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President Obama visits Lawson State Community College

On Thursday, March 26, 2015, the President of the United States visited the Birmingham campus of Lawson State Community College. Over 1,800 people gathered in the Arthur Shores Fine Arts building to listen to President Obama discuss “middle class economics” and keeping the middle class strong. He had this to say at the beginning of his speech, *“I think it was yesterday I saw a story where someone said that a visit from the President is a ‘potential game-changer’ for the neighborhood. I don’t know if just one visit is a game-changer, but it’s nice to be with you... And the young people who are here, you’re the game-changers because what you’re studying and your ability to then apply that learning, that’s going to make a difference. The love we put into our families and our communities every day, and embracing the joys of citizenship and participation; that’s what is a game-changer. That’s what makes a difference.”* Thanks to everyone at Lawson for putting together such a wonderful event.

New Hire: Tim Padgett

Alliant Data Systems welcomes Tim Padgett of Monroeville to the development staff. Tim brings more than 25 years experience in the creation, analysis and maintenance of computer-based applications to the Alliant development team. His strong problem-solving skills and extensive technical knowledge will only enhance Alliant’s ability to serve the colleges who rely on our software and solutions.



Personnel News

Misty Hoover and Jace Gunter promoted

Alliant Data Systems is pleased to announce the promotion of Misty Hoover and Jace Gunter to Senior Support Specialists.

Their experience, knowledge and dedication have served the colleges who rely on Alliant Data Systems well. As Senior Support Specialists, both Misty and Jace will have greater opportunities to interact with customers as well as a larger role in all aspects of support services.

Alliant Data Systems is fortunate to have both Misty and Jace as members of its support team and happy they are both willing to accept expanded roles within the company.

Career Opening

We are seeking an experienced, quota driven sales performer who is looking to focus their skills to drive the effective use of technology in Higher Education. Go to our website, <http://www.alliantdatasystem.com/Careers.aspx>, to view further information.

A Look Back

Financial Aid Training

Alliant Data Systems recently offered Financial Aid Training. The training took place at the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education on March 9-10, 2015 with around 20 attendees. The workshop was a refresher course for clients and an open discussion for upcoming Financial Aid changes.

Thank you to the Alabama Department of Postsecondary for hosting this event.

Here's what you had to say:

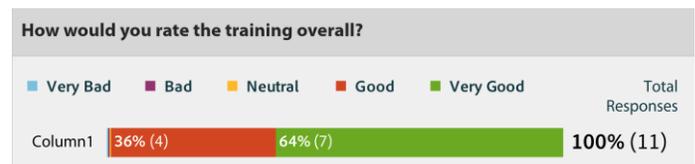
"...very helpful!"

"...Great job! Always beneficial!"

Recent Conferences

MACRAO – The MACRAO conference was held March 29th - March 31st. Alliant Data Systems hosted the opening dinner at The Shed BBQ in Ocean Springs, MS. A user group meeting with MS clients was also held.

ALAIR – The ALAIR conference was held in Eufala, Alabama on April 8th - April 10th at the Lake Point Resort State Park. A user group meeting was held at this conference.



What's Ahead

On the Calendar

Release 37.0 – The new updates will be released by the end of the April. Release videos will follow shortly after.

Financial Aid Makeup Opportunity - If you couldn't attend our recent Financial Aid Training, a webinar is scheduled for April 23rd - 24th. Please contact Melissa Milam at 251-281-1665 for more details.

Summer Regional Training – Our summer regional training topic this year is Student History/Student Registration. Dates are TBD.

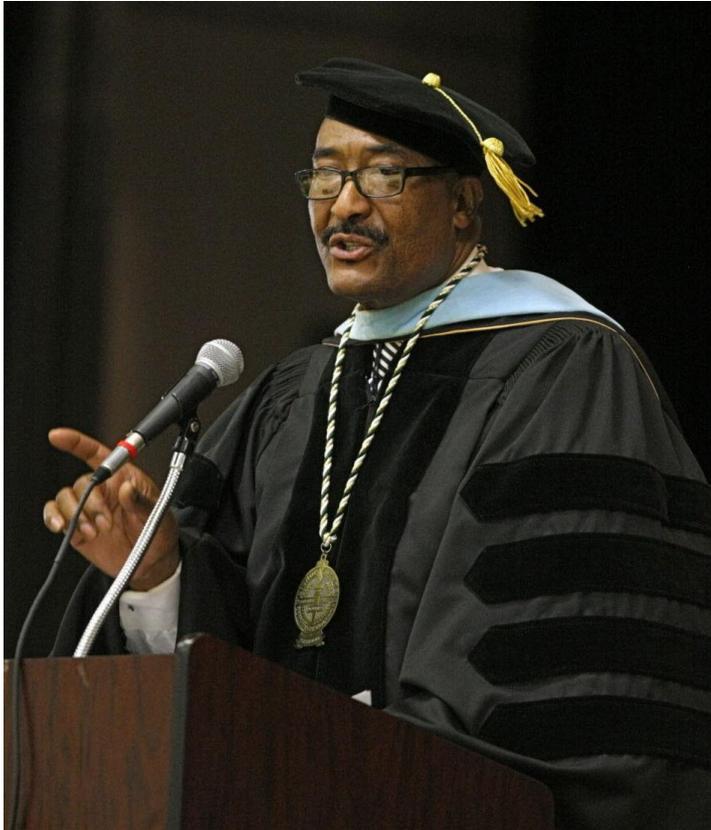
New Website – Alliant Data Systems will be debuting a new, updated website in the near future.

Upcoming Conferences

AASFAA – The AASFAA Conference will be held April 29th – May 1st at the Auburn Conference Center in Auburn, AL. Jace Gunter and Vickie Pridemore will attend and conduct a user group meeting.

ACCSISA - The ACCSISA conference will be held in Orange Beach, AL May 31st – June 3rd. Lynn Warren and Jenny Faulk will attend and hold a user group meeting.

Instructional Officers (Dean of Instruction) – will be June 3rd – June 5th in Orange Beach, AL. A user group meeting will be held at this conference.



Bishop State President
Dr. James Lowe

In Memoriam: Dr. James Lowe

The staff at Alliant Data Systems extends our sympathy to the Bishop State Community College family on the passing of BSCC President Dr. James Lowe, Jr. Dr. Lowe died suddenly on February 18.

“I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Lowe on many occasions,” Alliant Data Systems President Kevin Strickland said. “He was always pleasant, professional and down-to-earth. He was very invested in the future of Bishop State and his efforts truly showed. He was a great ambassador for the college and the community. He will be missed.”

Dr. Lowe enjoyed a long career in education including service as a teacher, football coach, principal, assistant superintendent and athletic director. He spent time as Interim President of Northwest Shoals Community College and Dean of Academic Instruction at Chattahoochee Valley Community College. He also served in administration with the Alabama Community College System as Vice Chancellor for Instructional and Student Services and Vice Chancellor of College Operations prior to being appointed president of Bishop State.

The Alliant Team

Corporate – Managing each department to evaluate and improve current business practices

Kevin Strickland - President CEO
Jenny Faulk - Business Manager
Cari Nichols – Finance Manager

Sales/Marketing/Client Relations – Ensuring our client’s needs are met by providing important updates and feedback opportunities

Ashleigh Strickland – Social Media/Marketing

Customer Support – Working as cohesive units to make sure client questions are answered quickly and accurately

Melissa Milam - Office Manager
Misty Hoover - Senior Customer Support Specialist
Sharon Johnson - Customer Support Specialist
Jace Gunter – Senior Customer Support Specialist
Dale Huber – Technical Support Specialist

Development – Evaluating requests from customer support and sales to ensure software changes meet client needs

Vickie Pridemore - Implementation Specialist
Lynn Warren - Programmer Manager
Alisha Brantley - Programmer
Wendy Fralish - Programmer
Scott Travis – Programmer
Tim Padgett- Programmer