



Year of *the Lion.*

2023
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ONE DOOR.

WALLACE STATE
HANCEVILLE • ONEONTA



WALLACE STATE BY THE NUMBERS

For more details about
*Wallace State's enrollment, performance measures
and revenue and expenditures*, please scan the QR code below.



A Message from the President

If there's one word sufficient to summarize the Wallace State Community College experience over the last year, it's "Pride."

There's an immense sense pride in being a Lion, reinforced year after year by the accomplishments of our students, faculty and programs. Wallace State helped contribute a staggering \$212.6 million into the local economy, while supporting more than 2,000 new jobs in essential industries. These are numbers that make a difference.

As we reflect on the year, we can count wins in nearly every Wallace State program and pathway. Our students brought back 35 medals from the state SkillsUSA competitions before going on to win five gold medals at nationals. These students represented programs like Computer Science, Mechatronics, Electronics and Robotics, Criminal Justice, Advanced Automotive Service Technology, Diesel Technology, and more. There are too many standout students to list here, but we're especially proud of our 2023 All-Alabama Academic Team Scholars Michaiiah Carson and Grayton Green.

On the athletic front, The Pride played to win. We celebrated as Wallace State teams scored coveted championship trophies in Men's and Women's Cross Country, Men's and Women's Tennis, Women's Volleyball, Golf, and Softball.

The College also announced an unprecedented and transformative capital investment in Wallace State facilities to include a new STEM/Gateway building, a new Advanced Automotive Service Technology building and renovation and expansion of the Machine Tool Technology building.

We were selected as the anchor organization and designed Alabama's first regional STEM ecosystem in partnership with the Alabama STEM Council.

The wins never stopped coming for Wallace State: Our Machine Tool Technology students landed an exceptional opportunity to work on a NASA telescope. We enjoyed creative performances throughout the year by our Fine & Performing Arts students. We also unveiled a new state-of-the-art Center for Welding Technology and Innovation Center on our Hanceville campus. Additionally, our Oneota campus expanded offerings in Nursing to address vital need for healthcare workers statewide.

There's no doubt that the pride runs deep at Wallace State. Legacy Lions raised more than \$300,000 for the Wallace State Future Foundation scholarship fund. This contribution will help continue to make a difference in our students lives for years to come.

It's our goal at Wallace State to keep the door to opportunity open. With help from our community, we're making it happen. Thank you for your contributions and taking the time to recognize the achievements highlighted throughout this compilation.

Dr. Vicki Karolewics





Pride Resides in **New Welding Technology and Innovation Center**

Wallace State's new state-of-the-art \$8.8 million Center for Welding Technology and Innovation is paving the way for a new generation of workers.

The grand opening for the center was held just in time for the start of the Fall 2023 semester. Gov. Kay Ivey, Lt. Gov. Will Ainsworth and Sen. Garlan Gudger, Jr., were among the dignitaries attending. Additionally, new plans were introduced for \$49 million in capital investment to build and renovate three additional buildings on the Hanceville campus.

President Dr. Vicki Karolewics addressed the campus and community at the center's grand opening event. *"Our theme for today is rightfully entitled Building the Workforce, because as one of Alabama's most ambitious colleges, that is our mission – to build the workforce of the future,"* The Center for Welding Technology and Innovation is opening the door for students to learn the essential skills for success in the field. The Innovation Center in the new facility offers entrepreneurs a space to incubate expanding businesses. Dr. Karolewics notes, *"This Innovation Center project is projected to create 98 jobs and \$25 million in revenue for our area within the first eight years."*

The Welding Technology facility houses equipment for students to practice and perfect their craft, including seven robotic welding stations, nine virtual welding simulators, 81 welding booths, 20 grinding booths, fabrication area, plasma CNC tables, and pipe welding equipment.

The facility holds three state-of-the-art classrooms with built-in cameras, microphones, and speakers to host virtual classes. The 30,000 square-foot center is recognized as the largest welding training center in the Southeast.

With the demand for robotic welders growing, the facility couldn't come at a more opportune time. According to Allied Market Research, the global robotic welding market is expected to reach \$10.7 billion by 2026.

Wallace State has their eye on other expanding industries, too. The \$49 million in capital investment projects include a \$4.2 million expansion and renovation of the Machine Tool Technology Building, and a \$9.6 million facility for Automotive Technology.

The automotive facility will focus courses on the industry's shift to electric and autonomous vehicles. Representative Danny Garret, who spoke at the Center for Welding Technology and Innovation's grand opening event, noted the automotive industry's investment of \$260 billion into the development of electric vehicles.





This Innovation Center project is projected to create 98 jobs and \$25 million in revenue for our area within the first eight years."

PRESIDENT DR. VICKI KAROLEWICS

"If the market takes us there, we certainly want these manufactures who come to Alabama to stay here," says Rep. Garret. "We want them to expand here. We want Alabama to be in front of that issue.

"So as that market shifts, it's important that we stay ahead of the curve, and I see that happening here today."

The automotive facility investment project is collaborating with partners from notable companies. These include Mercedes Benz, Nissan North America, Cullman Electric Cooperative, and Tennessee Valley Authority. Benton Nissan even donated a Nissan Leaf to the Advanced Automotive Service Technology program – the college's first electric vehicle for training. Additional future campus projects include a \$35 million STEM Gateway Building, which plans to house first-year students who enroll in mathematics, English, humanities, speech, and chemistry. The building will also contain the college's Culinary Arts program, a digital learning center, and a tutoring center.

As the Center for Welding Technology and Innovation opens its doors this Fall semester, we look forward to everything our students will accomplish this year and the opportunities to come.



One Door *Makes All the Difference*



WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES ANOTHER YEAR OF FISCAL FEATS

As Wallace State Community College marks another year of success, it's a great time to reflect on the College's impact in Hanceville and the surrounding communities. In the past two years, Wallace State continued to open the door for industrial and personal growth, expanding job opportunities throughout the region and providing a foundation for an unstoppable future.

According to the most recent Economic Impact Report for fiscal years 2020 to 2021, Wallace State Community College drives about \$212.6 million into the local economy. The impressive total contributes to the Hanceville community and the service areas of Blount, Cullman, Morgan, and Winston Counties.

The Economic Impact Report, conducted by Lightcast, finds the millions added to the local economy is the equivalent of 3,348 jobs supported. These stats are comparable to an economic boost of hosting the World Series 27 times.

The report goes on to conclude that \$32.3 million is added to regional income, thanks to college payroll and additional spending. This amount is equivalent to 591 jobs supported throughout the region. Student spending adds another \$7.4 million in regional income, or amounts to 160 jobs supported, and finally, alumni impact contributes to a whopping \$172.8 million in added regional income – the equivalent of 2,597 jobs. These factors contribute to the substantial total of \$212.6 million injected into the regional economy.

The achievements don't stop there. We're proud to say one out of every 40 jobs in the Wallace State Community College service area is supported by the college's students and activities. Overall, the college helps serve over 7,000 students and nearly 500 employees – comprising of \$24.5 million in payroll and benefits, leading to a cool \$11.7 million in total tuition revenue.

President Dr. Vicki Karolewics says she sees the impact Wallace State Community College has on students' and community members' lives every day.

"This study only verifies what I've known for years because I experienced it myself," Karolewics reflects. "That a community college education pays for itself over and over again, not only for each student who chooses to open the door to opportunity through education but for their communities as well. We are a good investment."

For every dollar invested into the college, people in Alabama will receive \$11.50 in return for as long as the college's students remain active in the workforce. In 2020 and 2021, the state of Alabama invested \$77.9 million into Wallace State Community College. Thanks to this investment, the Alabama economy will grow by \$874 million over the course of students' working lives.

The door for growth continues to remain open. The college is helping contribute to essential industries throughout the region. These industry-wide stats include 679 jobs supported in health care and social assistance, 397 jobs in retail trade, 355 in other services (except public administration), 335 positions in government or non-education, and 265 jobs supported in manufacturing.

At Wallace State Community College, we take pride in keeping our community members, students, and faculty at the forefront. We strive to continue making everlasting impact in the Hanceville community and the college's service areas.

A RESOUNDING ROAR

PROUD TO UPLIFT ALABAMA THROUGH HIGH-IMPACT HIGHER EDUCATION

7,000

students supported annually

\$11.50

in productivity for every dollar invested

#3

dual enrollment college in Alabama

Among
150

top community colleges in the nation

\$212.6 million

driven to the local economy

3,348

new jobs supported in essential industries



4-Time Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence Nominee



One Door ... Open to Opportunities

With grit, determination, and hard work, students at Wallace State Community College continue to make their Pride proud. The achievements in 2023 are an illustration of WSCC students' tenacity. From awards and accolades to performances and community events, Wallace students continue to make their mark on the college community and beyond.

This year, WSCC is defining success through the contributions made by faculty and students throughout the college's high-powered programming. Students and faculty alike are being recognized for their hard work with awards for Teacher, Student, and Work Study of the Year.

Other noteworthy achievements highlight the connection between the arts and the community. These accomplishments include dozens of plays and performances throughout the year by the Fine & Performing Arts program. Additionally, the new exhibit featuring the work of Elizabeth St. John at the Evelyn Burrow Museum invited community members onto Wallace State's Hanceville campus.

With nearly 2,300 degrees and certificates awarded to the Wallace State Community College class of 2023, WSCC students are opening the door to a brighter, bolder future. As partnerships and programs flourish, Wallace State continues to look ahead.

Chancellor Award winners this year from Wallace State:

- Dr. Rebecca Reeves, Academic Faculty
- Mr. Ryan Iversen, Career Faculty
- Mr. Billy Rose, Director/ Administrative Staff
- Mr. Brett Messersmith, Staff Member


CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Wallace State Community College is proud to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Athens State University for 2023. The MOU allows a seamless transfer of Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) from Wallace State to Athens State. This notable MOU is only one of many accolades from this year.

Students at Wallace State Community College brought back 35 medals from the SkillsUSA State Competition in Mobile, Alabama. Students representing Wallace at the SkillsUSA National Competition won ten medals total, including five gold medals.

Wallace State Nursing instructor **Heather Ashley** (right) was named Wallace State Community College's Teacher of the Year and **Rayce Cleghorn** (left) was awarded Student of the Year during the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's State of Education program.

WSCC student **Tiffany Dowdy** (left) was presented with the Work Study of the Year. Dowdy served as a work study in the college's Center for Student Success, assisting students and advisors for over two years.

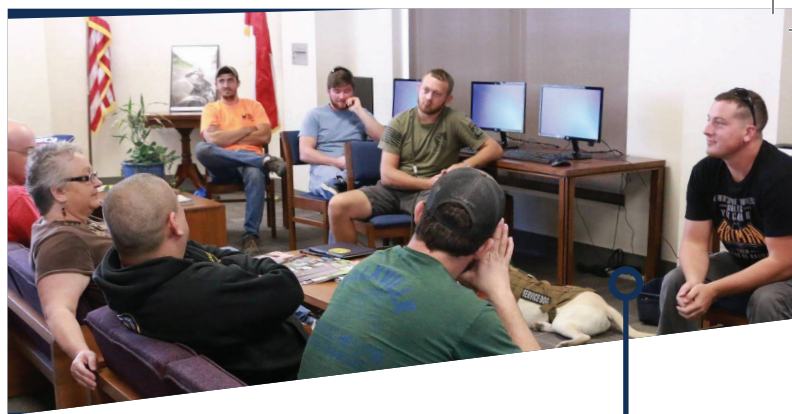


Ashley Hardin of Alabaster, center, won a gold medal in Criminal Justice.





Wallace State students **Michaiah Carson** (right) and **Grayton Green** (left) were named the WSCC All-Alabama Academic Team Scholars for 2023.



Wallace State Community College earned the Military Friendly School designation for 2023-2024.

PUTTING ON A SHOW

Wallace State Community College Fine & Performing Arts students put their all into their performances this year. In the Winter, shows including "Almost, Maine," and holiday favorites like "The Christmas Spectacular" (pictured) and "The Nutcracker."



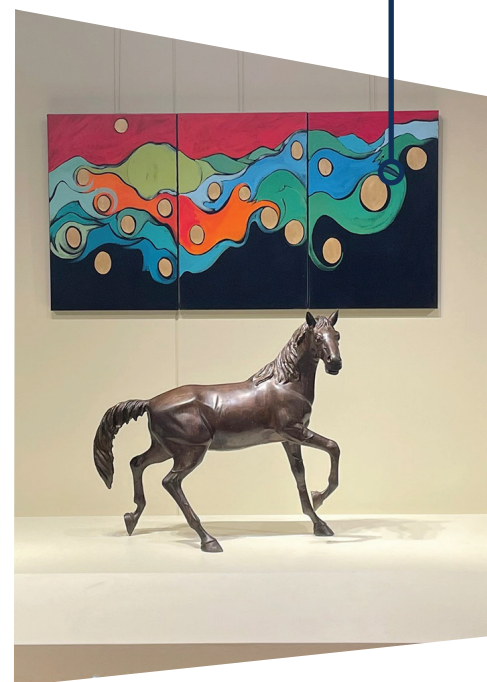
Additional performances include "The Big Band Dance" by the Wallace State Jazz Band and "Spring Under the Stars" by the Wallace State Fine & Performing Arts programs – both performed at the Burrow Center for the Fine & Performing Arts.

The 2023 annual Broadway Night performance showcased Performing Arts students' unique talents. The show highlighted their own interpretations of musical performances from shows including "Grease," "Hamilton," "Waitress," "West Side Story," "South Pacific," and more.

The Wallace State Allegro Dance Theatre presented its annual Spring Dance Showcase in the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre. Students had the creative freedom to plan, choreograph, and design a full dance production for their performances.



Along with these performances, the community was invited to attend a new exhibition at the Evelyn Burrow Museum on the WSCC Hanceville campus. The gallery featured paintings by Elizabeth St. John. Funds generated from this display went to entirely to the Wallace State Future Foundation in support of scholarships.



WALKING THE WALK

At Wallace State, a major source of pride is watching students walk the stage at commencement. WSCC celebrated this year's commencement in Traditions Bank Arena of Tom Drake Coliseum. Two ceremonies were held – one including Academics and Applied Technology graduates in a morning ceremony and an afternoon ceremony celebrating Health Science graduates. Nearly 2,300 degrees and certificates were awarded to the Class of 2023, with more than 600 participating in the ceremonies this past May.



Accomplishing More: Grads in Academic and Applied Tech programs were acknowledged for their accomplishments in the morning commencement ceremony at WSCC.



Shining Bright: Students were recognized during Honor's Night and at commencement exercises for academic and personal achievements.



In High Demand: Adult Education and Career Workforce students celebrated another step closer to a successful career pathway.



Essentially Unstoppable: Health Science students are opening the door to even more opportunities after a pinning ceremony.

MANE EVENTS

How 2023 roared in like a Lion

OPEN FOR INDUSTRY

The future is fiercer than ever for career education students at Wallace State thanks to the November grand opening of the Workforce Training Center in Cullman. The Center, located on the grounds of REHAU's automotive manufacturing facility, represents a game-changing update to Wallace State's capacity to deliver cutting-edge career education, providing space, technology and convenience for industry-focused career-seekers.



FUELING THE FUTURE

Wallace State accelerated its Diesel Technology offerings in 2023 – without ever setting foot on the gas.

The department's October acquisition of a Kenworth T680 Class E heavy duty electric vehicle marked the first such purchase in Alabama, establishing Wallace State's Diesel Tech program as a "pace-setter" for alternative fuel education and training. The purchase, supported by a \$1.3 million grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, will allow Lion learners to set themselves apart in the workforce and level up their paychecks through electric vehicle specialization.

"This will give our students the opportunity to see something that no one in the field has seen yet," says Wyatt Swann, chair of the Wallace State Diesel Technology program.

300 ACRES OF AWESOME

Wallace State's Hanceville Campus was honored to receive a Beautification Award in 2023 by Cullman County PALS



The employees ... have dedicated countless hours to making our campus a beautiful and inviting place to learn and work."

JASON BYNUM, AGRICULTURE/
HORTICULTURE DIRECTOR



Brand New Programs. Same Old Pride.

Wallace State Community College is focusing on continuously expanding and growing their dynamic pride of programs. As technology continues to develop, industries become more advanced – and the curriculum is keeping up with the demand. With more than 200 degree and certificate options in academic, health, applied technologies, and STEM fields, the door to opportunity is wide open.

New offerings were introduced this year in the Applied Technologies Division, including a new Electric Vehicle program for Advanced Automotive Service Technology and Diesel Technology, along with an Electrical Technology program for industrial, commercial, and residential electrician training. New STEM programs also made their debut this Fall – including a new Computer Science program option offering certificates and two-year associate degree in Systems Engineering Technology.

In addition, new Healthcare options are adding to an already robust curriculum. The Wallace State Nursing program is expanding to the Oneonta campus as the demand for nurses continues to grow across the state. Wallace State Community College also launched the Nursing Apprenticeship program, which allows students to earn a salary as they simultaneously train for a successful nursing career. Other new additions to the Healthcare program curriculum include Health Informatics, Medical Scribe, and a Radiation Therapy pathway.

Meanwhile, students on the Early Childhood Education pathway broke ground on a new apprenticeship program, partnered with Athens State University and Community Action Partnership of North Alabama (CAPNA). Participating students can now build college credit while earning a real salary in a local Head Start, Early Head Start or Pre-K program.

Apply the skills

Wallace State is celebrating exciting accomplishments in the college's **Applied Technology program**. This year, Applied Technology students continuously learned and utilized their skills to gain traction in fast-growing career fields like automotive technologies, electrical technology, diesel technology, welding, and more.

- The Machine Tool Technology program gave students a rare opportunity to participate in the restoration of a NASA telescope. Students provided parts for the Astro Restoration Project with the Smithsonian Institute's Air and Space Museum at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.
- Wallace State Diesel Technology students swept the Diesel Technology category during the SkillsUSA State Competition in Mobile. Proud Lions took home first-, second-, and third-place wins. During the SkillsUSA National Competition in Atlanta, Georgia, students brought back five gold medals, including two in the Commercial Drone competition.
- The Welding department hosted the North Alabama High School Welding Competition on WSCC's Hanceville campus. Nearly 100 high school students from 33 area schools competed for hundreds of dollars' worth of prizes.
- More than 60 students signed Letters of Intent with seven different Wallace State Applied Technology programs during the NC3 National Letter of Intent Signing Day.
- Wallace State's partnership with Fitzgerald Peterbilt offers Diesel Technology students valuable apprenticeship positions, which can ultimately lead to full time employment.
- The new Marine Technology program was unveiled this year. The program focuses on supporting the up-and-coming marine industry on Smith Lake and Lake Guntersville.





Opening the Door to **MORE:**

Wallace State Community College aims to regularly expand programs to continue to help provide students and the surrounding community with an open door to brighter futures. Over the past year, collaborations and connections between WSCC students, faculty, and the surrounding Hanceville community helped programs reach their full potential.

- The WSCC Paralegal program earned approval from the American Bar Association, giving paralegal students and the college a clear advantage over the competition.
- The Salon and Spa Management program gave back to the community through the “Shaggy Aggie” program – a partnership between WSCC and Fairview High School to supply free haircuts to students.

Healing a Workforce

Wallace State Community College focuses the **Health Science** courses on students building their skills for a career fueled by compassion. Students receive valuable hands-on training in WSCC programs like Nursing, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Child Development, Diagnostic Imaging, and more. WSCC is proud to champion the accomplishments and contribute to the next generation of healthcare workers.

- Wallace State Nursing Department Chair Dr. Deborah “Pepper” Hoover was inducted to the prestigious Alabama Nursing Hall of Fame.
- The Wallace State Community College Department of Nursing Education recognized nurses and hosted a panel discussion during their “Celebration of Nursing” event.
- The Wallace State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program implemented new shift-based class scheduling, which allows a more convenient and flexible college experience for Paramedic students.
- The newly developed Early Childhood Educator Apprenticeship program is a partnership between Wallace State’s Child Development program and additional Alabama colleges. The collaboration matches students with childhood education apprenticeships while addressing the need for more childcare workers across the state.
- Students in the WSCC Diagnostic Imaging program learned how to use a VERT simulator – or Virtual Environment for Radiation Therapy – to familiarize themselves with equipment they will encounter in the field during clinical training.

Education for Generations

More than ever, early childhood educators are in demand, and thanks to a unique new apprenticeship program in the Child Development department, Wallace State students are forging a more direct path to success than ever.

- The WSCC Child Development apprenticeship program establishes a one-of-a-kind, classroom-to-career connection with Athens State University and Community Action Partnership of Northern Alabama (CAPNA).
- WSCC students now have direct access to paid, on-the-job training in authentic early childhood education environments.

Den of Champions

It's about pride, power and performance. Wallace State's winning philosophy goes beyond the classroom, fueling a competitive fire in our student-athletes that will last for life. Home to championship teams and standout individuals, Wallace State Athletics is a source of Lion Pride, season after season.

Share our 2023 highlights ... then show up and support the Pride.



Conference
Championships



Nationally Ranked Teams

80+

Commissioner's Honor Roll
Student-Athletes

WALLACE STATE ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

#12

Women's Golf

#7

Men's Golf

#14

Women's Tennis

#7

Men's Tennis

#5

Women's Cross Country

#8

Men's Cross Country

TOP 12

Softball

CAN'T STOP THE REIGN

WALLACE WOMEN KEEP ON ROLLING WITH 24TH CONFERENCE TITLE

The *dig dynasty* continued in 2023, as the Wallace State women's volleyball team claimed its 14th ACCC title in 15 seasons – bringing the lifetime conference trophy tally up to 24. Star spiker **Anna Clare Hutto** garnered ACCC and Gulf South District Tournament Most Valuable Player awards, while coach **Randy Daniel** was named Gulf South District Coach of the Year. Coach **Daniel** surpassed 600 career wins, with an overall record at the end of the season of 637-128.

The Lady Lions outshined Enterprise in the ACCC championship game, capping an undefeated run that yielded All-Tournament

accolades for **Braelee Quinn**, **Lexi Weber** and **Marley Wakefield**. The Lions finished the season 46-7 on the way to their best NJCAA Division II Volleyball Championship finish ever. The Lions kicked off the tournament with a 3-0 win against Harford before falling to Parkland 3-0. Moving to the consolation rounds, the Lions picked up wins against Sauk Valley and Grand Rapids before falling to Johnson County. **Hutto**, meanwhile, earned Second Team All-American honors.



ACES OF THE ACCC

Wallace State's heroes of the hardcourt came home with hardware, as the men's and women's tennis teams – both undefeated in regular-season play – completed the 2023 ACCC season as dual conference champions.

Singles standouts **Sebastian Gamez** and **Kim Coots** won Conference Player of the Year honors for the men's and women's tea, respectively, while **Tim Garner** swept Coach of the Year

accolades in both divisions. Both squads benefitted from fast-adapting freshmen to finish the spring season ranked among the top teams in the nation.

"My freshmen really stepped up this year," says Garner.

FIRST TO THE FINISH LINE

Two teams. Six years. 12 titles. The Wallace State men's and women's cross country teams each paced the ACCC for the sixth consecutive season in 2023, also fielding the ACCC Runners of the Year in both divisions with **Colin Mayfield** (repeating from 2022) and **Rudi Derrick**.

Meanwhile, head coach **Stan Narewski** repeated for the fifth time as ACCC Coach of the Year. The men finished 5th in the NJCAA Cross Country National Championship, and the women finished in eighth place. **Luke Kennedy** earned an Honorable Mention for the 2023 NJCAA Division II Cross Country All-America Teams.



BACK TO NATIONALS

Wallace State softball cruised to its 15th ACCC title, posting an undefeated 25-0 record at home on the way to a #3 seeding in the NJCAA national tournament.

The Lions dominated conference play, finishing the season at 51-5 and going on to win an elimination game at nationals. The versatile team fielded five All-North Division Players including Tournament MVP **Katie Simon**, with **Alivia Wilken** and **Lila Kate Wheeler** making the ACCC All-Region first team. **Carson Owens**, in his first season as manager, won ACCC Coach of the Year honors.



LADY LIONS RULE

Wallace State Women's Golf survived tough competition and even tougher greens to land the Lions atop the ACCC at Burning Tree Country Club this spring. It was a dominating performance for the Lady Lions, with four athletes – including freshman champion **Aidan Haithcock** – finishing in the top 10.

The conference championship marked the fifth for the Lady Lions and coach **JJ Adams**, who took home a matching fifth ACCC Coach of the Year plaque. "It was a tough two days, Adams reflects. "We really worked through it."



SHARPE SHOOTERS

A new coach... with a familiar face. With the departure of Coach Jessica McBrayer, the Wallace State women's basketball team has named **Allen Sharpe** to the new head coach role.

Sharpe, who has spent 10 years coaching the men's squad to success, will now be pulling double-duty as coach of both Wallace State teams, and looks to be the perfect link to the Lady Lions' future. Says Sharpe: "This is a great opportunity that wasn't planned, but it is an exciting one that I am looking forward to."

WALLACE FOR THE WIN

Lion legacy lives on with strong Spring showings

The "W" on their uniforms denotes "Wallace"... but it could just as easily stand for "win." Every Wallace State squad earned a winning record in 2023, each continuing on to solid performances in the conference championships.

LADY LIONS LAST TO TITLE GAME

The Wallace State Women's Basketball team capped a brilliant 24-7 season with a gutsy second-place showing at the ACCC championship tournament in Hanceville. In their sixth-consecutive postseason appearance under coach **Jessica McBrayer**, the squad rode the determined efforts of six sophomores all the way to the championship game before finally

falling to No. 1 seed Shelton State. Sophomores **Jazmyn Jackson**, **Tamia Yancey** and **Kyra Long** were each named to the All-North First Team in their coach's final season at Wallace State.

"Our six sophomores didn't just show up statistically, they showed up in ways you can't see in a stat book," says McBrayer. "It has been an honor coaching that group."

MEN'S HOOPS RIDES 21-WIN SEASON TO SWEET 16

The Lions held court in a tough ACCC North Division, compiling a 21-10 record to nab fourth in the conference and land a spot in the final 16 at the ACCC Championships. Led by sophomore guards **Jalil Robinson** and **Nathaniel Jones**, and versatile freshman **Michael McIntosh**, the Lions averaged 74.2 points per game to qualify for the 11th conference tournament in Wallace State men's basketball history.

DIAMOND DOMINANCE LANDS LIONS IN REGIONALS

The long and legendary career of Lions coach **Randy Putman** roared ahead this Spring, as Wallace State baseball posted a 37-18 record to boost their longtime helmsman beyond 1,200 lifetime wins.

The Lions defeated Chattahoochee Valley in the NJCAA South District tournament before falling to Shelton State. The squad's success made waves on both coasts this summer, as Wallace State alums **Colson Lawrence** and **Will Varmette** were drafted to the Miami Marlins and San Diego Padre, respectively.



BRINGING THE ROAR

They're more than a hype squad for Lions athletics. Wallace State cheerleaders are high-level athletes in their own right, and every year, they make the Pride proud at the UCA national championships in Orlando.

Wallace State cheerleaders join a tradition of excellence, not only supporting the Lions' elite athletics teams, but competing with collegiate cheer squads nationwide. Wallace State's two-time UCA champion and two-time national runner-up squad is currently helmed by former Lions cheerleading star Kevin Yates, also a two-time UCA champ.

WALLACE GOLFERS AT FULL SWING FOR SPRING

Another year, another trip to the NJCAA National Championships. The Wallace State Men's Golf team bounced back from a slow spring start, completing regional play with a #13 national ranking. Led by sophomore **Zackery Coker**, who finished second in the Southeast District championship, the Lions qualified for their 27th national tournament, the second straight under head coach and former WSCC golf star **Sylas Elliott**.

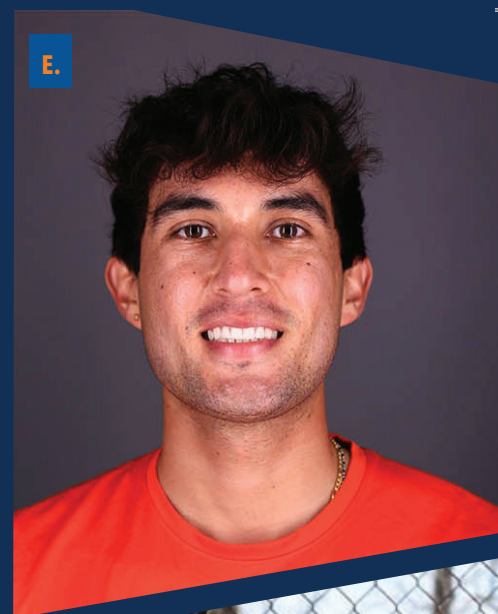
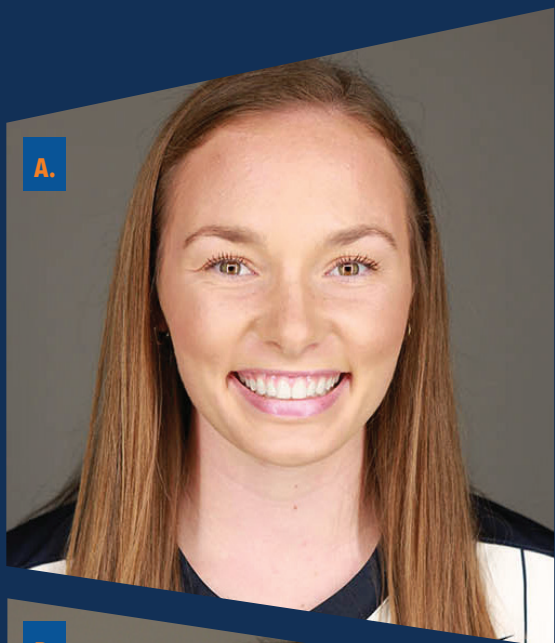
"MR. 1,200"

There is perhaps no other living Lion who embodies Wallace State's winning spirit like head baseball coach **Randy Putman**. In his 35th season in Hanceville, Putman surpassed the 1,200-career-win mark, improving his lifetime winning percentage to .683. Putman, officially inducted into the "1,000 Win Club" by the Alabama Baseball Coaches Association in 2022, is the winningest coach in Alabama JUCO history, having built the baseball team into a perennial threat, even mentoring future major leaguers like Craig Kimbrel and Derek Holland. "You can't do it without dedicated and passionate baseball players," says the humble head coach. "I would never have been able to accomplish what I did without them."

Coach Randy Putman, second from left, was among the recipients of the 1000th Career Win Club Award presented by The Alabama Baseball Coaches Association.

ACCColades

Congratulations to our 2023
ACCC Athletes of the Week



- A. Katie Simon**, Softball, *Week of 3/7/23*
- B. Alivia Wilken**, Softball, *Week of 4/4/23*
- C. McKinnon Howard**, Softball
Week of 4/4/23
- D. Lexi Luders**, Women's Tennis,
Week of 3/14/23
- E. Sebastian Gamez**, Men's Tennis,
Week of 3/14/23

- F. Lennert Lemahieu**, Men's Tennis,
Week of 4/4/23
- G. Aidan Haithcock**, Women's Golf,
Week of 3/1/23
- Not Pictured.**
Luke Kennedy,
Men's Cross Country, *Week of 09/05/23*

- Claire Deaton**, Women's Cross Country,
Week of 09/05/23, 09/20/23, 10/9/23
- Makayla Lindsey**, Volleyball, *Week of 09/12/23*
- Brady Helms**, Men's Cross Country,
Week of 09/20/23
- Anna Clare Hutto**, Volleyball, *Week of 10/10/23*
- Braelee Quinn**, Volleyball, *Week of 10/17/23*
- Lexi Weber**, *Week of 10/24/23*

STUDENT LIFE

The Life of a Lion

A great campus ... an amazing community ... and connections to last for life. It's all part of the Wallace State Community College "One Door" philosophy.

Wallace State brings the student experience beyond the classroom, providing persistent access to campus and cultural events, fitness activities, student organizations, alumni functions, and more. Join us as we reflect on #LionLife in 2023.

IN THE HEART OF HANCEVILLE

PULSE 2023 POPS OFF AT WALLACE STATE

Wallace State students traded regular classes for two days of skills and service last fall as the PULSE (Pathways United for Learning, Service, and Excellence) conference returned to the Hanceville campus.

The two-day event, keynoted by former professional angler Clay Dyer, opened doors for Lions looking to explore topics and talents beyond their typical comfort zone. A diverse, all-day slate included workshops covering everything from service projects to Yoga for Stress Management, plus musical performances, resources for improving "soft" skills advice, and even a tour of the Criminal Justice department's "crime scene house."



LION DANCE

Homecoming 2023 showcases student style



LIONS AT LEISURE

WALL OF FAME ADDS FIVE NEW NAMES

It took three nail-biting sets, but when the dust settled, it was the "H & B's" who went home with the 2023 Spring Wallyball Championship.

The title game, held in late May to cap off a successful spring mini-season for the oddball intramural, pitted the co-ed H & B's, featuring **Dustin Speak, Mason Reed, Kaiya Butler, Andrew Braden** and **Hadlee Freeman**, against the "Cross Country Crushers," a squad comprised of runners from the Wallace State cross country team.

Wallace State hosts Spring and Fall seasons of Wallyball, a fast, chaotic sport that combines the finer points of volleyball and racquetball. Students are invited to form teams of five to compete in the upcoming intramural season.



From left, Dustin Speak, Mason Reed, Kaiya Butler and Andrew Braden.

HARDCOURT HOT-DOGS RELISH PICKLEBALL DEBUT

Top-tier tennis skills translated to pickleball prowess in the inaugural season of Wallace State's intramural pickleball league this spring. Lions tennis stars **Hugo Blasco** and **Lennert Lemahieu** outlasted fellow varsity players **Sebastian Gamez** and **Alex Jaulin** to claim the first-ever intramural championship.

"The students had a great time playing the games all season and meeting new friends," says WSCC Success Advisor Dakota Nichols. "We hope to do it again next spring with even more participants."



From left, Alex Jaulin and Sebastian Gamez, with the winning team of Lennert Lemahieu and Hugo Blasco claiming the title.

THE PRIDE PERSISTS

Supporters uplift the Wallace State community

NEARLY \$400,000 RAISED FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Wallace State Community College students will have more room to roar than ever, thanks to the generous supporters of the WSCC Future Foundation. Local community members and business leaders outdid themselves once again in 2023, bringing in nearly \$400,000 to fund higher education dreams for Wallace State students at the 19th-annual Student Investment Luncheon.

"Over the last decade, the Foundation has awarded over \$2.5 million dollars in scholarships to over 3,000 deserving Wallace State students," says Future Foundation President Donna Guthrie, who added that an unprecedented 251 students will receive Foundation support in 2023-24. "When you donate to these students, you are also investing in your future"

SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION WELCOMES STUDENTS, DONORS

Scholarship recipients dined face-to-face with the donors funding their future at the Future Foundation Scholarship Celebration in April. Students in attendance successfully applied for a variety of Foundation-funded scholarships, many specific to sponsoring industries or causes. The total tally of 183 scholarships includes 32 newly established awards, made possible by donors like the Alabama Trucking Association, Cullman Savings Bank, Yutaka and more.

\$5K GRANTED FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Prevent relationship violent before it starts. That's the goal of the Megan Montgomery Foundation, which granted \$5,000 to Wallace State Community College this spring. The grant will fund awareness and training on the Wallace State campus, giving faculty, staff and student ambassadors the tools to intervene in potentially volatile situations.



Wallace State Future Foundation scholarship recipients at the Luncheon

HONORING AN ALL-STAR, LIONIZING A LEGEND

The past year saw Wallace State pay homage to two towering institutional figures, holding dedication ceremonies in honor of **Dr. Jerry Galin** and the late **Dr. Garlan E. Gudger, Sr.**

Last October, the Cullman Savings Bank Foundation dedicated its sponsored re-naming of the Business Education building to Dr. Galin, an instructor and dean for 22 years and a persisting pillar of the Wallace State community. The building will now be known as "Dr. Jerry D. Galin Hall," in tribute to a man who continued to uplift the cause of education in his community even after his retirement, through work with organizations like the Cullman Lions Club, Cullman Family Recreation Park Foundation, Cullman County Industrial Development Foundation and Cullman Electric Cooperative Operation Roundup Board.

"When I came to Wallace State there were 15 employees and 350 students," reflected Galin upon the accolade. "Wallace State has grown in its service to the community. I'm honored to be recognized for there have been many great leaders over the years."

This summer, the Wallace State community joined family and friends of the late Dr. Gudger to unveil a new portrait in the Student Center already named for the Lion legend. Featuring remarks by Dr. Karolewics, Sen. Garland Gudger, Jr. (Gudger's son), and Dot Gudger (Gudger's widow), the event saluted the inaugural Dean of Students' indelible legacy of passion, persistence and support, which shaped so much of what Wallace State represents today.

PTK CHAPTER COLLECTS EXCLUSIVE HONOR

Wallace State's Alpha Chi Tau Chapter joined a group 294 high-performing chapters nationwide, designated for the first time this spring as a REACH chapter by the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society.

The distinction celebrates the chapter's 21 percent membership acceptance rate, a statistic that reflects the high academic performance of Wallace State students in general. Students must carry a 3.5 or higher GPA through a minimum of 12 credit hours to qualify for membership.

Donors: Thanks to all Future Foundation Donors. To see a list of donors, scan the QR code below.



Financials: To see financial data related to scholarships, please scan the QR code below.





CATS *CONNECT*

Home to dozens of diverse student clubs and organizations, Wallace State Community College is a place to meet new people, encounter new challenges, and work together to make an impact in our community.

- PERFORMING ARTS** |
- ACADEMIC SOCIETIES** | **CAREER CLUBS**
- CULTURE & RELIGION** | **VETERANS** |
- STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

"Being a member of Phi Theta Kappa provides the member with the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills, develop long-lasting peer relationships, and participate in service projects that affect the college campus and community," says PTK sponsor Brandon Smith. "Students benefit greatly from accepting membership into Phi Theta Kappa."



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