



NEWS (REVISED)
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2009
CONTACT: Jerome Saintjones, 256.372.5607

Two-Year College Students Offered Gold Mine at AAMU!

Huntsville, Ala. ---- A large number of graduates of Alabama's public community and technical colleges have an opportunity to complete a four-year program free at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville or Alabama State University in Montgomery this fall, according to the Alabama Community College System (ACCS). Locally, starting this fall, up to 250 graduates **with at least 2.0 GPAs** could work toward an AAMU degree, while that number could swell to 500 in subsequent years through 2018.

At a recent news conference at the Alabama State House, officials from two-year and four-year institutions announced a major new Transfer Scholarship Program intended to help students with associate degrees move up the educational ladder and obtain their bachelor's degrees.

The Transfer Scholarship Program is the result of \$1 million authorized by the 2009-2010 Education Trust Fund enacted during this year's regular legislative session.

"The Transfer Scholarship Program is a major step forward in providing increased educational access to the students of the Alabama Community College System," said ACCS Interim Chancellor Joan Davis. "This is extremely important during these difficult economic times. Our system serves more than half of all the state's freshmen and sophomores, and this is an excellent opportunity for our two-year graduates to obtain their bachelor's degrees on scholarship."

The Transfer Scholarship Program is open to any graduate of an ACCS community or technical college, Davis said. She noted that AAMU and ASU will determine the criteria for who will receive the scholarships.

"These innovative scholarships enable us to provide the full collegiate experience to a very important segment of the higher-education landscape," said A&M President Andrew Hugine.

"Two-year college transfer students often have demonstrated the tenacity and commitment to task that is so indicative of the students with whom we wish to share the legacy of our founder, Dr. William Hooper Council, " Hugine said.

-more-

**SCHOLARSHIP
GOLD MINE AT A&M!/Page Two**

In 2006, the Alabama State Board of Education approved a settlement agreement requiring the chancellor to make a good-faith effort to inform the Alabama Legislature of the need for the Transfer Scholarship Program and including it in ACCS's annual appropriation request through the year 2018. The Legislature responded, and this year, AAMU and ASU may provide up to 250 scholarships each to ACCS grads.

The settlement provides that in subsequent years, depending on funding appropriated to the program by the Legislature, AAMU and ASU may award up to 500 scholarships each, except for 2018, the final year of the program, when each institution may award up to 250 scholarships. Rep. John F. Knight, Jr., ASU's executive vice president and a recent AAMU honorary degree recipient, mounted the original lawsuit that resulted in the decree. "The Knight vs. Alabama Federal Court decree is continuing to help promote and fulfill one of the most basic tenants of the American dream, which is bettering oneself through education," said Dr. Knight. "The A&M-ASU Transfer Scholarship Program will give community college students an opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree while providing financial assistance as they enhance their education."

Knight said that owing to the effort before the court, tuition and fee scholarships are now available this fall that will allow community and technical college graduates to transfer to complete studies toward a four-year degree at either A&M or ASU. Dr. Knight stated the accomplishment "confirms that the court's decision continues to live, expand and impact numerous lives across Alabama for the better."

Graduates of an ACCS community or technical college wishing to apply for the scholarships at Alabama A&M University should contact Dr. Lloyd T. Walker, Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs & Undergraduate Studies & Dean, University College, at (256) 372-8754; E-mail: Lloyd.Walker@aamu.edu

###