

1ST QUARTER
2025

ACCS ADDED
\$**8.1**
BILLION
IN INCOME
TO THE
ALABAMA ECONOMY

Alabama's 24 community colleges generate \$8.1 billion for the state's economy

According to an independent report by Lightcast, a global leader in labor market analytics, students and alumni of the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) contributed \$8.1 billion to the state's economy, an amount equal to about 3% of Alabama's total gross state product.

"The ACCS enriches the lives of students by raising their lifetime earnings and helping them achieve their individual potential," the report states. "The colleges benefit state and local taxpayers through increased tax receipts and a reduced demand for government-supported social services."

The report also states Alabama's community colleges support 114,043 jobs in Alabama, which is

equivalent to one in every 26 jobs. Some students, who might have otherwise left Alabama for higher education, stayed because of the opportunities available at the state's community colleges. In the 2023-24 school year, 3% of ACCS students were from out of state, with some relocating to Alabama specifically to attend a community college.

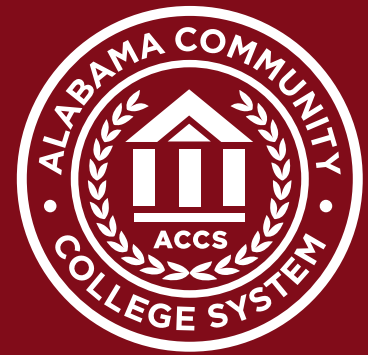
While the ACCS plays a role in attracting and retaining talent, its greatest impact comes from its alumni. In FY 2023-24 alone, ACCS alumni generated \$6.9 billion in added income, supporting the equivalent of 96,200 jobs in Alabama.

Over the years, the ACCS has become the largest training entity in the state. Its graduates and students have gained valuable

skills and knowledge, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to Alabama's workforce.

Individually, students can expect a more than reasonable return on investment from their 2-year education. For every dollar a student invests in their education with the ACCS, they can expect to gain \$5.60 in lifetime earnings. Alabama's 2-year college system generates more tax dollars than it takes. State taxpayers will see \$1.20 in added tax revenue and public sector savings for every dollar invested into the system. Society will also benefit \$6.50 in added incomes and social savings for every dollar.

View the full report at www.accs.edu/impact/.



**FROM CHANCELLOR
JIMMY H. BAKER**

As we welcome the new year, we are reminded of the incredible opportunity to make a lasting difference in the lives of Alabamians. The Alabama Community College System remains committed to equipping students with the education and training they need for rewarding careers here at home.

By collaborating with local businesses and industries, our 24 community and technical colleges ensure that courses meet the evolving needs of employers. Together, we create pathways to success for students, strengthen families, and support our state's vibrant economy.

This year holds even greater promise for us to expand our impact, foster innovation, and further the mission to make life better for the people we serve. Thank you for your dedication and partnership as we work together to transform lives.

Breaking into cybersecurity



Photo: Trenholm State Cybersecurity Fellowship students Michaela Jones and Amari Raye

The ACCS has teamed with Advantage Consulting & Solutions to launch the inaugural cohort of the Alabama Cybersecurity Fellowship Program, giving students both classroom lessons and hands-on training in cybersecurity.

Thanks to funding from Innovate Alabama, students at Wallace-Dothan, Enterprise State, and Trenholm State Community Colleges will begin a 16-week internship course in Spring 2025, earning \$18 per hour and three college credits toward their computer science degree.

"It's been hard for cybersecurity students to find these opportunities," said Dr. Abby Carter, ACCS Associate Director of Computer Information/Technology Instructional Programs. "This fellowship solves that problem."

Advantage Consulting & Solutions offers students a simulated computer network

environment, mimicking commercial and public sector networks, to provide hands-on cybersecurity experience without exposing sensitive information.

"We're helping students start at the basics, providing them the tools and knowledge they need to prevent these common mistakes and protect systems in the real world," said Kelvin Seldon, CEO of Advantage Consulting & Solutions.

Trenholm State Community College student Amari Raye will be among the first participants. "First, I love cyber security. Since I gained an interest over time as a child with computers, I thought cyber security, protecting people and keeping them safe with their information would be the best thing for me," said Raye.

The ACCS announces expansion of healthcare training programs

The ACCS announced plans to expand its Health Science offerings across the state's community colleges in 2025, specifically showcasing the new Nursing Support Technician-Certified option in a press conference conducted at the Alabama Archives and History Auditorium.

Nursing Support Technicians gain advanced skills in tasks like drawing blood, assisting with respiratory care and other fundamental nursing functions.

The Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN) announced the new nursing credential, aiming to fill more than 2,000 current vacancies in the state.

"The NST-C gives us an opportunity to lead and create a dynamic shift in the nursing industry, and we are proud to explore creative, innovative and sound approaches to address the industry's toughest challenges," said Peggy Benson, Executive Officer for the ABN.



Photo: ACCS health science students

Greg Reed, the newly appointed Alabama Senior Advisor for Workforce Transformation and former President Pro Tempore of the Alabama Senate, has observed how the ACCS Makes Life Better for Alabamians in all walks of life.

"Alabama's workforce is vital to the success of our economic future. Ensuring that Alabamians across the state continue to receive quality training and educational opportunities to bolster their skillsets is a

huge factor for workforce development, and I could not be more grateful for partners like the Alabama Community College System and their efforts in this most important work," said Reed.

The ACCS Innovation Center's Skills for Success team will help facilitate, develop and train individuals interested in the newest program with assistance from Alabama's community colleges.

ALM celebrates 90 years as the voice of Alabama's municipalities

By: Greg Cochran,
ALM Executive Director

This year, the Alabama League of Municipalities will proudly celebrate our 90th anniversary on May 15! Since our inception, the League has worked to strengthen municipal government through advocacy, training and the advancement of effective local leadership.

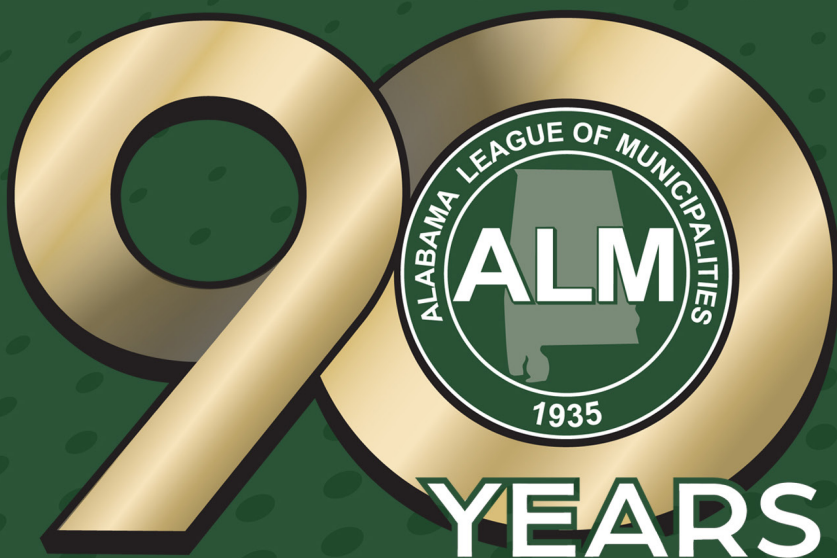
Representing more than 450 municipalities, we have created several programs to better serve our communities including: Municipal Revenue Services, the Municipal Workers' Compensation Fund, the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation and Municipal Intercept Services. Furthermore, in partnership with the Alabama Community College System, we created the Economic Development Academy in 2021 to

provide guidance on best practices for recruiting economic investment. In 2022, we accepted the Alabama Communities of Excellence program under our umbrella of services to provide strategic and comprehensive planning resources to communities with populations from 2,000 to 18,000. Each of these programs was intentionally created to provide our municipalities with the best resources and tools to build vibrant communities.

During the 2024 legislative session, our team spearheaded legislation mandating training minimums for municipal officials to provide them with the foundations of municipal government. We are proud to offer training during conferences and online through our partnership with the ACCS. We appreciate Chancellor Jimmy H. Baker and the ACCS for their commitment to strengthening our communities.

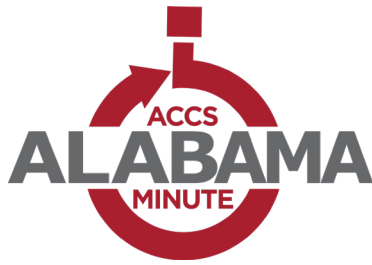
Lastly, we recently launched a quality-of-life campaign, entitled Live Locally Alabama, to encourage civic engagement, instill community pride and highlight the crucial role municipal government plays in the daily lives of Alabama's citizens. We encourage you to support the campaign and to learn more about our programs at almonline.org.

CELEBRATING



Serving as the **VOICE** of
Alabama's Municipalities





Alabama Community College System
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Montgomery, AL 36130

SCAN QR CODE



WWW.ALABAMA.EDU
Make life better with Alabama's 24
community and technical colleges.

TELL YOUR STORY



ACCS COMMUNICATIONS
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Classrooms that teach life, not just curriculum



Photo courtesy of Calhoun Community College: Ernest Williams, Math Instructor and Department Chair

Alabama community college students push themselves to succeed with hands-on training, as early as their first semester. At Alabama's 24 community and technical colleges, students gain real-world experience that helps them prepare for jobs and build careers.

At community colleges like Calhoun, students quickly realize how much the college invests in their success. Many faculty and staff were once students, with several having children who attend or have graduated. This connection highlights the lasting impact Alabama's community colleges have on families.

Ernest Williams, Math Instructor and Department Chair at Calhoun, knows this firsthand. His son, EJ, began his education at Calhoun before moving on to and graduating from Athens State University.

"A community connects people, welcomes all who come, and values each individual," said Williams. "When one of its members succeeds, the whole community succeeds. A community college teaches more than principles and concepts; a community teaches life. That is the power of a community college education."

Williams hears from students regularly about how the community college experience changed their lives. They speak of the personal attention, support from faculty, and real-world training that helped prepare them

for their futures.

"I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for the incredible foundation Calhoun provided me during my first real college-level course in Calculus A," said Dual Enrollment graduate John Savoy. "The passion of its mathematics faculty and dedication to teaching truly revealed the beauty and power of the subject to me. I am grateful for my outstanding professor, Mr. Ernest Williams. I am confident that his impact on me will extend far beyond my own experience."

EDITOR'S NOTE

An earlier version of the Q4 2024 newsletter misstated that Coastal Alabama Community College secured third place. The correct information is that Central Alabama Community College achieved third place in the national Clash of Trades Championship. Read full story here:



<https://www.accs.edu/blog/2025/01/14/accs-students-crush-competition-in-clash-of-trades-championship/>