



An International Organization for the  
Community College Baccalaureate Degree

# BEACON

P.O. Box 60210, Fort Myers, Florida 33906  
(239) 489-9012 • www.accbd.org

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## WHAT IS THE CCBA MISSION?

*To promote the development  
and acceptance of the  
community college  
baccalaureate degree as a  
means of addressing the  
national problems of student  
access, demand, and cost.*

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## Community College Baccalaureate Texas Update

Following the March 2002 Community College Baccalaureate Association meeting in Boston, discussion began in Texas regarding the unmet need for Associate of Applied Science degree graduates to further their education. While some four-year Texas colleges and universities offer a Bachelor of Applied Science or Technology degree, many are not accessible to local community college graduates.

In late March 2002, several Texas community colleges began pursuing what other states such as Arkansas, Utah, Nevada, and Florida have already successfully accomplished - offering a baccalaureate degree to allow A.A.S. graduates to obtain higher education. Five community colleges established a local need and indicated a desire to participate in this pilot project. These colleges are: Brazosport College, El Centro College of the Dallas Community College District, Midland College, a college of the North Harris Montgomery Community College District jointly selected by the coordinating board and the governing board of the district, and South Texas Community College.

House Bill 1544, sponsored by Representative Dennis Bonnen, was introduced during the Texas legislature biennial session for these five community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees. The bill would allow the colleges to offer either a Bachelor of Applied Science or a Bachelor of Applied Technology degree in a pilot project to extend through January 1, 2009. A progress report would then be due to the legislature and a determination would then be made for continuation of the project. A four-year teach-out period for existing students is included in the bill if the legislature decides to discontinue the project.

A second bill, H. B.1888, has many similarities to H.B. 1544 and was recently filed by Representative Geanie Morrison. Major differences in H.B. 1888 include the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board surveying the state and selecting three to five community colleges to participate in this endeavor. Another difference is that legislative reporting and teach-out dates are several years earlier than provided in H.B. 1544.

Given the uncertain and difficult economic conditions in Texas, it will be interesting to see which direction, if any, the Texas legislature pursues. We will be watching and waiting for further developments.



# Essay Contest Winner Announced

**David Tarrell Mckinney**

*Essay Contest Winner*



The Community College Baccalaureate Association announced the winner of a national essay contest during the third annual conference, "Closing the Degree Divide," that was held from March 14th to 16th in Phoenix.

Dr. Kenneth P. Walker, President, Community College Baccalaureate Association, awarded the winner, David Tarrell Mckinney, a \$1,000 prize for his essay, "Should My State Offer Four-year Degrees in our Community Colleges?"

Mr. McKinney, a full time student at Central Alabama Community College, Alexander City, Alabama, also accepted a check for \$1,000 on behalf of Central Alabama Community College President, Dr. James Cornell. Mr. Mckinney is an active member of Phi Theta Kappa and anticipates that the college award will be designated for the use of his chapter.

This was the first year the contest was held and it will be held again next year.

## 2003 CCBA Essay Contest First Place Winner

**David Tarrell Mckinney**  
**Central Alabama Community College**

***Should my state offer four-year degrees  
in our community colleges?***

Today there are over a thousand community colleges in the United States. They enroll more than 5 million credit students, representing almost half of all undergraduates in the United States. Nearly 55 percent of all first-time freshmen begin their higher education in a community college. Community colleges are a huge asset to higher education and the community in which they are located. That is why I think my state, Alabama, should make four-year degrees available at our community colleges.

How can society maintain and advance its economic prosperity? How can our state improve education? I believe that the answer lies within our community colleges. Improving community colleges to meet the high demand for education should start by offering four-year degrees. By doing this, students will be able to save money, maintain family and employee relationships better, and most importantly, answer society's demand for a more educated population.

To begin with, earning a four-year degree at a community college is cost effective. Annual tuition and fees at public community colleges average

*(continued on page 4)*

## 2004 CCBA Conference in San Francisco

The Fourth Annual Community College Baccalaureate Association Conference will be held in San Francisco from February 28 until March 1st. This is immediately before the League for Innovation Conference.

Next year's Opening Reception will be held on Saturday night and the majority of conference sessions will be held throughout Sunday and on Monday morning. This format change was made in response to members' suggestions that several additional events had been scheduled on the Saturday before the League conference. CCBA organizers welcome feedback about the scheduling change.

Nest year's conference will include a publication of papers and presentations. For that reason the "Call for Papers" deadline has been moved to September 1st, 2003. The format and form for this year's call is at [www.accbd.org](http://www.accbd.org).

## ***In the News...***

There has been a great deal of press lately about the issues of access to higher education, especially the role of the community college in improving access to baccalaureate degrees. Community College Week devoted its April 14, 2003 edition (Volume 15, Number 18) to the issues and featured the headline Baccalaureate Operating System, Version 2.0 as its cover story. The Chronicle of Higher Education's April 11, 2003 (Vol. 49, Issue 31) edition contained an article, Making Waves in Miami, by Jamilah Evelyn. Please call 239-947-8085 if you would like a copy of either of these articles.

# Pioneer Award Presented to Ron Remington

Dr. Ronald Remington was presented the First Annual CCBA Pioneer Award for his vision and success in addressing the issues of access for students at Great Basin College in Elko, Nevada where he was president from 1989 until 2001. He led Great Basin to offer some of American's first community college baccalaureate degrees. Ron Remington has been President of the Community College of Southern Nevada since 2001.



Dr. Kenneth Walker and  
Dr. Ronald Remington

Dr. Remington holds a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno. He earned both an M.A. and B.A. in psychology from Humboldt State University. He also serves as a commissioner for the Commission on Colleges and Universities for the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and was recently the president of the Mountain States Association of Community Colleges. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Community College Baccalaureate Association.

## Closing the Degree Divide 2003 Conference Deemed a Success

Despite the challenges of walking distance, rain and competitive events, the 2003 CCBA Conference was deemed a success. Conference evaluations (and there were plenty!) were unanimous about the value of this event as a learning experience. Attendees mentioned the following as "things liked most":

"Opportunity to dialogue with colleagues," "Everything was very informative," "Content was on target," "The feisty presenters," "Variety, diversity of presenters," "Breadth of presentations," "Case studies," "Excellent scheduling of sessions," "Networking," "Discussion groups," "Interaction," and "A sharing of ideas and programs, a lot has unfolded in 3 short years."

### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

College/Campus \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

College Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Information: Check One.

- | Membership Level                              | Annual Dues                                   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional Member | \$500.00                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member    | \$100.00                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New CCBA Member      | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing CCBA Member |

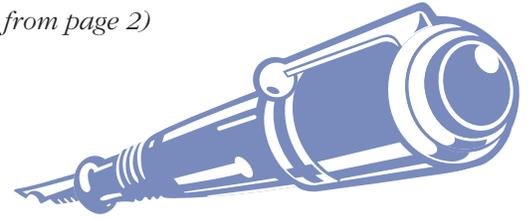
### Payment Information:

Please submit payment by check in U.S. dollars, payable to Community College Baccalaureate Association

Please return this form with your check to: Laurie McDowell, Director  
Community College Baccalaureate Association  
P.O. Box 60210  
Fort Myers, FL 33906-6210

## 2003 CCBA Essay Contest... *(continued from page 2)*

approximately half those at public four-year colleges and less than 15% of private four-year institutions. Also, since most community colleges are generally close to the student's home, the student will save a significant amount of money on room, board, and transportation expenses traditionally associated with a college education.



Knowing that one can earn a baccalaureate degree more cheaply at a community college will encourage more people to attend college. Offering a four-year degree at a community college will allow the students to be closer to their families. It will also allow them to continue their employment relationship. Many students are place-bound due to family or a job. Offering a four-year degree at community colleges will save many students the heartache of leaving their loved ones and leaving their jobs.

Higher education is very critical to our social welfare. That is why it is important that my state be more educated. Allowing community colleges to offer four-year degrees is one solution to higher education. Education is necessary for my state to move up to the next level but society has to allow education to be disbursed equally to the population. Community colleges offering four-year degrees will be the force that will allow every person who wants to go to college a chance to receive a degree without all the hassles and expenses that are associated with attending universities.

In conclusion, it is very important that my state offer four-year degrees in our community colleges. These colleges play a big role in education and allow many people who would otherwise never have attended a chance to attend college. Offering four-year degrees makes community colleges more serving to the needs of the student and offers a more affordable way to attain a baccalaureate degree. Alabama community colleges can play a big role in the twenty-first century by offering four-year degrees.

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