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SOUTHERN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESS RELEASE



Pictured above is Thomas Browning

Thomas Browning Awarded Barrere Memorial Scholarship at Southern State *Computer Science Program played a big role in Browning's enrollment at the College*

The Southern State Community College Foundation has announced Thomas Browning, of Franklin County, as a recipient of the Sara M. Barrere Memorial Scholarship for the 2023-24 academic year.

Browning, a 2003 high school graduate, is a working husband and father of three as well as an Air Force veteran. He is pursuing a degree in Computer Information Technology at Southern State Community College, under the direction of Associate Professor Dr. Joshua Montgomery.

"I first heard about Southern State when Dr. Montgomery came to my workplace to talk about getting the A+ certification. He was approachable and took time to talk to me about his course and how it would compare to the A+ certification I already had," Browning said.

Browning decided to enroll in Dr. Montgomery's course at Southern State. "While taking his course, I was struck by how much Dr. Montgomery genuinely cares for his students. I already hold two associate degrees, and I've not had a professor who has such a passion for their students," added Browning.

At the end of the course, Browning spoke with an academic advisor about whether he should complete the Associate of Applied Science Degree program at Southern State with Dr. Montgomery or move on to his bachelor's degree since he already had the majority of the credits from his prior two degrees.

Although the academic advisor recommended going straight into a bachelor's degree program, Browning knew that Southern State had a professor from whom he had more to learn.

"I enrolled in the Computer Science Program and modified my future BS/MS degree plans to accommodate the additional technology-based Associate of Applied Science degree. I've also been given

the opportunity to join Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), an international college honor society, since coming to Southern State,” said Browning.

Browning added, “I am grateful for the opportunity to set a good example for my children, and being awarded this scholarship allows me to focus on my studies and provide inspiration to help them find what they are passionate about,” replied Browning.

Browning hopes to continue his education by obtaining his bachelor's and master's degrees in IT Management, and continue to work in the IT field, helping dispel the stigma that IT people are distant and unapproachable.

Southern State's Computer Science Program offers an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Computer Technology. Students can select two focus areas from four different pathway options, which include Networking, Programming, Cybersecurity, and Robotics.

A degree in Computer Technology from Southern State will allow students to gain in-demand skills in a flexible, affordable, and fun environment! Southern State helps students get connected with companies in the area for internships and job opportunities! To learn more, please visit <https://www.sccc.edu/academics/programs/computer-science.shtml>

Spring Semester begins January 8, 2024. Registration is underway. Connect with Southern State today!

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