



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TCC receives \$250,000 Grant for Vocational Rehabilitation

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Able Trust presented Tallahassee Community College with a three-year, \$250,000 grant to help provide educational opportunities for students with disabilities in Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties.

The grant award was announced at a press conference Wednesday, June 3 on TCC's main campus.

TCC is the only college to receive the grant this year – and one of two organizations in the state – as well as the first group in the North Florida region to receive the award. The College will match the grant with a \$250,000 commitment of its own.

“We are thrilled and honored to accept this award from the Able Trust,” said TCC President Jim Murdaugh. “This is a great opportunity for TCC to improve our service to a fantastic group of students.”

Jesse Panuccio, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity said, "Every Floridian who wants a job should be able to get a job, and together The Able Trust, Tallahassee Community College, and DEO are helping make that dream a reality. Gainful employment affirms the inherent worth of an individual, and it allows a person with disabilities to gain new relationships, gain new skills, and show the world that a disability is not a barrier to the life activities that everyone else enjoys."

“The Able Trust is very honored to partner with TCC & DEO on this important program to assist students with disabilities to find their career path and obtain employment that leads to their personal success,” said Susanne Homant, president and CEO of The Able Trust. “TCC has a long history of making sure that job seekers with disabilities are a part of Florida’s workforce and have equal opportunities to contribute to the state’s economy, as well as their own growth.”

Murdaugh, Panuccio, and Homant spoke at the press conference. Research indicates that for every dollar invested in vocational rehabilitation, \$13-26 are infused into the economy.

The Able Trust, also known as the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, is a 501(c)(3) public-private partnership foundation established by the Florida Legislature in 1990. Its mission is to be a key leader in providing Floridians with disabilities opportunities for successful employment. Since its establishment, The Able Trust has awarded more than \$33 million to programs throughout Florida, enabling thousands of Florida citizens with disabilities to enter the workforce. The Able Trust youth programs provide career development and transition to high school students with disabilities, helping to reduce the dropout rate and prepare young adults for a productive life beyond high school.

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