mornings, and weekends.

As a life-long resident of Limestone County, Alabama, Mr. McGlocklin served his community during one of the worst tornadoes the state of Alabama ever experienced. Like many other linemen, he answered the call to restore power during the outbreak of deadly tornadoes on April 3, 1974. While McGlocklin was helping others, one of the tornadoes destroyed his home, sadly claiming the lives of his wife Ruth and two of his four children. His other two children, Nancy and Grace, survived.

Stan McDonald (Calhoun Foundation Board member and member of the Alabama Ethics Commission) is the husband of Nancy McGlocklin-McDonald. They contacted Calhoun Foundation Director Johnette Davis with a request to create an endowment scholarship honoring the memory of lineman Walter McGlocklin. After much discussion and several meetings, Stan and Nancy McDonald decided not only to endow a scholarship for $25,000 over five years, but also to secure a bucket truck for the Lineworker Program, all in memory of Walter McGlocklin and his family.

Calhoun alum Steve Pirkle with Decatur Utilities partnered with the Calhoun Foundation to seal the deal by providing a retired bucket truck. The refurbished utility vehicle has expanded the training opportunities for Calhoun’s Pre-Apprentice Lineworker Program and the College is extremely thankful.
New Calhoun Alumni Association Holds Membership Drive

Calhoun Community College announced a new alumni association and board of directors in 2021. The association took advantage of 3rd Friday in downtown Decatur to hold its first membership drive. The event was free and open to all Calhoun alums, current and former students, employees, and friends of the college.

According to Gayle Hagewood, Calhoun Annual Giving and Alumni Relations Coordinator, the alumni association office has been in full swing since returning to campus after COVID restrictions last spring. A call for action was made to re-establish a board. “In order to create a well-rounded and diverse board of directors, the Calhoun College Foundation formed a steering committee to select individuals who were committed to reconnecting former alumni with Calhoun, as well as serving as viable resources to the students as they become alums,” commented Hagewood. “From the steering committee that was tasked with identifying individuals to serve, sixteen 16 prominent members of the community stepped up to represent the College,” she added.

This unique and diverse group includes alums who graduated from 1972 through 2017 as well as current and former faculty members who are determined to reunite former students with the College. The goal of the board is to further develop and maintain a mutually supportive relationship between Calhoun, its alumni, students, faculty, and community.

We are pleased to announce the Calhoun Alumni Association Board of Directors:

President Steven Pirkle ’76, former Vice President of the Student Government Association, is from Morgan County and the CEO of Decatur Utilities.

Vice President Crystal Julien ’01, is from Morgan County and is the Business Growth Fund Coordinator for North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG)

Secretary Victoria Caudill ’17, is from Jefferson County and works as a Clinical Research Coordinator for University Of Alabama at Birmingham.

Treasurer Dr. John Berzett ’92, is from Limestone County and is a Cost Specialist for Mazda Toyota Manufacturing.

Jeremy Blevins ’04, is from Winston County and is a Cybersecurity Analyst for Sentar, Inc.

Dr. Sheila Byrd ’77, is from Marshall, TN and is the current Department Chair for Literature, Foreign Language, and Speech on Calhoun’s Decatur campus.

Paquita Cain ’98, former Warhawk Ambassador, is from Limestone County and is a registered MRI technologist at Huntsville Hospital.

Lacey Harrison ’07, former softball player and Warhawk Ambassador, is from Limestone County and works as a Cost Analyst for the U.S. Army.

Timothy James ’15, is from Madison County and is a Computer Engineer for Parson.

Wendy Johnson ’98, is from Limestone County and is a Prevention Specialist for the Mental Health Center.

Amanda Marks ’83, former basketball player, is from Madison County and is a teacher at Buckhorn Middle School for the Madison County Board of Education.

Victoria Mould ’13, former Calhoun Warhawk, lives in Limestone County and is a Student Success Coach for Athens State University.

Bobby Shuttleworth ’75, former cheerleader and former member in campus organizations, is from Morgan County and is a retired broadcast journalist.

Robert Simmons, retired Calhoun professor, former cheerleading sponsor and yearbook advisor, lives in Morgan County.

Shirley Wellington ’72, former member of campus organizations, is from Madison County and currently works as a Compliance Officer at Huntsville City Schools for the Alabama Education Association.
Founder's Society
($10,000.00 to $1,000,000.00)
Alabama Center for the Arts Foundation
Bentley Buick GMC
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Branon
Title III Grant Matching Program
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Martinson
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Chancellor's Society
($5,000.00 to $9,999.00)
3M Foundation
BASF Corporation
First National Bank
Ms. Melissa Heron
Indorama Ventures Xylenes & PTA LLC
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Steve Smith Memorial Golf Tournament
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President's Society
($1,000.00 to $4,999.00)
Athens Handyman Services
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Tammy Balch
Bank Independent
BEST Robotics Inc.
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Mrs. Phyllis R. Brewer
Senator and Mrs. Tom Butler
Byrd, Smalley, & Adams
Cast Products Inc.
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Steelcase Shelters
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Dean’s Society
($250.00 to $999.99)
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Hartwell Bentley
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Houston Blackwood
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