Lawson State Community College recently dedicated its new STEM Center of Excellence that now greatly expands opportunities for students interested in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) areas of study. The Center will merge the efforts of college-wide leadership with the development and implementation of STEM programs and activities.

“The Center for Excellence in STEM represents a cultural and an academic paradigm shift for Lawson State as a community college and as a historically black college and university (HBCU), said Dr. Calvin Briggs who serves as STEM Program Director and Mathematics instructor. “The Center is not only charged with supporting activities and programs to improve STEM instruction, persistence and completion, but to analyze and broadly disseminate STEM’s best practices.”

The goals of the center are to encourage the implementation of activities and strategies that are evidence-based but will be studied for effectiveness in the secondary and post-secondary settings. CESTEM will provide a model for how colleges and universities, specifically community colleges, can take a more direct, purposeful role with impacting the recruitment potential in the employment pool of STEM professionals.

“The center promises to be committed to advancing student recruitment, persistence and success in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics through research, education and workforce—in turn creating a wide variety of grant opportunities for the college,” said Dr. Perry W. Ward, president of Lawson State
Community College. “There are options for our students in careers that are beneficial to us, to the state and the US of America.”

The STEM faculty now represents additional instructors from various other disciplines, including mathematics, science, computer science, career technical programs and the Honors College, who will work to advance the goals of the STEM program.

“This is really an exciting opportunity for STEM students at Lawson State and will now provide even greater initiatives and let others see how excellent the program is,” said Isaiah White-Booth, a second year student in the STEM program. White-Booth participated in the Tuskegee University Material Science and Engineering Program (MSE-RU) Research Experience for Undergraduates in the summer of 2017 with a prior summer engagement in 2016 at Clark-Atlanta University. “I also see this as giving more access to STEM professionals, research, travel presentations and internships.”

The STEM program at Lawson State has been the recipient of major grant awards over the last few years, including a $1.9 million National Science Foundation (NSF) STEM Implementation grant in 2017, and (NSF) HBCU-UP grants of $1.2 million in 2005 and $1.9 million in 2011.

Some of the programs and initiatives of the Lawson State Center of Excellence in STEM have included:

- Pi-STEM E3 (Pathways into STEM Careers, Enrichment, Engagement and Empowerment) A $1.9 million NSF grant to increase the number of underrepresented minorities pursuing STEM career pathways
- GA-AL LSAMP (Georgia-Alabama Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation) A $3.5 million partnership led by Clark Atlanta that seeks to increase retention and graduation rates of STEM students who enter graduate STEM programs with Lawson State bridging the STEM pipeline from the two-year college setting to the university setting
- NASA (National Aeronautics and SPACE Agency) A $500,000 award seeking to bolster education in science, technology, engineering and math
- EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) A $200,000 award to operate an environmental job training program that advances environmental justice by providing opportunities for residents living in areas impacted by contaminated lands.
- MAKERS (Making to Advance Knowledge, Excellence and Recognition in STEM) A $1.9 million grant funded by the S-STEM of the NSF, led by Tuskegee University, with a goal to increase the retention and graduation rate of low-income, academically talented STEM undergraduates

See link for video of the CESTEM dedication: https://www.facebook.com/LawsonStateCC/videos/1420116801399343/

Learn more about our STEM programs: http://www.lawsonstate.edu/stem.aspx
Lawson State partners with Max Transit to launch the “Cougar Express” Pilot Program

Monday, August 21, 2017 marked the start of the new 2017-2018 academic school year at Lawson State Community College and also the beginning of a new partnership with BJCTA Max.

Representatives from Max Transit along with members of Lawson State’s administration, faculty, staff and students gathered on Birmingham’s West campus outside Academic Building A to await the first arrival of the Cougar Express.

“Many of our students have expressed the desire or need for transportation services that would provide greater access to classes and services between campuses,” said Dr. Perry W. Ward. “Lawson State offers many mirrored services and programs on each campus as well as unique courses of study. This new transportation option should help fill the void and put additional educational opportunities within the reach of many more.”

The pilot program of the Cougar Express offers free transportation back and forth to the Bessemer and Birmingham campuses providing service Monday through Friday. In order to ride, the commuter must have a Lawson State Community College I.D. and a one-day bus pass that can be picked up in the college’s Business Office on either campus.
Lawson State partners with the BCIA for community employment event

Lawson State Community College was a community partner for an employment event hosted by the Birmingham Construction Industry Authority (BCIA) on Thursday, August 17, 2017 at the Birmingham Crossplex.

An estimated number of 450 applicants came out to talk with local companies looking to fill positions. The companies represented were Johnson Bros. Corporation, Inland Seafood, Z Modular and RAM Tool Construction Supply Co.—all located in Birmingham.

Michael Bell, Executive Director of the BCIA, was excited to see so many citizens out seeking opportunities. “The growth of the city is paramount to our success as a community... This is just an example of four companies wanting to participate in the growth of Birmingham,” Bell said.

Interviews were conducted on-site with several offers for employment made on the spot.

“I had already researched Johnson Bros. Corporation to see who was in charge of the hiring process—what they would be doing exactly, and how long they were supposed to be in Birmingham, Alabama because I’m looking for a job where I can advance,” said Jasmine Stinson who was hired by Johnson Bros. at the event.

Lawson State also worked with the BCIA during a pre-hiring workshop held the evening before that provided information to jobseekers on resume essentials, professional attire and interview execution.

“One of the things I always give Dr. Perry W. Ward credit for is being community-minded—assisting persons with education and employment,” said Lorenza Thomas, Director of Community Outreach Initiatives at Lawson State. “I think that it is great when an educational institution comes in creating a marriage with employers. We work to educate persons for positions the employers are looking to fill.”

Mr. Thomas worked with the BCIA for several weeks to organize the hiring event and pre-hiring workshop along with Dorian Waluyn who serves as the Career & College Transfer Services Coordinator at Lawson State.

See link for photos of BCIA employment event: https://flic.kr/s/aHsmz2ApTi
Fall Registration held August 16-17

Cougar hospitality was on full display during fall registration for the beginning of the new academic school year. Lawson State Ambassadors greeted new, transfer and returning students while staff and faculty from each department were on-hand to assist with scheduling and answering any questions about the college, classes and programs offered.

What’s Right With Our Schools

WBRC Fox 6 News Anchor and Reporter Sarah Verser stopped by to chat with Dr. Perry W. Ward on Wednesday, August 30 for her educational segment, What’s Right With Our Schools which airs Tuesdays and Thursdays during the 5 p.m. newscast.

Dr. Ward discussed many topics during his interview with Sarah including the progressive growth of Lawson State, the college’s role in workforce development, and the historical visit of the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama.

Information about the airdate of Dr. Ward's segment of What’s Right With Our Schools will be released at a later time.
Lawson State will go mobile with new app!

This fall, the new *Lawson State APP* will be released to students, faculty, staff and visitors to our Lawson State Community College campuses.

It will provide on-the-go information through frequently visited pages of the [www.lawsonstate.edu](http://www.lawsonstate.edu) website.

Through this app, there will be able to access Blackboard, calendar events, the email system and other key services offered by Lawson State—all at your fingertips.

The app will also be an extension of the College’s commitment to provide resources that add to the overall success of our students.

Upon release, the app will be accessible through the iPhone and Android platforms by visiting the respective app stores.

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**Upcoming Events**

- **September 7 & 8**: Cheerleading Tryouts
- **September 11 & 12**: Get on Board/Volunteer Fair
- **September 13**: SGA Officers Installation & Phi Theta Kappa Induction
- **September 14**: Economic Summit
- **September 23**: Sound the Alarm (Red Cross Service Event)
- **October 10 & 11**: Ladies Health Expo
- **October 19**: Miss Lawson State Coronation
- **November 1**: Online Registration Opens for Spring Term
- **November 7 & 14**: Board Game Day
- **November 9**: General Faculty and Staff Meeting
- **December 4**: Study Café
- **December 8**: Last Day of Regular Term Classes
- **December 11-15**: Final Examinations (Regular Term)
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.

To view the entire photo collection: https://www.flickr.com/photos/143557980@N07/albums

Lawson State Live Radio Show

Ms. Geri Albright, Director of Public Relations and Community Affairs, hosts Lawson State Live every first and third Tuesday of the month on WATV 900 AM. If you are interested in promoting a program or activity, or even need just a few minutes to present information, call or email lbryant@lawsonstate.edu to schedule.

Find LSCC on Social Media

Lawson State Athletics- 2017 Volleyball Schedule

August
24 Miles College (Scrimmage) Birmingham, AL TBA
26 Wallace-Selma College Selma, AL TBA
29 Andrew College Birmingham, AL 6:00 PM
31 Bevill State Birmingham, AL 6:00 PM

September
6 Coastal AL CC- South Birmingham, AL 5:00 PM
7 Martin Methodist Pulaski, TN 6:30 PM
10 LaGrange College Gadsden, AL 3:00 PM
11 Bevill State Fayette, AL 6:00 PM
13 Sneed State Boaz, AL 6:00 PM
15-16 Lawson State Tournament Birmingham, AL TBA
18 Gadsden State Birmingham, AL 6:00 PM
21 Wallace-Hanceville Hanceville, AL 6:00 PM
25 Southern Union Birmingham, AL 6:00 PM
27 Wallace-Selma Birmingham, AL 7:00 PM
28 Coastal AL CC- East Birmingham, AL 6:00 PM

October
3 Andrew College Cullipher, GA 7:00 PM
6 Coastal AL CC- South Bay Minette, AL 6:00 PM
7 Coastal AL CC- East Brewton, AL 11:00 PM
10 Wallace-Hanceville Birmingham, AL 6:00 PM
12 Sneed State Birmingham, AL 6:00 PM
16 Wallace-Selma Selma, AL 6:00 PM
18 Southern Union Wardley, AL 6:00 PM
24 Gadsden State Gadsden, AL 6:00 PM
25 Martin Methodist (Soph Night) Birmingham AL 6:00 PM
November
1-3 ACCC Conference Tournament Boaz, AL TBA

CougarS

Dr. Perry W. Ward- President, Carlton Rice- Athletic Director, Aubrey Wiley- Volleyball Coach, Jamie Gill- Assistant Volleyball Coach