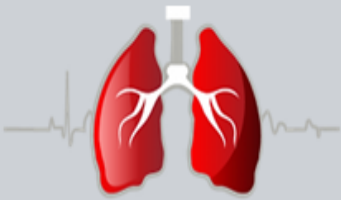


Volume 1, Issue 6

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

# Alabama Society for Respiratory Care

## Respiratory Care Week is almost here!!

How are you celebrating?

We would love to know! Please post to the ASRC Facebook Page or send info and pics to [alsrcinfo@gmail.com](mailto:alsrcinfo@gmail.com) so we can share how everyone celebrated.

We would also love to help you celebrate with education!

The ASRC will be hosting multiple traditional CEU events during Respiratory Care Week.

Check out the opportunities below:

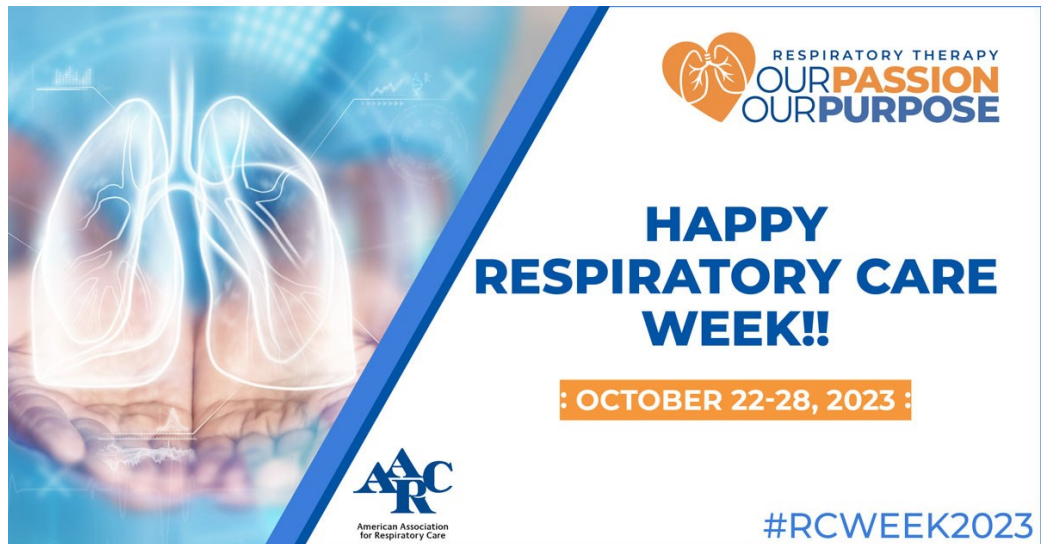
Oct 23: Long Term Artificial Airways

Oct 24: Advanced Opportunities in the RT Profession

Oct 25: Hidden in Plain Sight

Oct 26: Biofilm in Endotracheal Tubes (repeat of a previous offering)

Please visit us at [alsrc.org](http://alsrc.org) for more information and to register.



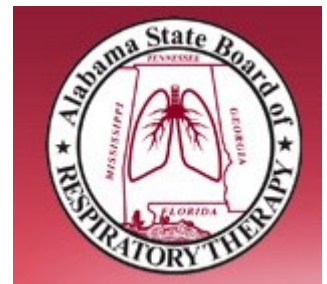
## It's time to renew!

It's that time again! You must complete CE Broker registration and upload your CEUs to be eligible for license renewal this year. License renewal must be completed by October 31st to prevent a lapse in licensure.

Don't forget, RTs are required to complete 24 contact hours of CEUs during the 2 year licensure period with no more than 12 of those being non-traditional or self-study.

There are other resources to help you navigate CE Broker. The [ASBRT has a section dedicated to CE Broker](#). Also, CE Broker has a Support line Monday-Friday 8AM-8PM ET at 877-434-6323.

You can visit the [ASBRT](#) website for more information.



# Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness

September is Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month. Pulmonary Fibrosis encompasses approx. 200 distinct conditions which are collectively called interstitial lung disease. Many of which have no known direct cause.

Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis affects nearly 128,000 people in the US with approx. 48,000 new cases diagnosed each year. This results in about 40,000 deaths, which is comparable to breast cancer.

There is no current cure, but interventions are available to improve quality of life.

To learn more about Pulmonary Fibrosis and how to get involved visit [https://www.pulmonaryfibrosis.org/get-](https://www.pulmonaryfibrosis.org/get-involved/volunteer/pf-awareness-month)

[involved/volunteer/pf-awareness-month](https://www.pulmonaryfibrosis.org/get-involved/volunteer/pf-awareness-month) The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation enjoys a partnership with AARC as a patient-focused organization.

To learn more about this and other Pulmonary Diseases, check out <https://www.aarc.org/education/online-courses/pulmonary-disease-educator-course/>. By completing this course, you earn a AARC Certificate of completion as a Pulmonary Disease Educator.



# Spotlight on Respiratory Care Education in Alabama

Respiratory Therapy education in Alabama is on the move! With the increased demand for RTs which will only grow in the future, the state college system is responding with an increase in degree programs.

We have seen a decrease in workforce which is evident in some facilities by LPNs or Paramedics working in the RT department. These new and ongoing Respiratory programs hope to boost the workforce by filling in the gaps created by a retiring workforce and increase in population.

Make sure to support your local programs and welcome the students into your facility that might one day be your coworker.

Current Programs:

Wallace State Community College in Hanceville with Ashley Lancaster and Tabatha Tatum.

Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa with Riva McAlpine and Angelia Stanton.

Jefferson State Community College in Birmingham with David Trott and Jennifer Chesser.

Trenholm State Community College in Montgomery with Shalanda Lee and Latavia Barrow.

Wallace Community College in Dothan with Judy Harrell and Kim Welborn.

Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville with Ed Goodwin, Andres Crawley, and Tyler Garth.

University of North Alabama in Florence with Jabril Diamond and Erin Cantrell.

Programs working towards accreditation:

Coastal Community College in Bay Minnette with Byron Truelove and Kristi Rosier. Possible start date in Jan 2024.

University of West Alabama in Livingston with Jerry King and TBD. Goal start date Fall 2024

Calhoun Community College in Huntsville with Christy Goodwin and TBD. Start date not established yet.

## ASRC BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

**This Quarter we are highlighting Jabril Diamond and Riva McAlpine, who are both educators in Alabama. We hope you enjoy getting to know your representatives! Check Page 10!**

# Alabama RT on the AARC Ballot

The AARC recently had elections for their Board of Directors and Alabama RTs were on the ballot! Ronda Hood and Glenn Pippen were candidates for Director-At-Large. Voting ended Sept. 29th.

Maintaining membership with the AARC ensure you are able to have a say in our representation and the future of our profession. Get involved so you have a say!



**Glenn Pippen**

*Director of Respiratory Care Services and Sleep Disorders Center  
Grandview Medical Center*



**Ronda Hood**

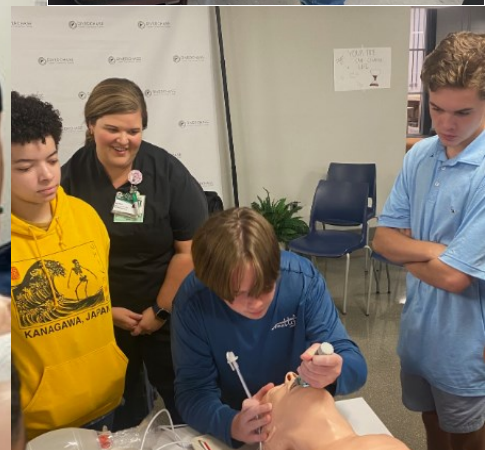
*Retired  
Former Director of Cardiopulmonary Services and Hospital Safety at Helen Keller Hospital, Sheffield, AL, 1990–2022*

## RTs with HOSA

Alabama RTs have been working with HOSA throughout the state to promote Respiratory Therapy as a career.

Pictured here are visits to Calera High School in Calera and Riverchase Career Connection Center (RC3) in Hoover.

Pictured: Alisha McGuire (COA), Nicole Walker (UAB), LaQuata Boswell (UAB), and Megan Crumpton (UAB).



## Recognition for UAB therapists!

The August edition of the New England Journal of Medicine included the original article “Video versus Direct Laryngoscopy for Tracheal Intubation of Critically Ill Adults,” in which UAB therapists Robert B. Johnson, RRT; Jerrod Isbell, RRT; Nicole Walker, MS, RRT; Stephanie Powell, RRT; Great Peagler-Sims, MS, RRT; Megan Crumpton, MS, RRT; Laquata Boswell, MS, RRT; and Diane Freeman, BS, RRT were named as contributors to the article as Device Investigators. Thank you for being involved and improving understanding of our practice. Pictured here is Megan Crumpton, Respiratory Therapy Manager at UAB, checking temperature of Aerogen Vibrating Mesh Nebulizers during the bench study.



## Alabama Asthma Coalition

The AAC mission is to reduce the burden of asthma throughout Alabama by making quality asthma care available to all people who have asthma.

It is comprised of members from multiple disciplines including Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Respiratory Therapists, Nurses (including school Nurses), Physician Assistants, Social Workers, and many others.

The Coalition has committees focused on increasing access to medications, promoting health equality, and promoting Asthma Camps throughout the state.

A major focus for the AAC is addressing asthma education across the state to standardize and ensure payment when

possible. This is in conjunction with ensuring asthma education is accessible to all Alabamians by supporting Community Health Worker Asthma Education.

More information can be found at:

State Policies for Expanding Medicaid Coverage of CHW Services: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/state-policies-for-expanding-medicaid-coverage-of-community-health-worker-chw-services/>

National Academy for State Health Policy, State CHW models: <https://nashp.org/state-community-health-worker-models/>

National Association of Community Health Workers: <https://nachw.org/>

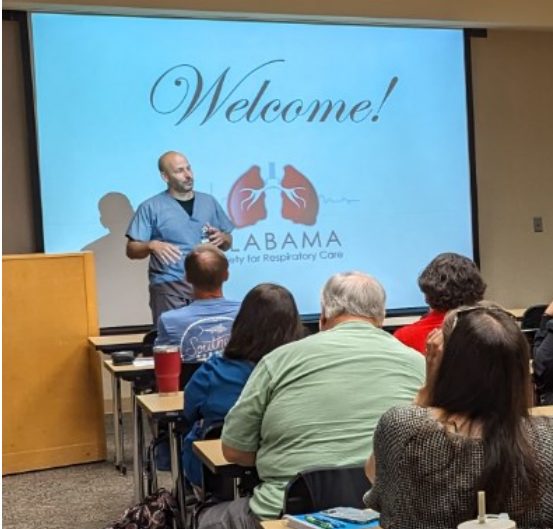


# Mini-Conference Fun!

The ASRC Huntsville Mini-Conference on Aug. 31st and the ASRC Montgomery Mini-Conference on Jun 8th were a success! Where you able to attend? Make sure to check the [ASRC Events](#) often to see conferences near you!



Montgomery Mini-Conference: top and left; Huntsville Mini-Conference: below



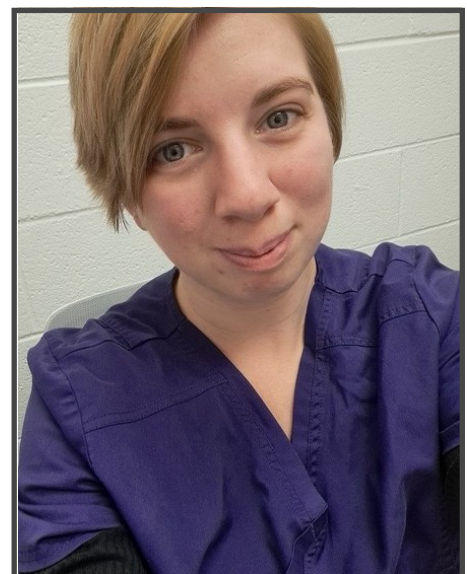
## Student Update



Congratulations to Trenholm State Community College August 4, 2023 graduates! 75% of the class are now CRTs and are eligible for the CSE! Way to go!! This program is now accepting applications through October 31, 2023.



Costal Alabama Community College has completed the CoARC site visit and are well on the way to a possible start date of January 2024!



WCC/ Dothan Respiratory Student, Jessica Bradley, received the \$1500 Brad Leidich Memorial Scholarship from Lambda Beta as the 2023 recipient. She will be a May 2024 graduate. Congratulations, Jessica. We are so proud of you!

## Student Update Continued...



The Shelton State Class of 2023 students collected school supply donations in July 2023 for Tuscaloosa One Place who partners with the Tuscaloosa Backpack Coalition each year to provide school supplies to K-12 students in the West Alabama area. Tuscaloosa One Place provides over 20 programs to address critical family needs in the West Alabama community.



Wallace Community College/ Dothan is excited to welcome the May 2024 Respiratory Therapy students. WCC is excited to begin this journey with each student.

## Student Update Continued...



Pictured above: WSCC Seniors held a school supply drive for Hanceville elementary, middle, and high school students raising over \$1,200

Pictured below: WSCC students participated in the Lawrence County schools career expo, educating an estimated 365 sophomore and 325 senior students about Respiratory Therapy.





## Student Update Continued...

The Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions has received provisional accreditation approval from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) to begin enrolling students for Fall 2023. The Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care, or the BSRC, is the first non-nursing clinical degree offered with the College. The first cohort of students has been admitted into the program, and is participating in lecture and clinical courses currently. The students will also be participating in interprofessional simulations with other students within the college.

Students participating in the annual Aspiring Nursing and Respiratory Camp were also introduced to the profession during this event. The students had hands on interactive sessions with Respiratory Care faculty.

Meagan Curtis was also the recipient of the 2023 John B. Rice Scholarship.



## ASRC Board Member Highlight: Jabril Diamond

What started your path to Respiratory Therapy?

At the age of 17, my cousin died in a horrific car accident. I arrived at the scene while resuscitation attempts were still being made. Although I lost my cousin that day, I never forgot the healthcare individuals that tried so hard to save his life. I knew then I wanted a career in healthcare. I officially decided to become a respiratory therapist after program faculty attended my healthcare introductions class. I was intrigued and have been in love with the respiratory care profession since.

What is your favorite thing about your career?

Currently I am the program director for the respiratory care program at the University of North Alabama. My favorite thing about teaching students is knowing I am making a difference not only in the

student's lives, but also impacting countless numbers of patients through them.

Has anyone impacted your career in a meaningful way and how?

I could never thank my college RT professors and mentors enough. They pushed me to begin my teaching journey 10 years ago and continue to support my growth as faculty to this day.

What is your favorite part of being on the ARSC board?

My favorite part of being on the ASRC board is the relationships I am able to develop with other leaders in the state. It truly feels like we are able to make a difference while also having fun together.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

My proudest accomplishment professionally is being able to lead the development of a program near my hometown. To be able to move from

Birmingham to bring a program to Florence, Alabama feels as if I have come full circle. My students who learn to care for patients at UNA will likely be providers of care for many of my own family members and friends.

What is your favorite hobby?

It's not a hobby, but I get the most joy daily from being a mom. I have one daughter and she is my biggest blessing. She keeps me busy, but I wouldn't have it any other way.



## ASRC Board Member Highlight: Riva McAlpine

What started your path to Respiratory Therapy?

Growing up, I knew I always wanted to go into the medical field. By the time I got to middle and high school, I observed one of my best friends and her sister experience several asthma attacks. My best friend's asthma got so bad at times that she was hospitalized. During one of her hospital visits, I got to meet a respiratory therapist at DCH Regional Medical Center and I was fascinated about how she helped my friend. So, by the time I got to the 10th and 11th grades, I begin doing more research on the career path of a respiratory therapist. After my research, I was so intrigued that once I graduated high school I decided to attend UAB to pursue a degree in Respiratory Therapy.

What is your favorite thing about your career?

I love that the field of respiratory therapy can open up the doorway to so many different pathways and avenues. We are not just confined to a hospital setting, but specialty diagnostic areas, outpatient clinics, etc. The advancement of technol-

ogy within our field always seems to amaze me as we strive to provide healthcare services beyond the acute care setting.

What is your favorite part of being on the ARSC board?

I love meeting and connecting with RTs throughout the state of Alabama. Being a member of the ASRC Board has also educated me on the RT pioneers in our state that has been an asset to our field. This connection has also inspired me to continue to encourage my students how important it is to be actively involved in our professional associations so that they can be a vital asset to the healthcare team, and continue to advance our profession forward as future leaders.

What did you want to do when you were young?

I wanted to be a pediatrician because I love working with children and youth.

What is your favorite hobby?

Baking delicious sweet treats.



# Representation in Action!

Alabama Political Action Committee Representatives Christy Goodwin, Courtney Bates, and Megan Crumpton where in Washington DC Sep. 27th to meet with Alabama Congressional Representatives to Advocate and Educate on the behalf of Alabama RTs! The current push for legislation involves Improving patient access to Pulmonary Rehabilitation and to Respiratory Therapists, and support Medicare oxygen payment reform.

Please visit <https://www.aarc.org/advocacy/congressional-legislation/annual-respiratory-care-fly-in/> to learn more and take action by contacting your representatives!

Pictured here are Christy, Courtney and Megan with Legislative Assistants Emily McBride and Will Stiers. Also pictured is patient representative Gary Nelson.



## Is Compact Licensure on the way?

Maybe. The AARC announced a grant, awarded by the Department of Defense and administered through the National Center for Interstate Compacts.

The grant is to assist in the development of a new interstate compact. It will run for 2 years and start January of 2024.

More information can be found at <https://www.aarc.org/an23-aarc-receives-grant-to-support-development-of-an-interstate-compact/>



## President's Corner

Respiratory Therapy is often left out when it comes to recognizing healthcare professionals. We are a small part of the healthcare team, but we are one that plays a vital role in the lives of our patients. It has always bothered me that RTs do not get recognized for all of their hard work, dedication, sacrifice, determination, compassion, and expertise. If you combine that with the fact that we live in Alabama, it can make it worse when hearing from other states, as Alabama and the South are often portrayed as "backwoods and uneducated".

I am excited to see the growth and influence Alabama RTs are having right now. We have a huge expansion in Alabama RT programs. We have Alabama RTs being asked to speak to high school students at schools throughout the state to share the idea of choosing RT as a career. We have Alabama RTs presenting at conferences that influence educators of health science courses in high schools. We have Alabama RTs included in panel discussions that include other disciplines to influence the training of healthcare leaders throughout the state. We have Alabama RT representation on national task force committees to look at things such as compact licensure. We have Alabama RTs involved in other pulmonary related organizations such as the Asthma Coalition. We have three volunteers going to Washington D.C. to represent Alabama for the AARC national fly-in to meet with legislators. We have House of Delegate (HOD) reps that are actively representing Alabama RTs at the national meetings. We have active Alabama RTs serving on other RT boards such as Tri-State. We have Alabama RTs on the ballot for the AARC Board of Directors, which is our national organization. Alabama RTs are being represented all over!

I am proud to be an Alabama RT! You guys rock! You are amazing! I have worked with some of the best RTs in the business, and it is great to see Alabama RTs getting recognized, and getting involved in the future of our profession. Thank you for all that you do!

Ed Goodwin, MSRT, LRT, RRT, RRT-ACCS, RPFT  
Department Head & Associate Professor, JSU Respiratory  
ASRC President; ASBRT Board Member  
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[jsu.edu/respiratory](http://jsu.edu/respiratory)



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