ABAC Neighbor Waivers Slash Tuition for Florida, South Carolina, Alabama Students

TIFTON—History shows that Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College has always been very popular with students from three of the states that touch Georgia’s borders. Thanks to a brand new ABAC Neighbor Waiver enrollment strategy, that relationship with students from Florida, South Carolina, and Alabama is about to get a lot stronger.

“ABAC Neighbor Waivers will allow students from Florida, South Carolina, and Alabama to attend ABAC this fall semester at the in-state tuition rates,” ABAC President David Bridges said. “That includes both new students and currently enrolled students who meet the ABAC Neighbor Waiver criteria.”

With an enrollment of 3,457 students during the 2014 fall semester, ABAC attracted students from 151 Georgia counties, 17 states, and 25 countries. A total of 148 students attended the college from Florida, South Carolina, and Alabama. Florida led the way with 112 of those students.
“The timing on this new Board of Regents policy coincides with increased interest from students in these states who are falling in love with our bachelor’s degree programs in diversified agriculture, biology, turfgrass and golf course management, natural resource management, and rural studies,” Bridges said. “Enrollment by students from Florida has more than doubled over the past five years, and enrollment from South Carolina students has tripled.”

ABAC Alumni Director Lynda Fisher said more than 3,000 ABAC alumni list Florida as their permanent state of residence. She plans to spread the word on ABAC Neighbor Waivers to those alumni as well as the 550 alumni in Alabama and the 750 alumni who reside in South Carolina.

“We plan to get the information about ABAC Neighbor Waivers out to all our alumni in these states,” Fisher said. “Right now, we have a regional roundup scheduled for Okeechobee, Florida on May 16 so that will be a great opportunity to share this good news.”

As a state college of the University System of Georgia, ABAC offers a lower tuition rate than university level institutions. In recent years, students have realized they can get a bachelor’s degree at ABAC at a lower cost without sacrificing the quality of their academic experience. ABAC is the only college south of Macon in the University System to grow its enrollment in both the 2013 and 2014 fall semesters.

“ABAC Neighbor Waivers represent another opportunity for students from these three states to experience an ABAC education,” Bridges said. “I think it’s going to be very popular with these out-of-state students, and my hope is that our in-state enrollment will continue to climb because students from Georgia know they can save money by getting their four-year degree from ABAC.”
Applications are now being accepted for the ABAC fall semester which begins on Aug. 12.

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