ABAC Faculty, Staff Take Health Education to Enigma Packing Shed

TIFTON—Huge drops of sweat began collecting on his face before he even started talking. But Troy Spicer didn’t mind. His audience of 200 local farmers, crew leaders, and
migrant workers were sweating right along with him in an outdoor packing shed on a recent steamy afternoon in Enigma.

“It was hot but that’s South Georgia in the summer time,” Spicer, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, said. “We delivered some important information, and we made some good contacts.”

ABAC Health Center Coordinator Carmen Counts and High School Equivalency Program Associate Director Olga Contreras Martinez accompanied Spicer on the visit to deliver six 20-minute mini-lectures on farm worker health.

Ricardo Camara, Consul-General of Mexico in Atlanta, expressed his thanks.

“The training you provided on such relevant topics as basic first aid, heat stroke, treatment of wounds, and preventive health care was of the utmost importance to improve the conditions of Mexican and Latin-American farm workers in South Georgia,” Camara said in a personal letter to Spicer.

New opportunities for ABAC nursing students have developed because of ABAC’s participation in the event.

“We made contacts in the Departments of Labor and Education,” said Spicer. “As a result, we are going to be able to pair RN to BSN Completion Program students with state and federal officials to observe and participate in health inspections and education projects.

“The result will be a BSN graduate who has firsthand experience with the living, working and health conditions of workers in agriculture. This exposure will be relevant when these nurses return to their hospital and clinic jobs and will ultimately improve their practice.”
ABAC added a new bachelor’s degree in nursing to its curriculum this summer. Spicer said students are already enrolled in the program as well as in the very popular associate nursing degree program which ABAC instituted 50 years ago.

Fall semester classes at ABAC begin on Aug. 10.