For IMMEDIATE Release

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Richardson Keynote Speaker for ABAC Nursing Ceremony December 10

TIFTON – William T. Richardson, Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and President and Chief Executive Officer of Tift Regional Health System (TRHS), will be the keynote speaker for the pinning ceremony on Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. in Howard Auditorium for graduates of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Since 1988, Richardson has served as president and CEO of TRHS, which includes Tift Regional Medical Center (TRMC), a 181-bed regional referral hospital located in Tifton. TRHS also comprises the TRMC West Campus in Tifton, Cook Medical Center in Adel and Tift Regional Physician Group with clinic locations throughout South Central Georgia. TRHS has been the most important clinical partner of ABAC’s nursing program since its inception in 1966.

During Richardson’s tenure, he has been at the helm of the hospital system’s largest expansion period. Major services developed under his leadership, including medical oncology and radiation therapy; cardiovascular care; expanded surgical specialties; a dialysis center; a women’s center; and a rural outreach clinic. Over the past 15 years, TRMC has completed multi-
million dollar construction projects, including a new hospital tower and lobby; a surgery center; a heart and vascular center, a new laboratory and more. The TRMC Anita Stewart Oncology Center is currently undergoing an expansion, and a new musculoskeletal center is in the planning stage.

In 1998, Richardson worked with the Tift County Board of Commissioners to develop the Tift Community Health Center clinic, which opened in 1999. It is designed to help economically-disadvantaged patients manage chronic diseases. He also teamed up with the Tift County Development Authority to build a new occupational health facility, providing an effective recruitment and retention tool for area business and industry.

Richardson is past chairman of the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) and the Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals (GACH). In 2005, GACH named him “CEO of the Year” for his accomplishments at TRMC. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the GHA as a Regional Policy Board Delegate to the American Hospital Association (AHA). He is also the co-founder and chairman of Stratus Healthcare, a collaboration of Georgia hospitals, physicians and other healthcare entities aligned to form a clinically-integrated network of care.

Prior to serving as TRHS’s president and CEO, Richardson was the administrator of Bulloch Memorial Hospital in Statesboro from 1985-1988. He was the associate administrator of West Georgia Medical Center in LaGrange from 1977-1985.

Richardson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Ala. He received a Master of Science in Hospital and Health Administration from the University of Alabama and completed residency training in hospital and health care administration at The Baptist Medical Centers in Birmingham, Ala.
Approximately 42 ABAC nursing students are expected to graduate during the fall commencement ceremony on Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. in Gressette Gym.

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