

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Commercial Truck Driving Comes to Savannah Tech's Liberty Campus



STC President Kathy Love addresses the crowd as the new STC truck is displayed in the background.

Top officials from Liberty County and Savannah Technical College gathered on the tarmac at the Liberty County Airport this afternoon to announce the arrival of Commercial Truck Driving instruction for Liberty County.

Savannah Technical College will provide the CDL program in a soon-to-be-constructed classroom at the old airport site on space made available to the college by the Liberty County Commission. (TWO PHO

"We are very grateful to the County Commission for allowing us to offer this training at this location," said College President Kathy S. Love. "It's a continuation of a long and mutually beneficial partnership." The county was instrumental over the past two decades in providing continuing support for the college through its

local option sales tax and was an original partner in bringing the college to its current location on Airport Road.

The Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program has been offered by Savannah Technical College for more than twenty years and its curriculum is a model for the state's technical colleges. The program is a ten-week certificate program that includes 70 hours of classroom instruction and 240 hours of hands-on instruction. It is HOPE grant eligible, allowing students to take advantage of a state-funded grant program that covers tuition and most fees, greatly reducing students' out-of-pocket costs. "This is a great value," says Mike Patterson, Dean of Industry and Public Service programs. "Students can spend less than \$400 and get an education valued at

almost \$3900." Savannah Technical College owns and operates a fleet of 14 trucks and 14 trailers. At Liberty, STC will offer classes Monday - Thursday, initially during daytime hours, with an eye toward expanding to meet the community's need. The number of faculty members and trucks dedicated to the Liberty instruction will be based on demand, according to Patterson. Classes will be offered at the airport site and the former runway will serve as a driving track.

Last year, the college graduated 171 students in truck driving with 98% of them passing the licensure exam on the first attempt. For additional information about the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program, please contact the Liberty Campus at 912.408.3024x6000.

Celebrated Educator to Keynote NAACP Freedom Fund and Awards Program

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the NAACP, the Hilton Head Island/Bluffton Branch will hold its Freedom Fund Dinner and Awards Program at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 17, 2009 at Pinckney Hall, Sun City Hilton Head, Highway 278, Bluffton, SC.

The theme of the event is "And How Are the Children?"

The speaker and guest of honor is Ms. Marva Collins, renowned educator and a recipient of the National Humanities Medal from President George W. Bush.

Ms. Collins founded the internationally-acclaimed Westside Preparatory School in a Chicago inner-city neighborhood. The Westside Preparatory School succeeded in teaching learning disabled, problem children to score at least five grades higher within their first year of instruction.

Collins and her teaching/learning method have been featured on "60 Minutes," "20/20," "Good



Marva Collins

Morning America" and in other national and international media outlets. She is the subject of the TV movie, "The Marva Collins Story" starring Academy Award winners Cicely Tyson and

Morgan Freeman.

The Centennial Year "Keepers of the Flame" Awards for Public Health and for Social Justice will be presented to Mr. Thomas C. Barnwell, Jr., and Sheriff P. J. Tanner and the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department, respectively. Tickets are \$35 single; \$60 couple and are available through the following: In person at Burke's Main Street Pharmacy, 1101 Main Street, Hilton Head S.C. or by mail at NAACP-HHI/Bluffton Branch, PO Box 21727, Hilton Head, Island, S.C. 29925, by phone at (843) 342-280, or online at hhi.blufftonnaacp@hotmail.com.

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Southern Christian Leadership Conference This Weekend

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference will be held this weekend October 2-4, here in Savannah, Ga.

Events will take place at the Quality Inn Midtown, 7100 Abercorn St.

Registration is \$15 and includes all workshops and various events.

Highlights for the event will include empowerment

workshops, special presentations honoring Rev. Hosea Williams, youth initiatives women's high tea honoring outstanding women in the community, plus much more.

Dick Gregory, activist and comedian will keynote the Gala Banquet on Saturday, October 3. Tickets for the Gala are \$50.

For more information visit www.sclcsavannah.org,

call 925-4007, or email convention@sclcsavannah.org.

Rev. Carl Gilliard serves as chairman of the Savannah Host Committee.

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