

CRAVEN

COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAGAZINE



2021





Andre Boyd, 2021 graduate, smiles as he awaits the start of Craven CC's 54th annual commencement ceremony. This year's drive-in graduation featured stations of faculty and staff cheering on graduates as they left the campus.



ON THE COVER: *Admissions Specialist Kim Jones assists students on the first day of the fall 2020 semester. Craven CC staff have been vigilant in making sure all students are able to continue their education during the pandemic.*

EDITOR

Craig Ramey
Director of Communications

WRITER

Holly Desrosier
Communications Specialist

DESIGNER

Meredith Laskovics
Marketing Specialist

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Holly Desrosier
Meredith Laskovics
Craig Ramey

CONTRIBUTORS

Jennifer Baer
Christina Bowman-Murray
Cindy Ensley
Dr. Ray Staats
Charles Wethington

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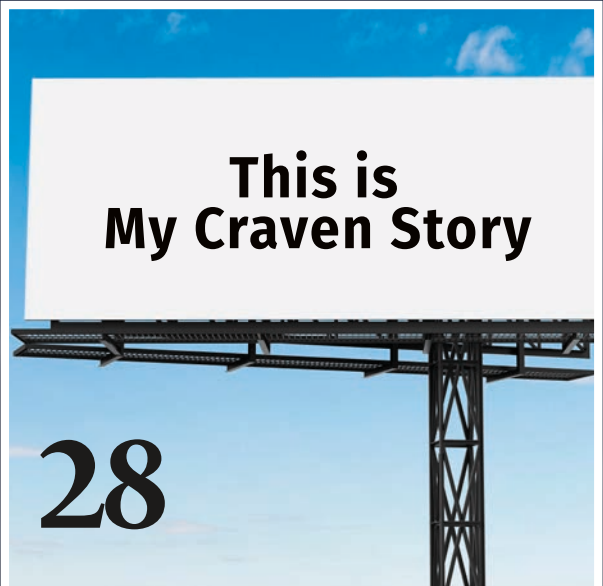
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The "My Craven Story" campaign highlights student success.



A **LETTER** FROM OUR **PRESIDENT**

Over the past few years, I've seen our College bravely face a number of unique situations. In every instance, we forged ahead successfully through uncharted territory.

Our College family has proven time and time again an enduring commitment to providing a positive and rewarding student experience, regardless of circumstances. We've kept our doors open to students, all while continuing to grow throughout the region to provide more learning opportunities.

The Volt Center added several new trades programs to keep up with industry needs and provide immediate employment in high-demand fields. We added two new Teacher Preparation programs to help shape our classroom leaders of tomorrow. We also unveiled our newly renovated Academic Support Center to help our students with personalized tutoring, test preparation, and technology support.

Our College's resiliency and determination continue to guide our students and community forward and help them overcome life challenges and to reach their educational goals. I am tremendously proud of our faculty, staff, and our students.

In this ninth edition of the Craven Community College Magazine, you will find many examples of our College team and our community uniting to achieve excellence. I look forward to another high-achieving year ahead!

DR. RAY STAATS
PRESIDENT



Craven Community College was recognized for several accomplishments during the 2020-21 year. We're proud to offer award-winning services to the community, and we're honored to support our high-achieving students!

Dr. Kathleen Gallman recognized by Phi Theta Kappa



Craven CC's Vice President for Instruction, Dr. Kathleen Gallman, was selected as a 2021 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Distinguished College Administrator. To receive this prestigious award, college administrators are nominated by students in their PTK chapter and selected in recognition of their outstanding support of student success. Over the past year, Gallman helped mentor and develop student leaders in completely unfamiliar circumstances. She was among 26 college administrators recognized and the only winner from the Carolinas region.

PTK is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The Distinguished College Administrator Awards are presented to college vice presidents, deans, or directors serving at post-secondary institutions who have shown strong support of student success on their campus by recognizing academic achievement, leadership, and service among high-achieving students.

Medals for Marketing

In January, Craven CC received two Medallion Awards from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR). The NCMPR Medallion Awards recognize outstanding achievements in design and communication at community and technical colleges. Craven CC received gold in the categories of Interior Signage/Displays and Excellence in Writing. The Interior Signage/Displays submission highlighted the eye-catching wall design inside the Volt Center, the college's workforce development training facility located at 205 First Street. The signage features four photos of trades workers, the college's logo, the Volt Center's tagline of "Hands-On Learning. Powerful Results," and the logos of the Volt Center's corporate sponsors. The Excellence in Writing entry, titled "Weathering the Storm," detailed the college's experiences leading up to and following the destruction of Hurricane Florence. The article documents the many steps the college took to assist faculty, staff, and students, as well as the community at large.

In March, NCMPR presented Craven CC with a silver Paragon award in the category of Promotional Video-Short Form. The Paragons recognize outstanding achievements across the nation. The campaigns were



the result of collaborative efforts between Craig Ramey (center), Meredith Laskovics (left), and Holly Desrosier (right).

Desrosier also received a second place North Carolina Press Association Award for Feature Writing in February. The story, entitled "Public Radio East: Thirty-five years in the making, locally sourced with a national reach," provided an in-depth look at the local public radio station located on the college's New Bern campus, as well as the retirement of longtime radio host George Olsen.



Pictured left to right: Bob Husson, Bambi Edwards, John Fonville, Dr. Ray Staats, and Dr. Kathleen Gallman celebrate a successful year at the 2021 Commencement.

Emeritus Class of 2021

Craven CC revitalized its College Emeritus Program earlier this year. This program recognizes faculty and staff who have made exceptional contributions toward fulfilling the college's mission and vision during a long, distinguished career as a college employee.

There were three members of the 2021 class: Bob Husson, Bambi Edwards, and John Fonville. Each was officially awarded emeritus status during the 54th annual commencement ceremony.

YOU'RE **EXCELLENT**



“My classroom is a holistic learning environment. We learn about life, critical thinking, and ourselves, not just English and sentence structure. I hope my students take the time to find out who they really are and to question everything and everyone.”

DEBBIE AUDILET
FACULTY EXCELLENCE

DEBBIE AUDILET,
Faculty Excellence

Teaching has always been a major factor in English instructor Debbie Audilet's life. She came from a long line of educators and discovered her own passion for teaching after graduating from college and working with college freshmen. She joined the Craven family in academic support in the 1990s while in graduate school, later worked in continuing education on the Havelock campus, and has been a full-time instructor on the New Bern campus since 2017. She also teaches for the Career & College Promise high school program at Epiphany School of Global Studies. Her favorite parts of teaching are the personal connections she's made and seeing the light bulb come on when students grasp concepts.

GREG SINGLETON
Staff Excellence

Greg Singleton knows that motivation is the key to success. After five years of federal incarceration from associating with the wrong crowd, he used it as a learning experience to help others. He started working at Craven in 2014 in the Human Resource Development department and became the Director of Community Workforce Readiness in 2017. He has helped implement the Job Readiness Boot Camp that is open to everyone, including those formerly incarcerated, to help them develop soft skills such as resume writing, interviewing, and even the art of conversing—all of which are required for gainful employment. He believes that collaborations with community partners have been integral in its success.

TOM GILL
Adjunct Instructor Excellence

Tom Gill retired from the Air Force in 1998, then retired from a successful career as a healthcare executive in 2013 before becoming the college's Director of Military Affairs in 2015. He has been an adjunct instructor for about six years, teaching a range of hands-on job training courses, as well as psychology and leadership classes. For nearly three years, he has been the program support specialist from Fleet Readiness Center East (FRC East) and has helped completely redevelop the college's FRC East Apprenticeship Program. He helps students ranging from new high school graduates to retired service members gain managerial, leadership, and soft skills as they progress in their employment.

Excellence Awards recognize the exceptional work of faculty and staff who go above and beyond their day-to-day duties at work and in the community.

“I think that each day we should seek to empower someone. Just say something nice, even if you don’t feel like doing it. It has a boomerang effect. Continue to uplift, empower, and motivate someone each and every day.”

GREG SINGLETON
STAFF EXCELLENCE



“I love to help people learn. It is just an intrinsic value that I have to help and watch people grow. I love the ability to help a group or an individual grow and get to the next step, and I’m paying it back for all the people that have helped me.”

TOM GILL
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR EXCELLENCE



foundation support

FUNDING STUDENT SUCCESS



COMMUNITY DONATES TO PANTHER PANTRY

In 2020, Craven CC was given several generous donations to support the Panther Pantry, which is run by student ambassadors and provides food and hygiene items to Craven CC students and employees in need. Donations included \$2,000 from International Paper, \$2,000 from the City of New Bern, \$1,000 from the Craven County Independent Insurance Agents Association, and \$500 from Dr. David Hurst. The funds have and continue to be used for storage containers, shelving, food, and hygiene products.

VETERAN ENFORCERS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION (VEMA)

Last November, VEMA of New Bern presented a \$1,500 check to the Craven CC Foundation for the Fallen Officer Memorial Scholarship to benefit students in the college's Basic Law Enforcement Training program. The VEMA contributions are made in honor and memory of fallen officers who served the Craven County community in uniform with commitment and passion to ensure public safety. VEMA established the scholarship seven 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.



“The Foundation would like to thank our donors for continued support over the years. Because of donors like you, we are able to help many students pursue their education every semester. I’d also like to recognize the longtime and generous support from both the Harold H. Bate Foundation and Dr. David and the late Mrs. Anna Hurst, who have and continue to make a tremendous, positive impact on our students at Craven CC.”

Charles Wethington

Executive Director of Institutional Advancement

Anyone interested in becoming a donor can contact the Foundation Office at 252-638-7351.

FIND OUT MORE AT
CRAVENCC.EDU/FOUNDATION

foundation support

FUNDING STUDENT SUCCESS



NEW BERN ROTARY CLUB

The Craven CC Foundation received a \$1,000 donation from the New Bern Breakfast Rotary Club in December 2020. The funds will be divided into four \$250 scholarships for students enrolled in trades programs at the Volt Center.



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

The Craven CC Foundation received a generous \$25,000 donation from Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 26 of Havelock on June 10. Funds were added to the existing DAV scholarship endowment fund, with \$20,000 going toward general scholarships and \$5,000 toward workforce and industry training. Scholarships from this endowment are awarded to Craven CC students who are disabled veterans or family members of disabled veterans.

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PLANNED GIVING

Estate planning is something most people tend to put off until later. When you focus on the legacy you want to leave, the decision gets a lot easier. A planned estate gift allows you to establish a bright future for students attending Craven Community College. The Foundation can work with you to make sure the gift you leave will have the impact you desire. There are many ways to make a charitable bequest, including: cash, securities, life insurance, and/or a gift of other assets.

community fabric awards

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY LEADERS



The CFA event was created to showcase excellence in leadership as demonstrated by outstanding initiative, impact of service, and inspiration of others.

CAROL J. MATTOCKS

Individual Leadership Award

Throughout her life, Carol Mattocks has sought to extend a helping hand to those most in need. She prepared herself for a career in social work at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Upon graduation, she worked for the Department of Social Services of both Duplin and Jones counties and began to focus her efforts on those whose challenges were greatest, especially children. Mattocks served as the Guardian ad Litem District Administrator for Judicial District 3 and has made significant contributions to the Children's Hope Society, Mediation Center of Eastern Carolina, Craven County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, United Way of Coastal Carolina, Filling Station of Pollocksville, and the Tryon Palace Foundation. In addition, she is the founding chair of the Coastal Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention. From 2006 through 2020, she served as a devoted trustee of Craven Community College, including a term as president.

CHICK-FIL-A

Tom Pike, Owner/Manager
Business Leadership Award

Tom Pike grew up in Jonesboro, Georgia. During summer breaks from college, he supported his education by selling fruit and had a chance encounter with a gentleman named Mr. Truett Cathy, the founder of Chick-fil-A. Through his exceptional customer service to Mr. Cathy, Pike was ultimately offered a position with Chick-fil-A in 1980, which turned out to be at a new store inside the Twin Rivers Mall in New Bern. After a successful 20 years, he closed that location and opened the free-standing store in its current location. He and his staff are known for their customer service and assistance to the community. They often pass out coupons, especially to support the efforts of a multitude of local nonprofits. Over the course of 15 years, Pike has also established 12 529 college savings plans for children of his employees, starting each account with his own money. He is very humble and runs Chick-fil-A as a compassionate and caring business owner.

RICKY MEADOWS

Leadership in Education Award

Ricky Meadows continuously demonstrates the highest level of commitment to Craven Community College and its leadership, staff, faculty, and, most importantly, its students. He provides exceptional college representation and student advocacy through his ongoing interactions and service to K-12 students and industry partners. During the 2018 academic year, prior to Hurricane Florence and the pandemic, he supported more than 75 events and on-site tours, serving over 1,200 Craven County students and hundreds of community members. Meadows mentors and recruits dozens of students each year to compete in the Skills USA state competition, and his leadership has been paramount in maintaining a robust team. Craven's students typically earn 10 or more medals annually, and several have qualified for the national competition. Regardless of the department or organization that needs assistance, Meadows can be counted on to volunteer his time, effort, and experience.

THANK YOU!

We appreciate all of our donors who contributed to the
Craven Community College Foundation!

*The following donors list includes all cash and in-kind gifts received in the 2020-2021 fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021)

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\$400,000

In the **11 years** since it began, the
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raised **well over \$400,000** in support
of the **Foundation's mission.**

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The **Foundation** currently
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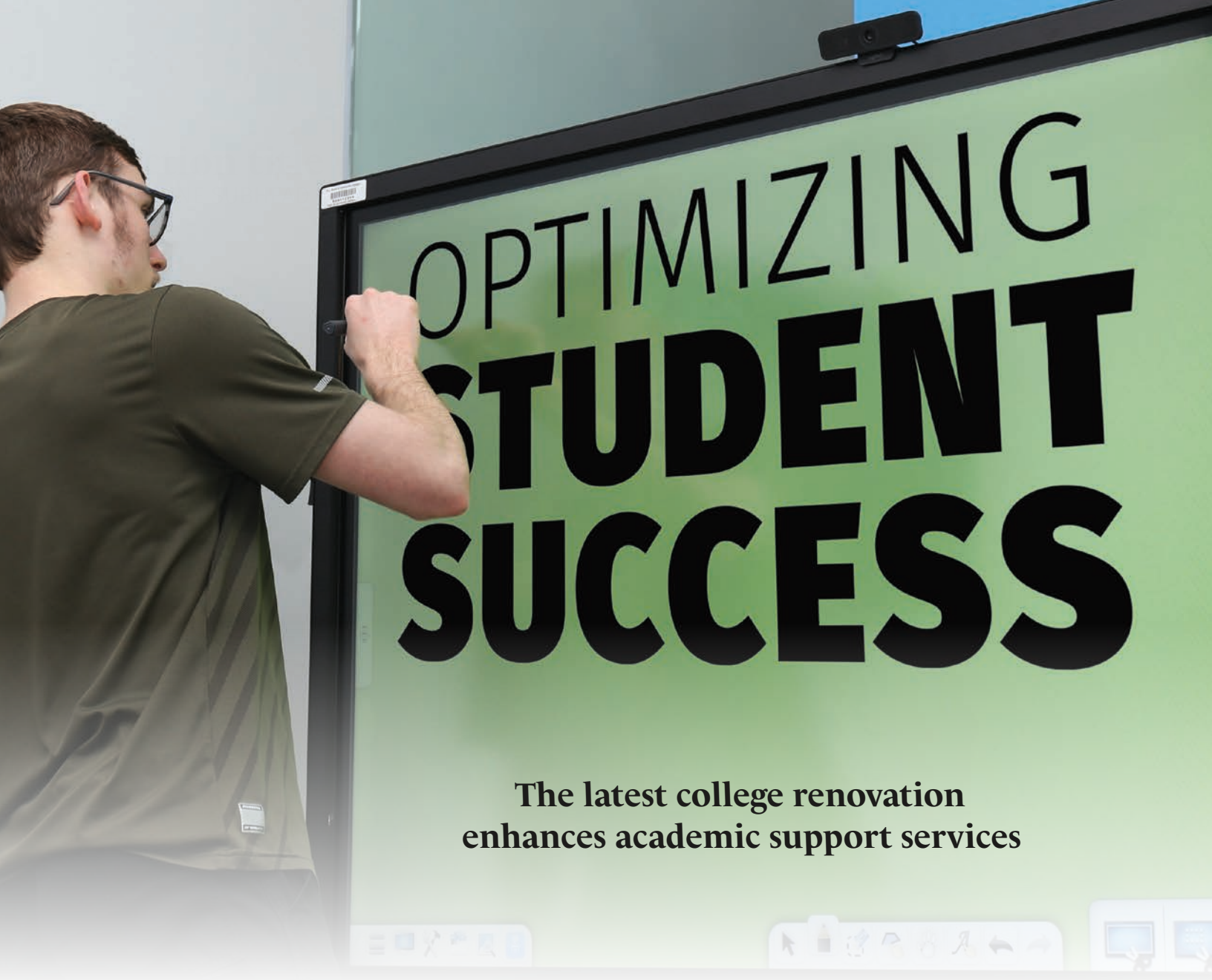
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Foundation Operations Coordinator Christina Bowman-Murray (right) talks to visitors about the Craven CC Foundation during Giving Tuesday. The Foundation was one of many local organizations that set up booths in Union Point Park in December 2020.





The role of a college student can be challenging and sometimes requires a little extra support. Not all students have the same needs or learning styles, and Craven Community College kept that in mind when designing its latest transformation project on the New Bern campus.

The Academic Support Center, or ASC, has supported student success for many years, but the larger, optimized space has allowed for a wider variety

of services and study spaces. The goal is to help students enrolled in all levels of curriculum courses reach their academic, personal, social, and economic potential by supporting intellectual growth, directing and connecting them to resources, and motivating them to become lifelong learners.

“Academic support is an extension of the classroom,” said Jennifer Bumgarner, executive director of Academic Support. “That learning starts in the classroom, but then students don’t come already



knowing it. They need support; they need help, learning and supporting them on their educational journey. I see academic support as part of that learning experience. We've worked hard to tie academic support with instruction so that we are complementing what's happening in the classroom."

The new center started from the mission to provide students with a suitable, comprehensive learning environment as the ASC had outgrown its previous location. It began as a concept nearly five years ago, entered the construction phase in March 2020, and blossomed into reality at the start of this year.

It now has collaborative spaces for group study sessions and workshops, as well as individual spaces for one-on-one tutoring. Students are assisted with writing and research assistance for various classes, placement test preparation, computer use and printing, professional communication, academic resourcefulness, and soft skills development including organization, time management, study skills, and test taking. The new center also includes the Student Help Desk, which provides virtual and in-person

technical support and guidance for students.

The New Bern ASC employs a mixture of professional tutors, including adjunct instructors, as well as peer tutors available for students requesting assistance with specific classes. The tutors work with students in person, online, or embedded into classrooms and serve around 100 to 150 students each semester.

A virtual ribbon cutting was held to celebrate the grand opening of its newly renovated 3,500-square-foot space inside Ward Hall on the New Bern campus on Jan. 21. The new center officially opened its doors in time for the start of the spring 2021 semester on Jan. 11.

"Students need a place to learn outside the classroom," added Bumgarner. "They need a place to have study groups and they need a safe place to come meet with tutors. It was extremely important that they had a good space to come to that's welcoming and inviting. Academic support, tutoring, and things like that seem to be a stigma, and it's not. Good students ask for help and they need a good place to go." 🦋



Craven CC celebrates the grand opening of the newly renovated Academic Support Center with a virtual ribbon cutting ceremony on January 21. Pictured left to right are Vice President for Instruction Dr. Kathleen Gallman, Board of Trustees Chair Allison Morris, President Dr. Ray Staats, and Executive Director of Academic Support Jennifer Bumgarner.

THE ESSENTIAL INDUSTRY OF WORKFORCE TRAINING



Craven CC's hands-on training programs have continued to flourish throughout the pandemic and have helped hundreds of students receive practical instruction in preparation for immediately entering the workforce.

workforce training

AT THE VOLT CENTER



Craven CC offers a hybrid Solar Photovoltaic Technology training program at the Volt Center, which teaches students about the growing industry that converts sunlight into electricity.

Hands-on training in the trades has become a hot commodity in communities across the nation. That is certainly true in Craven County, where community stakeholders collaborated on a vision for a new workforce training center that eventually grew to become the Volt Center campus of Craven Community College. Led by the College's Workforce Development (WFD) department, the Volt Center offers a number of practical training programs that prepare students for employment, including Carpentry, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, Forklift, Welding, and Small Engine Repair.

Craven CC's hands-on training programs have continued to flourish throughout the pandemic and

have helped hundreds of students receive quality practical instruction in preparation for immediately entering the workforce. According to the North Carolina Community College System, Craven CC's WFD enrollment is expected to increase about 5% this year compared to 2019-2020, making Craven CC one of 11 out of the 52 community colleges in the state with a projected increase.

A large portion of this success can be attributed to the college's Volt Center campus, located near downtown New Bern. This workforce training center has become renowned for its short-term Manufacturing Career Pathways programs that train and connect students with community partners, such as BSH Home Appliances and Moen, for immediate employment.

TRADE PROGRAMS BUILD FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL CAREERS

This year brought two new programs to Craven CC's Volt Center: a two-part Diesel Systems Technology program and a two-level Masonry program. Both programs, which began January 11, were created to offer short-term opportunities for people to earn certifications in high-demand jobs.

The Diesel Systems Technology program is delivered in two parts: Diesel Engines and Diesel Systems, both of which can be completed in one year. Part one covers topics including shop safety, introduction to and principles of diesel engines, and engine evaluation and disassembly, as well as components such as cylinder heads, pistons, rings, and connecting rods. Students can choose from a morning class option or an evening option depending on their schedule.

"We are also building a Diesel Power Generators program, which will be for large diesel generators like ones utilized at the college and the hospital, and a Marine Diesel program for the boating industry," said Volt Center Executive Director Eddie Foster.

Training for the Masonry program is also delivered in two parts: Masonry Level 1 and Masonry Level 2. Students ultimately earn their Level 1 certification, which is accredited by the National Center for Construction Education and Research. Upon successfully completing Level 1, students are able to identify the tools and equipment of the masonry trade, apply calculations for construction drawings common in masonry work, and explain the specifications,



A Diesel Systems Technology student inspects an engine under supervision of instructors.

standards, and codes. Masonry 1 also teaches several components of block and brick, including characteristics and tool usage, as well as how to cut and lay, set up and bond, and clean them once they have been laid.

Volt Center Trade Programs Director Jeff Schulze noted that New Bern has long been known for training some of the finest brick layers in the region, with many historic structures such as Tryon Palace constructed by handmade bricks as far back as the 1760s.

“Employment opportunities in the construction industry are plentiful, especially after a student learns a skilled trade,” he said. “In North Carolina and throughout the country, there is a shortage of masons amid a construction boom, which has forced some contractors to schedule lots of overtime to meet job deadlines with limited staff they have on payroll. Our masonry program hopes to encourage more students to head towards a path that professionals say is a steady and quite rewarding job.”

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER DEBUTS

In March, Craven CC celebrated the opening of its Law Enforcement Training (LET) center. This newly renovated facility is home to one of the college’s latest programs, Law Enforcement Simulator Training, which provides unique training opportunities for local law enforcement officers and visiting agencies from around the region.

The new facility was outfitted with a state-of-the-art virtual training

simulator in mid-February. This advanced system has several complex capabilities, such as using real-life imagery and scenarios to test law enforcement officers’ responses and their ability to de-escalate tense situations. It utilizes five screens at 300 degrees to provide officers with over 300 interactive situations and videos, as well as a specialized system that allows program operators to create customized scenarios using imagery of Craven County. Operators also have the ability to interject different scenario paths based on participating officers’ real-time reactions to simulated events.

“They will be able to practice critically dangerous scenarios that they may not encounter very often,” said Sandra McKenzie, director of service programs. “After each officer goes through the simulator training, they will be debriefed by an instructor. This instructor will focus on the areas that the officer did well and where they might need some improvements.”

The immersive environment presents officers with different scenarios, such as a loudly barking dog and a disorderly, weapon-wielding individual, to recreate psychological stressors like an elevated heart rate and high levels of adrenaline that officers experience during intense

Sgt. Billy Zerby of the New Bern Police Department demonstrates a training scenario in the new Law Enforcement Training Simulator.



workforce training

AT THE VOLT CENTER

training. The goal is to train officers in appropriate responses to a variety of intense, unpredictable situations so they can learn to react in a way that protects everyone involved.

Live firearms have been converted into simulated weapons to be as realistic as possible. All of the functioning parts of a live firearm are replaced with a conversion kit that operates off of a laser, which is synced to an infrared camera system located behind the simulator screens.

An operator manages the virtual scenarios and can track and assess the officers' marksmanship, and a firearms trainer observes the officers' interactions while in a simulation. Once officers complete a training scenario, their firearms trainer goes over expectations and critiques their handling of a particular incident.

A ribbon cutting was held March 9 to celebrate its opening and featured special guests Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats and New Bern Mayor Dana Outlaw, who each spoke about the importance of cooperative efforts such as these that benefit the community and continually improve the region.

"As our simulation capabilities mature, we expect to become a regional magnet," said Staats. "We and our current partners have already reached out to nine law enforcement agencies and three departments of public safety across Eastern North Carolina, and the initial response has been highly enthusiastic. We look forward to forming additional partnerships that will highlight another reason the Volt campus is a beacon of educational excellence across Eastern North Carolina."

This project had been on the horizon for several years and came to life as part of the ongoing Volt Center project, a partnership between the City of New Bern and Craven CC. The City has provided the building and renovations, and the college is leasing the simulator and renting the facility.

Construction and renovations, which totaled about \$242,000, began in September 2020 and included the installment of fiber connectivity, upgraded electrical wiring, new walls, and soundproofing materials. It also included the addition of 10 repaved parking spaces and a ramp for enhanced building accessibility. Donations for this project included \$50,000 each from the Craven CC Foundation, CarolinaEast Health System, and the Harold H. Bate Foundation.

SOLAR TECHNOLOGY TRAINING ILLUMINATES NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Craven CC began offering a new Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Technology training program in June. This hybrid program provides students with both seated and online instruction at the Volt Center.

Solar PV technology is an increasingly growing industry that converts sunlight into electricity, which is commercially utilized for electricity generation. Students in this program learn about design and installation of PV systems, as well as other clean and renewable energy production systems and energy modeling software.

The job outlook for the Solar PV field is much higher than average. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for Solar PV Installers is slated to increase 51% through 2029, with a median pay of \$46,470 per year.

"We are so excited to offer this practical training for such a high-demand field," said Jeff Schulze, director of Trade Programs at the Volt Center. "An increasing number of companies are using Solar PV technology, and it's already utilized by huge corporations like Amazon and Apple, so it's especially important to offer this training to our population." 🌞

Joe Randazzo, Solar Photovoltaic Technology instructor, shows students the installation components of a PV system.



RETHINKING RECIDIVISM

Community partners connect to provide essential resources for people getting out of prison



Imagine the plight of someone who associated with the wrong crowd and found themselves behind bars, confined to a closet-sized room for years. They serve their time, pay their dues to society, and are released from prison, only to discover that there's no place for them in society. They want to prove themselves as a reformed, contributing citizen, but no one wants to hire them and it's almost impossible to find any form of support—no one will give them the chance to learn job skills to support themselves or demonstrate that they have learned from their mistakes.

For people in that situation, they often find themselves falling right back into the pattern of committing crimes—not because they want to, but because they have no other means of supporting themselves. That lack of support is a leading factor in recidivism, or the relapse into criminal behavior, and often results in subsequent arrests and additional incarceration.

Craven CC continually works to provide the resources and support that re-entering citizens need to succeed through educational opportunities like the Job Readiness Boot Camp and partnerships with

community organizations like the Craven-Pamlico Re-Entry Council (CPRC) and Religious Community Services (RCS). The CPRC specializes in bringing together stakeholders in Craven and Pamlico counties to offer resources that help individuals become productive citizens and reduce recidivism and victimization. After several years of collaboration, Craven CC and the CPRC formed an official partnership in April 2021.

"We are excited to make our partnership with the Craven-Pamlico Re-Entry Council official," said Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats. "Having seen the impressive results from our past

collaborations with the CPRC, I am confident that this partnership will yield great success for the citizens of Craven and Pamlico counties."

The first event to result from the partnership was the Vanceboro Resource Fair, which was held April 21 in front of the Vanceboro VFW. This free event provided resources for work opportunities and disaster relief. The Craven CC barbering school was also present and provided free haircuts.

The Craven CC and CPRC partnership was made possible by a grant from the State of North Carolina Department of Public Safety, which will provide \$225,000 over the course of 2021 and will be budgeted toward a full-time coordinator, full-time job placement specialist, and part-time project manager. Additionally, it will help cover student costs related to housing, transportation, child care, food and hygiene items, administrative fees, vocational/educational training, and school-related supplies and fees.

The CPRC partnership also helps connect individuals with Craven CC's Job Readiness Boot Camp, which provides a support network and motivation for

people to get back on track or take their career to the next level. In addition to supporting participants that range from high school dropouts to those with master's degrees, the Job Readiness Boot Camp also opens its doors to ex-offenders with the aim of reducing recidivism and giving everyone a second chance to succeed.

The two-week program is divided into four steps. Each step focuses 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. Participants tour local restaurants, hotels, tourist sectors, and Craven CC's New Bern campus.

They also 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 target. For those who need it, financial assistance is available for meals, housing, clothing, and education to ease the transition and get them back on their feet.

This is especially beneficial for ex-offenders facing the difficult transition back into society as they often face harsh judgment from the public, and many do not have a family or a home to which they can return. They also face lower income, denial of work, inability to vote, and ineligibility for public housing, student loans, food stamps, and more. Upon completing the boot camp, participants haven't just learned job



Craven Community College and the Craven-Pamlico Re-Entry Council have formed a partnership to provide various resources to community members and formerly incarcerated individuals. Opposite: Craven CC and the Craven-Pamlico Re-Entry Council hosted the Vanceboro Resource Fair April 21 at the VFW Post 11119 in Vanceboro.

skills—they have developed self-confidence and a sense of purpose, which is something that will stick with them for life.

The boot camp started classes at the Vanceboro VFW in January 2021 after realizing the need to extend its reach. The program features a handful of instructors to expose participants to diverse teaching styles and personalities.

"I know that the cure to poverty is education, the cure to the recidivism rate is education, so I just wanted to look at a way—how can I get education there," said Greg Singleton, director of Community Workforce Readiness. "And I teamed up, made some phone calls, started seeing who do I need to connect with. I knew I had to connect with the sheriff because I needed to get an understanding of the area."

He spoke with Craven County Sheriff Chip Hughes and soon had the Craven County Sheriff's Department on board. Hughes had previously assisted with the Job Readiness Boot Camp and had firsthand knowledge of its success.

Singleton explained that it can cost anywhere from \$29,000 to \$34,000 a

year for one healthy inmate in North Carolina, while it only costs about \$1,500 for the boot camp to help potentially hundreds of people stay out of jail.

"The recidivism rate in Craven County in our local jails has tipped a million dollars annually," he said. "Think of the arrests and the same person coming in and out."

Hughes noted that not everyone in the jail is a bad person; many of them made one poor decision and are dealing with the consequences. He also explained that many inmates are ready to be part of the solution but need the tools to be successful and require guidance on how to become a productive member of society. This was especially apparent once he and Singleton presented the boot camp idea to the inmates.

Craven CC cherishes its partnerships with local businesses and is proud to be involved not only with soft skills training that improves people's career outlooks, but also recidivism reduction efforts that turn people's lives around and make the community a safer place. 🐾



the COVID PIVOT

How the ‘new normal’ inspired innovative ways to better serve Craven students

Craven Community College faculty, staff, and students faced unparalleled challenges beginning last March. The college did its best to adapt quickly to the unfolding situation while helping students continue their education as seamlessly as possible.

Since the pandemic began, Craven CC’s faculty and staff have worked hard to prepare a path forward for students, even as social distancing and mandatory closures hindered the ability to continue with traditional

face-to-face instruction. Advisors continued to process college applications and financial aid requests through email, register students for classes, and offer support and resources in the case of difficulty with managing finances, housing, and food, as well as increased anxiety or depression. The Admissions, Advising, and Financial Aid departments began providing virtual appointments for students, while Student Services staff launched a video series for advising and counseling.



the covid pivot

INNOVATION IN TRYING TIMES

eLearning developed a Hybrid and Online Teacher Training (HOTT) course for new online instructors and any faculty who wanted to learn how to teach online/hybrid courses. To date, 85 full-time and adjunct instructors have completed the course, which is facilitated by experienced faculty members.

They created video and text tutorials, along with multiple training sessions to assist faculty in effectively teaching online. They also have a program called Community of Online reDesigners (CORD) through which faculty design their online courses using the Quality Matters Rubric, which is the gold standard for online courses. To date, 27 faculty have completed the year-long program.

“The results from this program are faculty who understand how to design effective, high-quality online courses,” said Jen Marquis, executive director for Teaching & eLearning. “Having instructors who have gone through this rigorous training has helped us pivot during the pandemic. The biggest factor was the teamwork on campus. Everyone pulled together to take care of our students and faculty. It was a team effort.”

Students are provided with a Distance Learning Orientation that prepares them for success in online and hybrid courses, as well as in-person and technical guidance with online classes and student email. The Department of Teaching & eLearning remains available to assist faculty via phone, email, drop-ins, and appointments.

Additionally, the college’s Information Technology Systems department completely refreshed

the entire wireless infrastructure and added Wi-Fi access in the courtyard of the New Bern campus, as well as the parking lots of four campus buildings. They also increased the number of devices that can connect to the college’s wireless network.

When May 2021 rolled around, the college didn’t let the pandemic get in the way of graduation day. Students were celebrated during the 54th annual commencement ceremony, which was a drive-in event held on the New Bern campus. (See page 34 for more information.)

Craven CC also acquired a new synchronous virtual learning technology called Swivl at the start of the Spring 2021 semester. Students were given a chance to experience a virtual classroom that uses video cameras to track the instructor in real time as they walk around the room and interact with students in the classroom and online, helping to bring the classroom home for students learning virtually.

Additionally, even though last year’s Community Fabric Awards were cancelled, the Foundation still raised \$36,100 from generous sponsors and converted those funds to aid students directly affected by the pandemic. More than 60 students were able to continue their education with financial assistance that helped cover the cost of books, tuition, fees, internet access for classes, and food.

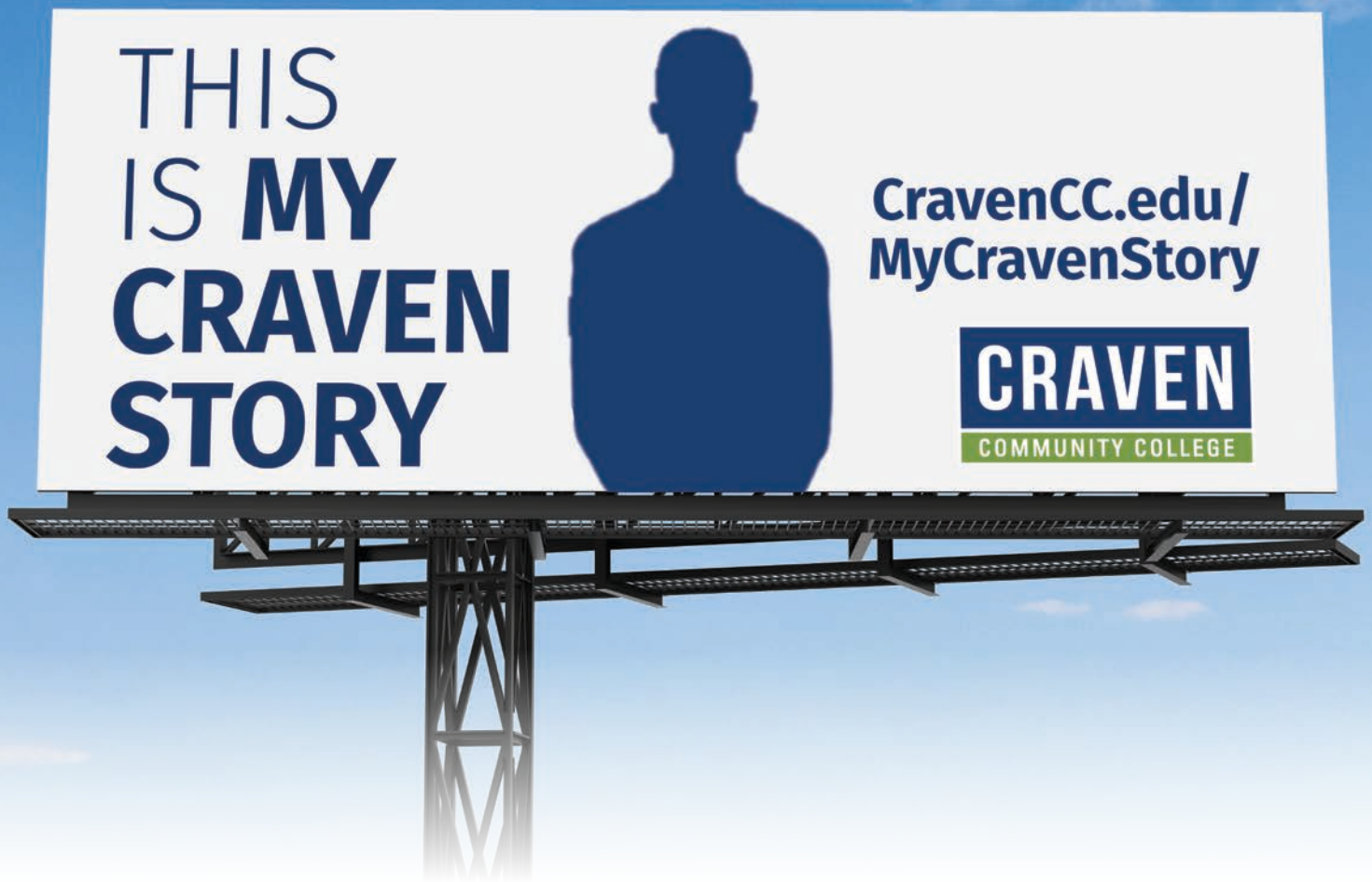
“We learned to pivot and find opportunity in the face of adversity,” said Staats. “The college has been a beacon of determination, fortitude, and resilience, and I couldn’t be prouder to serve among such a hardworking and committed team.”

Despite the setbacks that arose, Craven CC still managed to keep enrollment numbers

nearly on par with recent years. From Spring 2020 through Fall 2021, the college served 5,733 students in curriculum (degree-seeking) programs, 5,055 students in Workforce Development (short-term training) programs, and 567 students in College & Career Readiness/basic skills programs. There were 1,379 curriculum, 551 workforce, and 46 basic skills sections being offered to students during 2021.

“We pivoted both our curriculum and non-curriculum programs to adapt to the entirely changed landscape,” said Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats. “We found new ways to sustain every facet of services that are vital to our students. In short, while much of the nation has been closed, we’ve kept our college open, teaching and guiding thousands of students toward a brighter future—they’ve needed us, and we’ve continued to answer the call.”

To help with the transition, the college’s Department of Teaching &



The “My Craven Story” campaign launched in July to highlight former and current students. Utilizing videos, social media, and billboards. This campaign shares personal stories from each student about their positive experiences and how Craven helped them succeed.

Representing a wide range of program areas and backgrounds, each student explains why Craven CC was their choice for a college education and how their respective career paths benefitted from that choice. The goal is to spread the word about all the different programs offered at the college, as well as inform current or prospective students by showing them possible outcomes. The videos can be found on Craven CC's website and YouTube channel.



ALLAN LAURIO, 2020 GRADUATE
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING

Allan was an athlete in high school. He witnessed a few teammates' injuries, and the healing process piqued his interest in helping people get better. He now works as a nurse on the surgical care unit at CarolinaEast Medical Center.

“The reason I chose Craven was they had a better clinical experience. They had close proximity to CarolinaEast and the surgical center—just those two places alone offered me all the clinical experience variety that I needed to get a taste of where I would want to be and work as a nurse.”



ALEX BLOCK, 2019 GRADUATE
COMPUTER-INTEGRATED MACHINING

Alex started at Craven CC as a GED student and became interested in computer-integrated machining. He was accepted into the BSH apprenticeship program, which inspired him to become a teacher. He is now a Computer-Integrated Machining Technology instructor at Lenoir Community College.

“Honestly, I chose Craven because I was living here in town and I had heard good things about the trades here. I never had the grand idea of going to a four-year college. The more I did these hands-on classes, the more I saw that I get to do machining, which I’m really passionate about, but I also get to help others.”

JASMINE HODGE, 2019 GRADUATE
MEDICAL ASSISTING



KISHAUN CHADWICK, STUDENT
VOLT CENTER – WELDING

Kishaun’s father inspired him to pursue a career in welding. He took Welding Level 1 at the Volt Center and was offered a job at Chatsworth Products. He plans to take Welding Level 2 and earn his associate degree in Welding Technology.

“It’s never too late. You’re always able to do something. As long as you have that focus, that vision, and walk towards it, you’ll be able to run soon. I felt accomplished. I felt like it gave me enough motivation to say, ‘yes, I am coming back to finish.’”



JEFF HARRIS, 2018 GRADUATE
AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

Jeff is a Marine Corps veteran and came to Craven CC with his GI Bill. He was employed at FRC East but realized that a degree could propel his career. He completed his degree by taking night and weekend classes and currently works as a diesel technician at MCAS Cherry Point.

“I really enjoyed my time here because the evening instructors working in the industry brought outside experience that wasn’t necessarily in the books. You can tell that they enjoyed what they did.”

We’d **love** to **hear** from **you** and **highlight** your **accomplishments!** Learn more at **CravenCC.edu/MyCravenStory.**

Jasmine came to Craven CC because she was determined to get her college education. As a single mother, she knew that finding a career meant furthering her education. She now works as a medical assistant at Coastal Carolina Health Care Endoscopy.

“I chose Craven because it was right here, and I could still live with my mom. I didn’t want to not go to school—I didn’t want to not be something.” 🌟

SCAN HERE
with your
smartphone's
camera to see a
My Craven Story!





CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Painting in Godwin Library brings African-American history and culture to life

One of Craven Community College's core values is embracing diversity, and the college makes every effort to represent the different cultural aspects of its employees, students, and community through various events and collaborations with partner organizations.

One such collaboration took place in April, when the African American Heritage & Culture (AAHC) Center and the Craven Arts Council & Gallery (CACG) proposed displaying a unique piece of artwork in the college's library. The painting, "Chesapeake Bay Shad Fishers and Catch," was installed in Godwin Memorial Library on April 7.

Artist Edna Stewart crafted the painting in 2020. The historically significant image depicts the everyday lives of coastal fishermen with a focus on the women who were integral to this industry. The setting represents coastal fisheries and the African-American culture that existed within towns along the shore, including Eastern North Carolina.

"AAHC is delighted to have received a donation of a piece of original art," said AAHC Board President Carol Becton. "Our donors wish that the piece have a temporary public exhibit as AAHC searches for its permanent home. AAHC's ongoing relationship with Craven Community College supported the exhibition of this remarkable piece of art at the college with opportunity for public access."

The ongoing agreement between Craven CC and AAHC will allow the painting to be on display and available to the public during the library's business hours. The library is located on the second floor of Barker Hall on the College's New Bern campus.

"On behalf of the college, we are honored to have this beautiful work of art displayed on our campus," said Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats. "I have no doubt the students and community visitors who frequent our library will be inspired by the history, culture, and artistic style it reflects."

Virtual Reality meets Cultural Immersion



The Godwin Memorial Library has several culturally immersive experiences available to staff, students, and the public through its virtual reality (VR) systems.

"I AM A MAN"

This VR adventure allows users to experience the struggles of those who fought for equality during the Civil Rights movement. The "I Am A Man" project provides an interactive documentary experience for users through the use of historical film and photographs of actual Civil Rights participants.

"TRAVELING WHILE BLACK"

This cinematic VR experience immerses viewers in the long history of restriction of movement for Black Americans and the creation of safe spaces in our communities.

"HOW THREE AFRICAN AMERICAN BUSINESSES SURVIVED DECADES OF TURMOIL"

This 360° video explores how three African American businesses along Washington's famous U Street corridor endured decades of racial conflict that followed Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in 1968. Viewers learn how they've survived and thrived even through the neighborhood's era of modern revitalization.



Craven CC's first Diesel Systems Technology graduating class celebrates their achievement in the Diesel and Heavy Equipment building at the Volt Center on July 1.

Diesel program students offered Volvo career opportunities

Craven CC's new Diesel Systems Technology program accelerated into the workforce training lineup in January 2021. It takes place at the Volt Center's newly renovated 7,000-square-foot building that previously served as the City of New Bern garage.

The program was designed to create a short-term opportunity for people to earn certifications in high-demand jobs. It is delivered in two parts: Diesel Engines and Diesel Systems, each of which are 360 hours and can be completed in one year.

"We have developed great partnerships with Volvo and Caterpillar, who have and continue to provide us with diesel engines and other systems to provide state-of-the-art training," said Eddie Foster, Volt Center executive director. "The demand for individuals to work on diesel trucks, heavy

equipment, generators, and marine diesel is high and only going to grow. This growth provides great opportunities for individuals to start a great career in as little as one year."

Job opportunities for qualified diesel technicians across the nation is expected to exceed 281,000 between now and 2029. Salaries for diesel mechanics averages \$50,200 annually and is based on experience and training.

Through Craven CC's partnerships with NCWorks and other local businesses, graduates of the program are considered for job opportunities in the diesel technology field. In May, representatives from the heavy equipment division at Volvo visited the first Diesel Systems Technology class to talk with them about such prospects. When the program's first class ended July 1, Volvo offered career opportunities to all 12 graduates, further emphasizing the importance and reciprocal benefits of the college's strong network of community partners.

Christmas light show benefits Foundation

In December 2020, one family decided to use their Christmas light tribute to benefit the Craven CC Foundation. Chris and Anna Crousore of New Bern hosted a massive Christmas light display consisting of more than 21,000 lights that was open for the public to enjoy all month. They had put on the show for several years, but this one was especially meaningful as it paid tribute to their daughter, Laura Wiggs, who died from cancer in November 2019.

Wiggs earned her associate in accounting degree from Craven CC in 1993 and later returned to the



The Craven CC Foundation benefitted from donations given during the Crousore family's Christmas light show, which consisted of over 21,000 lights and was synced to music aired on a local radio station.

Medical Assisting program, which she graduated from in 2016. She had a wonderful experience in the program, and it helped get her mind off of chemotherapy and radiation. She left

the Foundation a generous donation upon her death, and the Crousore family wanted to carry on her legacy while helping others benefit from an education just as their daughter had.



Craven CC's podcast "In the Know" debuted July 30, 2020. New guests appeared each week to talk about different college programs and services.

'In the Know' Podcast Premieres

Craven CC premiered its first podcast, "In the Know," on July 30, 2020. The weekly podcast was initiated as a way to expand the college's reach into the community and to keep residents informed on events and programs that may be of interest to them.

The podcast also serves as an alternate means of college communication for current and potential students, giving them a glimpse of what the college can offer them. Each week, guests from different departments within the college explain their programs or services, along with any pertinent information listeners may want to know or benefit from.

Special guests for the first episode were Barbering Program Manager

and Master Barber Donell Bryant and Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats. Bryant demonstrated his barbering skills, while Staats discussed the college's upcoming fall semester, best practices for reopening amid COVID-19, and the college's collective efforts to adapt to the situation while enabling students to continue their education.

"A lot of this is being creative, and that's the magic of a community college in general, but it's something I think our college does very, very well," said Staats. "You get the unexpected, you pivot, and you go make it happen. And it's that quick pivot to make that happen, knowing 'OK, this is what our students need; we're going to go out there and get it done.'"



TRIO

\$1.3M grant for TRIO

In August 2020, the U.S. Department of Education announced that Craven CC will receive a federal Student Support Services (SSS) grant of \$1.3 million, marking the third time Craven CC has received this grant. The funds will help more students succeed and graduate from college and will be awarded in installments each fiscal year over the next five years.

SSS helps college students who are low income, first generation (those whose parents do not have a four-year college degree), or students with disabilities. The array of services provided enhances academic success and makes it more likely that students will graduate or transfer to another academic institution with the lowest possible debt.

SSS began in 1968 and is one of the eight federal "TRIO" programs authorized by the Higher Education Act to help college students succeed in higher education. Craven CC's TRIO program is funded to serve 186 Craven CC students who meet the federal eligibility requirements. Services include special instruction in reading, writing, study skills, and mathematics; assistance in choosing a college; tutoring; personal and financial counseling; career counseling; assistance in applying to college; workplace and college visits; assistance in applying for financial aid; and academic support in high school or assistance to re-enter high school.

Craven CC's TRIO Student Support Services offers an array of resources to help students who are low income, first generation, and/or have a documented disability to succeed in college.

CAMPUS LIFE



Hurst Student Ambassadors participate in a team-building activity at the Bear Towne Escape Room.



Sylvia King, Havelock campus director of Student Services, cooks hamburgers at the 2021 Havelock Panther Fest.



Current and former Hurst Student Ambassadors reconnected with Dr. David Hurst and college administration for a reunion at Capt. Ratty's in downtown New Bern on July 23.



Students on the Havelock campus enjoy a game of foosball between classes.



A Craven CC Nursing program student helps vaccinate community members against COVID-19.



An Ambassador maintains the Panther Pantry, which provides food and hygiene items to Craven CC students and employees in need.

At Craven CC, our students forge strong bonds and make lasting memories through community involvement, team-building events, and much more.

DRIVE-IN GRADUATION

The college held its 54th annual commencement as a drive-in ceremony on Saturday, May 15 on the New Bern campus. Hundreds of cars lined the parking lots, and graduates and their families participated in the ceremony from the comfort of their vehicles. Each graduate had their name called to ensure they were individually recognized.

At the ceremony's conclusion, graduates drove a "victory lap" around the campus to celebrate the close of their unique educational journeys. Dozens of college employees were stationed around the campus to cheer on graduates as they passed by.

The graduating class of 2021 consisted of 541 students who earned a total of 999 certificates, diplomas, and degrees, and 137 students and their families were in attendance.

Graduates from the Craven CC Nursing program celebrated their accomplishments during a drive-in pinning ceremony on May 14.







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