

**2020-2021**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



**Transforming** during challenging times



# President's Message

At the start of the 2020–2021 academic year, everyone at Walters State had already been challenged in unprecedented ways by a global pandemic. Our pride in celebrating the college's 50th anniversary at that time was bolstered by the fact that in the face of those persistent challenges, we have actually grown our mission of increasing the level of higher education in the region.

Staying true to our mission and keeping all eyes focused on the ultimate goal of student success is what has kept us grounded and on track for more than 50 years — the most recent of which under quite unusual circumstances. Every supporter of our institution and each faculty and staff member has contributed to our ability to overcome the challenges and expand our mission. That work and support means that:

- We can offer students in our service area two years of high-quality, low-cost coursework toward a four-year degree, including a digital media program added last year. A new articulation agreement with East Tennessee State University announced during the summer allows Walters State students who complete an associate degree in this in-demand field to transfer directly into ETSU's undergraduate program.
- Apprenticeships, in response to requests from local business and industry, are available to students at Walters State. The Division of Workforce Training worked with the Tennessee Department of Labor to launch programs that combine noncredit courses, credit courses and on-the-job experience. Apprenticeship students work full-time while learning and many will be placed in leadership positions after completion.

- Walters State graduates now have another pathway for completing bachelor's degrees in education, and also finishing their student teaching, in their home counties. The college has teamed with Western Governor's University to create a new teacher initiative called "Grow Your Own." Walters State transfer students will also receive a 5% tuition discount at WGU.
- The Walters State Newport Center was ready to open in spring 2021. Through a partnership between the city of Newport, the Cocke County Partnership and Walters State, the center occupies the historic Tanner Building. Classes offered include general education courses and technical courses in business and hospitality. Also available is workforce training for area employers, ranging from human resources to OSHA workshops, as well as customized training for local industry.
- Every student can gain access to high-speed internet and computer equipment needed for school. Through federal pandemic-relief dollars, the college has been able to distribute hotspot devices, which students can check out from the library. The funding also allowed us to increase the number of laptop computers available to students.

In addition to these expanded educational opportunities and services, we can be very proud of the role of longstanding academic programs in helping our students and the communities where they live, study and work. From law enforcement officers and emergency medical services professionals coming from our Public Safety Division, to health care professionals trained in one of eight programs in our Division of Health Programs, our graduates

are making a difference. Our appreciation for the work they are doing on the front lines of a deadly pandemic cannot be overstated.

No one could have anticipated the extent to which our resources and capacity for adapting to change would be strained during the 2020-2021 academic year. Having completed that most challenging period with an expanded capacity for providing access to invaluable and transformative education speaks well of our institution and everyone who stands in support of our mission.

*Tommy Muksa*



# College Celebrates **50<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary

Walters State celebrated a golden milestone this year — 50 years serving the residents of East Tennessee.

Throughout the year, the occasion was marked with congratulatory video messages from those grateful for the college's impact. Alumni, Walters State Foundation Trustees and faculty members all submitted messages. East Tennessee's own Dolly Parton thanked the college for helping students make their dreams come true.

Graduates received special lapel pins to wear during commencement ceremonies marking the anniversary celebration. Students had the

opportunity throughout the year to win prize packages including T-shirts, socks and water bottles. Yard signs sporting the 50th anniversary logo were made available and appeared on residential lawns and commercial properties throughout our service area.

Dr. Timothy Holder, former interim dean of behavioral and social sciences, and Rob Pratt, interim dean of humanities, hosted the college's first podcast, "Walters State at 50." The internet broadcast shared key points about the college's history. Featured guests included retired and current faculty members.



# FIFTY YEARS

# AT A GLANCE

## 1969

- On Feb. 7, 1969, State Board of Education names college in honor of Sen. Herbert S. Walters.
- Dr. James W. Clark becomes first president of Walters State on Aug. 1, 1969.

## 1970–71

- Classes begin in temporary spaces within the community — First Presbyterian Church, public library.
- Faculty and staff of 27 welcomes first 414 students on Sept. 23, 1970 — the first day of classes.
- All basic academic courses offered, except chemistry, physics and biology.
- Five career programs start: law enforcement, secretarial science, manufacturing, library and architectural technology.
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) grants the college correspondent status — the first step toward accreditation.



## 1971–72

- On Labor Day, faculty and staff move into the first wing of the first building, known today as the Dr. Jack E. Campbell College Center.
- School colors (red, white and blue) are chosen in a student election.
- The Tennessee Board of Regents is created to govern the State University and Community College System of Tennessee.
- The college becomes a GED testing center.
- Charter class of 56 students graduates.

## 1972–73

- SACS awards accreditation to WSCC.
- Off-campus courses initiated.
- Intercollegiate sports begin with basketball and baseball.
- The Early Learning Center opens.
- Faculty Council is established.
- Gallery, the college's literary magazine, publishes first issue.

## 1973–74

- "The Art Barn" is opened and made available to the art department.
- Mental health and computer science programs added.
- Groundbreaking held for what is now the Clifford "H" Bo Henry Center for Business and Technology.



### 1974–75

- Dr. Jack E. Campbell named second president of Walters State.
- College embarks on intensive institutional self-study.
- Career programs in nursing, production horticulture, tourism and recreation, accounting, management and radiology technology are implemented.
- Veterans, many returning from Vietnam, use G.I. Bill benefits at WSCC with 650 enrolling.
- The controversial regional prison project is halted, resulting in the college being deeded 34 acres for future expansion.
- The Walters State Foundation is established.
- Tennis courts, baseball fields, parking lot, an observatory, and a greenhouse constructed.
- U.S. Sen. Howard Baker delivers the commencement address to the fourth graduation class of 170 students.
- First Distinguished Faculty Member Award presented to Dr. Larry Fleming, professor of biology.

### 1975–76

- Drama program initiated.
- First honors ceremony held.

### 1976–77

- WSCC granted reaffirmation of accreditation.
- Construction begins on Humanities and maintenance buildings.
- Associate degree in applied science added.
- Team sports established in baseball, basketball, tennis and golf.
- Math and Behavioral/Social Sciences building, known today as the Doggett Mathematics and Behavioral/Social Sciences building, opens.

### 1977–78

- College Advancement Office created.
- President's faculty and student advisory councils established.
- Off-campus course offerings increased, and a facility is rented in Greeneville.

### 1979–80

- The Student Services area is completed, providing a new counseling center, a game room and office areas.
- Computer Science Technology Program approved.
- Nursing Program receives Board of Nursing approval.
- The 10th-year endowment campaign is implemented.

### 1980–81

- Humanities building, known today as the Judge William H. Inman Humanities Complex, opens.
- Nursing Program receives NLN accreditation.
- Walters State Alumni Association established.
- ACT testing implemented.
- Homecoming celebrated with the crowning of a Homecoming Queen.
- Special Services Program established.

### 1981–82

- Greeneville Center opens in a leased facility, full-time director appointed.
- Offices of services for individuals with disabilities, and career planning and placement opens.
- Saturday College, wellness program and student traffic court created.
- Successful fifth-year report to SACS completed.
- The art barn is razed and removed.
- Accreditation of architectural and industrial engineering technology programs achieved.
- Land acquired for construction of Baptist Student Union facility.



### 1982–83

- First Faculty Development Committee approved.
- Talented and Gifted program initiated.
- Student handbook and college catalog combined.

### 1983–84

- Off-campus advisory committees created.
- Foundation conducts first fund drive. College named administrative entity and grant recipient for District 2 under Job Training Partnership Act, known later as WIA; Job Skills Training Center created.
- First sculpture tour on campus arranged.
- Offices of Industrial Services and Planning and Research created.
- Administrative office in Sevierville opens.
- Computer Center opens, VAX11/780 computer installed.
- Tennessee Room opens; campus landscape project completed.

### 1984–85

- Remedial and developmental studies program established.
- Formal employee service award program initiated.
- New facility leased for Greene County Center.

### 1985–86

- Construction of the Sevier County Center completed.
- Racquetball courts donated.

### 1986–87

- Self-study process completed with visiting team.
- Basic Police Recruit Training Program developed.
- Tele-instruction offered.
- Centers of emphasis in computer science and accounting established.
- JTPA Summer Youth Program meets.
- Alumni clubs formed.

### 1987–88

- Morristown campus entrance columns constructed.
- Industrial Technology Program implemented with affirmation of accreditation from SACS.
- Additions to the technical education building completed.
- Basic Police Recruit School enrolls first students.

### 1988–89

- Semester system replaces quarter system.
- LRC (Library) renovated.
- First Artistic Harmonic Convergence/Sculpture Tour displayed.

### 1989–90

- Honors and Quality First programs implemented.
- A.S. degree program in computer science and a certificate program in basic emergency medical technology added.
- Internal audit office established.
- Turfgrass laboratory opens.
- Great Smoky Mountains Expo Center plans formulated.
- New college logo adopted.

### 1990–91

- Physical Therapist Assistant Program receives accreditation.
- Respiratory Care Technician Program enrolls first students.
- New Student Information Center established.
- Opportunities and Basic Skills Program for JTPA implemented.
- Small Business Development Center opens.



### 1991–92

- Mrs. Reese Marshall Ripatti donates 67 acres for new Sevier County Campus.
- College recognized as Exemplary College for Institutional Effectiveness.
- CDA Training Institution for Child Development Program certified.

### 1992–93

- Campus Compact adopted.
- College selected to offer Phi Theta Kappa/Kellogg Foundation Leadership program.
- SACS gives special citation for fifth-year accreditation status evaluation.
- Industrial Technology Degree program begins.
- Developed Tech Prep program. Received pre-planning fund for campus expansion.

### 1993–94

- Shared vision adopted.
- Total Quality Transformation program implemented.
- Respiratory Care Technician Program accredited.
- College receives approval of \$8.8 million in funding for campus expansion site development and new library.
- Center for Educational Technologies and Video and Teleinstruction Distance Learning Consortium established.
- Division of Mathematics and Science reorganized into two divisions.
- Construction of the Great Smoky Mountains Expo Center begins.

### 1994–95

- Walters State Claiborne County Extension Center opens to students.
- Greeneville/Greene County Center moves into former Laughlin Hospital in downtown Greeneville.
- Walters State celebrates 25th year.
- JTPA program receives Governor's Cup as outstanding program in the state.

### 1995–96

- Great Smoky Mountains Expo Center opens.
- Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel is guest speaker on campus.
- Certificate programs in industrial maintenance and pharmacy technician added.

### 1996–97

- New R. Jack Fishman Library opens.
- College park property across Davy Crockett Parkway from Morristown campus is purchased to house the college's Public Safety Center.
- Physical Therapist Assistant program receives accreditation.

### 1997–98

- McGuffin-Jolley Natural Science Building opens.
- Industrial Technology awarded continued full accreditation.
- Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic programs granted full accreditation.
- Culinary Arts and Medical Transcription programs added.

### 1999–2000

- College receives \$750,000 grant from Microsoft Corporation and the American Association of Community Colleges to develop Information Technology Program.
- Public Safety Division names first six area law enforcement officers to its new Hall of Fame.
- Medical Coding and Health Information Technology programs added.
- Maples-Marshall Hall, first building at the new Sevier County Campus, opens.



## 2000-01

- New A. A. S. degree in Computer Networking Specialist and new certificate program in Medical Insurance Specialist added.
- U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Education recognize college's Computer and Information Science Department for outstanding achievement in promoting local economic development.
- Criminal Justice Program called one of the top 25 programs of its kind in the country.
- College signs articulation agreement with Tusculum College's teacher education program.
- College becomes administrative entity for the Workforce Investment Act, formerly JTPA.

## 2001-02

- In reaffirming accreditation, SACS team commends college's services to business and industry.
- The American Culinary Federation awards Culinary Arts program accreditation.
- Office of Student Tutoring established.
- Gallery named Best Student Magazine for 2001 by the Society of Professional Journalists.
- Expanded partnership with Northeast State Community College offers Physical Therapist Assistant Program to residents of northeast Tennessee.
- Certified Nursing Assistant non-credit program offered.

## 2002-03

- Pharmacy Technician and Health Information Technology programs earn national accreditation.
- College develops computer-lending system in which students can check out laptop computers from the library.
- Economic impact study shows college contributing about \$80.7 million to local economy.
- Dr. Lynn Gilmore is named vice president emeritus. He retired as vice president for student affairs.

## 2003-04

- College realizes 100 percent job placement rate for graduates in eight degree or certificate programs.
- Record number of 6,214 students enrolled for fall 2003.
- College spearheads efforts to organize Mid-East Tennessee P-16 Council for Excellence in Education, becoming the first council certified by the state.
- Partnership with Greeneville/Greene County Center for Technology expands job-training opportunities.
- Nursing program receives Tennessee Board of Regents Excellence and Quality Award and is named Outstanding Employer of the Year by the Tennessee Nurses Association.

## 2004-05

- Dr. Jack E. Campbell retires after serving 30 years as college president. He is named president emeritus.
- Dr. Wade B. McCamey becomes the third president of Walters State.
- Five programs in the Division of Business and Division of Computer and Information Science granted reaffirmation of accreditation.
- First International Festival held.
- Two new programs designed for working adults offered, College Express and Weekend College.
- Partnerships with East Tennessee State University, Lincoln Memorial University allow completion of final two years of several four-year degrees at Walters State.



## 2005–06

- Grant secured for Center for Workforce Education.
- Senators baseball team wins JUCO World Series, the college's first-ever national championship.
- Study: Great Smoky Mountains Expo Center contributes estimated \$1.4 million per year to local economy.
- College scores perfect on Tennessee Higher Education Commission performance-funding standards.
- Associate of Science in Teaching program developed.
- Dr. Julian Jordan named vice president emeritus. He retired as executive vice president for business affairs.

## 2006–07

- Ground broken for two new buildings at Sevier County Campus.
- Twelve choral students selected to the American Choral Directors Association honors choir.
- Quality Enhancement Plan to improve student-learning outcomes implemented.
- Student Success Center opens.
- College rated above average for student-support services in national Community College Survey of Student Engagement.
- College ranks as seventh most tech-savvy community college in the country among mid-sized colleges.
- Morristown Campus certified as Tennessee Statewide Arboretum site.
- Dr. James Ford and Dr. Darrell Simmons named professor emeriti.

## 2007–08

- College receives full reaffirmation of accreditation with SACS.
- Cates-Cutshaw Hall and Conner-Short Center dedicated on Sevier County Campus.
- Ray and Barbara Bible Equestrian Complex dedicated.
- East Tennessee Regional Public Safety Center receives \$6 million in improvements.
- Nursing Program added in Greeneville and Sevierville.

## 2008–09

- Center for Workforce Development nominated by the U.S. Department of Labor as exemplary program.
- College receives \$1 million to develop training programs related to clean energy and green technology.
- Office of Continuing Education hosts first Kids College.
- Laughlin Memorial Hospital donates Laughlin Square property to the Walters State Foundation.

## 2009–10

- A record 6,862 students are enrolled.
- Ground broken for new Student Services Building at Morristown Campus.
- Walters State named eighth safest college in the nation.
- College ranked as fourth most tech-savvy community college in the country among mid-sized colleges.
- Chronicle of Higher Education ranks Walters State among best colleges in nation to work for.

## 2010–11

- The following were named as professor emeriti: Dr. Anne Armstrong, Dr. Judith Hector, and Dr. Samuel O'Dell.
- Walters State joins few community colleges offering programs in Clean Energy Technology.
- The Walters State Claiborne County Campus moves to former Claiborne County High School campus.
- Student Services Building, now the Dr. Wade B. McCamey Student Services Building, opens on Morristown Campus.
- College records highest enrollment ever, with 6,967 students for fall semester.



- Inaugural “Mildred Haun Conference: A Celebration of Appalachian Literature, Culture and Scholarship” is held.
- Kids College launched, offering students an enhanced summer-learning opportunity on the Walters State campus.

### 2011–12

- Walters State’s Alpha Beta Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for community colleges, is named Five-Star Chapter and a Chapter of Light.
- Twelve technical education programs see 100 percent job-placement rates.
- With funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Walters State provides electronic health records training to health care workers.
- Over 1,000 youth receive training through WIA Summer Youth.
- Center for Workforce Training completes training offered to those left unemployed by the Great Recession.
- Walters State named safest campus in Tennessee and 12th safest in country by StateUniversity.com.

### 2012–13

- Two new degree programs approved: A.A.S degrees in Surgical Technician and Occupational Therapy Assistant.
- Walters State named Apple Distinguished Program for its mobile-learning initiative.
- Partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory allows Walters State students to be eligible for internships at the laboratory.

- Three endowed scholarships totaling \$1.4 million established from estate of the late Mrs. Wilma Maples for students attending Sevier County Campus.
- Five Senators athletics teams earn berths to national championship tournaments — golf, men’s and women’s basketball, baseball and softball.

### 2013–14

- The college’s Division of Workforce Training offers welding as a noncredit class through program funded by \$337,000 grant.
- College receives \$2.3 million in Tennessee Department of Transportation grants to enhance pedestrian and ADA accessibility at Greeneville/Greene County Campus.
- Golf Team captures national championship in the Div. II Championship Tournament in Plymouth, Indiana. Coach Bill Gardner receives 2014 Dave Williams National Coach of the Year Award.
- “Gallery,” Walters State’s literary magazine, named best magazine produced by Tennessee community college students.
- Dr. Orville “Butch” Bach Jr. named Professor Emeritus of Business and Economics.

### 2014–15

- U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander delivers commencement address.
- Student Brandon Hayes receives Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, which provides up to \$40,000 and is among the most prestigious given to community college students.
- College’s first students eligible for Tennessee Promise number 1,660.
- Dr. David Hayes named Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Developmental Studies.
- National Association of State Directors for Career Technical Education Consortium recognizes Walters State’s Emergency Medical Services Program as model partnership between a postsecondary institution and high schools.
- Chef Joe Cairns, instructor of culinary arts, named Educator of the Year by the Tennessee Hospitality and Tourism Association.



## 2015–16

- Dr. Wade B. McCamey retires as president.
- Dr. Tony Miksa becomes fourth president of Walters State.
- Basic Law Enforcement Academy celebrates graduation of Class 100.
- Walters State’s Advanced Manufacturing Center in Greeneville becomes Tennessee’s only authorized testing facility for American Welding Society.
- Walters State hosts four members of the Freedom Riders, who sought to desegregate bus transportation during Civil Rights movement.
- Greeneville businessman and philanthropist Scott Niswonger pledges \$5 million to the Greeneville/Greene County Campus renovation.

## 2016–17

- Following the devastating Gatlinburg wildfires, Walters State employees and students volunteer in recovery efforts, including providing services for Dolly Parton’s My People Fund.
- Gov. Bill Haslam holds news conference at the college’s Morristown Campus to announce Tennessee Reconnect, a last-dollar scholarship for adult learners.
- Walters State Choir performs at Carnegie Hall.
- Advise to Rise chosen as the college QEP to focus on increased, targeted advising.
- Tennessee Higher Education Commission approves \$12.2 million in capital funds for construction of a fourth building on Sevier County Campus.
- Walters State becomes one of only 15 colleges certified as a VETS Campus by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.
- Burchfiel Library is expanded at the Sevier County Campus.

## 2017–2018

- The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reaffirms accreditation for Walters State.
- Over 1,000 adult learners apply for new Tennessee Reconnect scholarship program.
- Country singer Rodney Atkins named WSCC Distinguished Alumnus and gives benefit concert to endow a scholarship.
- Occupational Therapy Assistant program enrolls its first students.
- Walters State Adventurers student group is launched.

- Walters State named top tech-savvy, mid-sized community college in the country by Center for Digital Education.
- Job placement rate for technical education graduates is 98 percent.

## 2018–19

- Groundbreaking held for Kile-Ogle Hall on Sevier County Campus.
- Division of Workforce Training receives \$350,000 grant to train area certified nursing assistants caring for patients with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia.
- RHiTA (Recruiting Hispanics to Achieve) begins with goal of increasing number of Hispanic students attending Walters State and providing leadership to those enrolled.
- Dr. James Crawford named Professor Emeritus of English, and Dr. Don Lindsey named Professor Emeritus of Biology.
- Paramedic Program celebrates 25 years.
- First class of Occupational Therapy Assistant students achieve 100 percent pass rate on OTA certification exam.
- Walters State hosts the Traveling Vietnam Wall, with thousands visiting during four-day stay.

## 2019–20

- Walters State named top community college in Tennessee and 44th best in the country in Wallet Hub’s annual survey of community colleges.
- Emily Dollar chosen as student representative on Tennessee Board of Regents.
- Niswonger Campus in Greeneville is dedicated.
- Three Walters State students named 2019 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars: Sara Betz, Gabrielle Bogart and Landon Walkowiak.
- In March 2020, all classes and student support services transition to online due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Fifty-eighth Commencement held virtually.



# Facing a Historical Challenge

The pandemic challenged Walters State to devise new methods for serving students and the community. As a result, the college has grown in many new areas that will serve to strengthen its mission for generations to come.

Portable MiFi devices — which provide access to high-speed internet service — and additional laptop computers were made available for semester checkout from the Library. This enabled students

to access the internet when and where it was needed. New course delivery methods allowed students to take traditional online classes, as well as new virtual classes that met in real time through videoconferencing. Hybrid courses that brought students together in a socially distanced classroom also were developed. Noncredit classes were offered online, many for the first time.

## CARES Funding

Prior to the start of the 2020-2021 academic year, Walters State began disbursing federal emergency student assistance funding provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Another round of student assistance payments began in May 2021.

Walters State determined that funds would be allocated to the largest number of students possible due to the impact of COVID-related events. Following U.S. Department of Education guidance, Pell eligible students received priority funding. However, based on the college's determined criteria, certain non-Pell eligible students were also considered eligible for funding.

A key benefit from the federal aid for eligible students was having their debt paid prior to the Fall 2021 semester so that they could attend classes and would not be purged from enrollment due to non-payment.



The federal relief funds are earmarked for measures to lessen the pandemic's impact and to ensure that students will not lose the opportunity to achieve their educational goals. Toward that end at Walters State, CARES-funded projects included added technology, additional class sections to enable social distancing, additional learning tools to reduce the number of tools shared, and faculty and staff training for online instruction.

# New Sevier County Campus Building Dedicated

Walters State celebrated the opening of Kile-Ogle Hall on the Sevier County Campus after a one-year delay. Classes began meeting in the building during the fall 2020 semester. Health programs and public safety classes moved into the much-needed new space on time.

Due to the pandemic, the college postponed until 2021 a ceremony to honor longtime Sevier County businesswomen and supporters of the college, Emily B. Kile and Linda Ogle. “Emily and Linda are exemplars of servant leadership and philanthropy,” Dr. Tony Miksa, president of Walters State, said during the dedication ceremony.

Kile-Ogle Hall is the first building on the Sevier County Campus for which a majority of the funds — \$11.3 million — were provided by the State of Tennessee. A local match of \$1.2 million was provided by Kile, Ogle and the governmental entities of Sevier County, Sevierville, Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge.

The other buildings on this campus were funded completely with donations from individuals and municipalities of Sevier County. The campus represents an investment of more than \$20 million.

“The people of Sevier County have proven how much they value higher education,” Miksa said.

*From left, Emily B. Kile; Dr. Jack E. Campbell, president emeritus; Dr. Wade B. McCamey, retired president; Dr. Tony Miksa, president; and Linda Ogle with Annie.*



**Emily and Linda are exemplars of servant leadership and philanthropy.**

**DR. TONY MIKSA**  
*President of Walters State*



## Newport Center Celebrated

The Walters State Newport Center opened during spring 2021. Through a partnership with the city of Newport, the Coker County Partnership and the college, the center was located in the historic Tanner Building.

“This makes college more convenient to Coker County residents, while also giving us the opportunity to work closely with employers in the county,” Dr. Tony Miksa, president of the college, said.

Most classes offered at the center are general education courses, such as speech communications, psychology, history, English composition and music appreciation along with career and technical courses

in business and hospitality. Classes at the center are offered to make college more accessible to both working adults and dual enrollment high school students. The new location saves students time and mileage costs by reducing the need to drive to Morristown or Sevierville.

Plans are to offer student services including advising, counseling and remote tutoring. The center also offers workforce training for area employers, ranging from human resources to OSHA workshops, as well as customized training for local industry. Kids College was held in summer 2021 at the Newport Center.



# WALTERS STATE BY **THE NUMBERS**



**1,248**  
graduates

*One of the largest numbers  
in college history*



**1,320**  
Degrees and  
Certificates Awarded

**THREE-YEAR GRADUATION RATE:**



**31.6%**



*Highest in college history*

**Dual Enrollment: 1,567**  
students, a growth of **4.6%**  
over the previous year.

**Fall 2020 Enrollment:**  
**5,743**



**Global  
Connections  
Events:**

**51**

# Walters State Wins 2020–21 TCCAA All Sports Award

4 TEAMS COMPETE FOR NATIONAL TITLES

**Senators** Baseball and Golf

**Lady Senators** Basketball and Volleyball



## Honoring Student Success

Walters State found new and creative ways to honor student success during the past year. A virtual commencement was held in December with Ann Bowen, retired vice president for student affairs, delivering the address. In May, a socially distanced ceremony returned to the Great Smoky Mountains Expo Center, with Dr. Jack E. Campbell, president emeritus, delivering the commencement address.

Students receiving academic awards were announced for several days on the college's social media pages, a new tradition that will continue even after the honors banquet returns.

## President's Outstanding Student

Anna Adams, an English major, was named the President's Outstanding Student, the highest honor for a Walters State student. Her writing was featured in *Note Bene*, the international literary journal of Phi Theta Kappa. Adams is now a junior at Lipscomb University.

## All-Tennessee Academic Team

Three members of the class of 2021 were named to the All-Tennessee All-Academic Team. Anna Adams, an English major; Donald Tucker, a criminal justice major; and Denise Montgomery, a culinary arts major, were chosen based on academic scholarship and leadership potential.



Anna Adams



Donald Tucker



Denise Montgomery

## Student Receives Chancellor's Commendation

Savang Moua, a nursing major, received the inaugural Chancellor's Commendation for Military Veterans. Dr. Tony Miksa, president of Walters State, presented the award on behalf of TBR Chancellor Flora Tydings.

"While we thank him for his service, we are also proud of his accomplishments as a student," Miksa said.

Moua retired after 20 years in the U.S. Navy and completed an associate of applied science degree in 2021. He maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average and assisted his fellow students as a peer tutor.

## Engineering Technology Cohort Graduates

Six high school students completed the college's first dual enrollment technical cohort. Students actually earned associate of science in engineering technology degrees a month before receiving high school diplomas. Four graduates had jobs waiting upon graduation and two had decided to continue their education.

The cohort was a collaboration between Walters State, the Morristown School System and local industry. A major contribution from Howmet Aerospace in Morristown played a key role. Another cohort is scheduled to start in the fall.



*Savang Moua*

“While we thank Savang for his service, we are also **proud of his accomplishments as a student.**”

**DR. TONY MIKSA**  
*President of Walters State*



## Walters State, WGU Create Another Pathway for Future Teachers

Dr. Tony Miksa, president of Walters State, and Dr. Kim Estep, vice president of the southeast region of Western Governor's University, jointly announced a new teacher initiative. "Grow Your Own" allows Walters State graduates to complete bachelor's degrees in education and student teaching in their home counties. Walters State transfer students will also receive a 5% tuition discount at WGU.

"Walters State and WGU share a mutual goal of preparing more individuals to become teachers, and this partnership will help us realize this important goal," Miksa said.

Walters State graduates who have completed the Associate of Science in Teaching are guaranteed admission into WGU's Tennessee Teacher's College. Having students complete degrees and teacher-demonstration requirements in their home counties reduces the cost of the program and allows participants to begin making valuable contacts to start their careers locally.

## Walters State Develops Digital Media Program, Partners with ETSU

In the summer of 2021, Walters State announced a new major, digital media, and an articulation agreement with East Tennessee State University to cover transferring graduates.

"Digital media skills are in demand both locally and nationally, and our students want to fill that demand," Dr. Tony Miksa, president of Walters State, said. "This degree originated after students requested an associate's program that would lead to ETSU's digital media program."

The articulation agreement guarantees that students completing the Associate of Science in Digital Media will be accepted with advanced standing at ETSU. Walters State will offer classes in visual effects and motion graphics, principles of game design, principles of digital animation, and principles of visualization.

Students earning a degree in digital media often work as animators, visual effects artists, level designers, environment artists, modelers, game designers, editors, composers and in many other fields, including public relations, marketing and business.

Walters State and WGU share a mutual goal of **preparing more individuals to become teachers**, and this partnership will help us realize this important goal.

**DR. TONY MIKSA**  
*President of Walters State*



*From left are Dr. Brian Noland, president of ETSU; Kimberly D. McCorkle, provost and senior vice president for Academics, ETSU; Dr. Donna Seagle, vice president for Academic Affairs, Walters State; and Dr. Tony Miksa, president of Walters State Community College.*

## Humanities, Cultural Events Carry On

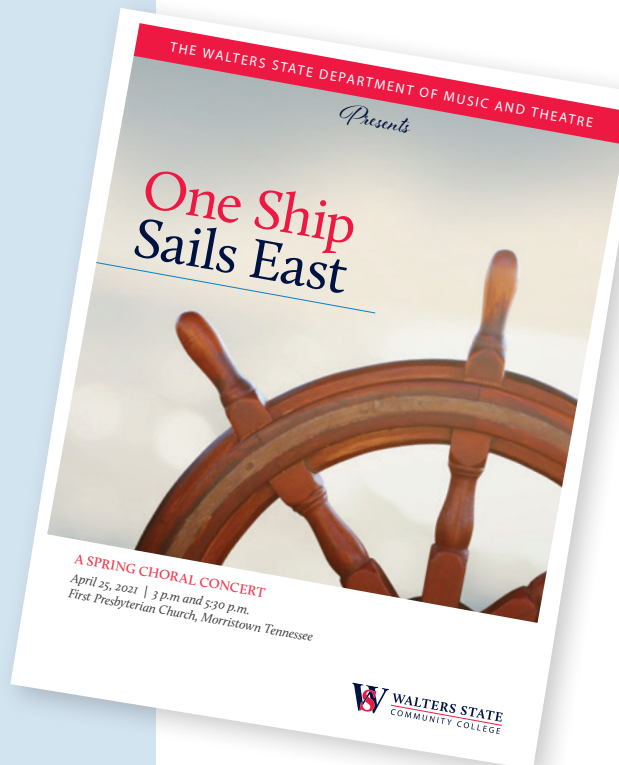
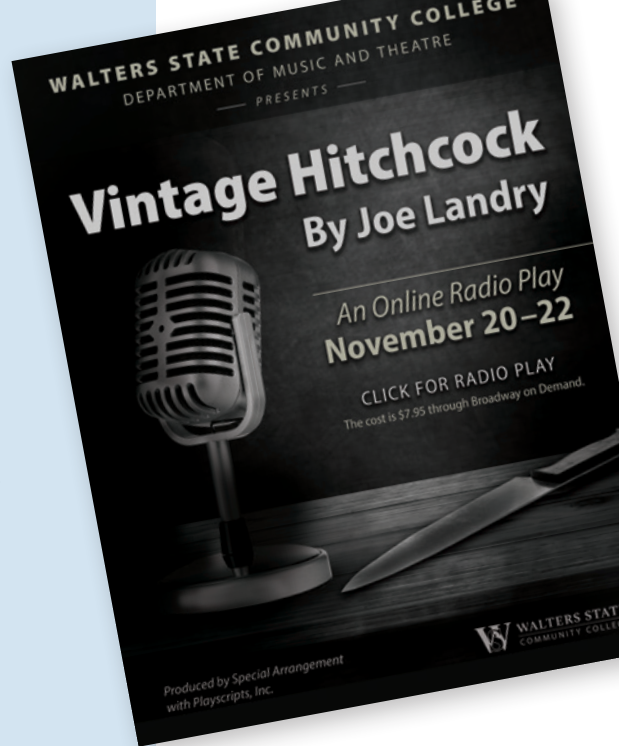
Theatres and lyceums on Walters State campuses remained silent through much of 2020–21. Students, however, continued to perform and entertain through new venues online. Theatre students used only their voices to frighten audiences in “Vintage Hitchcock: A Radio Drama.” Choir soloists and ensembles performed via YouTube and could be viewed at any time.

The Mildred Haun Conference workshops were held on video conferencing platforms with events scheduled throughout February. Author Karen Saylor McElmurray delivered the keynote speech. Other sessions covered poetry, nonfiction, fiction and songwriting. More than 200 people participated in virtual events from as far away as Germany, Ireland and Japan.

## Choir Performance Honors Former Adjunct Faculty Member

The Walters State Choir performed a commissioned piece in the spring honoring the late Peggy Lingerfelt, a longtime adjunct faculty member at Walters State. Lingerfelt was the mother of Laura Ritter, director of music and theatre at the college. “One Ship Sails East” was composed by Dr. Anthony Bernarducci, director of choral activities and vocal arts at Clemson University. The piece is based on a poem of the same name by Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Money raised from a virtual concert helped endow a scholarship in Lingerfelt’s honor.



## Candace Justice Named SOAR Faculty Member of the Year

Candace Justice, director of instructional design and associate professor of English at Walters State, was named Community College Faculty Member of the Year by the Tennessee Board of Regents. Justice is the first Walters State faculty member to receive this honor in the three-year history of the SOAR awards.



*Candace Justice*

## Kyle Named Maxine Smith Fellow

Deidre' Kyle, director of student success and recruitment at the Walters State Niswonger Campus, is among the 21 faculty and staff members from colleges and universities across Tennessee selected to participate in the 2021–22 Class of the Maxine Smith Fellows program.



*Deidre' Kyle*

The program provides professional development, training and advancement opportunities for participants from traditionally underrepresented groups serving at a TBR institution.

## Distinguished Award Recipients for 2021

Dr. Bob Dixon, department head and professor of engineering technology, received the 2021 Distinguished Faculty Award.

The T. Henry Drinnon Award for Outstanding Professional Staff went to Derek Creech, athletic director and development officer, and Laura Rodriguez, director of financial aid.

The Distinguished Staff Award was given to Pam Heck, lead facilities management, and Clint Williams, coordinator of contracts and policies.



*Dr. Bob Dixon*



*Derek Creech*



*Laura Rodriguez*



*Pam Heck*



*Clint Williams*

## Holdway Estate Honored with 2020 Chancellor's Award for Philanthropy

Lena Holdway and her late husband, William "Ray" Holdway, have received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy. This award is given each year by the Tennessee Board of Regents.

"The award recognizes an organization or individual that has given special assistance to a TBR institution," Chris Perkins, assistant vice chancellor at TBR, said in presenting the award. "The Holdway family continues to foster countless acts of generosity to Walters State and the students it serves."

Mr. Holdway established a trust in September 1995 to benefit Walters State. The college received an initial gift upon his passing in 1997. The trust was dissolved in 2019, resulting in the endowment of the William "Ray" and Lena Holdway Scholarship.

Mrs. Holdway began serving as a Walters State Foundation trustee in 2005, continuing the work initiated by her husband.

"Mr. Holdway believed that pouring support into others was always a wise investment, which is why he wanted to provide financial assistance to Walters State students," Dr. Tony Miksa, president of the college, said. "Mr. Holdway believed that hard work and determination could provide a good living, but he realized that an education could provide more opportunities. Likewise, Mrs. Holdway has selflessly supported the mission of the college not only with her financial assistance, but also her time."

“The award recognizes an organization or individual that has given special assistance to a TBR institution.”

**CHRIS PERKINS**  
Assistant Vice Chancellor at TBR

## Barger Elected President of Walters State Foundation

Rob Barger, president and CEO of First Century Bank, was elected president of the foundation during its fall 2020 meeting. A Claiborne County native, Barger previously served as secretary and vice president. He has served as a trustee since 2010. Barger represents the third two-generation leadership team in the history of the foundation. His mother, Eleanor Yoakum, also served as president.

The others are R. Jack Fishman and Michael Fishman and F. Braxton Terry and the late Charles Terry.

David Helton was chosen to serve as vice president and Sharon Greene was chosen as secretary. Dr. Mark Hurst, vice president of business services at the college, serves as treasurer.



Rob Barger

## Students Benefit from Gifts

Jordan Howerton is one of many students receiving support from the Walters State Foundation. The sophomore nursing major received the Olen Marshall Scholarship and the Tennessee Hope Lottery Scholarship. One scholarship would have covered her tuition. Receiving both meant that Howerton's books, fees and a portion of her living expenses also were covered.



Jordan Howerton

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to attend college without going into debt," Howerton said. "Without the scholarships, I still would have chosen Walters State. I love the small classes and I know I'll get a good job in the nursing field when I graduate."



# Division of Educational Outreach Expands Through Apprenticeships

## *Apprenticeships meet industry needs.*

In response to requests from local business and industry, the Division of Workforce Training worked with the Tennessee Department of Labor to launch apprenticeship programs, which combine noncredit courses, credit courses and on-the-job experience.

Apprentices work full-time while learning and will be placed in leadership roles after completion. College credit earned through the program may be applied to technical certificates or associate degrees.

An apprenticeship agreement with Dollywood was announced in November 2020. Employees will spend three years developing high-level skills in areas such

as hotel associate, food service manager and cook. Dollywood announced plans to hire all graduates for leadership positions.

“We at Walters State are excited to be involved with The Dollywood Company through this innovative program. This will give individuals valuable work experience at one of the country’s top tourism destinations while also gaining the classroom education needed to rise in their careers,” Dr. Tony Miksa, president of Walters State, said.

*Dr. Carol Puryear, vice chancellor of community and economic development at TBR, spoke at a press conference announcing the apprenticeship partnership between Walters State and Dollywood.*





*From left are Dr. Tony Miksa, president of the college; donor Garry Brooks; Abigail Carmack, the first recipient of the McClure scholarship; Jessica McClure, adjunct faculty member and wife of Dr. Marc E. McClure; and Chris Cates, assistant vice president for college advancement at Walters State.*

## Dr. Marc McClure Remembered with Endowed Scholarship

The sudden death of Dr. Marc McClure, professor of history, saddened the college in December 2020. He was a widely known historian and produced several documentaries. At the time of his death, McClure was completing a film about the U.S. 7th Army and its heroic actions in World War II. The film was supported with funding from the U.S. Embassy in France.

WSCC student Garry Brooks and his wife Shirley endowed the Dr. Marc E. McClure Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Brooks, a retiree, had taken several of McClure's classes and developed a friendship with the professor.

"Marc was so passionate about history and about his students. We knew this scholarship was the best way to honor him," Brooks said. "His office was always full of students. Many wanted to talk to him about current events and the things going on in their lives."

The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating history major transferring to a four-year institution. Recipients will also receive a McClure biography outlining his research and academic accomplishments.



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<sup>1</sup>Walters State Alumnus  
<sup>2</sup>Past Presidents' Council



# Financials



**Walters State Community  
College Foundation  
Unaudited Statement  
of Net Position**

Summary for Fiscal Year Ending  
June 30, 2021

## Assets

<i>Current Assets</i>	FY 2021
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2,434,208
Pledges Receivable (net)	494,684
Prepaid Expenses	10,391
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,939,283</b>
<i>Noncurrent Assets:</i>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,347,142
Investments	17,791,078
Pledges Receivable (net)	2,414,510
Capital Assets (net)	2,665,049
<b>Total Noncurrent Assets</b>	<b>24,217,779</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$27,157,062</b>

## Liabilities

<i>Current Liabilities</i>	
Accounts Payable	8,896
Unearned Revenue	11,308
Long-term Liabilities, Current Portion	94,488
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>114,692</b>
<i>Noncurrent Liabilities</i>	
Unearned Revenue	—
Long-term Liabilities	244,082
<b>Total Noncurrent Liabilities</b>	<b>244,082</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$358,774</b>

## Deferred Inflows of Resources

Deferred Inflows Related to Split Interest Agreements	1,273,404
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>\$1,273,404</b>

## Net Position

Net Investment in Capital Assets	2,326,479
<i>Restricted for:</i>	
<i>Nonexpendable</i>	
Scholarships and Fellowships	11,210,601
Other	1,674,677
<i>Expendable:</i>	
Scholarships and Fellowships	5,373,563
Other	4,371,691
Unrestricted	567,873
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$25,524,884</b>

# Walters State Community College Unaudited Statement of Net Position

Financial Summary for Fiscal Year  
Ending June 30, 2021

## Revenues

### Operating Revenues

Student Tuition and Fees (Net of Scholarship Allowances)	\$8,942,946
Governmental Grants and Contracts	578,907
Non-governmental Grants and Contracts	56,910
Sales and Services of Educational Activities	40,626
Sales and Services of Other Activities	110,282
Auxiliary Enterprises	123,876
Other Operating Revenues	725
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,854,272</b>

### Non-Operating Revenues

State Appropriations	25,862,800
Gifts	190,725
Grants and Contracts	25,396,665
Investment Income	99,058
Capital Appropriations	2,773,446
Capital Grants and Gifts	1,610,193
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,932,887</b>

<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$65,787,159</b>
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## Expenses

### Operating Expenses by Function

Instruction	26,676,142
Public Service	218,196
Academic Support	3,020,591
Student Services	6,103,486
Institutional Support	5,812,319
Operation and Maintenance	6,708,049
Scholarships and Fellowships	8,045,742
Auxiliary	19,592
Depreciation	2,493,623
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,097,740</b>

### Non-Operating Expenses

Interest on Capital Asset-Related Debt	27,395
Other Non-operating Expenses	1,257,005
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,284,400</b>

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$60,382,140</b>
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# Unaudited Summary of Student Financial Aid Awards

2020–21 and 2019–20

	FY 19-20		FY 20-21		Year Comparison +/-	
	# Awards	Award Amounts	# Awards	Award Amounts	# Awards	Award Amounts
Federal Work Study (FWS)	59	123,019	37	61,447	-22	-61,573
Pell Grant	2,658	9,945,012	2,110	7,919,304	-548	-2,025,708
Student Educational Opp. Grant (FSEOG)	131	103,800	268	244,982	137	141,182
Trade Readjustment Act (TRA/TAA)	1	3,065	4	15,596	3	12,531
Workforce Investment Opportunities Act (WIOA)	64	75,855	22	22,147	-42	-53,708
Robert Byrd Scholarship	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gear Up	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Federal Total</b>	<b>2,913</b>	<b>10,250,751</b>	<b>2,441</b>	<b>8,263,475</b>	<b>-472</b>	<b>-1,987,276</b>
Access and Diversity Grant	74	93,688	94	91,647	20	-2,041
Dual Enrollment	1,822	1,372,357	1,722	1,377,573	-100	5,216
Department of Children's Services	34	81,576	23	56,415	-11	-25,162
Helping Heroes Grant	2	2,000	2	1,500	0	-500
Ned McWherter Scholars Program	1	3,000	1	3,000	0	0
TN Students Assistance Grant (TSAA)	1,667	1,598,476	1,427	1,351,078	-240	-247,398
TN Educational Lottery Scholarship (TELS)	1,532	4,154,928	1,405	3,807,381	-127	-347,547
TN Minority Teaching Scholar	0	0	0	0	0	0
TN Promise Scholarship	1,108	2,022,188	1,024	1,778,503	-88	-243,685
TN Reconnect Scholarship	765	1,962,369	740	1,945,003	-25	-17,366
TN Hope Foster Child	5	7,833	3	4,482	-2	-3,351
Vocational Rehabilitation	11	16,133	4	14,869	-7	-1,264
Waivers	431	311,380	446	284,813	15	-26,568
Out of State Waivers	25	300,171	38	427,700	13	127,529
<b>State Total</b>	<b>7,477</b>	<b>11,926,099</b>	<b>6,925</b>	<b>11,143,963</b>	<b>-552</b>	<b>-782,136</b>
Performance Scholarships	—	—	—	—	—	—
Athletic Scholarships (Fees, Books, Housing)	30	21,761	27	26,183	-3	4,422
Academic Service Scholarship (ASA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access Achievement Award (AAA)	80	225,625	87	273,012	7	47,388
Academic Performance (APS)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walters State Promise Scholarship	335	548,827	323	517,035	-12	-31,792
Access and Diversity Grants	42	170,575	40	146,175	-2	-24,400
Other Institutional (SGA, Gallery, Cheerleading, etc.)	24	19,575	20	20,490	-4	915
<b>Institutional Total</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>986,362</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>982,895</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>-3,467</b>
Foundation Scholarships	290	304,524	518	382,655	228	78,131
Partners in Progress	205	80,488	204	76,130	-1	-4,358
Dual Enrollment Scholarships	182	42,570	251	48,391	69	5,821
Other Awards	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Foundation Total</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>427,582</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>507,176</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>79,594</b>
Agency Scholarships	269	183,490	224	167,382	-45	-16,108
Sevier County Board of Education	167	77,240	210	103,029	43	25,789
Restricted	38	240	6	663	-32	423
Knox Promise	28	7,213	46	13,739	18	6,525
<b>Private Total</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>268,183</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>284,813</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>16,630</b>
<b>Total Awards</b>	<b>12,080</b>	<b>23,858,976</b>	<b>11,322</b>	<b>21,182,322</b>	<b>-758</b>	<b>-2,676,654</b>
<i>Unduplicated Financial Aid Student Count</i>	1,920	6,137	2,021	5,524	—	-613

## WALTERS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# Tennessee Board of Regents

### **The Honorable Bill Lee**

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Governor of the State of Tennessee*

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*Vice Chair  
Fifth Congressional District*

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*Seventh Congressional District*

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*Eighth Congressional District*

### **Greg Duckett**

*Ninth Congressional District*

### **Ramona Shelton**

*Faculty Regent (Non-Voting)*

### **Wanda Reid**

*Faculty Regent*

### **Clifford Thompson**

*Student Regent*

# Walters State Community College Vision

*Walters State will be the leader in transforming our community through education.*

## Walters State Community College Mission 2021

Through a focus on student success and innovative teaching, Walters State enriches the lives of our students and our community.

## Expanded Mission Statement

Through a focus on student success and innovative teaching, Walters State enriches the lives of our students and our community. The college:

- Provides affordable, convenient access through multiple campuses, innovative technology, and distance education.
- Collaborates with other educational institutions to promote access, completion, and transfer.
- Partners with community businesses and organizations to meet specific educational and workforce needs.

- Offers programs of study leading to associate degrees or certificates.
- Provides pathways to institutional support services that improve student engagement and success.
- Fosters an inclusive campus community through cultural awareness, diversity and open dialogue.
- Delivers public service and non-credit programs in support of workforce training and personal development.
- Invests in highly qualified faculty and staff.
- Creates a culture of continuous improvement and accountability.
- Seeks external sources of support and funding to further educational opportunities.
- Provides resources to support community engagement and initiatives.

*Rev. 2/26/21. Pending final TBR approval.*





### **Walters State Community College**

500 S. Davy Crockett Parkway  
Morristown, Tennessee 37813-6899  
423.585.2600 | ws.edu

The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) is Tennessee's largest higher education system, governing 40 post-secondary educational institutions with over 200 teaching locations. The TBR system includes 13 community colleges and 27 colleges of applied technology, providing programs to students across the state, country and world.

Walters State Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, telephone 404-679-4500, website [www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org) for questions about the accreditation of Walters State Community College.

Walters State Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, ethnicity or national origin, sex, disability, age, status as a protected veteran or any other class protected by Federal or State laws and regulations and by Tennessee Board of Regents policies with respect to employment, programs, and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Jarvis Jennings, Executive Director of Human Resources/Equity Officer, Jarvis.jennings@ws.edu, Walters State Community College, 500 S. Davy Crockett Pkwy Morristown, TN 37813, 423-585-6845.