

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | MEDIA INVITATION

Wallace Community College Selma to introduce CDL Simulator

Media invited to the ribbon cutting of a new CDL simulator for the WCCS CDL Program.

DATE: Thursday, August 19, 2021

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Craig Field Industrial Park
Building #16
Selma, AL 36701

Those looking to get their commercial driver's license at Wallace Community College Selma can do so now in a new truck simulator.

Social distancing protocols established in response to COVID-19 present challenges for commercial driver license training and testing however, simulators can serve as a resource for truck driver training and testing.

The college purchased the \$115,000 simulator in June through an Industries Certification Initiative Grant. "There is definitely a need for truck drivers in the state of Alabama, and WCCS has a first-rate program that is essential to filling those needs", said Dr. Glenn King, Jr., Director of Workforce Development. "We are truly grateful for Mrs. Gindi Prutzman, Executive Director for Central Alabama Works, Mr. Wayne Vardaman, Executive Director for the Selma & Dallas County Economic Development Authority, Mr. Aubrey Carter and members of the Region 5 Workforce Council, and the Alabama Community College System for supporting the college."

"This simulator will play a major role in our CDL program because it will allow students to practice easing off the clutch, and shifting gears while saving on fuel cost. The simulator will also save the cost of transmissions and clutch replacements on our trucks because 80% of our students have never driven a standard shift before," said Calvin Griffin, Technical Department Chair. "The simulator will allow students to practice taking off and shifting before actually driving an eighteen wheeler."

The simulator contains a seat and truck dashboard with a steering wheel. There are three large screens that show where the truck is going and what is happening. The brakes on the simulator are heavy, similar to an actual truck. The simulator will move and shift as it is driven.

The simulator is heavily customizable with control of many different aspects and scenarios including weather, traffic, road rage, terrain, truck loads and wind. It also contains practice videos and scenarios to help hone different specific skills such as parallel parking and going in reverse.

CDL classes at the college are eight weeks long with five trucks to use for practice among students in Selma and Demopolis. Upon completion, students are eligible to test for a Class A license.

With COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines, the simulator also helps with social distancing since now multiple students can practice with the simulator and actual truck without having to crowd in or around the truck.

WCCS started the CDL program in February 2020 and the program currently has a 95% pass rating.

Wallace Community College works to provide high-quality learning-centered educational opportunities and services through diverse instructional-delivery modes that are responsive to individual, community, state, and global needs.

Learn more about **Wallace Community College** at www.wccs.edu

Media Contacts:

Johnny Moss, III

Wallace Community College Selma

johnny.moss@wccs.edu

Office: 334-876-9233

Mobile: 334-327-2209