Lawson State: Proud Partner in Coding

Lawson State Community College was a proud participant in helping Apple expand its *Everyone Can Code* initiative to Birmingham following the April 4, 2018 campus visit by the CEO of Apple, Tim Cook. *Everyone Can Code* operates as a curriculum designed by Apple with the belief that anyone can learn, write and teach code. Lawson State currently offers three Apple Swift coding classes within its Computer Science program—making the college a natural fit to be the launch pad for the *Birmingham Can Code* initiative led by the City of Birmingham in conjunction with Birmingham City Schools.

The first of four free coding boot camps kicked off the week of June 18, 2018 with twenty-six students from area high schools filling up the Swift Coding lab located in Lawson State’s Perry W. Ward Alabama Center for Advanced Technology and Training building.

Dr. Kesha James, Director of Distance Education, led the first and third weeks of the high school boot camps while Mrs. Eula Todd, Manager of Title III, led the second and fourth weeks of the middle school boot camps—with both groups of students being educated in some form of the Swift Programming Language while using app development software.

Through interactive, hands-on labs and guided projects, the high school participants received practical experience with tools, techniques, and concepts to build a basic iOS app from scratch. By the end of the program, the students were able to successfully build an app using Xcode. Dr. James stated,
“These students attended the coding boot camp with little to no experience, and we were able to equip them with the necessary knowledge to learn coding for app development. I am very proud to say we achieved the aim of the *Birmingham Can Code* initiative.”

The middle school students were introduced to basic coding concepts and terminology by using the Swift Playground App and iPads. Students favored the use of Dash Robots, which provided hands-on training for them to learn how to write lines of code to maneuver the robots across the classroom. “As the strength of a building lies in its foundation, a student’s ability to succeed in coding also requires a good foundation. The goal of the middle school boot camp was to lay a firm foundation on which students could build their coding knowledge,” said Mrs. Todd.

In addition to learning the basics of coding, these students had the opportunity to enhance their presentation and leadership skills while learning to work in teams.

One hundred students registered to be in attendance, with a total of fifteen middle schools and ten high schools represented at the close of the boot camp. Although the program was initially only opened to students from the Birmingham City Schools System, the reach of the summer coding boot camp expanded to incorporate attendees from schools across other cities of Jefferson County including Chelsea, Center Point, Fairfield, Homewood, Hoover, Hueytown, Moody, Midfield and Pleasant Grove.
Lawson State opened its doors once again to representatives from Apple, Birmingham City Schools, UAB and TechBirmingham to meet and discuss some the coding initiatives established since the April visit of Apple CEO Tim Cook. On September 18, 2018, Dr. Perry W. Ward and Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent of Birmingham City Schools sat down with education leaders from Apple and the city of Birmingham to review the successes of the *Birmingham Can Code* program which is a syndicate of the Apple initiative *Everyone Can Code*.

After a brief tour of the computer labs located in the Swift Wing of the ACATT, Dr. Alice Milton and Ms. Brenda T. Johnson debriefed the guests on the Swift coding classes that began earlier this year at Lawson State while Dr. Kesha James and Ms. Eula Todd provided updates on the *Birmingham Can Code* coding boot camp held over Summer 2018 through partnerships with the City of Birmingham and Birmingham City Schools.

Special guests included Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent of Birmingham City Schools; Lyn Stanfield, Strategic Initiatives Manager of Education (Eastern US) for Apple; Stacy Erb, Director of Community Education Initiatives for Apple; Cathleen Richardson, Development Executive of K-12 Education for Apple; Deon Gordon, President & CEO of TechBirmingham; and Dr. Anthony Hood, Associate Professor of Management in the Collat School of Business at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

See link for more pictures from the Birmingham Can Code Debriefing meeting:
https://flic.kr/s/aHsmqAu7mr
Lawson State Adds Turn Key AED Program in Partnership with Cardiac Solutions

Dr. Perry W. Ward pictured with Jon Seale, CEO of Cardiac Solutions

Back in August, Dr. Perry W. Ward and Lawson State Police Chief James Blanton sat down with Jon Seale, CEO of Cardiac Solutions and his Vice President of Sales, Pat Lynch, to discuss the Turn Key AED Program, and the importance of Lawson State's decision to have automated external defibrillators (AED) accessible throughout campus. AEDs are medical devices that allow anyone with menial training to provide lifesaving treatment to victims who may experience sudden cardiac arrest.

“We are very pleased to have added another layer of protection and precaution to the Lawson State Community College infrastructure,” said Dr. Ward. “With the growing traffic both of our campuses continue to see, we also are glad to be one of the first community colleges in the state to take such measures to provide quick response in the case of a cardiac emergency.”

The newly installed AEDs are part of the college’s new Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and AED program that will train staff, faculty and students to recognize a cardiac emergency, perform CPR and use the device to administer a shock to the heart, allowing the heart to reset and beat normally again. “We want to be sure we can effectively respond to any medical emergency that occurs on our property,” said Chief Blanton.

Lawson State chose to partner with Cardiac Solutions to set up the AED program. “We applaud Lawson State for recognizing the importance of AEDs,” said Jon Seale, Chief Executive Officer at Cardiac Solutions. “Having an AED program in place will highly increase the chance of survival if sudden cardiac arrest occurs.”

The most recently added AED was placed in the Dr. Perry W. Ward ACATT Building—making a total of 15 of the emergency devices located throughout the Bessemer and Birmingham campuses. “After reviewing safety protocols for the college, concerns about being able to ensure quick defibrillation motivated the college to move forward with putting the program in place,” said Ward.

Click here to view more photos from Dr. Ward’s meeting with John Seale of Cardiac Solutions: https://flic.kr/s/aHsmm2H2cd
Imagine being able to showcase skills you learned as a student competing for a position on the world stage. For Lawson State’s very own Jihaaya Muhammad, it isn’t too hard to envision, as she was announced the Golden Ticket winner of the Sweet Home Alabama Dessert Competition held at Jefferson State Community College as part of a culinary fair this past August.

Muhammad first learned of the competition at Lawson State Community College in the class of Culinary Arts instructor Chef Adam Elliott. The competition called for high school students, professional chefs and home cooks to “battle it out” to compete for a spot in the 2018 World Food Championships.

She didn’t have to search too far to draw inspiration for the type of dessert to create during the event, which included a team comprised of her mother and sister. “I chose a family recipe that we called the ‘Magic City Bean Pie’ for the competition,” said Muhammad, who also described the event as a family affair with her father in attendance to cheer everyone on.

Her mother is credited as being a big influence to pursue the Culinary Arts program at Lawson. “I wanted to broaden my education, and she encouraged me to do that.” Muhammad also praised the culinary program saying the opportunities for hands-on experience and learning the importance of teamwork helped her prepare for the competition. “It’s a great program to be in. The instructors genuinely care about you and your education.”

For someone whose future plans includes having a catering business of her own, Muhammad called the overall experience of competition exciting and said although the pressure was high, she was glad to have participated. Kristopher Hicks, a third semester student of the Lawson State Culinary Arts program, placed second in the competition with his rendition of Bread Pudding with Peach Foster topped with homemade Butter Pecan ice cream. Hicks entered the competition as a solo chef but was satisfied about the experience and said, “I’m very happy for Jihaaya. At least one of us won.”

Muhammad will be one of many competitors during the World Food Championships that will bring people from around the country and the world to Orange Beach, Alabama this year from November 7th through the 11th.

Click here to learn more about the 2018 World Food Championships that will be held in Orange Beach, AL.
**Lawson State’s Office of Public Relations and Community Affairs Receive Several Awards During Annual Public Relations Conference**

The Office of Public Relations and Community Affairs attended the ACCSPRA (Alabama Community College System Public Relations Association) Conference and Pyramid Awards in Orange Beach from September 5, 2018 through September 7, 2018.

This year, Lawson State was awarded by the association for various advertising materials used to promote the college in print and on electronic platforms. LSCC received a total of ten awards including six Pyramid Awards, the equivalent of first place in these categories: *Annual Report* for the 2017 President’s Annual Report; *Brochure-Single or Series* for the Automotive I-Pad Brochure; *Promotional Advertising* for the LSCC Gold Gift Box; *Mobile App* for the LSCC Mobile App; *Radio Advertisement* for the LSCC #1 Nursing Program Radio Ad; and *Logo Design* for the Historical Preservation Committee logo.

During the conference, the PR/CA staff had the opportunity to network with other community college public relations representatives and vendors from across the state to learn innovative marketing techniques to bring back to the college.

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**Donald Sledge Honored by Barbering Association**

Donald Sledge, associate dean of Career Technical Programs at Lawson State, was one of nine honorees recognized by the Jefferson County Barbering Association on Monday, October 1, 2018. He received a Black Coat Lifetime Achievement Award during a presentation to mark his status as being a member of the 2018 Master Class. The Jefferson County Barbering Association, established in 2014, focuses on Service, Education, Professionalism and Advancement.

Mr. Sledge has been cutting hair as a professional barber for 50 years holding a licensure as a Master Barber. He currently owns and has operated Don’s Hair Care Center for 48 years in downtown Birmingham located right next to the Alabama Theatre. In addition to being a business owner, he is responsible for the direct oversight of programs related to service careers and construction careers at Lawson State.
**Cougar Connection Week**

Cougar Connection Week was held the week of September 17, 2018 and featured several events on the Birmingham and Bessemer campuses geared towards encouraging Lawson State students to get connected with student groups and organizations. They also learned about volunteer organizations and ways to get involved in the surrounding community. The events included cookouts, information fairs, and a pool party. Students of the Art Department on the Birmingham campus even took their class outside to enjoy the information fair. The week culminated with the Student Induction & Installation Ceremony.

**Student Induction & Installation Ceremony**

Over 100 students of Lawson State's Student Government Association, Phi Theta Kappa, Kappa Beta Delta and Ambassadors participated in an installation and induction ceremony held Thursday, September 20, 2018 in the A.G. Auditorium.

Mr. Galvin Billups, Executive Director of the City of Birmingham's Division of Youth Services, served as the guest speaker for the occasion. He spoke to the inductees about the importance of being involved and putting forth the best effort to achieve goals.

*Follow this link to view more pictures from the Student Induction and Installation ceremony:* https://flic.kr/s/aHsmsZDU2X
# Important Upcoming Dates & Events

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<td>Miss Lawson State Coronation</td>
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<td>October 18</td>
<td>60% Completion Date-Title IV Funds (Regular Term)</td>
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<td>November 1</td>
<td>Online Registration Opens for Spring Term</td>
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<td>November 8</td>
<td>General Faculty and Staff Meeting (Location-TBA)</td>
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<td>November 12</td>
<td>Veteran’s Day (State Holiday) College Closed</td>
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## Lawson State in Photos

Access Lawson State Community College on Flickr to see various events and activities of the college. Photographs should be found at this site within 48 hours of an attended event. Request for photography services can be made to the Office of Public Relations and Community Affairs. Also, feel free to send any high quality photos of an attended event to us for posting.

*Click here to view the entire photo collection: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/143557980@N07/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/143557980@N07/albums)*

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## Find LSCC on Social Media

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## Lawson State Historical Preservation Committee

“Preservation, Education and Celebration”

The Lawson State Historical Preservation Committee is committed to using the power of history to collect relevant documents, archival memorabilia for the purpose of preserving the historical legacy of Lawson State Community College and strengthening its historic relationship with neighboring communities.

The LSCC HPC meets every Wednesday at noon in Library Building D. If you would like to learn more about the HPC, email Margaret Osborne at LSCCHistoricalCommittee@lawsonstate.edu or visit their new Facebook page.