



## **2023-2024 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



# Message from the President...

As I complete my first year as Copiah-Lincoln Community College's ninth president, I feel immense gratitude for the opportunity to serve Co-Lin's students, faculty, staff, and all of the Co-Lin family in this role. It was a year of both triumphs and challenges, which we worked through together for the betterment of our students and institution.

My theme for the year was "Endless Possibilities," and I hoped this would serve as a reminder of all that we can accomplish when we utilize our strengths to take Co-Lin to the next level. My goals were straight forward. One, successfully complete the SACSCOC off-site report and prepare for the on-site visit that will take place in October 2024. Second, continue our focus on student recruitment and retention efforts. And third, continue campus upgrades as funding allows.

I believe we accomplished these goals and more. The administrative team was pleased to receive excellent feedback from the SACSCOC off-site team, and we feel confident that we are prepared to welcome the on-site team to our campuses to show them why Co-Lin is known as The Place To Be. Our student success rate was the highest of all 15 community colleges in Mississippi, showing our increased efforts in recruiting, advising, retaining, and graduating our students is paying off.

My roots at Co-Lin run deep, going all the way back to my days as a high school student visiting Co-Lin for the first time as a participant in the Upward Bound program. Then as a student-athlete at Co-Lin playing for the men's basketball team and then to starting my career at Co-Lin and working my way through various leadership



roles to where I am today. I care deeply about the success of our students, our faculty and staff members, and the institution.

As I look to the future and what we hope to accomplish in the year ahead, I want to thank our Board of Trustees, my dedicated administrative team, and all those in our seven-county district and beyond that have supported the college in any way. Your support is vital to the college.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dewayne Middleton".









## *Distinguished Chapter*

The Eta Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) on the Wesson Campus was named a Top 100 chapter out of almost 1,300 PTK chapters across the nation. Only 34 chapters were recognized as Most Distinguished Chapter. Incoming Eta Omega Chapter President Clifton Jernigan of Eupora was honored with the Distinguished Chapter Member award.



- ◆ Kortne Nelson of Brookhaven was selected as a Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholar. She was one of only 50 students nationwide selected for this prestigious honor.
- ◆ Sophomore Colton Fuqua of Houlka was named a Lyceum Scholar at the University of Mississippi, earning him a full-tuition transfer scholarship.
- ◆ Two Co-Lin students were selected for national Mu Alpha Theta Scholarships, William Clark of Taylorsville and Kortne Nelson of Brookhaven. Only three scholarships were given nationwide and Co-Lin was proud to claim two.





# Research Partnership

Practical Nursing students from the Simpson County Center partnered with Brown University's School of Public Health to conduct environmental epidemiology research in Simpson County. Practical Nursing student Keshia Fuller and Shakayla Taylor assisted in completing baseline health study visits for enrolled children living in Mendenhall and D'Lo. The Mississippi Adolescent Environmental Health Study is a research study whose aim is to understand how a child's environment may impact their health throughout their young lives.



◆ The Adult Education department successfully graduate nearly 100 students who received their High School Equivalency diploma.

◆ William Winter Scholars Katherine Gifford (WC), Ava Landry (NC), and Lauryn Little (SCC), were recognized at the 35th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

◆ The Alpha Alpha Zeta Chapter of PTK on the Natchez Campus earned numerous awards at the Mississippi/Louisiana Regional Conference including Top Ten Honors in Action, Top Three in Theme for Honors in Action, Horizon Advisors Beth Richard, Betty Jo Harris, and Cheryl Hunt; and Golden Key Recipient Adara Blalock.



Medical Laboratory Technology student Jordan Parker of Natchez was named the Medical Laboratory Technology Student of the Year by the ASCLS-MS.

Logan Case of Wesson received the Mississippi State University Presidential Partnership Scholarship.





## NISOD Award

Angela Smith-Wilkinson was named the NISOD Excellence Award recipient. An instructor in the Science Division, Wilkinson has been employed at the college since 2005. NISOD's Excellence Awards recognize men and women each year who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues. Wilkinson was recognized during NISOD's annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence in May.



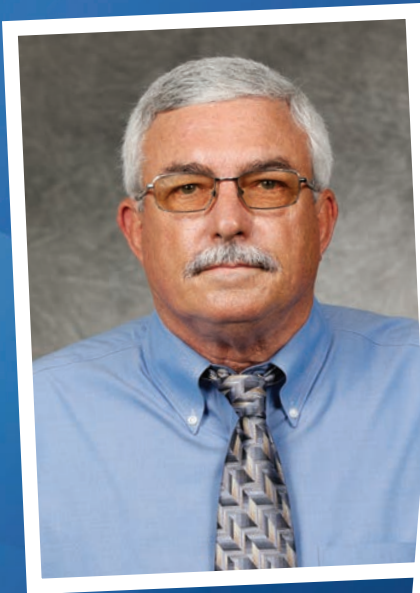
## Outstanding Citizen of the Year

Dr. Dewayne Middleton was named Outstanding Citizen of the Year by the Magee Chamber of Commerce. He was recognized during the "Make It Magee" chamber banquet held in March at Blueberry Peace Farm. Dr. Middleton was also honored as the Outstanding Citizen in 2015. Pictured with Dr. Middleton are Dr. Anika Floyd and Nichole Cheramie.





- ◆ Dr. Dewayne Middleton received the Phi Theta Kappa Paragon Award for new college presidents.
- ◆ Head Football Coach Glenn Davis was named MACCC South Coach of the Year.
- ◆ Head Softball Coach Meleah Howard was named NJCAA Gulf B District Coach of the Year.
- ◆ Automation & Control Engineering Instructor Mandy Case was named Co-Lin's Educator of the Year by the Brookhaven-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce.
- ◆ Simpson County Center English Instructor Janie Blakeney was honored as the Humanities Instructor of the Year.
- ◆ Director of Enrollment Services Jordan Stephens was honored as Co-Lin's Educator of the Year by the Wesson Chamber of Commerce.
- ◆ Kina Leggett (WC) and Tiffany Woods (NC) successfully completed the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy.
- ◆ Career-Technical Instructors Andy Cain, Shanna Clark, Kelly Fenwick, and Paula Yarborough completed the CTE Institute for Teaching & Learning (ITL).
- ◆ Natchez Campus Business Office Manager Michelle Boyd received the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Award.
- ◆ Natalie Davis was named the MACCC Sports Information Director of the Year.
- ◆ Keith Stovall (WC), Lacye Schmidt (NC), and Kathy Graves (SCC) were recognized at the 35th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration as William Winter Scholars.





# Institutional SUCCESS



## Business of the Month

Co-Lin's Natchez Campus was named Business of the Month by the City of Natchez, Adams County Board of Supervisors, Natchez Business and Civic League, and Natchez-Adams Chamber of Commerce.

## Awards

- ♦ For the fourth time, Co-Lin was recognized as an Aspen Institute Top 150 Community College, eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.
- ♦ The U.S. Department of Education awarded the Simpson County Center over \$1.4 million in funding to establish an Upward Bound Program.
- ♦ The college was awarded \$1.6 million dollars from FEMA for phase 1 of a multi-use community safe room that will also be used as an athletic facility to house our men's and women's basketball team, new women's volleyball team, and to host graduation and other college events.

**UPward Bound**  
CO-LIN SIMPSON COUNTY CENTER

**ASPEN PRIZE**

FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

aspen institute

**TOP 150**

**2023**





- ◆ Co-Lin ranked No. 1 in Student Success on the 2022 Report Card released earlier this year by the Mississippi Community College Board.
- ◆ The Respiratory Care Technology program on the Natchez Campus successfully received another 10 years of accreditation from the ARC.
- ◆ The college was honored as a Partner in Education by the Doll's House Mission Home for Women.
- ◆ The Adult Education department successfully graduated nearly 100 students who received their High School Equivalency diploma.
- ◆ Co-Lin and Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine established an Early Assurance Program for qualified premedical students who graduate from Co-Lin and then attend an undergraduate program of their choice. The partnership grants those students early assurance of admission to the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- ◆ Co-Lin received WIOA funding through Central MS Planning and Development District for the addition of career coaches at all three campuses. Career coaches assist students with academic support, industry experience opportunities, job shadowing, application guidance, career counseling, and financial literacy education.





# Fourth in the Nation

The Lady Wolves softball team ended the 2023-2024 season with the MACCC Conference Championship, Region 23 Runner-up, and finished fourth in the nation at the DII NJCAA Softball World Series.

After winning the 2024 MACCC Championship in April, the first regular season championship in program history, the Co-Lin Softball team sets their eyes on defending their Region 23 Championship. The Lady Wolves hosted one half of the NJCAA Region 23 Semifinal Softball Tournament May 3-5. The No. 2 Lady Wolves used a dominant show of force to secure their spot in the Region 23 Championship and punch their ticket to the national tournament in a 9-1 win over the No. 11 Lady Bengals.

The Lady Wolves then faced the Bobcats of Jones for the Region 23 Championship on May 11 at Lady Wolves Field in Wesson. The game started with an offensive flurry, but the Lady Wolves could not hold off a late rally by the Bobcats as they won 7-5. Both teams advanced to the NJCAA Softball World Series.

Co-Lin's Lady Wolves had a strong showing at the NJCAA Division II World Series. After dropping the first game of the series, the Lady Wolves then went on to win five straight elimination games to keep their season alive. Ultimately, the Lady Wolves came up short against the Lady Aggies of Murray State to end their season and finish fourth overall in the nation with a 47-7 season record.



◆ Madison Moak of Brookhaven was named Co-Lin's first ever Rawlings Gold Glove Award recipient, NFCA First Team All-American, NJCAA Most Outstanding Offensive Player, NJCAA First-Team All-American, NFCA All-South Region First Team, NJCAA All-Tournament Team, CSC Academic All-American, and All-MACCC First Team. The University of Southern Mississippi signee broke the single season and career hits records (157) this season.

◆ Abby Grace Richardson of Brookhaven was named MACCC Player of the Year, NFCA First Team All-American, CSC Academic All-American, NJCAA Third Team All-American, NFCA All-South Region First Team, and All-MACCC First Team. This season, the Mississippi State University signee broke the career RBI and home run records as well as the single season and career walks records.

◆ Cara Biswell of Brandon was named NFCA All-South Region First Team and NFCA Second Team All-American. During her career, she set the career appearances, starts, and wins records while also having two Top-5 single season strikeout marks, while her career 278 strikeouts are the second-most in program history.

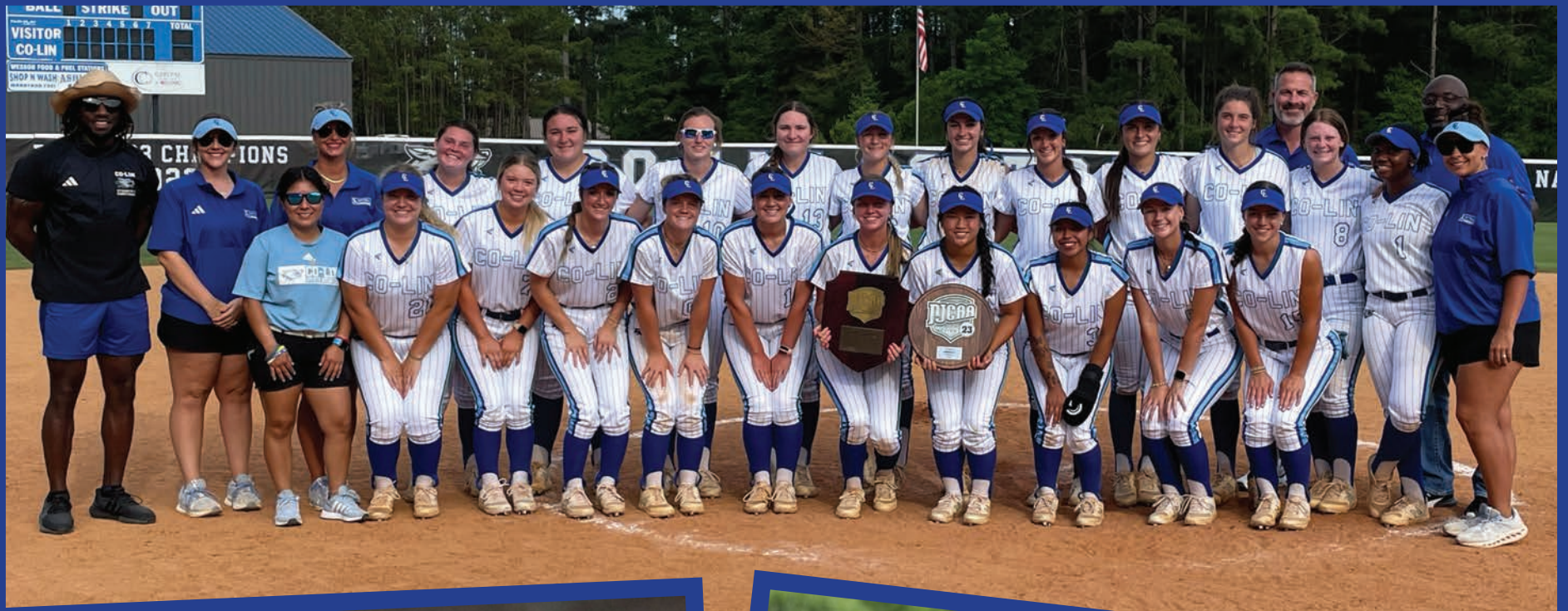
◆ Zykeria Cole of Magee was named CSC Academic All-American and Emily Richarde of Lakeland, Tenn. was named to the NJCAA All-Tournament Team.



BALL	STRIKE	OUT
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
TOTAL		

VISITOR  
CO-LIN

WEATHER FOOD & POOL STADIUM  
SHOP N' WASH ADULTS





## A Season for the Books



The 2023 Co-Lin Football team had a season for the record books finishing 10-2 overall, 5-1 in MACCC South Division play, hitting the 10-win mark for just the second time in program history. The Wolves started the season off winning their first two games of the season including an upset of then No. 8 East Mississippi for head coach Glenn Davis' 100th career win at Co-Lin.

The Wolves then picked up their first loss of the season on the road at Jones and then rattled off seven straight wins including a win over Northwest Mississippi in the MACCC Semifinals before falling to East Mississippi in the MACCC Championship game. The Wolves capped off the season with a win over No. 10 Navarro in the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl.



Three football players were named NJCAA All-Americans. Johnnie Daniels and Billy Pullen were selected as First Team, and Navarion Benson was selected as second team.



- ◆ Women's Tennis was named MACCC All-Academic Team of the Year with a team GPA of 3.81, earning them the top honor among all women's tennis programs.
- ◆ Golf was named MACCC All-Academic Team of the Year with a team GPA of 3.9, the highest GPA of any athletic team across all community college athletic programs in the MACCC.
- ◆ Co-Lin men's and women's soccer teams made the playoffs for the second straight year. Sophomore Charlie Cooper was named NJCAA All-Region 23 and All-MACCC First Team, and Alfie Lally was named All-MACCC First Team.
- ◆ Men's Tennis finished fourth in the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament and secured an at-large bid to the NJCAA Division I National Tournament. Sophomore Arne Sohmer was the first tennis player in Co-Lin history to win a backdraw championship at the national tournament.
- ◆ Co-Lin had 105 student-athletes earn MACCC Academic All-State student-athlete honors. The Co-Lin Women's Soccer team led all teams with 20 student-athletes earning honors, while baseball had 18 with softball and football adding 16 honorees each. The Co-Lin Golf team had all six members make the Academic All-State teams.
- ◆ Co-Lin set a new school record for the number of athletes honored by the NJCAA with 69 athletes receiving a spot across the three NJCAA All-Academic Teams.
- ◆ Six teams were honored as NJCAA Academic Teams of the Year: Men's Golf, Women's Tennis, Women's Soccer, Men's Tennis, Softball, and Baseball.





# Campus Renovations

The college continued its efforts to renovate and update facilities. Renovations were completed at the Co-Lin Softball facility in January of 2024, including a new press box/concession stand, seating, coach's office, president's suite, players lounge, laundry/storage, and restrooms. Phase two of renovations on Ellzey Hall were completed. This phase included all exterior work on the facility including sidewalks, lighting, entry ways, ADA compliance, etc. Ellzey is now ready for the final stage of renovation, all interior work, to be ready for use. A project with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) began on campus in May. The MDOT grant funds in the amount of \$938,658 are being used to construct new sidewalks, add speed tables, and replace fencing in the areas around Fortenberry Career-Technical Building and Stone Stadium.





The Co-Lin Foundation received gifts of more than \$1,070,000.00 during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, exceeding one million for the first time since the late nineties. This includes scholarship support, program support, general contributions, and funds from special events. The Foundation provided more than \$1 million in support to the college, including approximately \$470,000.00 in student and faculty scholarships, \$270,000 for athletics, and more than \$150,000 in instructional support and building projects. The current value of the assets of the Foundation is approximately \$10.5 million.



Six new members were inducted into the Foundation Hall of Fame including Rex Lumber, Richard Womack Construction, Barbara Ann Richardson, Lorraine Stephenson, Leisa Stuart McElreath, Mary Jane James, and Dr. Stephanie and Brent Duguid.



The Foundation purchased new dishware and glasses for the Culinary Arts Technology program. Pictured are Dr. Sharolyn Magee, Dean of Career and Technical Education, Angela Furr, Foundation Executive Director, Abby Rials, Culinary Arts Instructor, Dr. Dewayne Middleton, Co-Lin President, and Jackie Martin, Wesson Campus Vice President.





## — Homecoming Scenes —

Homecoming, as always, is a highlight of the year. So many alumni, retirees, friends, and Co-Lin supporters traveled back to campus to celebrate Homecoming 2023. Homecoming week was packed full of fun events including a 5K Glow Run, live music, s'mores, karaoke night, and the annual homecoming pep rally. We honored award recipients at our annual award reception, visited with retirees at a retiree brunch hosted at the president's home, and enjoyed the largest tailgate party we've

seen in recent years at Stone Stadium prior to the football game. Homecoming Queen T'Myah Denson was crowned, and maids Annalyse Layton, Reagan Newman, Kamryn Bridges, Baylee Zumbro, Kennedy Wilson, Carlee Case, Miranda McDaniel, and Riana McLemore were presented at halftime during the football game where the Wolves defeated the East Central Community College Warriors 40-34 in overtime.









# Board of TRUSTEES

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Melton King, *Chairman*  
Lynwood Easterling  
Charles "Chuck" Gilbert  
Zandra McDonald-Green  
Jason Lynch  
Dante Weir

## **Copiah County**

Dr. Troy Stewart, Sr., *Vice Chairman*  
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Chris Barrentine  
Ray Brown, Jr.  
Mary Cleveland  
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## **Simpson County**

Steven Ammann  
Chris Dunn  
Dr. Paul Lawrence







The Co-Lin Board of Trustees passed a resolution on August 3, 2023, in honor of long-time Board Member Tommy Sasser's many years of service to the college. Board Chairman Melton King and President Dr. Dewayne Middleton presented the Sasser family with a copy of the resolution.



Dr. Adrian Hammitte of Fayette was recognized for five years of service to the college, Lynwood Easterling of Natchez for 20 years of service, and Board Chairman Melton King of Natchez was honored for 35 years of service.

## REVENUE FUNDS

Tuition and Fees	\$ 9,592,087.00
State Appropriations	\$12,522,854.00
County Appropriations	\$ 4,976,403.00
Federal Grants/Contracts	\$ 9,450,311.00
State Grants/Contracts	\$ 3,095,243.00
Local Grants/Contracts	\$ 411,254.00
Sales and Services	\$ 6,452,143.00
Transfers	\$ 500,000.00
Other Revenues	\$ 633,431.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,633,724.00</b>

## EXPENSES (by Function)

Instructional	\$15,850,601.00
Instructional Support	\$ 751,746.00
Student Services	\$ 4,818,980.00
Institutional Support	\$ 6,165,657.00
Physical Plant	\$ 6,020,838.00
Auxiliaries	\$ 4,653,689.00
Debt Services	\$ 1,258,647.00
Financial Aid	\$ 8,113,564.00
Transfers	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,633,724.00</b>



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