



# The Tale Twister

## Cullman Lions Club

July 29, 2019

### Program

Lion Philip Viverito introduced our program speaker, tonight, Dr. Vicki Karolewics, President of Wallace State Community College. Among her many achievements, Dr. Karolewics was appointed as Chairperson of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Commission on Student Success; she is also a member of the AACC Board of Directors, which represents 1,100 community colleges.



(L to R) Lion President Andrew Manning, Dr. Vicki Karolewics, and Lion Philip Viverito.

Wallace State Community College offers four Pathways for students to choose from as they begin their college career. The Pathways include four academic and career areas: Liberal Arts/General Studies, Applied Technology, Health Science and S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with many choices or branches under each of these major areas. Just to name a few: Nursing, Paralegal, Dental Assistant, Diagnostic Imaging, Engineering, Automotive Technology, Aviation Technology, Physical Therapy, Culinary Arts, Salon Management, Machine Tool Technology, Computer Science, Math, Poultry Science,

Robotics, HVAC & Refrigeration, Theater, Welding, etc. Vicki has much to be proud of about Wallace State, giving us one of its recent accomplishment, after another, after another. She had with her, Mr. Bob Davis, a renown author and history professor who has established a comprehensive library of genealogy at Wallace that provides that information, Nation-wide. Our Club donated funding for a scanner used in archiving data for this library. Vicki pointed out a recent article on a former Wallace State baseball player, Craig Kimble, who signed a 3-year contract with the Chicago Cubs for \$43 million. The Cubs also signed another Wallace ballplayer, Derek Hoffman for \$6.5 million. These two players were on the same team at Wallace when their team came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in the National Community College championship game. Dr. Karolewics mentioned that a satellite campus in Oneonta, started a couple of years ago, is doing better than expected with enrollment of 430. The main campus is currently at 5,100 students, an increase of 3% from last year. Wallace is receiving a Federal Grant of \$2 million for a new welding technology facility; this facility will also include space for new business enterprises in partnership with local technology companies and Cullman's Chamber of Commerce. Wallace is one of 4 community colleges to be awarded a \$12-million grant for establishing an apprenticeship program with businesses in Cullman and surrounding Counties & States. It also received another \$200,000 for apprenticeships with other non-factory business such as insurance, real estate, and banking. Wallace has worked with



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Alabama Governor Ivey to start pre-apprenticeship programs, serving students as young as 15. This moves students more quickly into true apprenticeship programs and then into good jobs. Vicki recalled the recent announcement of Wallace's partnership with Kubota Tractors to train future workers at Wallace for its factory jobs; students will be coming from all-over the Southeast to train for these jobs through Wallace State. Wallace is partnering with the National Association of Manufacturing (NAM) to bring in business mentors from various business to teach potential employee-students at Wallace, making them immediately able to contribute to those business when hired for work. Wallace has the largest nursing program in the State with 550 students; this program includes a partnership with UAB; students from both schools are able to take courses at both institutions, simultaneously. Wallace's passing rate for nursing certification is the highest in the State. There are 19 health programs; its new cardio-vascular track had 200 applicants for 80 available slots.

Dr. Karolewics recalled how local veterinarian, Dr. "Big Doc" Williams had pushed hard to get more agricultural studies at Wallace. This helped lead to a Farmer Training Program that educates farmers ready to farm and encourages students to then transfer to Auburn to pursue a 4-year degree. Vicki told how its geospatial technology course has led to defense contractors eager to hire 40 of Wallace's graduates. Wallace is offering training and courses in drone operation and technology. Wallace has a very strong transfer program; students that complete

courses there can transfer them to any college or university in the State. Wallace's success rate, which includes graduates with degrees and those still pursuing degrees, and students transferring to other colleges, is 91%; this is one of the top rates in the USA, and the very top in Alabama. Even its basketball team has something besides a great winning record - it has the highest GPA average in the Nation for a community college basketball team. The school's placement rate for students looking for jobs is an astounding 96%. Under Dr. Karolewics' leadership, Wallace State Community College has grown in a spectacular manner, developing into a gem of educational excellence.

### Other Business

Lion Doug Spradlin has assumed the coaching position of our Club's Olympic Curling Team. Try-outs to qualify for the team will be held as soon as the first pond in our area (or hell) freezes-over. Updates to follow on this. Lion Doug is following in Coach "Bear" Bryant's footsteps with his intention of gaining sponsorships from Coca-Cola and Lay's Potato Chips.



**Curling Coach Lion Doug encouraging his curling team's eager cheer leaders -- Lions Charlie Powell, Don Smith, Bruce Harbison, and Chris Robinson as they consider their first cheer.**



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The Lion President announced the passing of Lion Greg Young and encouraged prayers for Lion Greg and his family. The funeral was held Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>.

It was also announced that the Club would pay registration fees for any Lions wishing to attend Lions' Officer Leadership training that will be held August 10.

### Upcoming Programs and Events



Ms. Debra Laslie

August 5: Ms. Debra Laslie, owner of Deb's Bookstore.



Mr. Dan Stevens

August 12: Mr. Dan Stevens, whose topic will be the Veterans Day Celebration.

August 19: Alabama State Senator Garlan Gudger.



City of Good Hope Mayor Jerry Bartlett

August 26: Mayor of Good Hope, Mr. Jerry Bartlett.

September 2, 2019: No meeting. Labor Day.



Phyllis Little

September 9: Phyllis Little, Executive Director of Cullman County EMA.

September 16: Susan Elher.

### .Tale Twister Input

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).