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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Gadsden State celebrates 100 years with Centennial Celebration at Wallace Drive Campus**

**GADSDEN, Ala.** — Gadsden State Community College marked its centennial on Tuesday, Sept. 16, with a historic 100-year celebration at Beck Gymnasium on the Wallace Drive Campus. Students, alumni, employees, retirees, and community members gathered to honor a century of education, innovation and service.

The event began with opening remarks from Dean Andy Green, who welcomed guests and recognized Gadsden State leadership, before introducing Gadsden State President Alan Smith.

In his remarks, President Smith reflected on the College’s century-long impact and reaffirmed its mission for the future. “For 100 years, Gadsden State has opened doors and created opportunities that transform lives,” Smith said. “We honor those who came before us by preparing the next generation to succeed. Our commitment is to continue opening doors of opportunity and ensuring Gadsden State remains a place where futures are built.”

Smith also recognized dignitaries in attendance, including past presidents, division chairs, directors, retirees, and alumni of the Alabama School of Trades, Alabama Technical College, and Gadsden State Junior College.

Special presentations followed, including a City of Gadsden proclamation by Council President Kent Back and a Congressional Record presented by Shea Snide Miller, representing Congressman Mike Rogers’ office.

The program continued with video segments highlighting milestones in Gadsden State’s history and remarks from speakers representing the College’s past, present, and future: Boone Kinard, Executive Director of External Affairs for the Alabama Community College System; Tim McCartney, Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees; alumni Lindsey Cline and Destiny Hall; retiree Pam Clough; former presidents Dr. Martha Lavender and Dr. Renee Culverhouse; Director of Advancement and Alumni Relations, Hillary Folsom; and Gadsden State President Alan Smith.

Following the event, guests were able to view archival displays and enjoy refreshments while reconnecting with fellow Cardinals. Commemorative items, including centennial T-shirts and coins, were also available. Guests were then invited to tour the College’s newly opened Sports Complex.

The 100-year celebration is one of several milestone events taking place during Gadsden State’s centennial year, highlighting the College’s legacy across all five campuses: East Broad, Wallace Drive, Valley Street, Ayers and Cherokee. The next centennial event will be the annual Cardinal Gala on Oct. 9.

For more information on centennial events, visit [**www.GadsdenState.edu/Celebrate**](https://www.gadsdenstate.edu/celebrate.cms).

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