For IMMEDIATE Release

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Among those present for the announcement of the new ABAC Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing were (l-r): Dr. Gail Dillard, ABAC Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dawn Johns, Vice President for Human Resources, Colquitt Regional Medical Center; Troy Spicer, Dean, ABAC School of Nursing and Health Sciences; Scott Clanton, ABAC nursing student; Carol Smith, Vice President for Patient Care and Chief Nursing Officer, Tift Regional Health Systems; Bill Richardson, Tift Regional Health Systems CEO; Monica Gibbs, ABAC Nursing Alumnus and Registered Nurse at Colquitt Regional Medical Center; Tami Dennis, ABAC Associate Professor of Nursing; and Dr. David Bridges, ABAC President.
ABAC to Offer Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing

TIFTON—Registered nurses in the Tifton area got a shot in the arm on Thursday when Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College President David Bridges announced that ABAC will offer a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing beginning with the 2016 summer term.

“This is like a dream come true for many of our nursing graduates in the area,” Bridges said. “I think it’s great that we are able to make this announcement during the 50th anniversary year of nursing at ABAC.”

Troy Spicer, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at ABAC, said the R.N. to B.S.N. completion program adds depth to one of the most popular offerings at ABAC.

“The changes have been mind boggling since the ABAC nursing program began 50 years ago,” Spicer said. “The advances in health care are just incredible. This school and this program work so very hard to graduate individuals who are ready to take care of their families and their neighbors.

“I would bet there is not a single person in South Georgia who has not been touched by a nurse who graduated from this program. If you have breathed air in the last 50 years in South Georgia, you or a member of your family have had contact with an ABAC nursing graduate.”

Associate Professor of Nursing Tami Dennis has been the point person on the project to draw up the curriculum to secure ABAC’s latest bachelor’s degree.
“The ABAC nursing faculty designed the program to build on the current knowledge and professional experiences of the practicing R.N.,” Dennis said. “The program will have the added feature of a focus and application to the student’s existing place of employment.

“This focus will benefit both the student and our community partners in providing the best healthcare possible. The comradery between ABAC students and faculty fosters a positive educational experience and helps to ensure professional success.”

Dennis said nursing is the single largest healthcare occupation in Georgia, and the healthcare industry is the state’s fourth largest employer.

ABAC also offers bachelor’s degrees in biology, diversified agriculture, business and economic development, natural resource management, turfgrass and golf course management, and rural studies.

For more information on the new ABAC bachelor’s degree in nursing, interested persons can call (229) 391-5020.

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