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ON THE CALENDAR

Memorial Day Holiday (Campus Closed)	May 30
Summer I & II Classes Begin	May 31
Returning/Transfer Student Fall Registration	June 15
New Student Fall Orientation	June 16, 9:00A
Officially <i>College of the Ouachitas</i>	July 1
Independence Day Holi- day (Campus Closed)	July 4
Summer III Classes Begin	July 5
Fall Cosmetology Ap- plication Deadline	July 6
Returning/Transfer Student Fall	July 12
New Student Fall Orientation	July 13, 9:00A
Returning/Transfer Student Fall Registration	July 25
New Student Fall Orientation	July 26, 2:00P
Returning/Transfer Student Fall Registration	August 3
New Student Fall Orientation	August 4, 9:00A
PN Program, January 2012 Application Dead- line	August 5

Ouachita Technical College to become

College of the Ouachitas



Students and employees join OTC President, Dr. Barry Ballard, Senator Mike Fletcher, and Representative Loy Mauch as Governor Mike Beebe signs the bill which authorized the college name change. Ouachita Technical College will officially become College of the Ouachitas on July 1, 2011.

Patriot Award Given to Allied Health Division Chair

Allied Health Division Chair, Shelley Austin recently received the Patriot Award given by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). Ms. Austin was nominated by a former student, Rebecca Barnello, who wrote to the ESGR about her deployment to Afghanistan and Ms. Austin's assistance in helping her finish



Paul Henley presents Shelley Austin with the Patriot Award

the nursing program. Rebecca shared with the ESGR how after expressing her desire and intent to finish the program, Ms. Austin had gone "above and beyond scheduling makeup clinical, tests, and personally worked with [her] in order for [her] to complete

[her] studies." Rebecca continued by saying, "It is because of her that I was able to graduate with my class and ultimately I received my license as a Registered Nurse."

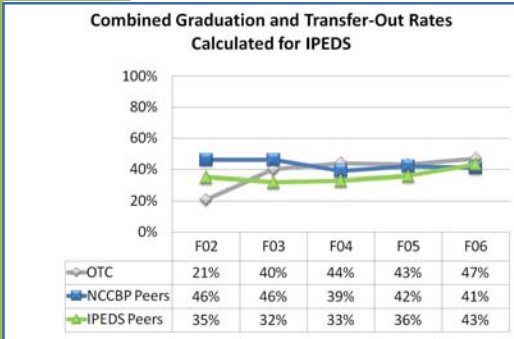
Rebecca Barnello was selected as the 2011 OTC Outstanding Alumni of the Year.

Paul Henley, the Southwest Area chairman of the ESGR visited the Ouachita Technical College campus to present Shelley Austin with the award.

From the President's Desk...



We are very excited about the many improvements and developments that our faculty and staff have made at the College recently. As you know, the enrollment at the college has doubled in the last 10 years. In the last 5 years we have grown our number of graduates by 200% and our transfer rate (to state universities) by 250%. OTC's combined graduation and transfer rate is now above our peer institutions according to the U.S. Department of Education (official IPEDS data) and above our peers in the National Community College Benchmark Project.



In January we received North Central Association/ Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation for ten years with no conditions or reporting required. The accrediting commission visiting team that came and inspected us said at our exit interview that we were one of the best small community colleges that they had ever seen. Our next review is officially in 2021!

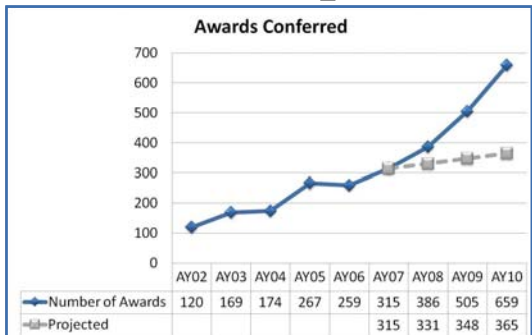
After discussing for several years the challenges of communicating the broad mission of the College to the community, the Board decided in 2009 that the time had come for a name change. The Board asked

the administration to involve students, faculty, staff, and citizens in the community to come up with a new name that would help to improve the communicating of the College's broad mission of higher education and service. After soliciting proposed names from the community and the College through advertisements, polls, and focus groups, a committee recommended two names to the Board of Trustees. After discussing and considering the options for several months, the Board unanimously approved a new name for the College last fall 2010. Our two local State House Legislators, Senator Mike Fletcher and Representative Loy Mauch, sponsored a name change bill and ushered it through the committees and both chambers getting it passed without a dissenting vote. On March 8, 2011, Governor Mike Beebe signed the bill into law which changed the college name to "COLLEGE OF THE OUACHITAS." The new name will be official on July 1, 2011. However, it will take us months to get signs changed, web site remodeled, and all our print materials changed.

We are now starting a new chapter in the history of the institution in a lot of ways. For the twenty-year period from 1971 to 1991 the name of the school was "Ouachita Vo-Tech School" and the enrollment grew from zero to a little over two hundred students. During the twenty-year period from 1991 to 2011 the college was "Ouachita Technical College" and enrollment grew from 200 to 1600 students. The evolving College of the Ouachitas now functions as a comprehensive

community college serving over 5,000 students a year in its 5-county service area (Hot Spring Co., Grant Co., Dallas Co., Clark Co., and Saline Co.), is the sponsor of Adult Education in Hot Spring & Grant Counties producing over 100 GED graduates each year, sponsors the Area High School Career Center serving about 350 students from 9 area high schools, has an \$11.5 million annual budget, over 200 employees, 1,800 Adult Education students, and delivering credit and non credit courses into a dozen area high schools, into the Arkansas Ouachita Correctional Unit and into the Omega Technical Offenders Unit of the Arkansas Department of Community Punishment. Our very active Foundation Board has raised a permanent endowment of over \$500,000 and now give dozens of scholarships annually to help students stay in college to graduation.

The best news of all is that we are getting much more effective at helping students to succeed and to stay in college to graduation. In the past five years our total number of graduates has grown tremendously (See the chart below). We believe that we are 1. In the community development business, 2. A major partner in supporting the community in its efforts for business and economic development, and 3. In the business of human resource development – CHANGING LIVES and BUILDING FUTURES.



Benefits Beyond Measure

By: S. G. Seals

There are many benefits to having a community college in one's town: it makes a town more "inflation proof" against an economic slump because of the payroll it pumps into the economy, it ensures a skilled workforce is available to business and industry, and it increases the immeasurable but no-less-present pride in a community. Ouachita Technical College, soon to become College of the Ouachitas, also has prestige within the colleges in the state of Arkansas. As an "Achieving the Dream" college, OTC is only one of four colleges in the state to have grant funding aimed at using data-driven decision-making to improve student performance—especially the performance of students who are underprepared or underrepresented in college.

As a consequence of that grant—funded in part by the Lumina and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundations—the College has made significant inroads into improving the success not only of its most challenged students, but of all students at the college. Dr. Mike Flores, the College's Achieving the

Dream Data Coach, points out that a "rising tide lifts all boats." And the emphasis on retention, on student success in Intermediate Algebra, and student success in Basic Composition has indeed affected OTC students across the campus, and not just in those underprepared or underrepresented groups.

For instance, although reconstituting the College's First Year Experience was specifically aimed at improving success and increasing retention of African American students, the program has in the last four years improved the success rates (defined as those students who graduate, transfer, or re-enroll) from 44% to 61% for all students. The Achieving the Dream work also improved retention rates for all; when the grant was awarded, the retention rate at OTC was 41%, on par with national community college retention rates. Now it is 50% for all students—a significant increase.

Those kinds of successes have also been documented in two courses that are particularly troublesome to students: Intermediate Algebra and

Basic Composition. These courses are called "gateway" courses; if students cannot prove their proficiency in these two subjects, they are unable to get an Associate's degree—and Arkansas needs all the degreed people it can get to remain economically sound. Since the focus by Achieving the Dream on these two courses, student success at OTC has gone from 44% to 53% for all students in Intermediate Algebra and from 54% to 66% of African Americans in Basic Composition.

The tide is indeed presenting opportunities for students to succeed at Ouachita Technical College. As Terri Colananni, the College's Core Team Leader for Achieving the Dream, notes, "Achieving the Dream gives OTC's dedicated faculty and staff the resources to make a difference in our students' lives. Regardless of whether we are called Ouachita Vocational Technical School, Ouachita Technical College, or College of the Ouachitas, student success and achievement is and always has been the mission of this institution."

New in the OTC Library

BOOKS: FICTION

The Land of Painted Caves by Jean M. Auel

Turtle in Paradise by Jennifer L. Holm

Heart of the Samurai by Margi Preus
(Newbery Honor Book)

Dark Emperor & Other Poems of the Night
by Joyce Sidman (Newbery Honor Book)

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
(Newbery Book Award Finalist)

Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool
(Newbery Medal Winner)

What the Night Knows by Dean Koontz

BOOKS: NON-FICTION

Donald Rumsfeld - Known and Unknown - A
Memoir

Privacy Lost – How Technology is
Endangering Your Privacy by David H.
Holtzman

The Facebook Effect – The Inside Story of the
Company That is Connecting the World by
David Kirkpatrick

Gun Trader's Guide – Thirty-Second Edition
Shooter's Bible 102nd Edition

The Travels of Marco Polo

JUVENILE BOOKS

Interrupting Chicken by David Ezra Stein
(Caldecott Honor Book)

A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip C.
Stead, illustrated by Erin E. Stead (Caldecott
Medal Winner)

Dave the Potter, Artist, Poet, Slave by Laban
Carrick Hill, illustrated by Bryan Collier
(Caldecott Honor Book)

DVDS

Frankenstein – Colin Clive, Mae Clarke, John
Boles, Boris Karloff

Lee & Grant -Generals of the Civil War

Les Miserables

The Way West – How the West was Lost & Won
1845-1893

Reagan – American Experience

The Passion of the Christ



Changing Lives...Building Futures!

SkillsUSA Members Bring Home Gold

Gold medals were brought home recently from the SkillsUSA State Competition by two members of the Ouachita Technical College SkillsUSA Chapter. Beth Leslie competed and won first place in the Post-Secondary Medical Terminology Event. This required Beth to know medical word roots, prefixes, suffixes, and abbreviations.



Kathy Self and Beth Leslie with their Gold Medals

Kathy Self won gold in the American Spirit Event. Kathy chose one event hosted by the Chapter to represent each of the following categories and compiled a scrapbook: Community Service, Patriotism & Citizenship, and Promotion of Career & Technical Education. For Community Service, Kathy chose the SkillsUSA music program at First Step Adult Developmental Center in Hot Springs; music is provided every Friday morning there. The SkillsUSA-sponsored Veteran's Day Program at Ouachita Technical College was the focus for Patriotism & Citizenship. For Promotion of Career and Technical

Education, Kathy chose to document SkillsUSA speaking during career day at Malvern High School.

Beth, also a SkillsUSA State Officer, and Kathy will now be representing the state of Arkansas in the National SkillsUSA Competition held in Kansas City, MO, in June. Both ladies recently graduated with their Associates of Applied Science Degree in Medical Office Administration. They will also be taking the Certified Professional Coder, Registered Medical Assistant, Certified Medical Administrative Specialist and Certified Medical Billing Specialist national examinations as part of their degree program. Ouachita Technical College SkillsUSA Advisor, Mrs. Sherree Hughes, was also awarded at the

competition as the Arkansas SkillsUSA Advisor of the Year.

At the annual Arkansas State-level SkillsUSA Championships, over 1,000 students compete in occupational and leadership skill areas. SkillsUSA is an international organization with more than 300,000 students and instructors joining annually; it is organized into more than 17,000 sections and 54 state and territorial associations. SkillsUSA has served more than 9.9 million members. The mission of SkillsUSA is to help its members become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.



Sherree Hughes was selected Arkansas SkillsUSA Advisor of the Year

Career Pathways

Since January 2011, Ouachita Technical College's Career Pathway's Initiative has reached or exceeded the 90% monthly goal for job placement; completers entering employment.

In March, Ouachita Technical College was one of only six campuses reaching this stature three months in a row. The other five schools included East Arkansas Community College; North-West Arkansas Community College; Pulaski Technical College; South Arkansas Community College; and University of Arkansas at Monticello, McGhee Campus.



Dr. Ballard presenting Donny Haynes with the OTC 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year Award.



Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society members at the 2011 Awards Ceremony



Graduates review the program prior to the ceremony



2011 OTC Graduates moments after "turning the tassel"



Dr. Ballard with Senator Shane Broadway, Interim Higher Education Director. Senator Broadway gave the 2011 Commencement Address.