



Bainbridge College, Thomas University Sign Special Agreements to Help Students Advance

Bainbridge College President Tom Wilkerson (at left) and Thomas University President Gary Bonvillian shake hands after signing documents for programs in business, education, and nursing. Behind them are their respective vice presidents of academic affairs, Dr. Mariam Dittmann (at left) and TU's Dr. Ann Landis, who had signed the documents first. The three agreements are designed to enhance the smooth transfer of students from BC as they pursue bachelor's degree programs at TU.



With the signing of the agreements Jan. 20, 2010, in BC's Edward D. Mobley Administration Building, BC and TU entered a partnership that allows students to further their educations in those fields of study.

"There's something very special about Southwest Georgia, and this partnership shows a commitment to investing in this region," President Wilkerson said. "These agreements send a message, loud and clear, that we are working together to ensure quality educational opportunities for the students of this region."

President Bonvillian said that the partnership would be beneficial to both schools. "Our feeder schools are all very important to us, and the relationship with Bainbridge College is special because it's a great school. When we find this kind of middle ground with the articulation of our programs, I think we all come out winners," said the president whose school has reached its highest enrollment this semester with more than 1,000

students, 40 of them BC alumni. BC also has set a new record enrollment this semester with about 3,800 students.

“Articulation agreements enable TU to maximize Bainbridge College students’ transfer credits so they are well-advanced in pursuing a bachelor’s degree,” Vice President Landis said, adding, “Bainbridge students are well-prepared for our quality academic programs.”

In addition to President Wilkerson and Vice President Dittmann, BC faculty attending included Sheree Dickenson, who chairs the Associate Degree Nursing Division; John McRae of the BC Early County Education Program; Valley Rogers, director and instructor of the Early Childhood Care and Education Program; Barbara Stephens, interim chair of the Technical Studies Division, and Dr. Tonya Strickland, who chairs the Arts and Sciences and the Learning Support divisions.

TU officials at the signing included Dr. Susan Otto, who chairs the Nursing Division; Dr. Peggy Perkins, chair of the Education Division; Dr. Alison Riley, associate professor of accounting and business, and Dr. Jenny Swearingen, Business Division chair.