

The Craven Community College Magazine

2018



We are Craven County's first choice for teaching and learning.



Dr. Ray Staats addresses graduates during the 2017 commencement.

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dr. Raymond W. Staats

When a student steps onto the campus at Craven Community College, they are making an investment in their future. Whether that student intends to transfer to a four-year university or enter the workforce right after completing a program, they are choosing us with the faith and trust that we are preparing them for success. We take that expectation seriously and want to ensure our students' Craven Community College education is a valuable asset when they enter the workforce.

We never know where a student's journey will ultimately take them. Over the past year, I've learned about numerous success stories that span a range of career choices and reach across the country.

One graduate, Shannon, earned her M.D. this year from the University of Nebraska, but her journey began with an associate degree from Craven CC. A teen mother at the time, Shannon leaned on the guidance of instructors Jessica Cofield and Don Carpenetti.

"They were fantastic mentors while I was there," she said. "I was in Jessica's first cohort and we've stayed in touch ever since. She's one of the people who told me 'you can do it.' I think it's amazing how much she puts into her students."

Another former student is Chris. Beginning his medical career in 1990 after becoming a certified EMT at Craven CC, he changed careers, like many of us do. As fate would have it, 17 years later Chris found himself needing to change careers once again. Remembering his positive experience with Craven CC, Chris chose our campus once more and graduated in 2009 with an associate degree in applied science in nursing that led him to where he works today—as the nurse manager at Coastal Carolina Health Care New Bern Family Practice and Urgent Care Center.

"I am in my position today because of Craven Community College," he said. "It provided knowledgeable and experienced nursing staff, facilities, and the support I needed as a student returning to the classroom after nearly 17 years of graduating high school."

At Craven CC, we take pride in building a reputation that ensures our students are not only prepared for the workforce, but actually participating in it as well. The value of an associate degree is readily apparent in published unemployment rates, which are 4.6% for students with a high school diploma versus only 3.4% for students with an associate degree.

We provide value to our students through educational partnerships as well. In June, we signed a co-admission agreement with East Carolina University that will enable students to

transfer directly to ECU after completing an associate degree program with us. This convenient option offers huge savings—a national report from the Education Advisory Board shows a student who completes the first two years of a four-year degree at a community college can save an average of about \$43,000.

With our Havelock campus located less than two blocks from Cherry Point's main gate, it's critical that we have partnerships specific to our students' experience and opportunities on the base. Six different Workforce Development programs (truck driving, welding, barbering, FAA A&P Aviation, HVAC, and plumbing) are funded through VA benefits.

Last fall, Janine, a student who retired from the U.S. Navy as a medic after 20 years, utilized her Post-9/11 GI Bill to complete our Truck Driver Training School. I'm proud to say that she not only completed the program, but two days before graduating, she was already offered a job by J & R Schugel Trucking.

Craven CC's motivation to get its CDL program approved by the North Carolina State Approving Agency was inspired by the region's high concentration of military veterans and job growth opportunities available to become commercial drivers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that truck driving is projected to have 213,500 job openings from 2016-26, ranking it first among jobs requiring an associate or post-secondary non-degree award.

In today's competitive marketplace, it is vital for prospective employees to have skills that set them apart from others. Craven CC's variety of certifications and programs lets students achieve training and experience that gives them the advantage to surpass the competition. To accomplish this, we have formed strategic partnerships with local businesses in a variety of specialties and capacities.

Among our most recent endeavors has been in the manufacturing sector. We launched the Manufacturing Career Pathway program as a pre-employment vetting process for some of our local businesses. These companies have entrusted our instructors to provide the skills needed for new employees to succeed and become more invested in the company's future.

Also, thanks to a \$200,000 grant from Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas, we have been able to create a new Craven County Apprentice Program (CCAP) that connects students with hands-on training and career development opportunities at companies such as Bosch, Chatsworth Products, Moen, Atlantic Veneer, Carolina Plastics, and Tandemloc.

Craven Community College is a great choice whether one is looking to enhance job skills or transfer to a university! ♦♦♦



On the Cover: A Craven CC graduate walks through a celebratory parade of college faculty after the 2018 commencement.

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Excellence in Leadership

Craven CC Foundation showcases leadership with Community Fabric Awards

The Craven Community College Foundation held its 8th annual Community Fabric Awards (CFA) at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center on April 24. The event was created to showcase excellence in leadership as demonstrated by outstanding initiative, impact of service, and inspiration of others. The recipients of each of the three categories are honored during the annual CFA awards ceremony and luncheon.

The 2018 recipients were J. Troy Smith, Jr. for Individual Leadership, Trent Cadillac Buick GMC for Business Leadership, and Jorge Benitez for Leadership in Education.

"This year's CFA recipients are emblematic of why we began this event," said Charles Wethington, Craven CC's executive director of institutional advancement. "The committee reviewed many great nominations this year, but those who were ultimately selected were named because of the incredible length of time and depth of initiative in which they each have shown a commitment to truly serving our community."

Troy Smith, recipient of the award for individual leadership, assumed an influential role in improving the quality of life in his community since arriving in New Bern in 1967. In addition to his work at Ward and Smith, P.A., Smith has served as chair of the Craven Regional Medical Center Foundation, through which his leadership was critical in the development of the collaboration between CarolinaEast Health System and UNC Cancer Care. Smith is a passionate advocate for Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain, where he has served on the advisory board for three years and was instrumental in bringing this new club and a teen center to New Bern. He is also a supporter of many nonprofits in Eastern North Carolina, including the Salvation Army, Religious Community Services (RCS), United Way, and Boy Scout troops.

The award for business leadership was presented to Trent Cadillac Buick GMC President Mike Deichmann and Vice President Pete Deichmann. The dealership originally opened as Trent Oldsmobile Cadillac on South Front Street in New Bern in 1957. Mike took over the business in 1970 to become the youngest approved Cadillac dealer in the United States, and his brother Pete joined him in 1971. In the years they have been in business, Trent Cadillac Buick GMC has consistently been a supporter of countless nonprofits and initiatives in the community. Some of these include RCS, Partners in Education, New Bern Military



Mike and Pete Deichmann (business leadership), and Jorge Benitez (leadership in education)

Alliance, Promise Place, Coastal Women's Shelter, NBHS Bears Club, Craven County Hospice, Craven County Special Olympics, Relay for Life, Wreaths across America, Craven Literacy Council, and local churches, fire departments, and law enforcement entities.

Jorge Benitez was selected for the leadership in education award for his work as the director of bands at Havelock High School, where he has worked since the fall of 1994. Each year, he directs over 200 students across various ensembles and has collaborated with music faculty to write and receive local grants. Benitez is currently one of the lead music teachers in Craven County while also serving as a mentor to new music teachers and clinical interns, including four band directors in Craven County who either worked as his assistant band director or interned with him. He is also an active clinician and adjudicator for marching, concert, and jazz band festivals throughout North Carolina.

Funds raised through the CFA event sponsorships and tickets are used to support programs, equipment, facilities, and new and emerging initiatives of Craven Community College. They also serve by creating awareness of and support for the college and highlighting students and their accomplishments. This year, the CFA event netted nearly \$53,000 in support of the Foundation's mission. ♦ ♦ ♦

\$265,000
Raised by Community
Fabric Awards

24 Community Fabric
Awards have been
granted to local
leaders since 2009

Faculty and Staff Aim for the Stars

Seymour, Boyd, Truett win Excellence Awards

Filling roles that range from teaching chemistry to working with students as counselors and tutors, Craven CC serves its students every day with a workforce of 532 staff and faculty. While the large number of people contributing to Craven CC's success provides a collective benefit for the school's student population, it is also important to recognize individual achievement.

The Excellence Awards recognize the work of faculty, adjunct faculty, and staff at Craven CC who go above and beyond their day-to-day duties. The 2018 winners were revealed to the recipients in a surprise announcement led by Dr. Ray Staats in March. This year's recipients were Cindy Seymour for Faculty Excellence, Melanie Truett for Adjunct Faculty Excellence, and Yuko Boyd for Staff Excellence.

Seymour, a full-time biology instructor at Craven CC since 2008, is a Craven County native who comes from a family of educators. Upon learning she had received the award, Seymour credited her family and public school system for her success.

"This is a product of having good teachers in Craven County schools, my exposure to a great public education system, and the colleagues I continue to teach with today that inspire me," said Seymour. "I come from a family of teachers and collectively, we have 200 years of teaching experience. I've never wanted to be anything other than a teacher. It's definitely in my DNA."

During the nomination process, instructors are required to demonstrate their teaching abilities by conducting a specific lesson for the nomination committee.

While Seymour has been an instructor at Craven for 10 years, Truett joined in 2016 as an adjunct faculty instructor

in the physical therapist assistant program. In that short amount of time, she impressed her peers and exuded a love for her work that was easily visible to her students and fellow instructors.

"During her demonstration, she came in and talked about posture and physical therapy, and you could tell immediately that she was very passionate about what she does," said Kyle Warner, chair of the selection committee. Truett has worked in home health, the Caswell Center in Kinston, Craven County School System, North Carolina VA retirement home, and a skilled nursing facility, but has found her home in education.

Faculty award winners have direct interaction with students on a daily basis, while staff members routinely collaborate with each other and faculty members to provide support structures and processes that ensure student success. These processes are particularly important in the registrar's office, where Staff Excellence Award winner Boyd works.

"I wasn't expecting to win," said Boyd, who was assistant registrar at the time. "I thought I was lucky to be nominated. So when they came to see me and told me I had won, it didn't hit me right away. It did not feel like it was real for a couple of days."

Boyd joined Craven CC in 1999 as a temporary employee working on a two-week contract. That position expanded and over time, she rose through the ranks to her current position as registrar.

"The teamwork is what makes it great here," she said. "I've been able to maintain very good relationships with the people I work with, in the student center and across campus. I don't remember ever having a day where I didn't want to go to work."

All three winners were formally recognized during Craven CC's graduation ceremony on May 19. ♦ ♦ ♦



Top to Bottom: Cindy Seymour, biology instructor, Faculty Excellence Award. Yuko Boyd, registrar, Staff Excellence Award (note: her job title changed from assistant registrar to registrar since time of publication). Melanie Truett, adjunct physical therapist assistant instructor, Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award.

21:1
Student to staff ratio

We ♥ Our Donors

Thanks to our 2017 donors for contributing to the Craven Community College Foundation.

Donor list includes donations from the 2017 calendar year.



Craven CC students gather on the lawn to enjoy some down time between exams.

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Craven CC students register for classes in the Student Center on the New Bern Campus.



Donor Support



\$1 million bequest provides support for students in need

In late October, the Craven Community College Foundation received its largest single bequest in school history following a \$1 million bequest by Dr. David and Mrs. Anna Hurst. This endowment will provide scholarships for students in the Hurst Student Ambassador program and students pursuing degrees in educational instruction or nursing. It will also provide funding for the Student Support Fund, which provides financial assistance for unexpected student emergencies.

"The Hursts have taken our ambassador program to the next level," said Emily Stewart, Craven CC campus life coordinator. "They provide our students with opportunities to enhance their team building skills and cultural enrichment activities that they would not have access to otherwise. The Hursts have helped make the program exciting, rewarding, and one that students want to be involved in."

Student ambassadors play a vital role in the college's outreach efforts, student engagement, and overall retention. They serve as official representatives for community events on and off campus.

"The Hursts have developed a sincere, personal relationship with our students, and this endowment extends that connection to a permanent legacy," said Dr. Ray Staats, Craven CC president. "Generosity of this magnitude changes lives and will certainly have a tremendous impact on our students for years to come."



Craven CC student receives Antique Auto Club scholarship

Craven CC student Cabel McKinley was awarded the First Capital Chapter of Antique Auto Club's Marshall Van Winkle Automotive Systems Technology Scholarship in January. This \$500 scholarship is presented twice a year to a Craven CC student enrolled in the automotive technology program. The program is under the direction of Ricky Meadows, Craven CC executive director of career programs, who has worked with First Capital for the past several years in selecting qualified candidates.

There are many ways the community can support and contribute to student success at Craven CC. Anyone interested in making a difference and becoming a donor is encouraged to contact the Foundation. More information can be found at: www.cravencc.edu/Foundation or 252-638-7351.

LEND YOUR SUPPORT



VEMA donation drives down debt for BLET students

The roar of motorcycle engines rippled across Craven CC as members of the Veteran Enforcers Motorcycle Association (VEMA) of New Bern rolled onto campus Tuesday, May 15. While it may be common to see motorcycles on campus for the college's safety classes, the VEMA Chapter 252 visit was to present the Craven CC Foundation with a \$2,500 check benefitting the Fallen Officer Memorial Scholarship.

The VEMA awards are made in honor and memory of fallen officers who served the Craven County community in uniform and with commitment and passion to ensure public safety. VEMA began the scholarship four years ago to memorialize New Bern police officer Alexander Thalmann, who was shot and killed in the line of duty at age 22 on March 31, 2014.

"On the one-year anniversary of him dying, we wanted to do something to help his family," said Kevin Yates, VEMA 252 commander. "We had a ride to raise money and had a bigger turnout than we ever imagined. We approached Alex's mom and said, 'we wanted to give this to you as a way to remember him,' but Alex's mom asked us to try and use it for something else. That's when we came up with the idea of doing a scholarship."

The Fallen Officer Memorial Scholarship is awarded to Craven CC students enrolled in the Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program to help defray the cost of attending the program.

More than 90 motorcycles participated in this year's motorcycle ride, which was a 65-mile loop that began at Harley-Davidson of New Bern on April 21. The ride is held each year on a weekend near the date of Thalmann's death.

"Our BLET students are willfully signing up for a high-risk career that benefits our community as a whole," said Charles Wethington, executive director of institutional advancement at Craven CC. "Thanks to the efforts of VEMA, those students will begin their journey into law enforcement feeling appreciated and financially able to meet their educational goals."



Emily Paley, administrative assistant for the Institute of Aeronautical Technology, enjoys a peaceful moment sitting in the new Veterans Memorial Park.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Havelock campus establishes new Veterans Memorial Park

In an effort to honor military veterans and provide scholarships to veterans and their families, the Veterans Memorial Park was built on Craven CC's Havelock campus last year. Upon its completion, a dedication ceremony for the new park was held Nov. 9, 2017.

Individuals, businesses, and organizations purchased engraved bricks through the "Remembering Our Past by Paving Our Future" campaign to fund the creation of the memorial park. Proceeds were also used to establish a new endowment to make annual scholarships available to military veterans and their dependents.

Craven CC has an unmistakable connection to the military community that ranges from the student population and aviation program to the campus' proximity to MCAS Cherry Point.

Hoping to show appreciation for that connection, several members of the administration came up with an idea to display service flags at the center of campus. That idea grew over time and expanded into a much larger dream that has come to fruition on Craven CC's Havelock campus as Veterans Memorial Park.

"This program is a win for our veterans and for the college," said Charles Wethington, Craven CC executive director of institutional advancement. "The park offers a beautiful venue to see how important veterans are to our mission at the college

and the foundation. This program also allows us to honor our veterans with a scholarship that provides them opportunities to pursue new dreams and goals that reach beyond the service they have already given."

Located in the center of the Havelock Cherry Point campus, the memorial park features a cement seating arch and flagpoles that proudly and prominently display flags from all branches of the U.S. military, including Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy, as well as the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action flags. The park opened with an initial placement of approximately 200 bricks and has the ability to accommodate at least 3,000 engraved bricks.

"Anyone can honor any veteran while showing support for our military by buying a brick, and being a part of a special legacy with the memorial and scholarship endowment," said Wally Calabrese, dean of the Havelock campus. "We still have some blank pavers that people can buy. We'll keep taking orders for those and install them each year or every 100 bricks, whichever happens first." ♦ ♦ ♦

27% of Craven CC students receiving financial aid are military-affiliated

Sizes and donations for engraved bricks vary.

www.BricksRus.com/order/CravenCommunityCollege.

A New Chapter

Godwin Memorial Library reopens after renovations

Craven CC turned a page toward the future with the grand reopening of the Godwin Memorial Library and Testing Center, located on the second floor of Barker Hall on the New Bern campus. The library was modernized to provide a welcoming environment and meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Feb. 5, 2018 for the remodeled facility, which included a tour of the renovated building and light refreshments. There was also an unveiling of a statue donated by Jon Segal, Craven CC Foundation Board member, and his wife, Karen. The bronze statue is entitled “Two Kids on a Bench” and can be found outside the library entrance. The redesign allows the library to provide access to technology and collaborative work areas, including plenty of seating, tables, charging stations, study areas, a teacher resource room, and a modular multipurpose room. Each work station has dual monitors with adjustable height.

“The students love it in here,” said Cathy Campbell, Craven CC director of library services. “They enjoy sitting at tables working together. The new lighting makes everything so much brighter. Plus, they are able to charge all their electronic devices and have access to more computers than before.”

The new classroom area has several rooms with 55-inch TVs that can connect to student laptops for joint projects, as well as whiteboards and furniture on wheels so students can put together a table big

enough for 12 people. It also includes an 82-inch dual-purpose interactive display.

The expanded testing center, located adjacent to the library, allows multiple tests to be administered simultaneously in both group and individual settings. It now includes a reception area, three labs for large and small group testing, and three individual testing rooms. The rooms have adjustable lighting and motion sensors that automatically turn lights on and off. Wide aisles and ample space between computer tables allow visitors to maneuver comfortably.

Godwin Memorial Library is open to the public and offers free library cards. Over 15,000 books and more than 1,200 DVDs are available for checkout. ♦ ♦ ♦



Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats, left, and Craven CC Board of Trustees Chairman Bill Taylor cut a ceremonial ribbon to reopen the Godwin Memorial Library. Also pictured, left to right, are Craven CC Foundation board member Jon Segal and Craven County Commissioner Theron McCabe.



The bronze statue “Two Kids on a Bench” was generously donated to the library by Karen and Jon Segal and can be found outside the library entrance.



Cathy Campbell, director of library services, moves boxes of books to prepare the library for its reopening.



15,000
Books available to students
and the general public



'Hello, Friend'

Craven CC Foundation establishes scholarship honoring Greg Smith

Craven CC and the New Bern community lost a dear friend in January with the passing of Greg Smith. Greg was a well-known community leader, Craven CC Foundation board member, and owner of Mitchell Hardware. Often greeting strangers and neighbors alike with the phrase, "Hello, friend," Greg also had a warm way of saying goodbye that promised he would "see you on the sidewalks." To commemorate the welcoming and supportive spirit of Greg's life, the Foundation established a scholarship in his name.

To commemorate the welcoming and supportive spirit of Greg's life, the Foundation established a scholarship in his name. Approved by the Foundation's executive leadership committee on Feb. 8, the Gregory Fitzgerald Smith Scholarship Endowment acknowledges the positive and substantial impact Greg had on the students at Craven CC, as well as his service as a board member and chair of the Foundation's current Community Campaign.



"Greg was always one to find ways to make things better and we wanted to honor that sentiment in a way that is appropriate and respectful," said Lloyd Griffith, Craven CC Foundation president. "With help from this endowment, we are excited about the potential lives that will be touched by Greg's influence."

The scholarship endowment will provide financial assistance for part-time students who reside in Craven County. Craven CC has numerous scholarships in place for full-time students, but the Gregory Fitzgerald Smith Scholarship Endowment is the first in school history to provide assistance exclusively for part-time students.

"There is a recognized need for those students who are seeking that next step

up but can only do it on a part-time basis," added Griffith. "Rather than simply adding a scholarship in Greg's name, we felt like this was a spot in the community we could make a real difference."

Thanks to many donations made in honor of Smith and the approved match from the Foundation, the endowment is now funded at \$50,000.

"Greg's compassion for our students is being realized through this endowment," said Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats. "Greg put his heart into everything he touched and we are humbled that members of our community chose to honor Greg's legacy with an endowment that will touch the lives of students for many years to come."

As the owner of Mitchell Hardware, Smith was the recipient of the 2014 Community Fabric Award (CFA) for Business Leadership, which he was awarded during the Foundation's annual CFA event. He often hired and supported Craven CC students, and this scholarship will continue to enrich his legacy. ♦♦♦

For more information about the Craven CC Foundation or the Gregory Fitzgerald Smith Scholarship Endowment, call 252-638-7351, or visit www.CravenCC.edu/Foundation



Craven CC opens doors with new Manufacturing Pathway Program

Craven CC began offering a new Manufacturing Career Pathway program in June on the New Bern campus. The program is designed to train participants in the wide range of skills and knowledge required to succeed in the manufacturing industry.

The course provides participants with an interactive learning experience to enhance their awareness of the expectations a manufacturer has for their employees. It will cover several training topics to teach students about working on an assembly line, workplace ethics, interpersonal skills, robotics, safety regulations, precision measurement tools and techniques, forklift operations, and an introduction to Microsoft Word. The program also includes résumé writing, developing interviewing skills, and dressing for success.

Upon successful completion of the program, participants will have earned certificates for OSHA 10-hour Industry Safety, Lean Six Sigma White Belt, Forklift Operator, and ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness.

“The Manufacturing Career Pathway training program is designed for students preparing to enter the manufacturing sector at an entry-level position,” said Eddie Foster, Craven CC’s executive director of environmental safety and corporate training. “The training topics were assembled from our local industry partners. Regardless of the industry, they are all looking for employees with entry-level skills that can provide them with a productive team member and at the same time provide the student with a pathway to a successful career in manufacturing.”



Craven CC receives \$200,000 investment from Duke Energy Foundation

Craven CC received a \$200,000 investment from Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas during a check presentation ceremony June 25. The funds will go toward a new Craven County Apprentice Program (CCAP) that connects students with hands-on training and career development opportunities.

“We are proud to partner with Craven Community College to connect students with apprenticeship and workforce training opportunities,” said Mike Hughes, vice president of community relations at Duke Energy. “These students will help meet the growing and evolving needs of the region’s manufacturing industry.”

The investment, from the Duke Energy Foundation, will be used to create an industrial career pathway focused on training individuals in one of three programs: Industrial Systems Technology, Mechatronics Engineering Technology, and Manufacturing Technology. Funds will also be used for tuition toward certifications, fees, and textbooks. CCAP will begin at Craven CC during the 2018 fall semester.

“Apprenticeships are critical to developing connections between the classroom and workforce readiness,” said Dr. Ray Staats, Craven CC president. “We are extremely fortunate Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas are devoting resources and funds toward a program that cultivates a path for students to be successful leaders in their preferred fields of study.”

JOB READINESS



Over 1,100 applicants showed up to the Havelock Campus in March for a hiring event that was hosted by Fleet Readiness Center (FRC) East.

Craven CC participates in third annual Craven Works job fair

In March, nearly 800 job seekers from all over Craven County gathered at the third annual Craven Works job fair at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center. The free event, sponsored by Craven 100 Alliance, aimed to address the needs of both employers and jobseekers.

Fifty-five participating employers shared information about their companies and recruited for current and future vacancies. Industries represented at this event included healthcare, manufacturing, education, retail, government, and more.

Craven CC and other partnering agencies provided information about career pathways and training and assisted attendees with creating or updating résumés, signing up for classes, and interviewing for jobs.

FRC East Hiring Event attracts over 1,100 prospective employees

More than 1,100 people visited the Havelock campus on March 16 when Fleet Readiness Center (FRC) East held a direct-hire event to fill numerous vacant positions. FRC East provides maintenance and support for aircraft operations at MCAS Cherry Point. With a workforce of approximately 3,800 people and an annual payroll of \$277 million, FRC East is the largest employer in North Carolina east of Interstate 95.

Craven CC assisted with the event

by providing space, student ambassadors, logistical support, and assistance with writing résumés. Applications were accepted in the Institute of Aeronautical Technology on the Havelock campus, which provides workforce training and development for the civilian and military aviation maintenance community.



Job Readiness Boot Camp provides support network, job skills

Craven CC's STEP (Strive Train Earn Prosper) program, in conjunction with the Craven-Pamlico Re-entry Council and Religious Community Services (RCS), began offering a Job Readiness Boot Camp that provides a support network for those formerly incarcerated.

The boot camp is a systematic program designed to give released prisoners the tools needed to ease back into society. The one-week program is divided into four steps that focus on certain aspects of career readiness,

such as discovering strengths and talents, writing effective cover letters and résumés, learning from failure and how to move forward, tips for dressing for success, and mock interviews. To ensure exposure, the participants tour local restaurants, hotels, and tourist sectors, as well as the Craven CC campus.

Participants must take a Myers-Briggs personality test to help match them with jobs in which they are most likely to succeed. They develop a written plan of action for career paths and educational goals to stay on track. Financial assistance may even be available for meals, housing, clothing, and education to ease the transition and get them back on their feet.

The primary focus of the Job Readiness Boot Camp program and Craven-Pamlico Re-entry Council is to enable motivated individuals who have served their time and paid their debts to society to compete for a job, attain stable housing, support their children and their families, and contribute to their communities.

"If you are serious and willing to put the work in, we will help you," said Greg Singleton, director of community workforce readiness at Craven CC and project manager for the Craven-Pamlico Re-entry Council. "This program is about empowering people and motivating them to not give up on themselves. We want them to stay hungry and stay humble. We have to empower them by showing them what they do well and talk about the positive."

Global Studies



Study Abroad program offers international learning experience in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina

This past June, Craven CC history instructor Kate Amerson and Spanish instructor Dr. Shelly Hines led the Craven CC Study Abroad program on a trip to Croatia with a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The group visited Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and learned about the area's history from ancient Roman times and the Silk Road to the Ottoman Empire and present day.

The group also visited Plitvice Lakes National Park, an area of incredible waterfalls, caves, and crystal clear lakes in Croatia. Dubrovnik on the Adriatic Sea offered participants an old-town experience with stone-paved streets inside the 16th-century bastions. They also visited Onofrio's Fountain, the Rector's Palace, and the Franciscan and Dominican monasteries along the Dalmatian coast.

"Study Abroad is so transformative for a student's worldview," said Hines. "It gives them a competitive edge in the global marketplace."

The Study Abroad program consists of a humanities class and a student club. Leading up to the trip, students are involved in classwork and various activities that prepare them for the trip. After returning, they make a presentation as the final exam for the class.



Lifetime Learning Center explores Greece

Craven CC's Lifetime Learning Center (LLC) hosted a group of 18 participants for a 15-day tour of Greece. The comprehensive trip offered breathtaking views and magnificent Greek architecture with featured visits to Athens, Delphi, Olympia, Mycenae, Mykonos, and Santorini.

During the journey, participants explored Greece's ancient monuments, including the famed Temple of Zeus, the incredible Acropolis in Athens, the archeological site of Olympia, and ancient artifacts of Delphi. The group went on fully guided tours and learned about the history of the fascinating country from local experts.

A highlight of the trip was the local cuisine: Participants feasted on traditional food and wine and went on a local food tour of Athens. In Olympia, they learned how to cook some of the region's best dishes during a Mediterranean cooking experience, followed by a guided visit of the excavations of the ancient city of Mycenae. The group also visited a local winery and enjoyed the scenery on the island of Santorini, considered one of the most stunning landscapes in the world.



Craven CC promotes global competence with workshop

More than 50 students joined Katherine L. Turner of Global Citizen, LLC for a workshop entitled "Introduction to Global Competence." The college's Global Initiative Committee hosted the event on Feb. 20 to promote the school's goal of addressing a diverse community and a global economy.

Students attending the event were given opportunities to increase their intercultural and global competence by participating in various exercises and discussing their thoughts on how they could become better global citizens.

"More employers are seeking candidates who have strong intercultural skills and can work on and lead diverse teams," said Turner. "Academic institutions are wise to prepare students to develop their global competence so they can interact and work effectively with people who are different from them."

"I thought the workshop was very eye-opening and emotional," said Craven CC student Claudia Davila. "I was in tears at one point."

The international destination for Spring 2019 will be Scandinavia, featuring tours in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

For more information on future trips, contact LLC Director Jennifer Baer at 252-633-2618 or BaerJ@CravenCC.edu

A Celebration of African American Pioneers



'African American Firsts' recognized during Black History Month

Craven CC celebrated African American pioneers for Black History Month with a free program entitled "African American Firsts."

Held Feb. 23 at the Student Center, African American Firsts offered a journey through time to teach the community about the groundbreaking contributions of African Americans in the areas of art, science, business, math, medicine, and more. It also included an exhibit of contemporary African American artists and Craven CC students, as well as a live performance by 3CGC, Craven CC's student gospel choir.

"We are excited to celebrate and highlight achievements of African Americans through time on a local and national level," said Emily Stewart, Craven CC campus life coordinator. "The theme of 'African American Firsts' allows us to celebrate those who have, too often, been left out of our history books and shows us that progress is still happening today."

Guest speakers for the event included Greg Singleton, Craven CC director of community workforce readiness, and Jameesha Harris, New Bern Alderman for Ward 2.

Havelock Campus hosts 'Black History Reflections'

Craven CC's Havelock campus also celebrated Black History Month on Feb. 15 with a discussion entitled "Black History Reflections." This event took place in the Aviation Technology Hangar and was led by Nelson McDaniel, historian and former president of the New Bern Historical Society. Black History Reflections explored the contributions African Americans have made in communities throughout Craven County.

Craven CC highlights positive images of African American men

Craven CC's Minority Male (M2) Success Initiative hosted "The Black Light Project" to highlight positive images of African American men in the community.

"The purpose of The Black Light Project is to present men who are the rule, not the exception," said Monica Minus, Craven CC M2 Success Initiative program coordinator. "These are our fathers, brothers, husbands, sons, friends, and our neighbors. They are black and they light our world with kindness, fearlessness, perseverance, love, strength, and humanity."

The Black Light Project took place

April 12 and included a visual art exhibit of African American men in Craven County, as well as a documentary and a panel discussion on the project.

The Coastal Photo Club volunteered to take photos of men from the community, while Craven CC student Olivia Register photographed Craven CC staff, faculty, and students. These portraits were then printed and displayed in a photography exhibit during the program.

The portraits depicted an array of different subjects, from students to professors, entrepreneurs to pastors, business leaders to public servants. All of them are recognized for having a positive influence on the community.

"We identified so many men that are positive images in our community that we can't possibly photograph them all," said Minus. ♦ ♦ ♦

SINCE 1976

Every U.S. president
has officially designated
the month of February as
Black History Month.

Clockwise from left: 1) Director of Workforce Readiness Greg Singleton, center, was the guest speaker during the "African American Firsts" program sponsored by campus life. 2) Digital exhibits displayed during "African American Firsts" were accompanied by a musical backdrop provided by a keyboard and flute duo. 3) Local historian Nelson McDaniel led a discussion entitled "Black History Reflections" during a Black History Month celebration held inside Havelock's Institute of Aeronautical Technology.

Community Connections



VOLT Center expected to spark new businesses, job growth

The VOLT Center's groundbreaking ceremony held August 15, 2017 officially marked the start of a training center and makerspace for the community. City of New Bern staff approved the reuse of the 4.6-acre former electric generation plant and warehouse site located on First Street as a multipurpose facility focused on fostering and incubating new businesses.

Craven CC's Workforce Development (WFD) department will use a portion of the space as a regional Workforce Development Training Center that will offer hands-on training, certifications, and other classes in areas such as small engine repair, HVAC, electrical, carpentry and plumbing. Mark Stevens, city manager for the City of New Bern, said the VOLT Center will facilitate business growth and retention for New Bern. It will contain training areas for Craven CC's WFD programs and provide a collaborative workspace where individuals can come together to share ideas, experience, and initiatives. The projected completion date is Spring 2019.



Governor Cooper visits Havelock Campus to discuss job-training programs

Craven CC welcomed Governor Roy Cooper for a roundtable discussion, press conference, and tour of the Havelock campus on May 3.

The purpose of Governor Cooper's visit was primarily to discuss workforce development and his new NC Job Ready program proposal. In the proposal, the governor recommended three programs: a NC Grow program which would provide training for workers in high-demand fields such as construction, health sciences, information technology, and advanced manufacturing; a finish-line grant program that would help college students with financial struggles complete their degrees; and an employer training program to help train workers.



Habitat for Humanity provides hands-on training for construction students

Last November, Craven CC instructor Kevin Rideout and students of his Construction I class joined other volunteers at the site of Habitat for Humanity of Craven County's 63rd home. Rideout's class was the first to experience the link between Craven CC's classwork and Habitat's construction. The connection between classroom and jobsite plays a key role in preparing students who are interested in joining the construction industry. Projects like this provide hours of practical, hands-on experience, as well as safety training.



Eclipse-viewing party draws a huge crowd to campus

Hundreds of community members joined Craven CC staff, faculty, and students on the New Bern campus Aug. 21, 2017 to observe the eclipse. Craven CC astronomy instructor Dr. Bob Williams was there to teach visitors about the science behind solar and lunar eclipses. Solar glasses were provided for safe viewing, along with telescopes. Craven CC's Liberal Arts and University Transfer department and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society sponsored the event.



Volunteers spend MLK Day at FeedCraven

Craven CC's Student Government Association (SGA), students, faculty, and community members volunteered with the Feed Craven food bank as part of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, held Monday, January 15, 2018. About 20 Craven CC students came out to volunteer at a local food distribution center in James City.

LIVING OUR BEST CAMPUS LIFE

One of the key pillars of Craven CC's 2017-2022 strategic plan includes a dedication to creating a college environment that provides students with a great place to work and learn. Part of this approach includes a student-lead atmosphere and campus life experience that facilitates a community and family-based environment. Working alongside ambassadors, clubs, the student government association, faculty, and staff, the office of campus life continues to advance the strategic plan in a way that engages students and promotes academic success.



"Exam Cram; Pet the Stress Away" offered tutoring services with a side of puppies! Held April 30-May 1 on the New Bern campus lawn, the Colonial Capital Humane Society set up shop with litters of puppies and several grown dogs that were all up for adoption.



Student Ambassadors became the Craven Community College Hurst Student Ambassadors following a generous \$1 million bequest from Dr. David and Mrs. Anna Hurst.



The Panthers wrapped up their 2017-18 season with a second-place finish in the Dixie North Conference.



The annual Founders Day celebration brought students, staff, and faculty together for a night of dinner and dancing.



Hoping to promote a healthy and active student experience, the center lawn on New Bern's campus is continually utilized for games such as volleyball, Frisbee, and cornhole.





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252-638-7200

www.CravenCC.edu

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The sculpture "Crest of the Wave" stands outside Orringer Hall on a quiet spring afternoon. The Craven CC campus is home to 20 different sculptures that were donated by Dr. James B. Congleton and maps for the sculpture walk are available online at www.cravencc.edu/sculpturewalk.