

FACC

Florida Association of Community Colleges

Chapter News

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PALM BEACH STATE
COLLEGE



Welcome from chapter president by Susan Caldwell

I attended the FACC Leadership Conference in Feb., and I returned with renewed support and enthusiasm for the organization that supports state and community college faculty and staff. Few institutions have an organization that protects its interest as the FACC protects ours. The universities do not have this collaborative, centralized support system; the state universities are on their own in Tallahassee.

So, this year, I would like to share my enthusiasm with you. This year, the Palm Beach State College Chapter board members have set goals to increase awareness, participation and involvement, and membership. To increase awareness, we will be communicating more with you. We

will publish the Chapter newsletter twice a year—highlighting important legislation and telling you how you can make the most of your FACC membership. You may have already noticed that our FACC chapter is now on [Face book](#). Add us to yours and participate in discussions on legislation and help us plan activities! (*see p. 2*).

To increase participation and involvement, we will offer you more opportunities to get involved, and we invite you to participate in the planning as well. You will continue to see our annual auction and book sale, but expect to see more this year. Some ideas are Chapter walks to benefit certain causes, social outings throughout Palm Beach County, day trips and more!

Our final goal is to increase Chapter membership. This is critical as your annual dues pays for the FACC staff and lobbyists in Tallahassee. The legislature is now in session, and these people are in Tallahassee fighting over issues from retirement to funding. For the cost of a latte at Starbucks each month, you can support the organization that supports you!

So, I hope that you will join me in my enthusiasm for FACC this year. If you are already a member, thank you for your continued support of this unique and important organization. If you are not a member, please consider joining.

We are strength in numbers!



Susan Caldwell,
chapter president

FACC is working for you by Tabatha McDonald

Several bills relating to higher education are making their way through the Florida Legislature, including some that could hurt the wallets of community college employees and retirees.

While not identical, some bills introduced in the House and Senate aim to make changes

to the Florida Retirement System. The proposals include, for example, sweeping changes to how pension benefits are calculated; requiring employees to contribute to their retirement; boosting the retirement age for “regular class” employees from 62 to 65, and numerous others. Currently, pension benefits are

based on the average of the five highest years of an employee’s salary. However, proposed legislation would base pension benefits on the employee’s average salary for all years in the retirement system, which could mean a significant reduction in retirement income. (*con’t p. 3*)

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Connect with us and join our Facebook group!

Engage in your chapter of FACC! The Palm Beach State College chapter encourages you to participate. RSVP to events, receive/send updates, generate discussions and more! It's also a great way to keep in touch and connect with members from other campuses.



Click the Facebook button to join our group!

Meet our members by Diana Paliuca



Glenroy Henry,

maintenance worker II, has been working at the College since 1995 and an FACC member since 1998. "My favorite part of being a member of FACC is going to the conventions," Henry said. "I have been to four so far."

- **Do you have a favorite memory of the conventions?** "I like when we get together at the first meeting at the convention in our matching uniform shirts."
- **What would you say to a non-FACC member for them to join?** "I would tell them they are missing a lot," Henry said. "It's a great way to network and meet different people at the College. I love to help people and we do this by giving scholarships to members and their families if needed."

Facilities accomplishments:

- During an energy crisis in the 80s, facilities received recognition for saving thousands of dollars by consolidating people in fewer buildings and turning off the AC in the unoccupied buildings during the summer.
- First in the state to also determine the College could save thousands more by just closing on Fridays completely and going to a 4 day work week.

- Recognized (along with Pat Hillard Johnson of the Science department) for installing the first Xeriscape garden.
- Won the Exemplary Practice Award from FACC's Career and Professional Employees Commission for cleaning up the Pond Apple Project, which is still a learning tool for students. [Click here](#) to video a video on it!

Thank you to the facilities team for always doing a great job at all of our events especially the book sale and Paint Your Heart Out! Nothing can be moved, set up, stored, delivered, without their help--every single function the College does is set up by them, whether it is a student, faculty, staff, FACC function or any other one. Our facilities team members are always polite, courteous, and eager to help with whatever FACC wants to do on campus. Thank you!

Save the Dates

April 12-13: Chapter Book Sale

April 15: FACC e-board meeting

April 15: Happy Hour @ Taverna Opa and A Night of Laughter: FACC at the Improv, City Place

April 15-16: 2010 Joint Spring Commissions Conference. "Shaping Our Future," Valencia Community College

April 23: Region V Conference. "Mind, Body, Spirit: Adventures in Health, Wellness & Education," Palm Beach State Boca Raton Campus

July 14-16: FACC Membership Conference, Marriot Hollywood Beach, Hollywood, FL

November 17-19: 2010 FACC Annual Convention, Jacksonville Hyatt Riverside

FACC is working for you (con't)

(From p. 1) The lobbying team for FACC, which includes Palm Beach State College's Erin McColskey, who is chair of the Legislative Committee for FACC and chair of the college lobbyists group, is in Tallahassee working to encourage legislators to come up with more favorable alternatives. Lobbying on behalf of community college employees is one of the largest and the most important role of FACC. It is critical for all community college employees to get involved in the organization, keep up with what is happening in Tallahassee, and write their legislators to voice their concerns. If ever there was a time to understand the value of membership in the Florida Association of Community Colleges, the time is now.

There is no doubt challenges are ahead for the Legislature in a poor state economy with record high unemployment rates. Meanwhile, state colleges collectively have seen their enrollments jump by 200,000 with many individual colleges, like Palm Beach State, experiencing double digit enrollment increases. Currently FACC lobbyists are pushing for the Senate budget, which is more favorable for the Florida College System with an overall 5 percent increase in funding compared to the House version which calls for an overall 3 percent budget reduction for the system.

FACC members have been getting regular updates on the bills and the budget delivered right to their e-mail boxes. All employees also will receive an update from McColskey. To stay up to date, please read the Perceptions Legislative E-Zine newsletter. If you're not already an FACC member, join today, get informed and help protect your future.

Here are links that can help you:

- [FACC's Perspectives Legislative E-Zine](#)
- [Retirement information](#)
- [Watch broadcast of House and Senate committee meetings](#)

2010 Voting Officers:

Susan Caldwell, President
Susan Bierster, President Elect
Betty Dente, Treasurer
Joan Young, Secretary
Gary Karl, VP, Palm Beach Gardens
Eileen Robinson, Immediate Past President
Sharon Glenn, VP, Belle Glade
Lourdes Rey, VP, Boca Raton
Joe Millas, VP, Lake Worth

About FACC

The Association was organized in 1949 as the Florida Association of Public Junior Colleges by the presidents of Florida's first four public community colleges. Its mission was to unite the colleges for the purpose of helping the Florida Legislature understand the Junior College and to advocate for Florida's public community colleges in the development of the state's long-range plan for higher education. Since 1949, the Association's mission and purposes have grown in scope as has the Association itself. In 1971, the Association became the Florida Association for Community Colleges and is the most unique organization serving any community college system in the nation. Today, all 28 of the state's community colleges support the work of the Association through institutional dues as do 7,008 individual community college employees through individual memberships and the sharing of their talents, time and energy.

www.palmbeachstate.edu/FACC.xml



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