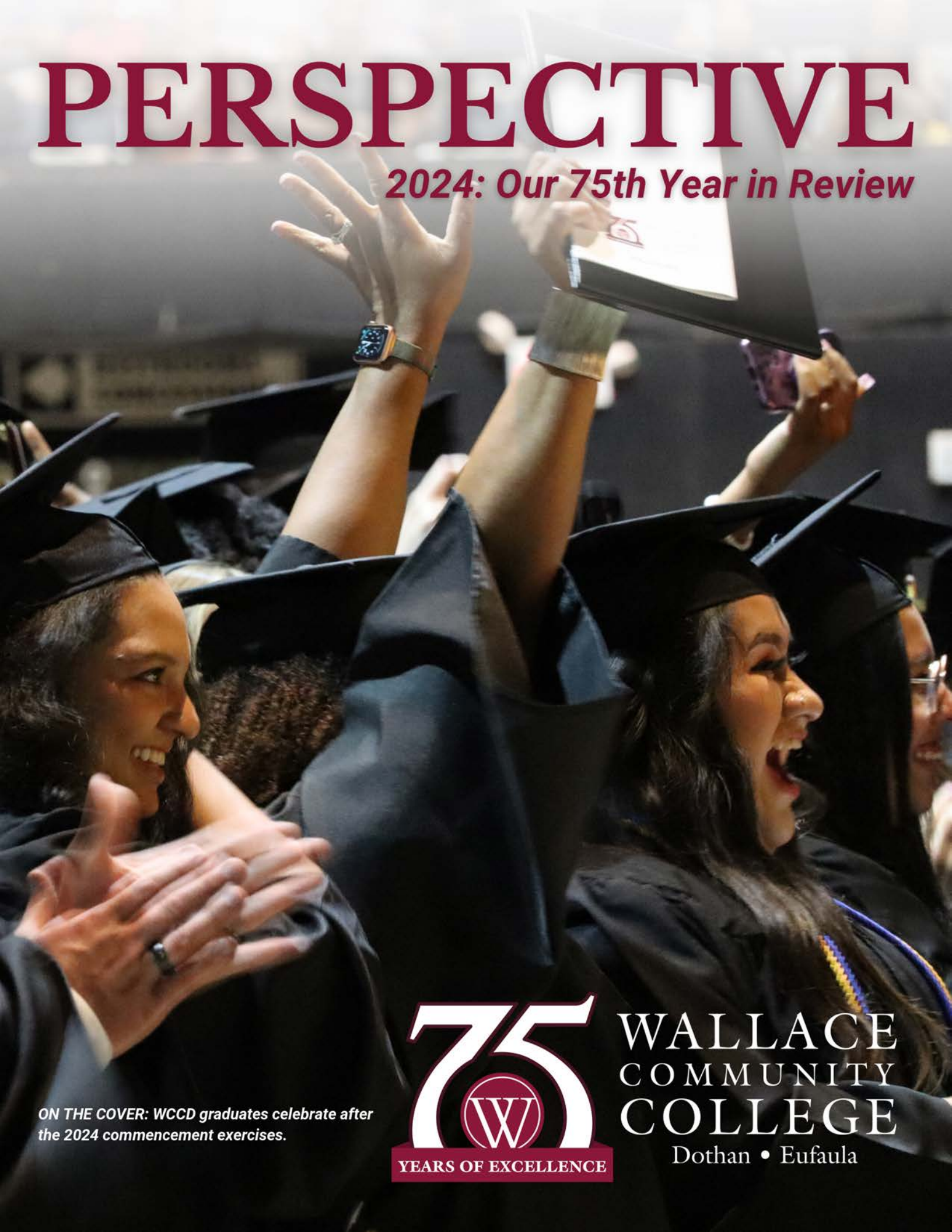


PERSPECTIVE

2024: Our 75th Year in Review



ON THE COVER: WCCD graduates celebrate after the 2024 commencement exercises.



WALLACE
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

Dothan • Eufaula

Dr. Linda C. Young Retires After 36 Years of Leadership

Dr. Linda C. Young, President of Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD), announced her retirement effective October 1, 2024, concluding a remarkable 36-year tenure as its president. Dr. Young, who made history as the first female president of a technical college in Alabama, reflected on her journey, emphasizing the collective achievements of the college community. "What we have accomplished together is largely because we all have one goal in mind—helping our students fulfill their dreams," she shared.

Dr. Young's retirement was met with accolades from state leaders. Governor Kay Ivey praised her trailblazing contributions to Alabama's community college system, particularly in healthcare and nursing education, which have significantly benefited the state. Jimmy H. Baker, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, highlighted her transformative impact on workforce development and her commitment to serving diverse communities. Both leaders acknowledged her legacy as a pioneer and advocate for education and community service.

Dr. Young's leadership began at Sparks State Technical College in 1988. Following the merger of Sparks with WCCD in 1999, she led the newly unified institution, fostering innovation in adult education, workforce development, and student success. Her initiatives for adult women's education received national recognition, and her legislative advocacy paved the way for programs supporting displaced homemakers. Throughout her tenure, WCCD earned numerous accolades, including the American Association of Community Colleges Award of Excellence for Student Success.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Dr. Young has been an active community leader, serving in organizations like the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Alabama. Her academic journey began at Enterprise State Junior College, followed by degrees from Troy University and a doctorate from Auburn University. Recognized with awards such as the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction and inclusion in the Dothan Area Chamber Business Hall of Fame, Dr. Young leaves behind a legacy of dedication, innovation, and profound impact on Alabama's educational landscape.



Dr. Linda C. Young, WCCD President (Retired)



Dr. Young as President of Sparks State Technical College in Eufaula, circa 1988-89



Keith Phillips Appointed WCCD Interim President

Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Chancellor Jimmy H. Baker announced the appointment of Keith Phillips as Interim President at Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) beginning October 1, 2024. Phillips currently serves as Executive Director of the Alabama Technology Network (ATN) and Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development.

Phillips will serve following the retirement of Dr. Linda Young, who served as president of the College for 36 years. Young’s retirement was approved by the Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees on September 11, 2024.

Mr. Keith Phillips, WCCD Interim President

“For almost four decades, Wallace’s Dothan and Eufaula area communities have benefited tremendously from trusted leadership who knows the Wiregrass and the integral role the College plays with business and industry. Keith’s experience throughout this state is certainly a resource to keep the College at the forefront for economic growth,” Baker said.

An alumnus of WCCD, Phillips began his career with the system as an employee of ATN in 2009, where he served as the Eufaula Center Director. His strong work ethic and dedication spearheaded major strategic shifts for transforming the workforce from a functional focus to one of innovation and integration that supports the entire state.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness Education from Auburn University and an associate degree in Science from Wallace Community College.



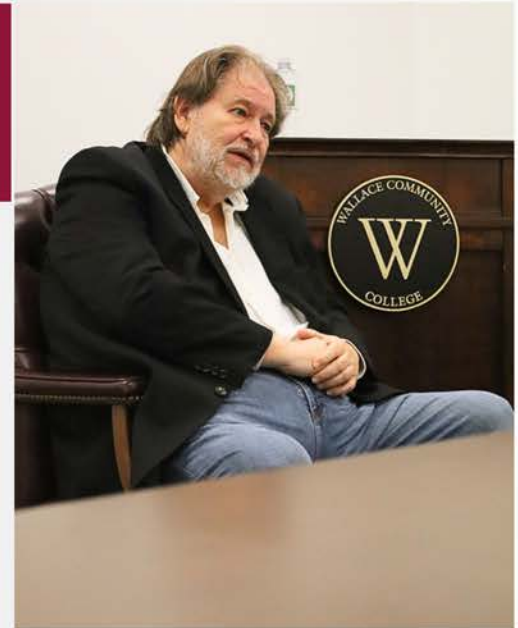
Wallace Community College-Dothan was voted “Best Community College” for 2024 in the Dothan Eagle Best of the Wiregrass contest!

Wallace is also ranked #1 on Niche.com’s list of Best Community Colleges in Alabama for 2025! Thank you, Wiregrass, for your support of Wallace Community College!

WCCD Celebrates 75 Years of Excellence in 2024

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) celebrated 75 Years of Excellence in 2024. As a cornerstone of education and opportunity in the region, the college commemorated its diamond anniversary with a series of celebratory events and initiatives honoring its rich history and bright future.

The celebrations included 75th-themed fan days at the College's baseball and softball home conference openers, where students, alumni, and supporters donned Wallace gear to cheer on the Govs. Adding a literary touch to the festivities, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Rick Bragg engaged audiences with a public talk, sharing insights and anecdotes from his celebrated career. Bragg also led discussions with humanities faculty from WCCD, Enterprise State Community College, and LBW Community College. This event was sponsored by the Paths for Success Foundation.



Rick Bragg, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, journalist and best-selling author, speaks to faculty before his public keynote on November 19, 2024.

Celebrating **75** YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

2024 WCCD student Diplomats Maury Salter and Aubrie Lofton emcee the 75th Anniversary baseball game.



Crowning the anniversary celebrations, Wallace Community College will unveil historical markers in early 2025 on both the Wallace Campus in Dothan and the Sparks Campus in Eufaula, commemorating its 75 years of excellence in education.

As Wallace looks to the future, it remains steadfast in its commitment to excellence, innovation, and community engagement, ensuring that the next 75 years will be as impactful as the first.



WCCD Practical Nursing student Culieshia Johnson utilizes simulators to practice cardiovascular system assessment and documentation in a skills lab.

WCCD Awarded \$2.9 Million Grant to Establish Wiregrass Center for Rural Healthcare Opportunities at Dale Medical Center

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) has been awarded a \$2.9 million grant from the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) as part of the Alabama Centers for Rural Healthcare Opportunity legislative appropriation. This grant will facilitate the establishment of the Wiregrass Center for Rural Healthcare Opportunities on the campus of Dale Medical Center in Ozark, Alabama.

The Wiregrass Center for Rural Healthcare Opportunities (the Center) is poised to make a significant impact in the Dale County area by serving as a career and workforce development hub for the high-demand healthcare professions of licensed practical nurse (LPN) and mental health technician (MHT), moving students from the earliest stages of healthcare career exploration through completion of a healthcare training program, successful certification/licensure to work in-field, and on to successful employment with a local rural healthcare employer.

The Center is a community-wide collaboration between the College, multiple healthcare providers, multiple high schools, local government, and local and regional workforce/economic developers.

"Every healthcare provider in our region has depended on Wallace Community College to train our workforce over the years," said Vernon Johnson, Dale Medical Center Chief Executive Officer. "When we had the opportunity to join forces with Wallace Community College to provide an on-site training program for Nurses and Certified Mental Health Technicians, we jumped at this opportunity. Through this joint effort between WCCD and DMC, we are expanding our existing partnership of developing and training a healthcare workforce that will benefit not only DMC but the entire Wiregrass region."

The Center will focus on alleviating shortages of licensed practical nurses, nursing assistants, and mental health technicians currently in high demand in the greater Dale County area. WCCD intends to offer its Practical Nursing (PN) program and the Mental Health Technician (MHT) program at the Center. Coursework that prepares students for the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) credential is embedded in both the PN and MHT curriculum and enables students to begin working in the healthcare field before graduation. The College will work directly with partner healthcare providers to match students up-front with employer sponsors for scholarships, internships, and job offers.

"Creating a base of instruction at Dale Medical Center will allow us to reach even more residents in nearby communities, as well as high school students in the Dale County area, with educational opportunities that will allow them to join us in our mission," said Kathy Buntin, WCCD Associate Dean of Health Sciences. "We look forward to working with potential health sciences students and our healthcare partners in this venture."

CTE Receives New Tech Grants, Establishes State's First Electrical Apprenticeship

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) has received two major workforce development grants from the Alabama Community College System (ACCS), totaling over \$716,000, to enhance its advanced manufacturing and information technology programs. A \$336,369 grant will fund a Modular Production System (MPS) for the Industrial Systems Technology and FAME programs, offering students hands-on experience with robotics, automation, and mechatronics. A \$380,266 grant will establish the "Cyber Range and Beyond" platform in the Computer Information Sciences program, providing immersive training in cybersecurity, cyber defense, and network management. Additionally, WCCD, in collaboration with Advantage Consulting & Solutions and ACCS, has announced the launch of the Alabama Cyber Security Fellowship Program, aimed at providing students with real-world cybersecurity training and career opportunities.

These initiatives prepare students for high-demand careers across various sectors, including manufacturing roles like industrial machinery mechanics and IT fields such as cybersecurity specialists and network administrators. The fellowship program will further address workforce needs by offering selected students from three colleges a 16-week course combining hands-on labs and paid on-the-job training with industry partners. Supported by regional collaborations, these programs aim to equip students with critical skills, fostering a workforce ready to meet Alabama's evolving economic demands.



Students in the Industrial Systems Technology program work with an industrial robotic arm in the program's skills lab.

WCCD, Diamond -R- Electric Partner to Create Alabama's First Electrical Apprenticeship



Present at the program's launch are (l to r) Barbara Steger, WCCD Adult Education Director; Michael Hannon, WCCD Electrical Technology instructor; Martha Compton, WCCD Associate Dean of Career Technical Education; Rob Rhoades, Owner, Diamond -R- Electric; Josh Laney, Director, Alabama Office of Apprenticeship; Joshua Soles, WCCD Electrical Technology student; Joe Johnson, WCCD Director of Workforce Development.

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD), in collaboration with Diamond-R-Electric, has launched Alabama's first state-recognized Electrician Apprenticeship program. Approved by the Alabama Electrician Board, the program grants apprentices 2,000 of the 8,000 hours required for journeyman certification. Announced at the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's State of the Workforce event, this initiative underscores the critical role of partnerships between educational institutions and local businesses in developing skilled, workforce-ready professionals.

WCCD Associate Dean Martha Compton praised the program's innovative approach, emphasizing its potential to enhance students' career prospects through hands-on training. Rob Rhoades of Diamond-R-Electric highlighted the program as a transformative effort to invest in the Wiregrass region's workforce. With strong support from state representatives and the Alabama Office of Apprenticeship, the program is set to create a skilled labor pipeline, fostering economic growth in the community.

WCCD Partners with Local High Schools to Provide Free Career Training



Students from Eufaula High School completed a WCCD Workforce Development Skills for Success skid steer course in the fall of 2024.

The Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) Workforce Development division has partnered with Wiregrass area high schools to provide free career training programs through the Alabama Community College System Skills for Success initiative. These courses are designed to meet Alabama's career readiness requirements for graduation while offering high school students career exploration opportunities. The hybrid training model combines online theoretical instruction with hands-on lab experiences either at the high schools or WCCD campuses.

Through this partnership, students gain essential skills and industry-recognized certifications to succeed in high-demand fields through high-quality, industry-aligned training. Training programs offered include Fiber Optic, Skid Steer, Bulldozer, Excavator, Asphalt Roller, Carpentry Helper, Electrical Helper, Mental Health Worker, and Forklift.

High schools benefitting from this free training in 2024 include Houston County Career Academy, Rehobeth High School, Wicksburg High School, Houston County High School, Ashford High School, Cottonwood High School, Dothan Tech, Headland High School, Eufaula High School, Barbour County High School, Bullock County High School, Ariton High School, GW Long High School, Abbeville High School, Bridge Academy and Dale County High School.

2024 Grant Awards

- Building Construction Program - Alabama Construction Industry Craft Training (CICT) Board, AL DOF, Division of Construction Management: **\$89,738.41**
- LPN Program Expansion - ACCS/Education Trust Fund: **\$172,944.62**
- Wiregrass Rural Healthcare Workforce Initiative - Alabama Centers for Rural Healthcare Opportunity legislative appropriation: **\$2,905,286.29**
- Adult Education Program - ACCS: **\$966,724**
- CIS Program Expansion: "Cyber Range and Beyond" - Workforce Development Competitive Funds (ICI/Special Pops): **\$380,266**
- Success Coach Initiative: "Motivating, Advising, and Prompting (MAP) a Career Plan for the Future" - ACCS: **\$84,205**
- Dual Enrollment Program - ACCS: **\$1,161,820**
- Career Technical Education "Modular Production System for Advancing Manufacturing Technicians FAME Program" - ACCS: **\$336,369**
- Career Technical Education "Mobile Training Equipment for On-Site Workforce Development Training" - ACCS: **\$56,624**

Wallace Sound Performs at NYC's Carnegie Hall

The Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) student show choir, the Wallace Sound, performed at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 1, 2024. Twenty students showcased their exceptional talent cultivated within the College's Fine Arts Division under the direction of choral director Cameron Johnson Weiler. This performance was the first time WCCD's student show choir program has been featured on the Carnegie Hall stage.

The Wallace Sound performed jointly with four other choral groups from across the county. The collaborative choirs premiered a piece called "Song of Hope," written specifically for this performance by composer Terre Johnson, Chair of The Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music at Georgia Southern University. Johnson, who was commissioned to create the piece by MidAmerica Productions, is also Weiler's father.

Weiler was thrilled to bring this talented group of students to the Big Apple. "Singing in Carnegie Hall is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for singers," said Weiler. "These students were hard-working and deserving of this high honor. Many of these students traveled to New York for the very first time, and I am grateful to have shared this exciting experience with them."



Singers and musicians from across the country, including show choir students from Wallace, performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 1, 2024.

VISIT

Explore everything Wallace has to offer in person! Whether it's during a Preview Day for high school students or a community-wide event like the ones pictured below on our Sparks Campus in Eufaula, or even scheduling a personal campus visit with a recruiter, we'd love to see you on our beautiful Dothan or Eufaula campuses!

wallace.edu/visit

WALLACE GOVERNORS

See you soon!

Excellence in Education

WCCD Chancellor's Awards 2024

Each year, Alabama Community College System institutions select four outstanding employees representing their college as recipients of the Chancellor's Award. These award recipients demonstrate a commitment to serving students and enhancing the College and its services through their work. Staff are nominated in three categories: Administrator, Support Staff and Faculty. These recipients are recognized at the Alabama Community College Association annual conference.

This year, Wallace Community College-Dothan is proud to announce its 2024 Chancellor Award recipients: Janet Bradley, Biology Instructor; Kirsti Hardwick, ADN Instructor; Kecia Forehand, Workforce Development Coordinator; and Jeannine Brehm, Administrative Secretary to the Dean of Instructional Affairs.



Janet Bradley



Kirsti Hardwick



Kecia Forehand



Jeannine Brehm

Adult Education's Steger, Clarke Receive Statewide Recognition



Barbara Steger

Two members of Wallace Community College-Dothan's (WCCD) Adult Education division recently earned statewide recognition for their exceptional contributions to education. Barbara Steger, who leads WCCD's Adult Education program, was highlighted as one of Business Alabama's Exceptional Educators for her dedication to helping students achieve lifelong success. A former Army sergeant and lifelong learner, Steger holds multiple advanced degrees and certifications and is pursuing a doctorate in global leadership at Troy University. As a John C. Maxwell-certified speaker, trainer, and coach, she is also the owner of Kingdom Culture Coaching Services LLC. Steger has been widely recognized for her leadership, including being named the Alabama Community College System Chancellor's Award winner for WCCD in 2022-2023.



Amanda Clark

Amanda Clarke, Adult Education Instructional Coordinator, was named "Staff Member of the Year" at the Alabama Association of Public Continuing and Adult Education (ALAPCAE) 2024 summer conference. Known for her adaptability, efficiency, and positivity, Clarke has inspired students and fostered teamwork and innovation among her colleagues, significantly enhancing WCCD's programs. In addition, she was appointed as the District 7 Representative on the ALAPCAE board of directors for the Southern Region.

GROW GOVS!

Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) is thrilled to announce the addition of four new sports to its athletic program: men's and women's golf, men's and women's cross country, and women's flag football. These exciting programs, set to launch in the fall of 2025, will join the College's existing baseball and softball teams.

With this expansion, 51 scholarships will be available across all athletic programs, providing talented student-athletes the opportunity to compete at the collegiate level while pursuing a high-quality education at WCCD.

**VISIT WALLACEGOVS.COM FOR MORE GOV NATION
SPORTS UPDATES!**



WCCD Interim President Keith Phillips (center) with student-athletes from WCCD's baseball and softball teams after announcing the addition of new sports at the College.

AWARD WINNING ATHLETICS



Coach Ryan Ihle - Baseball
ACCC Coach of the Year



Cason Eubanks
ACCC Player of the Year



Coach David Dews - Softball
700+ Career Wins



Reigh Jordan
ACCC Pitcher of the Year,
NJCAA 2nd Team All-American



Olivia Elliott
ACCC Player of the Year



Wallace Community College Foundations Establish the Dr. Linda C. Young Endowed Presidential Scholarship



WCC Foundation Chair Jim Dennis (l) and WCC Foundation board member Suzanne Woods (r) present Dr. Young (center) with the Dr. Linda C. Young Endowed Presidential Scholarship for the Wallace Campus in Dothan.

The Wallace Community College Foundations are honored to announce the establishment of the Dr. Linda C. Young Endowed Presidential Scholarship in recognition of Dr. Linda Young's inspirational 36 years of leadership and lifelong dedication to student success.

The scholarship will support students at Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership potential, and a commitment to service. This endowment commemorates Dr. Young's visionary leadership and dedication while also ensuring that her legacy will empower future generations to pursue higher education on their journey to professional and personal success.

Since her appointment in 1988 at Sparks State Technical College—which was later merged with WCCD—Dr. Young has pioneered advancements in education, workforce development, and healthcare training programs across Alabama. Under her guidance, WCCD has earned national accolades, including recognition for faculty innovation and student success, and she was instrumental in the creation of the Wallace Community College Foundations.

The Wallace Community College Foundations invite friends, alumni, and supporters to contribute to the Dr. Linda C. Young Endowed Presidential Scholarship fund, ensuring that Dr. Young's impact will endure as a source of opportunity for generations to come.



WCC Sparks Foundation Chairman Burt Smithart (l) and WCCD Sparks Foundation Liaison Amy Rasberry (r) present Dr. Young (center) with the Dr. Linda C. Young Endowed Presidential Scholarship for the Sparks Campus in Eufaula.



give.wallace.edu

You can help provide scholarship opportunities for students on the Wallace Campus in Dothan or the Sparks Campus in Eufaula year-round!

 facebook.com/WCCFoundations



1141 Wallace Drive, Dothan, AL 36303-9234
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Perspective is a publication of
Wallace Community
College in Dothan and Eufaula.



facebook.com/wccdothaneufaula



@wallacecommunitycollege



@wccdothan



Wallace Community College



Wallace Community College Fine Arts Division
presents



Enter a world of pure imagination.

Tickets on sale March 3
at wallace.edu

MARCH 13 - 15 • 7:00 PM
MARCH 16 • 2:00 PM