

Older Americans alter attitude on work, retirement

Norris Danzey served 30 years in the Navy before he retired as a lieutenant commander in 2001, but he wasn't ready to quit working.

During the years he spent with young recruits, he saw the problems some had when they came into the military.

"I felt like if I could do something about those problems while they're young, then by the time they get to going in the military or whatever, maybe they're a little more disciplined, a little more able to make a good choice as to what they want to do in their lives," Danzey said.

In 2006 he graduated from the child development program at Wallace Community College. Four years later he graduated from Troy University-Dothan with a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

As the program coordinator at Boys and Girls Clubs of Hawk-Houston, Danzey helps the kids and tracks their progress.

"If they're doing good, that lets you know what you're doing here is working," Danzey said.

Danzey has a job he finds important and fulfilling, but for many Americans working longer isn't just an option. It's a necessity.

<http://www.myfoxdc.com/story/23934732/older-americans-alter-attitude-on-work-retirement#ixzz2kRnWNcYQ>

WCC Instructor Re-Elected as Board Chair

Wallace Community College – Dothan Respiratory Therapist Program Instructor Linda Moore has been re-elected as chair of the Alabama State Board of Respiratory Therapy (ASBRT). Moore, who was re-elected by fellow board members on October 21, will serve her second consecutive term as chair. She served as vice chair from 2006-2012.

The ASBRT serves to protect the public welfare by ensuring competency and honesty within the respiratory therapist profession. The board establishes standards of proficiency, which are enforced through licensing and discipline procedures.

"Being the ASBRT chair keeps me updated on all of the current laws and keeps me in contact with other Respiratory Therapy Programs in the U.S.," Moore said. "This first-hand knowledge gives my students the first opportunity to be informed of what's expected as students in the program and what to expect after completion." Moore was appointed to the Board in 2006 by Gov. Bob Riley. She was the first female—and first African-American female—to be appointed by Gov. Riley to the ASBRT.

In addition to being the Respiratory Therapist Program Director at WCC, she is the Pediatric Advance Life Support Instructor and Neonatal Advanced Cardiac Life Support Instructor. Moore began her career at WCC as a part-time Clinical Instructor from 1990-2004. She was Interim Director of Clinical Education From 2004-2006, and full-time Director of Clinical Education from 2006-2010.

Moore actively involves her students in community education, including awareness of practicing good health. Moore's most recent graduating class in May of this year achieved a 100% pass rate on the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) licensing exam and 100% employment upon graduation.

Source: WCC 11/12/13 News Release

3D Exec: Dothan right choice for facility

Tucked in the middle of a 30-minute Q&A about Chinese global expansion, the general manager of the leading Chinese 3D Printer manufacturer caused more than a stir among those at the Dothan Opera House on Momday.

Through an interpreter, Ning Lian, who has been involved in discussions with Dothan Mayor Mike Schmitz about the possibility of locating a facility in Dothan, said "I believe I have made the right choice to locate my company in Dothan, in North America."

The statement elicited a patented "Woohoo!" from Schmitz, but Dothan's mayor took a more cautious tone later in the day.

"It's exciting, for sure, but we still have a lot of work to do," Schmitz said. "We are looking forward to sitting down and spending more time with him, finding out his needs and all of that." ...

Ning is the general manager of Nanjing Zijin-Lead Electronics. He visited Dothan this summer and donated two 3D printers to local schools. [Wallace College](#) and Dothan Technology Center were the recipients. ...

http://www.dothaneagle.com/news/article_c66612b2-4b06-11e3-9ed0-0019bb30f31a.html

Minorities More Than Whites Embrace the Value of College, Survey Finds

While minorities worry more than whites about paying for higher education, a new survey finds that [Latinos, Asian-Americans and African-Americans are more likely to see value in the investment for themselves and for the country overall](#). Further research shows this is more correlated with income than race, as Pell Grant has considerably reduced the amount of debt accumulated by lower income students. The economy today causes many of those required to pay for their own college expenses (through an average debt that exceeds anything they have ever had to absorb) to question the value of their monetary contributions.

Results of a College Board/National Journal poll released Thursday reveal that most minorities (70 percent of Hispanics, 61 percent of Asians, and 55 percent of blacks) agreed that "young people today need a four-year college degree in order to be successful." Just 47 percent of whites endorsed that sentiment, down from 57 percent last year.

The survey also discovered minorities were far more likely than whites to say the economy would benefit if the U.S. meets President Obama's goal of increasing the numbers of Americans with postsecondary degrees by 2020. Interviews with survey poll respondents showed that skepticism about the value of college was rooted in the difficulties many young graduates have faced in the job market. (Especially for those who have accumulated considerable college debt.)

The poll also captured a shift in college expectations that vary by race and ethnicity. ...

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/college_bound/2013/11/minorities_more_than_whites_embrace_the_value_of_college_survey_finds.html

The STEM Crisis: Reality or Myth?

It's an acronym that has morphed into a meme.

For the United States to maintain its global supremacy in innovation, the commonplace goes, [the nation must crank out more and more college graduates in STEM programs—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics](#). Events like

the **Math Olympiad** and **Science Decathlon** help promote enthusiasm in these program areas. CTE is also adding an option of **Engineering Technology & Advanced Manufacturing Technology**, both of which could be stepping stones to a higher degree in engineering fields. The student perception early in their academic careers that they are not 'good' at math, keeps many from developing an interest in any area that requires higher level math. This is much more of a persistence problem than a learning problem. **Otherwise a continuing shortage of workers in those fields will sink the nation and its economy beneath the surface of an ever-flatter world, overrun by lower-paid foreigners who have outpaced us in STEM education.**

Behind the hand-wringing sits the very real question of where the next wave of American jobs will come from. After a long span of consistent job growth, from 1961 to 2001, the market in the United States for all workers has stalled for the past decade, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. It now contains roughly the same number of jobs as it did a dozen years ago.

Despite STEM workers' making up less than 6 percent of the current American work force, **according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, STEM education offers a route—perhaps the one true path—out of that unemployment swamp, and will make the nation more competitive to boot**, or so say a flock of education experts, pundits, and policy makers—right up to the White House. A council set up by President Obama has called for one million new STEM graduates and 100,000 new teachers in those fields over the next decade. ...

<http://chronicle.com/article/The-STEM-Crisis-Reality-or/142879/>

State Representatives and ACCS Chancellor Visit **Wallace Community College - Dothan**

Wallace Community College-Dothan recently welcomed several State Representatives to the College. Reps. Donnie Chesteen, Geneva; Paul Lee, Dothan; and Steve Clouse, Ozark visited the College for the November 6th informational meeting. Dr. Mark Heinrich, chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, gave the representatives an update on the ACCS. Keith Phillips, Director of the Alabama Technology Network - Eufaula Center, was also on hand to brief the group on the ATN. Dr. Linda C. Young, WCC president, greeted the attendees and presented an update on Wallace Community College.

Source: Wallace Dothan11/15/13 News Release

Wallace Community College Holds GED Graduation

Wallace Community College recently held commencement ceremonies for 44 graduates who received their GED certificates. Twenty-six graduates have already enrolled at WCC to continue their education. The GED is also known as the high school equivalency test.

Mary Elizabeth McCree, valedictorian (Ashford), and Miranda Nicole Sappington, salutatorian (Ozark) were recognized during the graduation. McCree plans to enroll at WCC and major in Office Administration. Sappington is already enrolled and is pursuing a degree in Computer Science. Honor graduates Davie Bowden and Charles R. Chandler, Jr., both of Ashford, were also recognized.

Wallace Community College offers free GED preparation classes through its adult education program at thirteen locations in Houston, Henry, and Barbour counties. According to Linda Watson, director of adult education, the GED, or high school equivalency degree, is set to change effective January, 2014. The College encourages all students who have passed portions of the current test to finish by the end of 2013. Students who have not completed the GED will be required to start over in 2014.

Source: Wallace Dothan11/14/13 News Release

Wallace Community College Holds First Annual Science Decathlon

Wallace Community College in Dothan held the First Annual WCC Science Decathlon on Friday, November 8. Local high school students competed for trophies, plaques, and the opportunity to drop an egg (without breaking it!) from the second floor balcony of the science building.

Teams studied and practiced in the weeks preceding the Decathlon, and went all-out in events such as Crafty Cell; Stop, Drop and Egg Roll (Ashford High School was successful and had the only unbroken egg); Forensic Frenzy; Fallout; Blood is Thicker Than Water; and Ramp It Up. The events were designed to give students hands-on experience in Life Science, Earth Science, Chemistry, Physical Science, and Forensics Science, and to create a passion for learning science.

Top-place science category teams in Division I were GW Long High School (Life Science), Ashford High School (Physical Science), Ashford High School (Earth Science), and Ashford High School (Chemistry). GW Long was the Overall Quiz Bowl winner in Division I. Winning trophies in Division I were Ashford High School (first place) and GW Long High School (second place).

Division II science category winners were GW Long High School (Life Science), Northview High School (Physical Science), Northview High School (Forensic Science), and Dothan High School (Chemistry). Dothan High School was the Overall Quiz Bowl winner in Division II. Winning trophies in Division II were Dothan High School (first place), Northview High School (second place), and Carroll High School (third place).

Jack Stansell from Dothan High school was the winner of a \$1500 Wallace Community College scholarship.

Source: Wallace Dothan11/14/13 News Release

Four reasons to choose community college

Commentary: Two years in school is often enough to be successful

On Tuesday, at Bell Multicultural High School in Washington, D.C., First Lady Michelle Obama declared, “**When the year 2020 rolls around, nearly two-thirds of all jobs in this country are going to require some form of training beyond high school.** That means whether it’s a vocational program, community college, a four-year university, you all are going to need some form of higher education in order to build the kind of lives that you want for yourselves.” (Read the First Lady’s speech here.)

She’s right. But 40% of students who embark on a four-year degree have not completed their education six years later, according to the Department of Education. Inevitably, **some major in subjects with lesser hope of employment than others.** Plus, the **average student-loan debt for graduating seniors is \$23,000**, according to the New York Federal Reserve Bank. The **unemployment rate among young adults ages 20 to 24 is about 13%.**

Rather than guiding students who may not be ready for the commitment into four-year degrees that will give them the certainty of debt but, potentially, a questionable number of employment opportunities, school counselors should steer young people toward community colleges.

Community colleges help students gain the low-cost knowledge needed to transfer to four-year institutions, if they so choose, saving them money. They offer students the possibility of a two-year associate degree that gives them the

knowledge they need to enter a wide range of careers, including many that offer high pay and steady employment. For those who need extra help, their remediation courses help to develop basic skills, especially in math and writing. ...

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/four-reasons-to-choose-community-college-2013-11-15>

Net Zero

Most of the existing research on the employment of adjunct faculty and student success shows a negative relationship, not because adjuncts are bad teachers but because their working conditions prevent them from being as effective as they could be. But earlier this fall, a much-cited study disputed by some, showed the opposite: that students actually may learn more from adjunct faculty members -- at least at research universities that can afford to pay part-timers well and that may discourage tenure-track faculty members from focusing on teaching. Now, a preliminary study is mixing up the literature once again, concluding that employment of adjunct faculty has no impact on student success in community colleges.

“Part-time faculty have no negative impact on student degree or certificate attainment,” reads the study, to be presented today at the Association for the Study of Higher Education annual conference, in St. Louis. “The Effect of Part-time Faculty on Students' Degree and/or Certificate Completion in Two-Year Community Colleges” matches national, individual-level data on student outcomes with national, institutional-level data, including on the percentage of tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty. Rather, it finds **other factors are linked to student success – including college size and location.**

“Institution size is negatively associated with students’ chance of degree or certificate completion,” the study says. **Those who attend large (10,000 or more students) two-year community colleges are 59% less likely to achieve a degree or completion certificate than their peers at smaller community colleges. And those who study in towns, suburbs and cities are 61% more likely to complete their programs than their peers at rural colleges.**

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/11/15/study-finds-no-impact-student-success-having-adjunct-instructors#ixzz2l0sVOMVK>

College-Completion Rates Remain at Last Year's Pace

Despite aggressive efforts to push more students through to the finish line, college-completion rates remained unchanged this year, with **54% of those entering college for the first time in 2007 earning a degree or certificate within six years**, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center reported on Thursday.

The center's report tracks students even if they transfer to a different college, sector, or state. It offers an alternative to the federal government's college-completion measure, which doesn't count transfer or part-time students.

As in last year's report from the clearinghouse, the new data show that working students, parents, and others who could attend only part time were the least likely to graduate within six years.

Only 22% of students who attended exclusively part time earned credentials within six years, compared with 76% of those enrolled full time. ...

<http://chronicle.com/article/College-Completion-Rates/143191/>