



For Immediate Release
Contact: Mary Sood
Director of Public Relations
Talladega College
msood@talladega.edu
257-761-6201

Talladega College Helps Classroom Assistants Earn Bachelors



Talladega, AL - Talladega College's Department of Education is forming a new cohort for substitute teachers, teacher aides and other elementary school paraprofessionals who would like to obtain a bachelor's degree. The cohort is designed for individuals who have taken most of their general education classes and aspire to become elementary or special education teachers.

Classes begin on June 11. For the next two years, during the fall and spring semesters, classes will meet in the late afternoons. Throughout most of the program, members of the cohort will be able to continue working as paraprofessionals in schools. However, they will be required to student teach during regular school hours for one semester.

"Many of the students joining the program previously attended a community college," said Dr. Rebecca McKay, dean of the Division of Social Sciences and Education at Talladega College. "In some cases, they felt the need to work before obtaining a bachelors degree and were fortunate to become teacher aides. But then they felt stuck. They have a salary and benefits, but much less than what a teacher would have. They are in the classroom every day. They have observed classroom instruction for years, so they have a body of knowledge that a younger student would be unlikely to have. However, their work schedules prevent them from taking the classes needed to obtain a bachelors and teach."

The cohort, which was created to address this dilemma, is uniquely designed to meet the needs of elementary school paraprofessionals. It is also open to other qualified applicants who would like to become teachers.

For more information, contact Dr. McKay at rmckay@talladega.edu or Dr. Rebecca Robinson at rwrbinson@talladega.edu.

About Talladega College

The oldest private Historically Black College in Alabama, Talladega College was founded in 1867 by two former slaves, William Savery and Thomas Tarrant. Talladega College is the home of the renowned Hale Woodruff Amistad Murals, which received rave reviews from *The New York Times* during a three-year, eight-city tour.