



A YEAR IN PERSPECTIVE

A publication of Wallace Community College
2019

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPS GROWTH IN HEALTH SCIENCES

Heersink Family Partners with Wallace Health Science programs

When construction began in 2015 on a building to hold the Health Science programs at Wallace Community College-Dothan, students, faculty, and staff knew that big changes were coming. They accommodated teams of surveyors, heavy equipment, landscapers, painters, and construction workers. Designated parking areas moved in tandem with the building's progress. In 2016, construction was completed and the programs moved into their classrooms in 2017. The three-story structure was a goal that the College had planned for years. It became known as the Health Science Building.

Now, with generous support from a local physician, the building has a new name – the Heersink Family Health Science Building, in honor of **Dr. Marnix Heersink and his family**. The College officially revealed the name during a ceremony on April 11. Equally important, Wallace has a new partner in the education of the healthcare workforce in Southeast Alabama.

Dr. Heersink, who has practiced ophthalmology in Dothan since 1978, has long held an interest in the mission of the College and wanted to collaborate with Wallace's Health Science programs. After a meeting with Wallace President **Dr. Linda Young** and **Suzanne Woods**, CEO of Medical Center Enterprise and Chair of the Wallace Foundation, the Heersink family looked for ways to form a partnership with the College. The result was a \$1.1 million endowment that will fund scholarships through the Wallace Foundation.

"We celebrate the naming of a facility that has truly transformed the College," said Wallace President Dr. Linda Young. "Wallace is proud to honor Dr. Heersink and his family for their generous donation in support of current and future students. What this endowment will give to students is immeasurable."

The opportunity to contribute to Wallace and its students became a project for the Heersink family.

"Wallace is an amazing opportunity for



us as a family," said Dr. Heersink. "We feel connected to the future of students who are here. We are honored that we have an opportunity to be a part of this growth," he said. Dr. Heersink also complimented the College's healthcare programs. "These programs are outstanding. Students have an amazing opportunity for growth by attending these programs."

The Heersink's relationship with the College goes back to 1978. Dr. Heersink and his wife, Mary, moved to Dothan as a newly married couple. Two years later with a baby boy, Mary decided she needed to prepare for emergencies. "She became a student again," said Dr. Heersink. "She enrolled in Wallace's EMT program, and the training proved to be excellent."

Fifteen years ago, Dr. Heersink collaborated with Wallace to develop an

Eye Care Assistant program, a short-term healthcare program designed to funnel trained technicians to ophthalmologists' and optometrists' practices.

Mrs. Woods has been a friend to the Heersink family since 1983 when she moved to Dothan and attended the same church. Her deep relationship and respect for the

Heersinks was evident in her introductory remarks at the naming ceremony

Mrs. Heersink befriended her at

church and asked if she could help with her children during the summer – the Heersinks have six children, five sons and one daughter. "We had a lot of fun," said Mrs. Woods. "The great part is that I got to experience the love

*"Bricks and mortar, as beautiful as this building is, do not take care of people. People take care of people. That's what happens here on a daily basis."
– Suzanne Woods, CEO, Medical Center Enterprise*

Above (L-R): Damion Heersink, Dr. Sebastian Heersink, Dr. Linda Young, Mary Heersink, Dr. Marnix Heersink, and Marius Heersink.

Heersink Partnership

(Continued from page 1)

from this family. I am blessed to know Dr. Heersink as a caring human being. They have been blessed, and they are using that blessing to help others."

Alabama Community College Chancellor **Jimmy Baker** also spoke during the ceremony, complimenting the Wallace Health Science programs and their contribution to the healthcare workforce in the area. About 40% of Wallace students are health science or pre-health science majors.

The Heersink Family Health Science Building houses Wallace's eight health science programs: Associate Degree Nursing, Emergency Medical Services, Medical Assisting, Physical Therapist Assistant, Practical Nursing, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Therapist, and Surgical Technology (opened fall 2019). The Heersink family visited all of the programs and the Health Science Simulation Center.



"Bricks and mortar, as beautiful as this building is, do not take care of people. People take care of people. That's what happens here on a daily basis," Mrs. Woods added.

The Wallace Health Sciences programs are ready for the next group of students with a partnership to help others achieve a lifetime career.



Governor Ivey promotes Alabama 200 at Sparks

Governor Kay Ivey visited the Sparks Campus in Eufaula on August 20 to help celebrate Alabama 200, the State's 200th anniversary of statehood. The official celebration date was December 14. The lead up to the celebration included over 400 events statewide, encouraging Alabamians to "Share Our Stories" and celebrate the bicentennial.

Wallace displayed its own history with a traveling exhibition designed for

the 50th anniversary event, held in 2016, which celebrated 50 years of providing postsecondary education to the Eufaula area.

Ivey drew a huge crowd in the Bevil Center library – including an enthusiastic school group from a local elementary school.

During the year-long recognition, three Eufaula City Schools were recognized, and the community participated in historical and Bicentennial displays around the area which featured historical photos of Eufaula.



Wallace Foundation hosts annual Scholarship Gala



Wallace Community College Foundation presented its annual scholarship fundraiser, *An Evening in Monte Carlo*, Thursday, October 10, at the Dothan Civic Center.

During the evening, faculty, staff, and community supporters enjoyed entertainment from fine arts musicians as well as a decadent Monte Carlo-themed menu. The highlight of the evening was the auction, which proved to be very competitive.

The Foundation raised **\$62,500** that will be added to the WCC Spirit of Community Scholarship fund. The proceeds will fund **110 student scholarships** during the academic year.

The WCC Foundation works in partnership with the College to ensure access to education and to help achieve success for its students. Over 300 scholarships are awarded each year to deserving students who would not otherwise be able to attend college. Because of generous giving from community members to the WCC Foundation, the College is able to provide excellent transfer education, nursing and allied health education, skills training, and custom training for local business and industry.



Wallace Allied Health grows with new Surgical Technology program

Wallace Community College opened its eighth health science offering in September with the new Surgical Technology program.

The program is made possible, in part, through a grant by Wiregrass Foundation, with support from Flowers Hospital and Southeast Health. The move to create the program was a coordinated effort among this cohort to develop a Surgical Technology program instructed by an accredited institution in the area.

During the opening ceremony, Alabama Community College System Chancellor **Jimmy Baker** remarked that Wallace is "the hub of healthcare in the area." He said that developing a program requires a lot of work and research. "It doesn't just come about."

Surgical Technology is a rapidly growing field. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job growth outlook through 2026 for surgical technologists is 12 percent nationwide, faster than the average for all occupations.

"Surgery is a major risk," said Baker. "It's our job to train people to make sure that the doctor is supported with the right kind of care and protection."

Surgical technologists have many responsibilities such as preparing operating rooms for surgery; sterilizing and supplying equipment; preparing patients for surgery, such as washing incision areas; and helping surgeons and nurses during surgery by handing them instruments and other sterile supplies.

Many local officials, representatives and business leaders joined Baker at Wallace to celebrate the College's growth and tour the classroom spaces and surgical suites.

Inside of Wallace-Dothan's Heersink Family Health Science Building, there are two mock operating rooms where students can practice what they've learned in their classes throughout the five-semester program. The main operating room is fully functional with an anesthesia machine, OR table, sterile



tables, TV monitor to view procedures and other OR items.

The high-tech equipment joins the Health Science Simulation Center, creating a state-of-the-art resource and the latest learning techniques.

Surgical Technology Program Director **Jamie Snider** said she is working with officials from Flowers Hospital, Southeast Health, local surgery centers, including Surgery Center South, to provide students with clinical experience. The new program's first class of students began this fall, pursuing their associate's degree in surgical technology. They will graduate in May 2021.



Left to Right: Dr. Linda Young, Dr. Barbara Alford, Wiregrass Foundation; AL State Rep. Steve Clouse, and AL State Sen. Donnie Chesteen.



Left to Right: Dr. Linda Young, Chancellor Jimmy Baker, Jamie Snider, and Dr. Sebastien Heersink.



Left to Right: Dr. Bayne Heersink, Damion Heersink, Dr. Linda Young, and Marius Heersink.

Associate Degree Nursing celebrates 50 years of caring



The Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program began in 1969 with 15 students. In the fifty years since, the program has had a profound effect on the Wiregrass. Area citizens are healthier, and so is the economy. On November 7, Wallace celebrated 50 years of caring for the Wiregrass.

Since the original class, ADN has supplied 4,500 nurses to the local workforce, allowing many students the opportunity to enter a high demand profession. The program continues to enjoy strong demand from area employers.

Wallace's program owes its success to the collective experience and clinical knowledge of program instructors, many of which are Wallace graduates.

Alumnus representing many graduating classes gathered in collective fellowship to celebrate ADN's 50th anniversary.

Student success and meeting challenges



Left to right: Joe Johnson, Amber Dunlap, Dr. Linda Young, Cliff Mendheim (Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman), and Leslie Reeder.

Many Wallace students work while attending school, and having professional attire can be a financial challenge. Imagine the student who has the opportunity to interview for a coveted position, but his/her confidence is shaken by the inability to “dress for success.” WCC stepped in to help with the Wallace Career Closet.

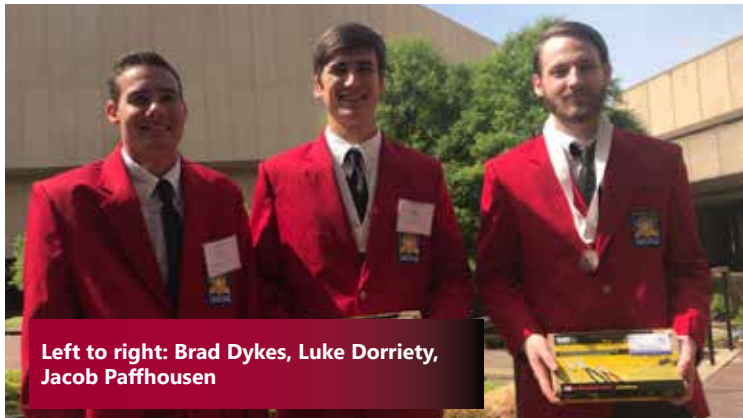
The Closet opened on September 25 to provide free attire for WCC students. It is stocked with gently-used, quality donations. When the call for donations went out on campus, faculty and staff met the challenge. The program had to dedicate additional space to accommodate their generous donations.

Students may take up to three individual apparel items per semester. Attire is appropriate for career fairs, interviews, networking events, and the workplace.

Thanks to **Amber Dunlap** for coordinating this project!



WCC Students excel at IDEAL National Championship



Left to right: Brad Dykes, Luke Dorriety, Jacob Paffhausen

WCC Students competed in the Skills USA State Championship in Birmingham. **Brad Dykes** (motor controls), **Luke Dorriety** (electrical Construction - bronze), and **Jacob Paffhausen** (motor controls - bronze) exhibited their WCC training during the competition.



Left to right: Ramiro Castillo and Ryan Landers.

Electrical Technology students **Ramiro Castillo** (first place) and **Ryan Landers** (second place) had the fastest qualifying time of students in Alabama and in the Southeastern District, and qualified for the IDEAL National Championship.



Wallace Rotaract Club: 2019-2020

Rotaract Club Update

Wallace’s Rotaract Club met in September to plan for 2019-2020. Since then, the club has been busy checking its “to do” list and engaging the community and students. Joining Rotaract at the kickoff meeting was **Cynthia Green**, Dothan Rotary Club President and Director of Development at Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center, and **Chris Pruitt**, Flowers Hospital, who is on the Board of Directors for Rotary.

Dothan Rotary presented the Rotaract Club with the 2018-19 Rotary Citation with Silver Distinction for Rotaract’s inspiration to others. Rotaract has been involved in Toys for Tots, Salvation Army Ring the Bell, Homeless donations, and has worked with aid groups to collect items for hurricane relief in the Bahamas.



WCC confers 1,252 degrees and certificates at Wallace and Sparks Campuses during spring commencement

Wallace Community College-Dothan conferred 1,252 degrees and certificates to 1,006 students during the 2019 Spring Commencement exercises on May 9 (Wallace Campus) and May 10 (Sparks Campus – Eufaula).

The **Honorable Brad Mendheim, Jr.**, Associate Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court and Dothan native, offered the keynote address. He previously worked as an assistant district attorney, worked with the Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center, and worked for a general practice law firm in Dothan. Judge Mendheim attended Wallace Community College, Auburn University, and the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University.

Mr. Larry Williams, Fire Chief of the Dothan Fire Department, was honored as the Wallace Campus Alumnus of the Year. Mr. Williams received an Associate of Applied Science degree in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) from Wallace, the beginning of his career as a first responder. He is responsible for a department with eight paramedic engines that protect over 67,000 residents covering 85 square miles.

Wallace Community College celebrated dual enrollment students during the graduation ceremony. Several area school superintendents and Career Tech/Dual Enrollment coordinators came to support all of the graduates, especially the dual enrollment students who received their diplomas. Eleven dual enrollment students graduated Thursday.

The Sparks Campus honored graduates during commencement exercises on May 10 at the Eufaula Community Center. **Ms. Sadelia**



Reed-Hayward, The University of Alabama Health Services Foundation, was the guest speaker and Sparks Campus Alumnus of the year. Ms. Reed-Hayward was the first in her immediate family to attend and graduate from a four-year institution.

She began her higher education at Wallace Community College with an Associate in Applied Technology in Office Administration. She holds a degree in Business Management from the University of Montevallo and an MBA with a specialization in Human Resources from Capella University. She earned a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt from the University of Georgia, and most recently received a master's degree in Management Information Systems/

Cyber Security from UAB – with a 4.0 GPA. An inspiration to everyone, she has a passion for breaking glass ceilings in the competitive world of Information Technology.

Ms. Leslie Reeder, WCCD Dean of Instructional Affairs at Wallace, also spoke at Sparks. Ms. Reeder spoke to the graduates about the importance of goals. She gave the graduations sound advice: Dream big and set goals to reach your destination.

Top: Wallace Campus graduates move their tassels; Bottom: Dr. Linda Young awards diplomas during the Sparks Campus ceremonies.

Honors Day at Wallace Campus: Scholarships and Awards

Honors Day at Wallace - Dothan is special. The College gathers to celebrate student success in individual programs, scholarships, and the most coveted honor, the President's Award Winner.

This year, the guest speaker for Honors Day was **Mary Beth Maddox**, Wallace alumna and entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience helping companies develop staffing, recruiting and teambuilding strategies. Ms. Maddox is the first-ever female president of either Dothan Rotary Club. She recently completed her term on the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Board.

As part of Honors Day, **Dr. Linda Young**,

president of Wallace Community College, bestows the President's Award to one special student in recognition of their academic success and personal accomplishments. This year's award was given to **Jasmine Grice**, who graduated from the Associate Degree Nursing program in May.

This year's President's Day Award Nominees included **Evin Bibb, Morgan Brooks, Mallie Brown, Jasmine Grice (winner), Ricky Hall, Laney Lambert, Lauren Lawrence, Peyton Millirons, Tevin Mitchell, Gabrielle Newsome, Manning Owens, Asia Russhell, Jenecia Starling, and Brion Strickland.**



Left to right: WCC President Dr. Linda Young, 2019 President's Award Winner Jasmine Grice, and Wallace Alumna and guest speaker Mary Beth Maddox.

Sparks Campus: Honors Day and Scholarships



Sparks Campus UA Scholarships (left to right): University of Alabama Representative Molly White; Scholarship Recipients Jenecia Starling, Tristan Andrews, and Emily Holland.



Left to right): Gabrielle Newsome and Dr. La'Keisha Newsome, Special Education Director of Henry County Schools. Dr. Newsome was the guest speaker and is a Wallace alumna.

Wallace celebrates GED Graduation

Wallace celebrated GED Graduation on April 28 with an auditorium full of graduates, friends, and proud families. Alumna and former GED student **Ms. Sylvia Quattlebaum** gave the Keynote Address. Ms. Quattlebaum is now a guidance counselor with Dothan City Schools.



Brittney Jackson (center), Dothan, celebrates with a group of her friends and supporters.



Left to right: **Alexander Burton** (Dothan), Valedictorian, **Chloe Cutchen** (Eufaula) salutatorian, and **Mark Sauble** (Dothan), honor graduate.



Families gather in Cherry Hall to celebrate student success. GED graduates are rewarded with a free WCC course.

REACHING OUT to the community we serve



Don't Crash Spring Break - Sparks Campus
Spectracare and WCC - Coalition for the Prevention of Underage Drinking partnered with area law enforcement and EMS to demonstrate the consequences of drinking and driving.



Disaster Drill - Wallace Campus
WCCD Students practiced disaster drill with area first responders and the Dothan Regional Airport.



Baseball and Softball Camps



New Veterans' Center opens to serve
Wallace's veteran population.



Clean Home Alabama Statewide Initiative
Wallace and Sparks Campuses



National Peanut Festival Queens' Day



Santa Visits the Sparks Campus



Faculty/Staff Charity Softball Game for
Alzheimer's Resource Center



Pink Out for Breast Cancer



A Walk to Remember for Alzheimer's



Lineworker students practice day and night!

Wallace Athletics gives fans something to cheer about

Govs and Lady Govs finish season in the top ten nationwide

Govs Baseball

The Govs finished in third place in the ACCC Tourney. Overall, the team had a 44-10 season (25-5 in conference play).

The Govs topped off the season by ranking 6th in the final NJCAA poll. The team netted **13 scholarships** for student-athletes to continue playing on the university level.

Govs Athletic Stats:

3rd Team NJCAA All-American: **Oraj Anu** and **Luis Aviles**

Drafted by the Boston Red Sox: **Oraj Anu**
ACCC Commissioner's Honor Roll: **Oraj Anu, Luis Aviles, Justin Farmer, Golston Gillespie, Jackson Greene, James Jones, Brandon Kaminer, Ryan Leno, Peyton Millirons, Casey Selfe, Jared Shemper, and Joey Wozniak.**

All-Region 22 (Southeastern District): **Oraj Anu, Luis Aviles, and Jared Shemper, Jackson Greene.**

ACCC All-South Team: **Golston Gillespie, Oraj Anu, Luis Aviles, Justin Farmer, Jared Shemper, and Peyton Millirons.**

ACCC Player of the Week: **Oraj Anu** and **Brandon Dorsey.**

ACCC Pitcher of the Week: **Jared Shemper**

Scholarships:

Oraj Anu (University of Kentucky), Luis Aviles (University of South Carolina), Aubrey Davis (University of West Florida), Brandon Dorsey (Florida Gulf Coast University), Jackson Green (Florida State University), Jack Knight (University of Tennessee-Martin), Brandon Kaminer (Louisiana State University), Ryan Leno (Point University), Peyton Millirons (University of South Alabama), DJ Roberts (Florida International University), Casey Selfe (Georgia Gwinnet College), and Jared Shemper (Mississippi State University).

Lady Govs Softball

On April 18, the Lady Govs clinched the ACCC Southern Division for the second straight season and went to the state tournament with a 52-6 overall record and 27-1 Conference record. As for confidence, winning 25 games in a row helped. As regional runner up, the Lady Govs defeated South Carolina, the District I Champion. They finished in the top 6 in the NJCAA after the World Series in St. George, Utah. The hard-scrabble season was worth it; when the dust settled, the Lady Govs were 4th in the nation. **Two Lady Govs earned scholarships at the next level.**



The Wallace Govs line up for the state ACCC Tournament in Eagle Stadium in Ozark.



The Lady Wallace Govs say goodbye to fans on their trip to St. George, Utah.

Lady Govs Stats:

ACCC Commissioner's Honor Roll: **Evin Bibb, Morgan Brooks, Mallie Brown, Brittany Carroll, Macy Crawford, Schyler Edwards, Ariyon Hightwoer, Halie Jones, Caitlyn Koller, Rory Long, Hope Mynard, Annaleigh Poland, Hanna Popwell, and Anna Belle Tippens.**

NJCAA All-Region 22:

Mallie Brown and **Bailee Dempsey.**

NJCAA Region II and ACCC South Division Pitcher of the year: **Mallie Brown**

ACCC All-South Team: **Bailee Dempsey, Mallie Brown, Asia Jones, Schylur Edwards, and Hanna Popwell.**

ACCC South Division Player of the Year:

Bailee Dempsey

ACCC South Division Co-Coach of the Year:

David Russo

ACCC Player of the Week:

Hannah Peters and **Bailee Demsey.**

ACCC Pitcher of the Week: **Mallie Brown.**

Scholarships: **Mallie Brown** (University of South Carolina - Upstate), and **Schylur Edwards** (Alabama State University).



ENTERTAINING with top-notch student talent



Winter Showcase

Wallace's Performing Arts had a banner year with entertaining performances featuring extraordinary talent. Productions included *Steel Magnolias*, *Sister Act*, and the *Winter Showcase*, which included carefully choreographed routines and music from *The Greatest Showman*. The program also featured exhibits by *Austin Smith and Lindsay Nicholls* and music by *The Brickle Duo* (violin and piano), The Wallace Hop performance featuring The Wallace Sound and Instrumental Ensemble, and a special *Princess Pancake Breakfast* for WCC's smallest fans.



Winter Showcase



Steel Magnolias



Princess Pancakes Breakfast



Kids Hop by the Wallace Sound



Jeneciah Starling



Tristan Andrews

Jeneciah Starling and **Tristan Andrews** were named to the 2019 All-Alabama Academic Team. These students are driven, focused, and committed to improving their own lives and the lives of those around them.



Henry County Youth Leadership

Henry County Youth Leadership toured the Wallace Campus to learn more about the College. The program identifies emerging leaders and provides them with an enhanced educational experience.



L-R: Dr. Linda Young and Janet Bradley

Janet Bradley, WCC Biology instructor, was recognized by Phi Theta Kappa for five years of service as an advisor for Omega Beta Chapter.



Physical Therapist Assistant Baby Lab



Bostick



Brown



Cribbs



Greene



Sanders

WCC employees honored with Chancellor's Award

WCC Chancellor's Award Recipients were honored at the annual Alabama Community College Association Conference in November. Representing WCC were **Seth Brown** (Administrator), **Carla Cribbs**, (Academic Faculty), **Amy Greene** (Technical Faculty), **Marlana Sanders** (Support Staff), WCCD also recognized an outstanding adjunct faculty member. This year's honoree for that award is **Susan Bostick**.



Wallace 2019-2020 Leadership Cohort



Left to right: English instructors Steve Adkison, Brandi Wallace, Dr. Linda Young, and Lynn Lamere, SKD Advisor.

WCC's Pi Beta Chapter of Sigma Kappa Delta Honor Society earned the designation of Ivy Chapter. SKD is a national English honor society for two-year colleges. It is the second year in a row that the WCCD chapter has received the honor. The award is given to chapters who have done an outstanding job of promoting and growing the chapter.

Dean Reeder Completes Fellowship Program

Leslie Reeder, WCCD Dean of Instruction, was among fourteen Alabama and thirteen Mississippi community college administrators who recently completed the Community College Policy Fellows Program (CPFP).

The Community College Policy Fellowship Program is a 10-month professional development program sponsored by the Mississippi Community College Board and the Alabama Community College System. The curriculum focuses on four national program pillars: policy, leadership, networking, and advocacy. Comparative elements of both state systems are highlighted throughout the program year as well.



Leslie Reeder, WCCD Dean of Instruction

"The Fellowship Program was a wonderful experience that proved just how critical it is to advocate for our students, institution, and community college system," said Reeder. "We were able to "share our story" and advocate for protection of the federal Pell Grant program and requesting Pell grant funds for short-term certificate programs." The group also advocated for passing the Restoring Education and Learning Act (REAL) for incarcerated students, and new funding for (\$150 million) for the Strengthening Community College Training Grants program." The fellowship program culminated in a trip to Washington D.C., for the Washington Advocacy Seminar, enabling the cohort to meet with education policymakers.

Grants benefit students and the community

- **\$3,500** from the Alabama Humanities Foundation for "The Oral Tradition in Contemporary Southern Society and Literature."
- **\$78,981** from Alabama Community College System (ACCS) for Industrial Maintenance Program (NC3 Certifications).
- **\$261,064** from Wiregrass Foundation for Mental Health Technician and De-escalation Enhancement for Associate Degree Nursing.
- **\$7,667** from ACCS for STEAM summer robotics enrichment camps.
- **\$40,000** from ACCS for Ready to Work.
- **\$27,273** from ACCS for Career Coach.
- **\$389,000** from ACCS for Career Tech Dual Enrollment.
- **\$40,000** from U.S. Department of Education for Talent Search supplemental grant.
- **\$1,617** from WCC Foundation for An Evening with Sean of the South.
- **\$55,048** for zSpace Lab for Career Tech, Academics, and Workforce Development.
- **\$45,958** from Southeast Health to establish a zSpace Mobile Lab for Health Sciences.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Perspective is a publication of Wallace Community College – Dothan and Eufaula. Comments may be directed to Public Relations and Marketing: pr@wallace.edu.

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Dual Enrollment remains popular academic transfer option

Area high school students and their parents know that taking college courses while still in high school can save money. Lower community college tuition offsets some of the cost of college and less time is required after high school to finish a degree. It's a win-win.

Former Wallace student **Karson Shayne Brooks** graduated from Dothan High School in 2009, but her journey to college entry began when she was 15. She took two AP classes, but she decided to take advantage of the variety of dual enrollment classes offered at WCCD.



Her mother dropped her off at WCCD in the morning to take classes on campus.

Brooks' mother, Julie Turner, said that she saw the financial benefits of dual enrollment, but it also helped Brook's confidence in taking advanced classes. "I didn't realize that it would propel her in science and math. Her Wallace instructor encouraged her to go on with her studies. She understood that girls can do this!" By her senior year in high school, Brooks was driving herself to WCCD and looking forward to attending The University of Alabama. She

graduated from high school in 2009.

The variety of course options helped her take more advanced classes – an advantage that would help her college career. "I was able to take higher level math. One of my teachers was Dr. Kinney – he helped me so much with these courses. They were 200-level classes like applied differential equations."

The availability of so many dual enrollment classes was a game changer. Brooks transferred to Alabama with 26 dual enrollment credits.

"Taking dual enrollment classes at Wallace allowed me to earn more college credit so I could take a lighter load at Alabama. I was able to concentrate on higher level classes," she said.

Brooks graduated from UA in 2013 with a bachelor of science in chemistry. She earned a PhD in Chemistry at the University of Georgia in 2018.

Brooks currently works as a Polymer Scientist with Danimer Scientific in Athens, Georgia. She is passionate about her work on sustainable products to achieve 100% biodegradable bioplastics. "It's a cost-effective solution to help end plastic pollution on a global scale."

WCCD graduate and Auburn University

student **Basie Shine** put himself on the fast track to college credits as a junior in high school. Upperclassmen were taking dual enrollment classes, and he decided getting college and high school credit at the same time sounded good. "It was a great tradeoff."



He took 33 credit hours (11 classes) while dually enrolled, maintaining a 3.091 GPA. After graduation, he took an additional 27 credit hours to complete his Associate of Science with a final GPA of 3.217. He transferred to Auburn in January 2018.

"Since I was exposed to the college atmosphere, I came to Auburn with a mature mindset. I transferred with 60 credit hours, enough to start my business major," said Shine.

Shine was accepted to the Harbert College of Business at Auburn. His major is Information Systems Management with a minor in Supply Chain Management. In May 2018, Shine returned to WCCD for one purpose – to walk in graduation and receive his Wallace Community College diploma. Shine is on track to graduate from Auburn in May 2020.