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Board interviews 12 for chancellor position

By Dana Beyerle

MONTGOMERY — The state board of education on Friday concluded interviews of 12 applicants for the two-year college system chancellor's position and will narrow the list of finalists next week.

Board members voted to individually submit the names of four finalists by Tuesday.

A Thursday board of education meeting is scheduled to determine the next step, which probably will be finalist interviews on Oct. 22.

"Our community college leadership is going to determine where we are for the next 10 years," said Gov. Bob Riley, president of the nine-member board that interviewed candidates Thursday and Friday.

Interviewed were Donald Edwards, the two-year college system's operations and planning vice chancellor; Richard Federinko, Troy University senior vice chancellor for student services and administration and a former Alabama two-year college president; Stephen Franks, president of Central Alabama Community College; Freida Hill, deputy commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia; Rose Johnson, president of Haywood Community College in Clyde, N.C.; and Andrew Jones, executive vice chancellor for education affairs, Dallas (Texas) County Community College District; Stephen Katsinas, director of the education policy center and a professor of higher education at the University of Alabama; W. David Pelham, superintendent/president of Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, Calif.; Roger Richardson, urban economic development specialist and state coordinator for urban community resource and economic development programs at the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service in Huntsville; Carol Spencer, president of San Juan College in Farmington, N.M.; Ken Tucker, dean of the business school and professor of management at the University of West Alabama; and Sandra Woodley, chief financial officer and strategic planner of the Arizona University System.

Woodley is a former associate executive director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

The board received 40 applications for the position that has been vacant since Chancellor Bradley Byrne resigned in May to run for governor.

System attorney Joan Davis has been interim chancellor.