

SFSC to offer free Kaleidoscope Series events

By **MARC VALERO**

STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — A new Kaleidoscope Series at South Florida State College will offer five free family-friendly and culturally based performances in September in the college's University Center Auditorium.

SFSC Director of Cultural Programs Cindy

Garren said the college had a Kaleidoscope Series years ago that started with chamber music and later included bluegrass and folk artists, but the ticket sales and attendance was low.

The name is being resurrected for a new series of performances.

"We liked the name because a kaleidoscope is like many images and

variety, but it is not the same thing," as the previous series, Garren noted.

Highlighting the 2015-16 economic impact of the college's cultural programs, Garren said, 52,000 residents and tourists visited one of the many cultural programs at the 1,460-seat Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts or the 250-seat University Center Auditorium.

"The South Florida State College Performing Arts Program is a strong contributor to the local economy," she said. The total dollars spent by the program and the audiences was estimated at \$2.07 million.

Garren noted that the college received its first National Endowment for the Arts Grant for \$10,000 for the Kaleidoscope

Series. "It's a free program; it's for families and it is folkloric," meaning the performances will celebrate cultures and traditions, she said. Each show will have pre-show arts oriented workshops for kids conducted by the artists.

Following is a listing of the performances with

SFSC

FROM PAGE 1

a description provided by South Florida State College:

- **Florida Treasures/Fun Family Night** — 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sept. 9 — when two tourists discover a treasure chest full of historical artifacts, they are magically transported back in time in a fun-filled journey through Florida's history.

- **Orquesta Caribeno Tropicale/Caribbean & Latin America Heritage** — 7 p.m., Sept. 16 — A Latin heritage band playing the

rich sounds of Puerto Rico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and Peru.

- **Sitar and Tabla Concert/with Partha Bose and Indranil Mallick** — 7 p.m., Sept. 23 — Shri Partha Bose is a widely recognized sitar player and a highly respected artist in the arena of contemporary Hindustani Classical Music.

- **Nicole Henry/2013 Soul Train Award for Best Traditional Jazz Performance** — 7 p.m., Sept. 30 — Since her debut in 2004, Henry has established herself as one of the jazz world's most acclaimed vocalists.



COURTESY
PHOTO

Caribeno Tropicale, a Latin heritage band, will be among the performers in the new Kaleidoscope Series at South Florida State College.

SFSC nursing students honored in pinning ceremony

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS
NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — Thirty-four graduates of South Florida State College's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program were honored in a traditional pinning ceremony on June 15 in the Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at SFSC, Highlands Campus, Avon Park.

The graduates are Ashley Acosta, Shelby Anderson, Angelina Avila, Cristal Badillo, Angela Barrs, Vanessa Brooker, Ashley Cross, Erica Escamilla, Yuri Estrada, Clint Fowler, Treson Francis, Mishel Franklin, Jesus Garcia, Jacob "Ross" Gunn, Karlee Henderson, Angela Hester, Ashely "Taylor" Jones, Darby Jones, Nikole "Niki" Jones, Zoo Kue, Jennifer Lopez, Lindsey Lovett, April Lozano, Thu Luong, Evelyn "Renee" Marley, Lydia Mejia, Adna Metayer, Jennifer Penny, Karen Pilkington, Vanette See, Josue Somarriba, Richenda Trenchfield, Sara Weeks, and Shea

Young.

The guest speaker was Christine Greenwald, a SFSC Nursing professor who retires at the end of this academic term. Addressing the graduates and guests, she said, "This is how I feel about this whole class — I have no reservations in having any one of these students to be my nurse, or my family's nurse, when the need may arise. This is the greatest compliment one nurse can give to another."

"I want you to never lose sight of the wonder and honor it is to be a nurse at the most vulnerable times of your patient's life," Greenwald urged the graduates. "You will see, and some

have already seen, life at its best and at its worst. What is so exciting is that you have the power to make the most out of that person's life at that moment and touch them deeply. You, in turn, will never be the same."

She gave the graduates one last assignment in their journey. "I would like you to embrace change and technology, but hold onto your humanness; take charge of your learning; find a mentor and be a mentor; continue to help each other; and let your words be encouraging, not destructive."

In his farewell, Class President Shea Young said, "I want to thank our incredible faculty

who endured two years of our crazy." He then addressed his fellow graduates. "Thank you for being the best group anyone could ask for. I walked into a classroom two years ago, knowing absolutely no one. And today, I will walk out of this theater with another family. As our journey together comes to an end, I take comfort in knowing that a new journey begins. I pray that our paths cross again."

Each year, ADN graduates award the Golden Duck to someone who has served as a mentor to the students in the program. The D.U.C.K. acronym represents the foundational elements of the mentoring ar-

angement: Developing, Understanding, Compassion, and Knowledge.

During the ceremony, ADN graduate Vanette See presented the 2017 Golden Duck Award to Mary von Mervedt, SFSC director of Nursing. "I, personally, have looked up to her and developed a great respect for how she handles herself, her patients, and her students," See said. "She has always treated us with integrity, honesty, and respect. In classroom lectures, exams, and teaching us skills, she has never made us feel inadequate. She has always encouraged us with positive reinforcement. She has shown

us what a true nursing professional should be."

The practice of pinning new graduates has been a nursing school tradition in the United States since 1916. The pin is worn prominently on a nurse's uniform throughout her or his career. One story of the ceremony's beginning goes back to 1883, when Queen Victoria awarded Florence Nightingale the Royal Red Cross on St. George's Day for her service to the sick and injured during the Crimean War. In turn, Nightingale later extended the honor to her outstanding nursing students by presenting them with a medal of excellence.



COURTESY PHOTO

MOAA Chapter President Mike Borders presents a MOAA cup to guest speaker Cindy Garren of South Florida State College.

MOAA hears about SFSC activities

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

SEBRING — The South Central Florida Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) held a social and dinner with members and their spouses July 6 at the Cowpoke's Watering Hole restaurant in Sebring, a news release states.

Members and their spouses heard from guest speaker Cindy Garren, Director of Cultural Programs at SFSC. Garren supervises the

Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts, the University Center, the Museum of Florida Art and Culture, and all performing arts programs. She described for the group a range of activities and programs at SFSC that would be of interest to the senior set. SFSC is not just for the average-aged college student—there is plenty to do for the not so young too.

MOAA is an independent, nonprofit organization of retired, active and former military officers,

including the National Guard and Reserve, with some 355,000 members worldwide. "It operates exclusively to the benefit of our nation, uniformed service personnel, their families and survivors. It is the nation's largest veterans group of military officers and their families," the group said.

There are some 420 chapters at the local level, representing the seven uniformed services, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, the Public

Health Service and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. Membership is open to any person who holds or has ever held a warrant or commission in any of the seven uniformed services. Surviving spouses of deceased members qualify for auxiliary membership.

For information on the South Central Florida chapter, call chapter president, COL Mike Borders, U.S. Army, retired, at 863-402-8292.



**SOUTH
FLORIDA**
State College

Business courses offered

Commercial Vehicle Driving Course

AVON PARK — South Florida State College will be hosting a Commercial Vehicle Driving Course at the Highlands campus, Crews Center. This is an eight week course (256 contact hours), Monday through Thursday, Aug. 7 - Oct. 9, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CRN 11304 (WF). Cost is \$3,500.

Job training service designed to provide quality instruction on a short-term basis to prepare students for entry-level employment within the industry, so that you can quickly move into the workforce. You will learn:

Department of Transportation (DOT) rules and regulations, safety, logs and other legal topics of interest to trucking and transportation.

Vehicle systems, safe vehicle operation, Smith System (five principles of defensive driving) cargo handling, hazardous materials, personal finances, business math, and public and employer relations.

Extensive hands-on experience in emergency equipment, Safe operations, and preventative maintenance.

This course will prepare you for the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) examination.

To register, call 863-784-7405.

Computer technology workshops

AVON PARK — South Florida State College will host a fall Computer Technology Workshop for Fall 2017. The workshop will take place at the Highlands Campus, Building 1, Room 207:

Introduction to Microsoft EXCEL 2016, 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 3 and Oct. 10 for \$95.

Intermediate Microsoft EXCEL 2016, 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 17 and Oct. 24 for \$95.

Introduction to Microsoft WORD 2016, 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 31 and Nov. 7 for \$95.

Intermediate Microsoft WORD 2016, 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 14 and Nov. 21 for \$95.

Introduction to PIXLR, 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 28 for \$75.

Each Microsoft course is worth four credit hours. PIXLR course is two credit hours.

To register, call 863-784-7405. For more information about these courses, call Lorrie Key at 863-784-7033.

Florida Real Estate

AVON PARK — South Florida State College will offer Florida Real Estate Principles, Practices and Law, at the Highlands Campus University Center, Room 109. This is an eight week course for 64 credit hours. CRN 10844. Tuesdays 6-10 p.m. Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24. Saturdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 9, 23, Oct. 7, 21. Cost is \$299. Coursebook required: "Florida Real Estate Principles, Practices and Law, 40th Edition, ISBN: 978-1475445664.

To register, call 863-784-7405. For more information about these courses, call Lorrie Key at 863-784-7033.

Water treatment course

ARCADIA — South Florida State College DeSoto campus will hold a Water Treatment Class C Certification Course Aug. 22-Feb. 24, 2018, 2251 NE Turner Ave. in Arcadia. The course will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. and one Saturday per month 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$1250 and includes California State University textbooks. CRN 11309.

To register, call 863-784-7405.

Starting your own business

AVON PARK — The Florida SBDC at USF is offering a "Starting your business" workshop. In this workshop, you will learn:

How to generate business ideas, how to obtain business licenses, how to structure your business and the importance of business planning.

The workshop will be held from 2-4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 26, at Corporate and Community Education building, 600 W. College Dr. Building H, Room 110, Avon Park. Cost is \$10. CRN 30697. To register, call 863-784-7405.

SFSC drops biofuels, citrus tech programs

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — South Florida State College has dropped its biofuels programs after the Florida Department of Education earmarked them for deletion due to low or no enrollments.

The Citrus Production Technology program also has been cut due to “low inconsistent enrollments.”

At its meeting Monday, the SFSC Board of Trustees approved dropping the following programs effective this fall: Biofuels Technology

associate in science degree, Biofuels Technology Specialist college credit certificate and the Citrus Production Technology associate in science degree.

SFSC President Thomas Leitzel explained that when courses don't have adequate enrollment, the state requires the college to delete the programs from “active status.”

“It doesn't mean they can never be reinstated; we are just not formally offering those courses right now,” he said. “It is not one of our programs that we are maintaining currently at the

college.”

In 2011 it appeared that ethanol production would bring jobs and make a major economic impact to Highlands County, so South Florida State College partnered with biofuels companies to create a bioenergy education program.

A \$900,000 grant from the National Science Foundation helped fund the program, which started in fall 2014.

In 2014, then BioEnergy Program lead instructor Beth Burch said BP's canceled plans for an ethanol plant in Highlands County

did have a huge impact, but she noted the construction of the Southeast Renewable Fuels plant near Clewiston and U.S. EnviroFuels continued plans for Highlands County.

But, those plans for Clewiston and Highlands County never materialized.

The ground work started in 2013 on the country's first sweet sorghum-to-ethanol plant near Clewiston, but a Hendry County Planning and Zoning official said Tuesday that the biofuels processing facility was never built.

Delegation Attends A.V.I.D. Conference

By TOM STAIK
Of The Herald-Advocate

Hardee County educators went back to school this summer.

Schools Superintendent Bob Shayman and A.V.I.D. director Meredith Durastanti recently took a team of 10 teachers and administrators to an A.V.I.D. training session in Orlando.

Advancement Via Individual Determination focuses on promoting college readiness through the implementation of targeted learning strategies.

"The week-long training presented new strategies and reviewed previous ones in order to equip teachers with the tools they need to help all students achieve," Shayman said.

A.V.I.D. is designed to help students develop learning, studying and academic skills that are essential for success in rigorous coursework. In essence, the program is designed to change the culture of schools by raising expectations for student success.

"A.V.I.D. allows students'

dreams to become reality by supplying them with the tools that are necessary to succeed in college, careers and life," Durastanti said. "The impact that A.V.I.D. has had on Hardee Junior High and Hardee Senior High in four short years that we have implemented it has been tremendous.

"By continuing to incorporate A.V.I.D. in our schools, we will see its value throughout our community," she added.

Preparing students to enter dynamic, technology-rich employment fields is a primary goal.

"It is a catalyst for developing a school-wide culture of college and career readiness for all students," Shayman said. "It is estimated that by 2020 two-thirds of all jobs will require some level of post-secondary education. A.V.I.D. prepares students for 21st century careers by providing the skills necessary to succeed in the workplace."

One unique feature of the training was the opportunity

for local students to attend each session to give a student perspective of what strategies have been most beneficial.

"These students sat in on each session to learn along with their teachers," Shayman said.

The A.V.I.D. program has been used in the Hardee County School District for four years at both HJH and HHS. Students chosen to participate in the high school program must apply before the end of their eighth-grade year. Priority is given to potential first-generation college students.

"Students who are chosen have an A.V.I.D. class built into their schedules where they learn team-building, organization and study skills," Shayman said.

Students are also required to take a certain number of honors and college classes each semester.

Tutors – students from South Florida State College who successfully completed A.V.I.D. locally – are provided to students at the high school.

A.V.I.D.'s reach is wide at Hardee High.

All teachers – whether they are assigned to the program or teach mainstream classes – receive training in A.V.I.D. strategies and are encouraged to add emphasis to developing future goals.

Dr. Michelle Polk, principal of Hardee High, calls A.V.I.D. an "essential" program.

"A critical piece of the A.V.I.D. initiative at HHS involves the A.V.I.D. elective courses," said Polk. "The A.V.I.D. classes provide college-preparatory support for approximately 100 students each year, many who will be first-generation college-goers within their family.

"We consider the A.V.I.D. system an essential element for closing the achievement gap at Hardee High and making the college dream accessible to all students," she said.



Hardee Junior High School staff (from left) James "Red" Wood, math teacher, and Sara Hall, language arts teacher, at the recent A.V.I.D. conference.

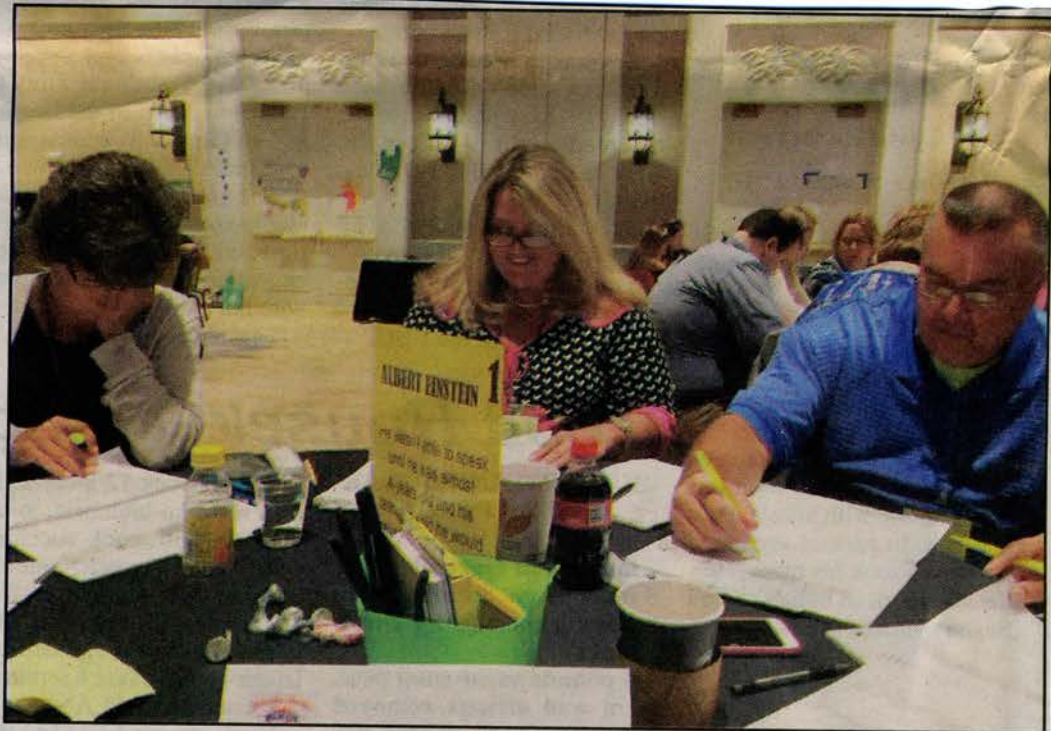
TREASURE HUNTERS



COURTESY PHOTOS

North Wauchula Elementary School's new principal, Jessica Gray, leads a discussion as grade-level representatives and administrators spend two days finding the "Treasure within NWES." They focused on the vision and mission of the district, began a book study, examined data, and aligned plans for improvement to the vision and mission. The vision of the Hardee County School District is to "empower and inspire all students for success." The mission is to "... provide all students a high-quality education in a nurturing and creative environment to develop responsible citizens."





COURTESY PHOTOS

Hardee Senior High School staff (from left) Nicole Aubry, language arts teacher; Krysta Chancey, math teacher; and Ron Herron, assistant principal, work together at the conference.

SFSC holds ceremony for dental grads

By **DEBORAH BELL LATTER**

SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

South Florida State College honored eight graduates of its Dental Assisting Program in a traditional pinning ceremony July 13.

Keynote speaker Bobby Sconyers, SFSC professor of dental assisting, became a dental assistant in 1977 when he joined the United States army. While in the army, he became a dental hygienist and a dental lab technician.

"You leave as highly trained dental assistants," Sconyers said to the graduates. "Now your job is to be the best assistant possible. But don't stop there. Continue to challenge yourselves. Keep your curiosity, keep learning and growing."

In her final presentation to the graduates, class president Danai Morales said, "Mr. Sconyers taught us everything, pushed us, and had confidence that we would all do well. All this has helped us make it to where we are now — the graduating dental assisting class of 2017. This is the close of one chapter and the beginning of

another. No matter where it takes us in life, I hope that one day we can reunite and have crazy stories to tell. But until then, I wish all of you the best in everything you do."

During the ceremony, graduates accepted their dental assisting pins from Dr. Deborah Milliken, chair of SFSC's Dental Education program. Before pinning each graduate, Milliken recited a verse from the poem "Be Someone." The poem encouraged each student to be the best person they could be and all the gifts of life would return to them.

"This class is absolutely the best class I've ever had, to a person," Sconyers said. "When I asked them to study, they studied. When I asked them to practice, they practiced over and over the processes they needed to master. This generation is absolutely amazing. I've told them a million times, 'You're the best students I've ever had.' They make me want to be a better professor because of how hard they work."

Upon completing the Dental Assisting Program, graduates



PHOTO PROVIDED

South Florida State College honored the newest graduates from the Dental Assistant Program during a recent pinning ceremony.

can work as Certified Dental Assistants by passing the Dental Assisting National Board examination and qualify for Expanded Functions Dental Assisting Certification, as

well as Orthodontic Assistant Certification.

SFSC also offers a two-year associate in science degree program in dental hygiene.

Upon completing this program,

graduates become dental hygienists by passing the National Dental Hygiene Board Examination and the Florida State Clinical Licensure Examination.

Backer elected chair of SFSC Board of Trustees

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — Timothy Backer has been elected the 2017-18 chair of the South Florida State College District Board of Trustees.

Also, during its reorganization on Monday, the District Board of Trustees elected Tami Cullins as its vice chair.

Backer was appointed to the board in 2009, representing DeSoto County. He graduated from SFSC with an Associate in Arts degree in 1975. He went



BACKER

on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting from the University of South Florida in 1983.

A real estate appraiser since 1975, Backer has been adjunct faculty in real estate at SFSC since 1985.

Backer said he previously served as the chair around 2011-12.

He noted that SFSC has an outstanding reputation in the Florida

College System.

“Every time that we go to a meeting they [college administration] come and tell us of some other recognition that the college has got,” he said. “We have outstanding faculty and staff and they are the ones who really make is successful.

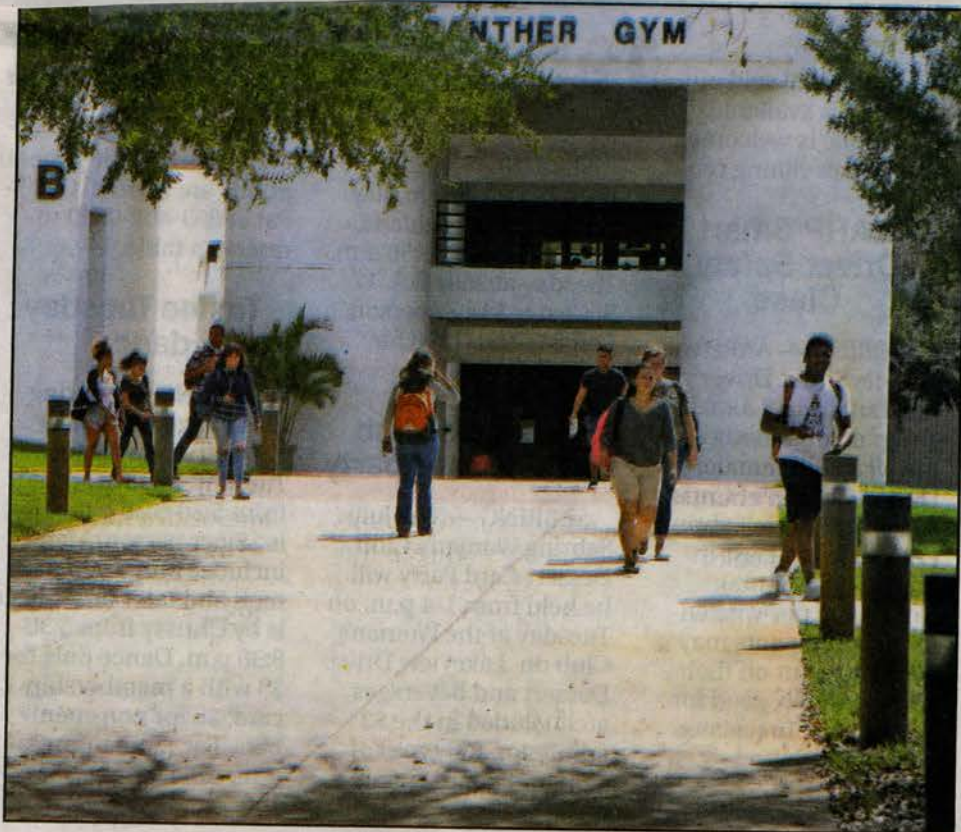
“The board just kind of guides the ship, but it is the faculty and staff who really keep it up there on top,” he said.

Cullins has served on the board since 2006, representing Highlands County.

She was born and raised in Highlands County, graduated from Avon Park High School and earned her bachelor's degree in retail management from Webber International University.

For the last 15 years, Cullins has been an active member of the SFSC Foundation Inc. Board of Directors, and has served as secretary, vice president and president.

She is involved in her family business, Saxon Groves Inc. in Avon Park



MARC VALERO/STAFF

South Florida State College is one among the seven state colleges in the top category to receive performance-based funding from the state.

SFSC one of seven in 'gold tier'

Will get \$1.2 million in state performance money

By MARC VALERO
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — South Florida State College is one of seven state colleges in the top tier to receive money from a performance-based incentive program.

SFSC will get \$1.05 million from the state, according to the Florida Department of Education. That money is coming from \$60 million in state performance funding allocated by the Florida Legislature, which includes \$30 million in state performance funding and \$30 million in institutional performance monies.

While all of the 28 Florida College System institutions will receive a share of the institutional performance funding, only the schools at the gold and silver levels

receive a portion of the \$30 million in state performance money. The gold level schools also receive shares of the state funds that would have gone to the bronze schools.

The money is distributed to colleges based on certain criteria, such as degrees and certificates awarded, retaining students, job placement and salaries for graduates.

Twenty-two of Florida's 28 state colleges will receive a share of the \$30 million state performance money under a new rule approved Monday by the Board of Education.

While six colleges will not receive any performance money, they, along with the other 22 schools, will be able to use their share of \$30 million in institutional performance funding, in the 2017-18

academic year.

Madeline Pumariega, chancellor for the state college system, said the good news was that none of the colleges fell into the lowest category.

The seven "gold" schools, which include South Florida State College, are: Eastern Florida State College, Chipola College, Palm Beach State College, Santa Fe College, Seminole State College of Florida and Valencia College.

The performance funding will help some colleges at least partially deal with a new state budget that included a \$25 million reduction for the state college system. Embedded in the cuts was a \$30 million cut in remedial education funding.

The News Service of Florida contributed to this report.

Growing enrollment



MARC VALERO/STAFF

South Florida State College's enrollment is up 3.53 percent compared to last year.

SFSC student count up by 3.5 percent, bucking enrollment trend

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK —

Enrollment continues to increase at South Florida State College even though the economy is improving, which typically leads to a dip in the number of students on state college campuses.

Overall, SFSC's enrollment is up 3.53 percent from last year, with the DeSoto campus experiencing a remarkable 90 percent increase.

SFSC Board of Trustees Vice Chairwoman Tami Cullens said she attended a national college board meeting recently in New Jersey where other college board members said their enrollment was either flat or down, a normal trend when the economy is improving or is good.



FILE PHOTO

South Florida State College President Thomas Leitzel during a president's forum in 2016. The college's enrollment continues to increase despite an improving economy.

STUDENT

FROM PAGE 1

She credits the efforts of SFSC's administration and staff members trying to meet the needs of the students.

SFSC President Thomas Leitzel noted that the DeSoto campus has a new director, whose new initiatives are helping enrollment.

Asena Mott became the DeSoto campus' director in November after serving as an elementary school principal in Port Charlotte.

SFSC Registrar Deborah Fuschetti said most of the increase at the DeSoto campus is from an increase in high school students taking dual enrollment classes, where they earn both high school and college credit.

It took Mott one term to "get her feet wet" but she is from DeSoto County so she is familiar with everything,

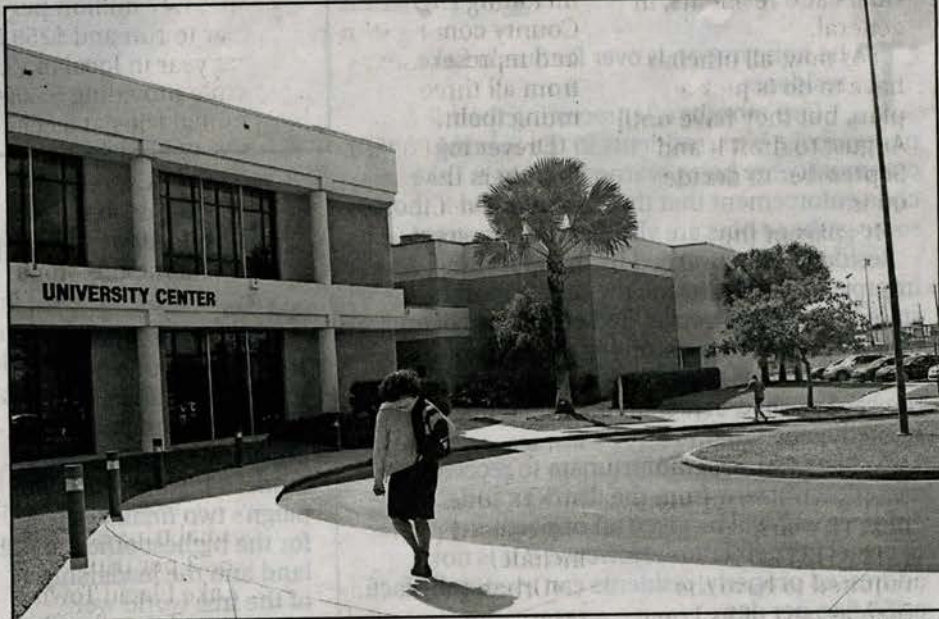
Fuschetti said.

A summer ago, the DeSoto campus had 16 students; now it has 51. Last fall, DeSoto had 67 dual enrollment students registered at this time, but now it has 89.

Dual enrollment fall term registration has started at the college. It will continue when high schools start their new year and students review their schedule, so she is expecting more students to enroll.

While DeSoto's dual enrollment numbers have gone up, things are fairly steady in Highlands County.

The only one big change Fuschetti expects affects Lake Placid students. It was recently learned that Lake Placid High School does not have anyone who is qualified to teach college classes this year, so all students who take dual enrollment classes from Lake Placid High will go to the SFSC Lake Placid Center. So far, 75 students have registered for



FILE PHOTO

South Florida State College Board of Trustees Vice Chairwoman Tami Cullens credits the college's continued enrollment growth on the administration and staff's efforts to meet the needs of the students in the communities the college serves.

dual enrollment courses at the Lake Placid Center, and that number may go slightly, she said.

Sebring High School is at 50, and Avon Park has 46 signed up for dual enrollment courses, but those numbers will increase significantly when

school starts on Aug. 10, Fuschetti noted.

"We have quite a few instructors at Sebring High School and Avon Park High School who have their master's degree in field," in the dual enrollment courses they are teaching, she said.

For example, at Sebring High, Carolyn Campbell is qualified to teach at the college, but she loves teaching at the high school level and has been teaching dual enrollment math courses for more than 20 years, she said.

SFSC radiography graduates receive pins

SPECIAL TO HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — Graduates of South Florida State College's Radiography program were presented with pins Thursday in a ceremony that recognized them for completing two years of academic study and clinical instruction.

In May, the 12 graduates received Associate in Science (AS) degrees in radiography at SFSC's spring commencement service. At the pinning ceremony, the graduates gathered one last time to celebrate their achievements and to affirm their dedication to the highest standards of professionalism. They are now qualified to sit for the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (AART) national examination for certification and registration.

The graduates are Latesha Anglin, Kristine Castillo, Lorena Contreras, Amy Hinote, Rajad Lawrence, Dieucilene Michel, Brenda Miranda, Ana Montanez, Filiberto Montanez Jr., Rachel Ohly, Jose Resendiz, and Derek Whitten. They received radiology pins from relatives and special friends.

Clinical instructor Gary Frakes praised the graduates for being SFSC's second class in which the original group of 12 students finished the program together.



COURTESY PHOTO

Graduates of South Florida State College's Radiography program were presented with pins Thursday in a ceremony that recognized them for completing two years of academic study and clinical instruction.

"All of the students in this class were determined to succeed," Frakes said. "They provided support and energy for each other. Every challenge we put before them, they accepted and succeeded."

Ann Frakes, his wife and fellow clinical instructor, recounted her personal and professional journey that began 30 years ago in Flint, Mich., when she earned her radiology degree at the age of 32. Later this year, she will retire as the lead mammographer and certified breast patient navigator for Highlands Regional Medical Center.

"When I tell you I graduated

from a good radiology program, I did," she told the graduates.

"But it would not compete with the one you just got through. It is now up to you to go as far as you can with your skills. Regardless of whether you say in this community or go across the state or across the country like myself, opportunities are out there. I want you to know that my radiography career as served me so well. It opened so many doors for me. It has been both professionally and financially rewarding. It has given me a wonderful life and the chance to see and do things. I can only hope it does the same for you."

Summer fun at SFSC Camp Adventures



COURTESY PHOTO

Tribes of campers competed in challenging team-building games to see who would be the ultimate 'Survivor' of the fifth week of South Florida State College's Camp Adventure. In this exercise, Deshawn Lampkin uses his feet to retrieve marbles from a bucket of ice water. Beginning Monday, campers close out the final week of Camp Adventure by celebrating good times with wacky games and dress-up days. For more information, call 863-784-7388 or visit Camp Adventure online at www.southflorida.edu/campadventure.

Links to Success honors graduating class

SUBMITTED By ASHLEY COONE

Links2Success held its fifth Annual Leadership and Career Conference and third Annual Health Careers Camp in July. This year's Title Sponsors included: The Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Peace River Citrus Products and Suncoast Credit Union. Each program lasted one week and was held on the campus of South Florida State College in Arcadia.

The Leadership and Career Conference is designed to provide exposure to career, confidence, leadership and interest-building activities. The conference helped students develop a love for learning and set a goal to graduate and pursue post-secondary education opportunities. Each day, students were

able to experience different careers available in DeSoto County including banking, STEM, judicial, government, law enforcement, non-profit, agriculture and so much more.

Students in the Health Careers Camp enjoyed hands-on experience in a variety of healthcare careers, including nursing, pharmacy, trauma surgery, surgical-technical, radiology and more.

This past Saturday, the local non-profit founded by sisters Ashley and Maria Coone, kicked off its fifth Anniversary Celebration at the annual awards ceremony.

"We are extremely grateful for the many people, organizations, and businesses who have helped us provided these programs to DeSoto students, free of charge, for the past 5 years," Ashley

Coone said. "With your continued support, we can continue helping DeSoto students plan for their futures."

Each year, these programs are provided at no cost to students thanks to the generous sponsorship of the following organizations and people: Peace River Citrus Products, The Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Suncoast Credit Union, Walmart Distribution, Jai T. Whitlock-Harris, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, ASC Consulting & Marketing, Florida's Natural Growers Foundation, Mason G. Smoak Foundation, Correct Care, Mosaic, FPL, First State Bank of Arcadia, Rep. Ben Albritton, Sunbulb, DeSoto County School District, Publix Super Markets Charities, DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council and South Florida State College.

This year's community partners included The Falls Adventure, Inc., Peace River Citrus Products, FP&L, ASC Consulting & Marketing, Johnny Georges with Tree-T-Pee, Better-Gro, Walmart Distribution, Desoto Arts and Humanities Council, First State Bank of Arcadia, Arcadia Stockyard, Publix, Desoto Habitat Humanity, Brandon Beard, DeSoto County Sheriff's Office, Judge Kimberly Bonner, DeSoto County Fire Rescue - Administrative Office, Arcadia Police Department, Gabriel Coone, Crankshaw Veterinarian Hospital, DeSoto Memorial Hospital, Suncoast Technical College, Gulfcoast South AHEC, and Bayfront Health St. Pete.

Visit www.facebook.com/linksto-success to view more photos from the week-long camp.



PHOTOS BY JIMMY PETERS

Members of this year's Links to Success class received certificates for successfully finishing the program.



Amelia Orozco, pictured here with her family, was one of Links to Success' health career camp graduates.



DeSoto County Sheriff Jim Potter says hello to a young admirer. Potter was on hand to help celebrate the Links To Success graduating class.



Guadalupe Galaviz celebrates receiving her certificate with her family and Links to Success' Ashley Coone.



Edith Andrade holds back tears as she accepts her certificate from Links Founder Ashley Coone.



Ashley Coone hugs Edith Andrade as she becomes emotional after receiving her certificate.

SFSC Library to hold Color-In Event marks National Coloring Book Day

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AVON PARK — Join South Florida State College's Library in the celebration of the second annual National Coloring Book Day with a Color-In, featuring a day long coloring party, free coloring pages, and a drawing to win one of several coloring themed prize packs. The event takes place from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 2, at

the SFSC Library, 600 W. College Drive, Building Y, Highlands campus, Avon Park.

The library offers coloring pages and supplies to students and community members year round. This second annual event focuses on both the creative and social aspects of coloring.

"There is something calming and fun about coloring," Claire A. Miller, SFSC librarian, said. "This event is a natural fit for the library, as

it encourages creativity, learning, and the social aspects of co-working and group fun."

In addition, Miller has designed a custom coloring page promoting the celebration that can be downloaded from the SFSC Library Facebook Page ([facebook.com/SFSCLibrary/](https://www.facebook.com/SFSCLibrary/)) or picked up at the library circulation desk.

For more information, call Miller at 863-784-7305 or email millerc@southflorida.edu.