

HCC Student VOICES meet legislators at annual luncheon



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Members of Hinds Community College's Student VOICES class were among those who met with legislative at the annual Legislative Luncheon. Pictured (l to r) are Addison Bridges of Clinton, Brittany Ellis of Pearl, Nadia Tompkins of Byram with Raymond Campus math instructor and sponsor Jeff Hughes of Terry. Student VOICES is a statewide organization designed to empower community college students to become civically engaged at the local, state, national and global levels. One of their missions is to support community college efforts toward fair and equitable funding at the state level.

I'm not trained enough to take a class

By Guest Columnist Kim Condon

Let's get something straight right off the bat. You are never trained! You should, however, always be training.

I can bet that every firearms instructor has heard these very words: "I have a gun, but I don't know anything about it." That is why we have instructors who teach basic handgun classes. Everyone starts out as a beginner... everyone! When you sign-up for a class, whether it be Anatomy 101 or Speech 101, are you expected to come into it as an expert in the subject matter? No, you are not. The same holds true for firearms instruction. So, stop putting unnecessary pressure on yourself, and register for a basic pistol or defensive shotgun class.

I'll also wager that every instructor has heard: "I've been shooting all my life, so I don't need to take a class." This has become a standard punch line in the industry, just so you know.

If you think you know everything there is to know about firearms, safety



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and the aftermath of a lethal encounter, then you just may not be teachable. There is no scripted scenario that plays out in the real world exactly like you have done in your head. Ask someone to whom it's actually happened. Everyone else is simply regurgitating information that they have heard or read. Don't get me wrong; serious role-playing in formal training classes is as close to the "real deal" that you can get; but, in the end, it still leaves a lot of "what ifs" on the table.

Be honest with yourself. Could you benefit from formal firearms training? Could you benefit from legal advice pertaining to a lethal force encounter? Could you stop a threat if your life or the life of a loved one was truly in danger?

Firearms training is not just about trigger time. It's a much bigger picture. Pulling the trigger is not the only option.

Please seek a professional, accredited and reputable training facility, then invest in yourself. You are worth it!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kim Condon is co-owner of Boondocks FTA, LLC. and is a National Rifle Association Firearms Instructor and Chapter Leader for The Well Armed Woman Shooting Chapter (Clinton/Raymond MS - Chapter).

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