Accreditation Reaffirmation Effort a Success

Shorter College has received reaffirmation of its accreditation for a term of 10 years by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS). Shorter College was previously awarded accreditation as a Category I Institution approved to offer certificates, diplomas and the Associates Degree, by TRACS in October 2013, for an initial term of five years. Representatives from TRACS visited Shorter College this past July for the purpose of evaluating the college for reaffirmation status. On Tuesday, October 24, Shorter College President O. Jerome Green, Chairman of the Board, other board members and administrators traveled to the TRACS Fall Commission Meeting in Orlando Fla., to learn the decision regarding the reaffirmation of the college's accreditation.

“We are proud that they recognize the quality of education and experience offered by Shorter, and we look forward to many more years of serving the needs of our student body,” said Dr. Keiona Middleton, Shorter College Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness & Assessment.

TRACS was founded in 1979 as a voluntary, non-profit, self-governing organization to promote the welfare, interests, and development of postsecondary institutions whose mission is characterized by a distinctly Christian purpose.

TRACS is recognized by both the United States Department of Education (USDOE) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as a national institutional accrediting agency for Christian postsecondary institutions, colleges, universities, and seminaries.
Shorter Provides Griffin Tools to Succeed

Jaime Griffin’s plate is full, but she is not afraid of a challenge.

The Little Rock native graduated from Hall High School in 2006, and attended UA Pulaski Technical College for a while before focusing on employment. She currently works as a full-time Certified Nursing Assistant, at an inpatient nursing facility, while maintaining a full course load at Shorter College and parenting her two young sons, ages six and four. “It’s a lot of work, but I get it done,” Griffin said.

With two semesters of study remaining before graduation, Griffin feels the goal of attaining her Entrepreneurial Studies degree is key for her future.

“Attending Shorter College and pursuing a degree in Entrepreneurial Studies has taught me the importance of networking, and how to grow a business,” Griffin added. “I know I’ll need to continue my education after Shorter. In the short term, I want to work with people and be involved with something uplifting. My ultimate goal is to open a nursing home, we call them ‘homes’ now, but I mean something that is not just a facility but an actual home where elders can live comfortably and get the help they need.”

Griffin credits Shorter College with providing her with the tools she needs to succeed.

“What attracted me to Shorter is that there are so many people who are like me, who are working and parenting full-time,” Griffin said. “I just enrolled to keep my brain sharp, and it’s worked out well; it’s been a good adventure.”

Stay Connected
Visit us on our social media sites to see the latest updates and information about what’s going on at Shorter!

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Shorter College Student Spotlight

November

Wednesday, November 1
Last Day to Drop a Class/Grade of “W” Awarded

November 6 – 8
Assessment Week

November 13 – 17
Spring 2018 Pre-Registration/Financial & Academic Advisement Week

Friday, November 17
Faculty Senate Meeting

November 20 – 28
Final Examinations for December 2016 Graduates

November 23 – 24
Thanksgiving Holiday Break
No Classes/Administrative Offices Closed

Thursday, November 30
Last Day to Withdraw From the College (All Courses)/Grade of “W” Awarded

December

Friday, December 1
Last Day of Instruction

December 4 – 7
Final Examinations

January

Wednesday, January 3
Faculty/Staff Development Institute

January 4 – 5
Academic Appeals and Financial Aid Verification (Resolve Pending Issues)

January 4 – 8
Registration Begins

Tuesday, January 9
Classes Begin
Late Registration Begins

Monday, January 15
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observed - No Classes/Offices Closed

Friday, January 19
Last Day to Register/Drop/Add Schedule Change
Faculty Senate Meeting

Thursday, January 25
Non-Attendance Census Report Due in Registrar’s Office

Fall Assessment Week Coming in November

Assessment Week, Shorter College’s semiannual evaluation of services and procedures, will be held the first week of November. During this week the college will share with students, faculty and staff: strategic planning, goals, accomplishments and assessment results of student learning.

Students, faculty and staff are invited to participate and provide feedback on ways to improve the institution.
Phase 1 of Campus Beautification Project Nears Completion

Students and visitors to Shorter College will notice improved lighting, updated sidewalks, and newly-planted trees and other landscaping as Phase 1 of a $500,000 campus improvement project comes to a close. The grant, awarded by the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT), was made available through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Shorter College’s status as an institution of higher learning made it eligible as a project sponsor under TAP. Eligible uses under TAP include sidewalks, pedestrian and bicycle signals, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure.

Also part of the project is a new Shorter College marquee, at the intersection of Bishop Lindsey Avenue and Locust Street, which will be visible from Interstate 30.

Groundbreaking was held on May 12, 2017 in partnership with the City of North Little Rock. Work was initially expected to be completed within four months, but the unexpectedly wet summer caused some delays.

“The final touches of Phase 1 will be completed within the next few weeks,” said Shorter College President O. Jerome Green. “Sod is being laid, and some paving was damaged by heavy trucks earlier in the summer, so we are replacing more sidewalks than originally planned.”

The improvements will allow Shorter College to be an anchor in the community and will increase visibility of the area, from the Sherman Park community east of campus to the Argenta Development District to the west.

Phase 2 of the project is expected to begin as soon as Phase 1 is complete. Contracts for Phase 2 will be managed by the City of North Little Rock, and consists of street improvements along Bishop Lindsey Avenue from Locust Street to Vine Street, including the addition of a median, along with additional landscaping and lighting. The median will improve pedestrian safety and is planned to match what has been previously constructed on Bishop Lindsey Avenue just west of Interstate 30.

Phase 3 of the project will continue the improvements to the east of campus, and will be managed by the City of North Little Rock and the Sherman Park Neighborhood Association.

Inspirational Quote of the Month

“I think education is power. I think that being able to communicate with people is power. One of my main goals on the planet is to encourage people to empower themselves.”

- Oprah Winfrey
John Davis never considered higher education. The Memphis native graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1967 and immediately went to work, never giving a college degree a second thought.

“I wanted to leave Memphis; I needed a fresh start,” Davis said. “A friend invited me to come to Little Rock, so I did.” In 2005, Davis went to work for Pro Window & Door, and worked there until his disability from an old injury forced his retirement.

After this time, Davis sat on the Board of Commissioners for Public Housing. During the Obama Administration, Federal Housing and Urban Development funds were allocated to 13 cities across the nation for improvements, Little Rock being one.

However, the Board of Commissioners work was very stressful, and Davis’s doctor recommended he resign his commission for the sake of his health. “In 2014, my doctor told me, “Your stress level is too high. You’re a candidate for a heart attack. You need to let the commissioner job go,” Davis recounts.

“I said, ‘Let it go! What should I do?’ She replied, "Mr. Davis, you’re an intelligent person! You need to go back to school.”

Davis enrolled for the spring 2015 semester, and after a little adjustment, got back into the swing of being a student. “There were a lot of things about going to college that were foreign to me. It had been decades since I’d been in school!” Davis said, “I had no computer experience; there was nothing like that in 1967.” Still, by midterms he was making Bs and Cs, and by the end of the first semester his grades had improved to As and Bs. “I attended school year-round, through summer session, and by fall 2015 I was making straight As. I took nine classes in the spring of 2016 and made eight As and one B.” To accelerate his educational progress, in his final semester he enrolled concurrently at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR), and attended there two days a week and the rest of the time at Shorter.

“I graduated from Shorter College with a 3.89 GPA, and was accepted into the Honors College at UALR with a 3.17 GPA,” Davis said. He received his Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice in fall 2016. Davis expects to receive his Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work from UALR in 2018, then will pursue a graduate degree. “Friends say I needed to be a lawyer, but I don’t want to defend people who are in the system. I want to keep people out of the system, I want to prevent them needing a lawyer in the first place. I want to save lives! Social Work is the best choice for me.”

Davis says the key to college success is to pay attention. “You have to listen to your professors, because they have been where you are trying to go. They all have master’s degrees, they have doctorates or are working on doctorates. That’s what inspires me.”

In addition to his studies, Davis is a literacy tutor. “In order to get ahead, you have to stay ahead, and in order to stay ahead, you have to read. If a chapter is assigned, you read the chapter, but if you have spare time over the weekend, go on to the next chapter. Get ahead. Set a goal and go reach it. Don’t quit; don’t stop. If I can do this at age 68, there’s no telling what a young person can do.”

“I have been blessed to achieve goals I never thought I’d reach,” Davis concludes.

We, the Shorter College Community, extend our sincerest thanks to the Center for Arkansas Legal Services, Central Arkansas Workforce Development, and all who participated in the Expungement Clinic held on the campus of Shorter College, October 27th, 2017.
Thank You to Our October Chapel Speakers

J. Leon Johnson

J. Leon Johnson is a Circuit Judge in Pulaski County's 1st Division. A native of Searcy, Ark., Judge Johnson is a graduate of Harding University and earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Judge Johnson was in private practice for more than sixteen years concentrating in the areas of Criminal Defense and Civil Litigation. He is the past President of the W. Harold Flowers Law Society and the Judge Henry Woods Inn of Court. He serves on the Harding University's American Studies Board of Directors. He has served as Parliamentarian of the Arkansas Bar Association, Vice-President of the Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors, a member of the Women and Children's First Board of Directors, CARTI, and the Arkansas Juvenile Justice Coalition. He is an adjunct professor of law at the University of Ark., Bowen School of Law in Little Rock, Arkansas. A member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., he has served as 9th District Counselor for the fraternity and is the past Parliamentarian for Pi Omicron Chapter. He is married to Tamara Johnson and they are the parents of James and Bowman.

Debra W. Jefferson

Debra W. Jefferson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Child and Family Development from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), and a Masters of Science degree in Family Relations and Human Development from Ohio State University. Prior to joining the faculty at Shorter College, she taught at UAPB for 11 years and Southeast Arkansas College for six years, and has much social work and counseling experience. Currently, she is the Faculty and Program Chair for Childhood Development at Shorter. She is affiliated with the National Association for Education of Young Children, the Arkansas Association for the Education of Young Children, the Southeast Arkansas Family Council, Jefferson County Early Childhood Partnership, Head Start Policy Council Community Representative, City of Pine Bluff Mayor’s Youth Advisory Committee, Pine Bluff High School Child Care Advisory Board, Southeast Arkansas College Early Childhood Advisory Board, Expert witness family adoption dispute Pine Bluff District Court, Family support volunteer (aing the terminally and chronically ill), Southeast Arkansas College Department Of Labor Grant Advisory Board, Southeast Arkansas College Early Childhood Accreditation Advisory Committee, Jefferson Comprehensive Care Inc. Board of Directors Early Childhood Consultant, Arkansas State Spectrum (professional development) Advisory Committee, and is a Clean and Beautiful Adopt-A-Spot volunteer.

Len Ragsdell

Len Ragsdell is a nurse with the Arkansas Department of Health. She received her RN degree from UALR in 1985. She began her nursing career at Baptist Hospital in Little Rock where she was a cardiac nurse. After eight years of nursing, she and her husband adopted two little girls. She was able to be a “stay at home” mom for the next 10 years and had the opportunity to participate in many school activities with them. She returned to nursing in 2004 working for the health department in the Local Health Unit in Faulkner County as a clinic nurse. After her 13 year career in the clinic setting, she accepted the position as BreastCare Coordinator for the Central Region of Arkansas. This allows her to concentrate her efforts navigating women to breast and cervical cancer treatments. She is a member of the Arkansas Cancer Coalition and in the work group for breast cancer. She enjoys spending time with her grandson, Chris, and also has plans to someday be able to use all the scrapbook materials she has been collecting over the years. She resides in northern Faulkner Co. with her husband Jim and their Schipperke, Bella.
Fall 2017
Student Assessment Day
"Together, assessing for the future!"

For Students:
Monday, November 6, 2017
10:30AM-2:00PM

For Faculty & Staff:
Tuesday, November 7, 2017
11:00AM-1:00PM

Location for both events: SS Morris Building

Attendance is Mandatory

Contact Jamie Stacker for additional information
501.374.6305 x154 or Jamie.Stacker@shortercollege.edu
Attention Shorter College constituents! Did you know that many Arkansans struggle to provide a quality life for themselves and their families? Also, did you know that approximately “145,000 adults in Arkansas cannot read this sentence” (Literacy Action of Central Arkansas, 2017)? You can help change their direction in life and empower others to overcome those daily obstacles many of us take for granted by building a stronger community.

The Literacy Reading, Writing and Math Labs are seeking enthusiastic and dedicated students to serve as Literacy Tutors for the fall 2017 semester.

Tutors gain invaluable experience by: working with other students, participating in community and campus literacy initiatives, and becoming a certified Literacy tutors (recognized by the state).

Hours of operation for the fall 2017 semester are 8am to 4pm Monday thru Friday. See Mrs. Lockhart and Mr. Egwim for more information about this opportunity.

FALL 2017
BE AN AGENT
OF CHANGE