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## **CF invites students to enroll and make history** *Old history and new offerings shared*



**Even with some heavy construction equipment in front of the new building, it is clearly on the brink of being occupied by people. This photo was taken at about noon on Wednesday (July 12).**

### **Story and Photos**

**By Jeff M. Hardison © July 12, 2017 at 8:27 p.m.**

**LEVY COUNTY** -- Dr. Rayanne Giddis, College of Central Florida Levy Campus provost at the current CF Chiefland campus said she is excited to be moving soon to the new CF Jack Wilkinson Levy Campus, which is located at 15390 N.W. Highway 19 (on the west side of U.S. Highway 19 north of Chiefland and south of Fanning Springs).

Giddis said there is still time for students to make history at the new campus by being among the first to attend there. Register now for the fall term!

The college is offering 100 scholarships valued at \$500 each to students who want to be among the first to attend the new campus.

To be eligible, students must take six or more credits at the new campus when classes begin on Aug. 21. The scholarships are available to new and returning students, as well as students enrolled at another college or university.

The scholarships are a one-time opportunity to celebrate the opening of the campus, which is the first permanent higher education facility in Levy County. The \$30 college application fee will also be waived for students to plan to attend the new campus.

Students simply need to apply to CF Levy Campus for fall 2017 to be considered. Additional information will be sent via mail and scholarship awards will be made upon completed registration.

Staff will be on the new campus starting at 8 a.m. Monday, July 24 at the new campus.

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**For more information about enrolling, please contact CF Levy Center Manager Holly McGlashan at 352-493-9533, ext. 2118 or at mcglashh@cf.edu.**

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**A closer look at the face of the building shows part of the northern wing is named St. John Educational Center.**

“CF is making history in Levy County and we want our students to make history too,” Giddis said.

As for history, Dr. Rayanne Giddis has been the provost at the College of Central Florida since March of 2016.

Before that, she was the dean of at CF Academic Foundations from November of 2009 until February of 2016.

Giddis is not new to Chiefland’s campus for CF. She was the director at the CF Levy Center from May 1998 until November of 2009.

Giddis accepted her doctorate in higher education from the University of Florida in 2003.

The history of Central Florida Community College in Levy County, which later became the College of Central Florida, goes back to 1982 in Bronson, and then it moved to the current campus at a storefront, in 1993.

Now it is now moving to a permanent structure, as has been the hope for almost a quarter of a century.

During an interview on Wednesday morning (July 12), Dr. Giddis shared insight about the history of CF in Levy County, the donors and state aid, and what people in the community as well as students can expect after the CF Jack Wilkinson Levy Campus opens with classes next month.

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**This view from of the southern end of the structure shows it too is almost complete. Views of the inner parts of the building are going to be photographed later, so as to not steal thunder from the opening days. Likewise, other photos are planned for a time when the landscaping and other facets are complete.**

## **HISTORY OF CF LEVY CAMPUS**

As noted, the CF Levy Campus in Chiefland opened in 1993.

Central Florida Community College first opened in 1982 in Levy County at the Bronson Center, Giddis said.

What led to eventually become the CF Jack Wilkinson Levy Campus started with a search for property in 2004, Giddis said.

In 2006, former CF Board of Trustees member Loy Ann Mann and her husband Jack donated the first 15.4 acres that would be a cornerstone in what was to become a 40-acre campus.

This 40-acre parcel includes the welding education facility and the separate front office building, which is destined to become a Levy County Sheriff's Office outpost after the college opens for students and the community in August.

In 2008, CF held a campaign named "Promise for the Future," Giddis said. There were three different campaigns going on within that, she added, with one being for general funding for new programs. Another part of the campaign was for a new building at the CF Citrus campus in Lecanto. And the other was for what would become the new CF Levy campus, Giddis said.

In 2009, Jack Wilkinson donated \$2.9 million to the CF Levy campus, Giddis said.

The CF District Board of Trustees then chose to name the new campus in honor of Jack Wilkinson, she added.

"That is the first campus that has been named for an individual in the college's history," Giddis said.

At the time, it was the largest single donation the college had ever received, she said.

In 2012, CF moved to the site with its welding program.

In 2014, the college received \$4.3 million in state funding to begin planning and the infrastructure work to build the new CF Levy campus, Giddis said.

In 2015, CF received another \$2 million from the state to start construction. It was that December, when the groundbreaking ceremony was conducted.

On March 17, 2016 CF received \$7.28 million from the state to begin construction.

On Aug. 11, there is a ribbon-cutting ceremony (by invitation only) scheduled for the new campus. There will be an open house in the afternoon that day and that will be open for everyone, Giddis said.

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## **AVAILABLE NOW**

Since opening in 1993, the CF Levy campus has produced many graduates.

“I’m amazed at how much has been accomplished here,” Dr. Giddis said. “It’s kind of like photography. It’s not how good your equipment is. It is the eye of the photographer.

“Using that metaphor,” Giddis continued, “it is the people who have worked here throughout the years, who have had the dedication to make opportunities available to students, and to really invest in student success.”

While the brand new campus is gorgeous, Giddis said, it is really the heart of the faculty who care about the students that provides the level of excellence in education at the CF Levy campus.

All of the existing educators, administrators and support staff are moving from the old building to the new campus.

There is one new faculty member being added for science, she said.

The new campus has state-of-the-art equipment, she added.

“It is a fantastic science lab that will support a multitude of courses,” Giddis said.

These include but are not limited to anatomy, physiology, microbiology, natural sciences and more.

“It really allows us to expand our offerings in science,” she said.

Another staff member to be added at the new campus will be another educational advisor.

Kat Davis has been the person for enrollment, advising and for student activities, Dr. Giddis said. Now, there is going to be another person added to help with those responsibilities.

## **OFFERINGS**

The whole CF Levy campus is moving on July 19 and 20.

As for parking, there will be plenty of space at the new campus for the students, Giddis said.

There will be vending machines, but it is too soon to have an onsite cafeteria. There will be an onsite bookstore, though, where students will be able to purchase all of the books they need.

Some other positive aspects of the new campus include a learning resource center. This is something like a library. There will be material for checkout.

There will be material for students, and other members of the community, to use onsite as well, Giddis said.

This will be a place for quiet study and quiet collaboration, she added.

“We hope that it will evolve into an area where students know they can stay for a while,” she said, “because we know that if we can keep students on campus, then we have a better chance for them successfully completing and doing better in their courses.”

Another aspect of the new campus will be the student success center – or student support center. This is a place where students can be tutored.

There will be computers for students to use on their independent work, in addition to collaborative work, Giddis said.

There will be two private rooms available for students to use for collaboration, she said. The student support center will be more active for students to speak with each other, and to hang out, Giddis said, in contrast with the learning resource center.

There is going to be comfortable seating and table arrangements for students to work independently or together, she said.

The new campus will even have big dry-erase white boards on wheels that students can use to share their insights with one another as they work on projects together, Giddis said.

The sense of community goes beyond the student community and includes the whole area, she said.

There are going to be a couple of conference rooms, one that is 3,000 square-feet and a smaller one. The community will be able to use these for meetings, weddings and the like, she said.

The people are going to be participating in an historic event when the CF Jack Wilkinson Levy Campus comes alive starting next month.

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## PROGRAMS

Following are some bullet points for consideration by future students. There is everything from a course of study for a bachelor's degree to taking classes to earn a GED and for non-credit. There are also college credit certificates that are useful in gaining employment.

Many courses are offered completely over the Internet. Students can come to the campus, too, to use computers there and to possibly enjoy a better Internet connection than from their homes.

### **Bachelor's Degree**

- Business and Organizational Management
- Nursing

### **Associate in Arts**

• 62 academic pathways are available to prepare students to transfer to college and university baccalaureate degrees.

• Direct Connect University of Central Florida (Orlando) and FUSE at the University of South Florida (Tampa)

### **Associate in Science**

- Business Administration
- Computer Information Technology
- Criminal Justice Technology
- Early Childhood Education

Associate Degree Nursing

### **College Credit Certificates**

Online:

- Childhood Development
- Childcare Center Management
- Computer Information Technology
- Criminal Justice Technology Specialist
- Engineering Technology
- Business Administration

- Equine Technician
- Help Desk Technician
- Office Administration

### **College Credit Certificates**

On Campus Only

- Emergency Medical Technician

### **PSAV**

- Applied Welding Technology

### **Adult Education**

- ABE/GED

### **Non-Credit**

- Timber Harvesting Equipment Program

The College of Central Florida provides access to high quality, high value baccalaureate degrees, associate degrees, certificates and diplomas. It promotes the economic, social and cultural development of the community.

For more detailed information about CF, one good starting point is <http://www.cf.edu/>.

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