

CRAVEN

COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAGAZINE



2022



ON THE COVER: *Fifty-nine students graduated from Craven CC's Associate Degree Nursing program in a ceremony held on the New Bern campus on May 14.*

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A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As the College embarks on a new academic year, I am once again amazed at how far we have come since our humble beginning in 1965. In the past year alone, we saw the development of new cybersecurity and computer-aided drafting programs, the grand opening of a new commercial kitchen, national awards for our website and Phi Theta Kappa chapter, rising enrollment numbers, and growing support from our devoted donors, all in the wake of a global pandemic.



As an educational institution, we must always look forward. Our graduates must be competitive for jobs that are available now, and for opportunities that are yet to be discovered. We continue to look forward and invest in the technology and training to ensure our students have the tools they need now and in the future. New virtual reality and simulation tools in law enforcement, nursing, emergency medical services, and aviation are teaching students how to adapt to hundreds of scenarios in a safe environment that allows them to grow and learn from their mistakes. They learn the problem-solving soft skills that are in high demand from virtually every employer in our community.

As you read through our 10th edition of Craven Community College Magazine, I invite you to not only reflect on our accomplishments of the past year, but to also look at how that great work is shaping the road ahead. We are proud of our history, but as you'll see on these pages, there is much we're doing now that we'll also be very proud of in the years to come.

DR. RAY STAATS
PRESIDENT

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COLLEGE HAPPENINGS

New Programs in High-Demand Fields

The college kicked off the fall semester with the introduction of new programs to help meet the needs of the region's growing workforce. The programs, Cybersecurity Coding and Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD) Solidworks, are designed for analytically minded students who enjoy the technical aspects of computers.

"In today's ever-changing technological environment, it is important for businesses to stay at the forefront of constant security threats," said Matthew Berg, associate dean of Career Programs. "The graduates of this program will be able to help our local business partners maintain their vital information and continue to operate."

The Cybersecurity Coding program allows students to seek an associate degree, diploma, or certificate. They explore specific technical paths that help prevent data breaches and cyberattacks, with emphasis on security concepts, programming language, and ethical hacking. Students also have opportunities to earn industry certifications, some of which include AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner, Linux+, Security+, and Python Application Development. The college also offers a Coding certificate program for students interested in



learning the basics of programming language and web, programming, and database foundations.

Additionally, the new CAD Solidworks certificate program is great for students who have an eye for detail and enjoy using design programs. It covers technical skills, advanced software and hardware knowledge of a CAD system, and how to utilize advanced functions and features to solve complex modeling challenges.

According to the **US Bureau of Labor Statistics**, the field of **industrial design** is expected to **grow 6%** through 2030, while **information security** is supposed to **skyrocket 33%**

Celebrating Craven County's Black History with Music, Exhibit, Guest Speakers

Craven CC celebrated Black History Month with a free program entitled "Tracing Our Past: A Reflection on Craven County's Black History" on Feb. 24. The collaborative event included an exhibit on loan from Tryon Palace that showcased historical and contemporary Black individuals, businesses, and churches throughout Craven County.

There were also live performances by the college's Encore! singing ambassadors and 3CGC student gospel choir. Guest speakers included Craven CC Academic Advisor Nathan Stout and Associate in Fine Arts Program Coordinator/Music Faculty Chauncey Stevenson.



Graduation Returns to 'Normal'

Following two years of drive-in graduations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the college's 55th annual commencement ceremony returned to the main lawn Saturday, May 14 on the New Bern campus. The graduating class of 2022 consisted of 674 students who earned a total of 1,162 certificates, diplomas, and degrees. The youngest graduate was 16 and the most mature was 66. There were also several students who graduated from college before high school, as well as a mother and daughter who both graduated from the Associate Degree Nursing program.



Alpha Phi Nu Chapter, Dr. Staats Recognized by Phi Theta Kappa

The 2021-22 school year was a productive one for the college's Alpha Phi Nu (APN) chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) international honor society. It marked the 12th consecutive year in which the APN chapter earned five-star status, which is the highest level of achievement attainable through participation in campus, local, regional, national, and international activities. Chapters are evaluated on how well they exemplify PTK's hallmarks of leadership, service, scholarship, and fellowship.

The chapter also donated two virtual reality (VR) sets for students to check out from the college's Godwin Memorial Library. The funds for the equipment were provided by a 2021 Honors in Action grant from the Mellon Foundation. Honors in Action combines academic research, problem solving, and action-oriented service to address real-world challenges. Students gain job-related experience while creating lasting impacts in their communities.

APN's project started last summer when chapter members began researching the use of VR in education and mental health. After extensive research and surveys of Craven CC students, chapter members found that nearly 83% of students were interested in using immersive VR, yet 58% did not have access to VR equipment.

"We were overjoyed to receive the grant and even more excited at the possibilities it held for us," said Craven CC student and PTK Vice President for Scholarship Bethany Uldrich. "Virtual reality offers students the ability to be



in front of an audience or a classroom setting without ever having to leave their own room. This can help students who are struggling online and can help alleviate the stress of the pandemic."

In addition, Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats was one of 13 college presidents presented with the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction during PTK Catalyst 2022. This annual convention was held in Denver in April. Recipients are nominated by students on their campus. This year's 13 recipients were selected from among 617 college presidents eligible to receive this award. The Shirley B. Gordon Award is PTK's most prestigious award for community college presidents and is named in honor of the late Dr. Shirley B. Gordon, PTK's longest-serving Board of Directors Chair and a founder and longtime president of Highline Community College in Washington.

news briefs

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS

A Visit from NCCCS President Stith

Craven CC was pleased to welcome North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) President Thomas Stith on Nov. 29, 2021 as part of his tour across all 58 of the state's community colleges. Stith started his role as NCCCS president in January 2021.

"Until you put your foot on campus, you don't have a true understanding of the great work that's taking place throughout our 58 community colleges," said Stith. "The passionate commitment of individuals throughout our community college system is unwavering."

President Stith's tour began on the New Bern campus with Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats, the college's Executive Leadership Team, Craven CC Board of Trustees Chair Whit Whitley, and NCCCS Community Outreach Director Kevin Daniels. President Staats discussed Craven CC's resilience in the face of Hurricane Florence and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the college's innovative partnerships with CarolinaEast, City of New Bern, and local businesses. The tour continued in the nursing simulation lab, where Stith spoke to current nursing students and interacted with a virtual patient by administering an IV and checking its vitals.



The tour concluded at the Volt Center, which is home to many of the college's workforce development training programs. Stith learned to build a sink on the Moen assembly line, visited the Diesel and Heavy Equipment building, and concluded his tour with a target-shooting demonstration in the Law Enforcement Training simulator.

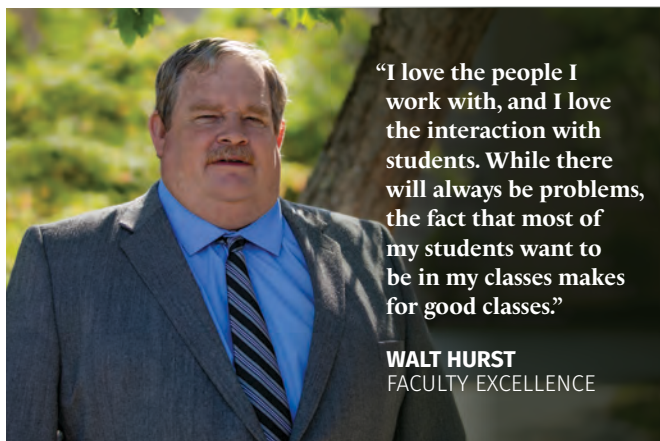


In Memoriam: Marla Grady

The college family and community were saddened by the loss of Marla Grady (center) on June 20. Marla was a vivacious adjunct art and music instructor who started at Craven CC in 2017 and was named the 2021-22 Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award winner on April 14, just two months before her passing. A wonderful teacher, mentor, and music lover, she was passionate about her roles in the community and will be greatly missed.

EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

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



For Walt Hurst, cars are the source of his career and his passion. His fascination with them started in childhood when he went to the junkyard to get parts for the family car. He started helping his dad service the car in elementary school, and by high school he was working on friends’ cars. While in college, he worked at an auto parts store and car dealership. He was hired as an adjunct automotive instructor at Craven CC in 2011 and became full time in 2013. One of his biggest accomplishments has been teaching a student who won first place in a statewide SkillsUSA contest and third in the nation. He has also felt great pride in being a part of a student’s journey from being lost in life to securing a full-time job at a dealership.



Dr. Jenifer Marquis has always worked in the field of education. She started her career as an elementary school teacher, then transitioned to K-12 instructional technology and distance learning positions at a local community college and ECU before starting at Craven CC in late 2015. She is currently Dean of Teaching and Learning. While here, she has helped design and implement several programs to support high-quality online teaching and learning, including the Community of Online reDesigners (CORD) and the two Hybrid and Online Teacher Training courses (HOTT 1 & HOTT 2). Each course has improved the quality of online programs while increasing the knowledge and skills of faculty and providing quality courses for students.



Marla Grady’s whole life centered around her love of music. Despite teaching for 34 years, she remained dedicated to helping her students understand the joys of music. She believed in teaching life skills and exploring music as a fundamental piece in the puzzle of life, and she connected with students on a personal level. She started at Craven CC in 2017, and was soon teaching several music and piano classes and accompanying Encore!, the college’s singing ambassador group. She served as director of the Southern Gentlemen Barbershop group and assisted many area schools with their music programs. She was devoted to her roles until her untimely death in June 2022.

BE PART OF SOMETHING GREAT!

The Craven Community College Foundation and its donors helped 626 students realize their educational dreams over the past academic year. Our income from donors is having a real impact on our students, allowing our community to grow stronger with each graduating student. We invite you to join our campaign this year to “Be Part of Something Great” by making a donation to the Foundation. Find out more at CravenCC.edu/Foundation, call us at 252-638-7351, or scan the QR code with your smartphone’s camera.



GREGORY POOLE DONATES DIESEL ENGINES

Craven CC’s Volt Center received two new diesel engines from Gregory Poole in May. The engines are used as training resources in the college’s Diesel Technology programs—Diesel Engines and Diesel Systems—for preventative maintenance for diesel motors and system diagnostics training. Gregory Poole has also donated other diesel engine and truck system parts that are used almost daily in classes at the Volt Center, as well as a diesel-powered generator/light tree for training purposes and to help illuminate the campus for evening classes.



Scott Potter (center), manager of Gregory Poole in Washington, NC, joins college officials outside the diesel garage for the delivery.

BERNE LODGE CONTRIBUTES TO SCHOLARSHIPS

The Foundation received contributions totaling more than \$2,300 from the Berne Lodge No. 724 A.F. and A.M. in June. They will fund four STEM scholarships and provide financial assistance to the College & Career Readiness program for 2022 and 2023. Berne Lodge is a Masonic lodge located in New Bern. Freemasons have a longstanding association with education in the state, stemming back to the 10th governor William R. Davie, past Grand Master of Masons of North Carolina and a key founder of the University of North Carolina.

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FUNDING STUDENT SUCCESS

NEUSE RIVER BRIDGE RUN

The Craven CC Foundation received a generous \$8,000 donation from the Neuse River Bridge Run (NRBR) in June. The funds were part of \$56,000 raised by the NRBR from their 2022 events in April. Funds were distributed among six other nonprofit organizations, including Duffyfield Phoenix Project, The Filling Station, Mediation Center of Eastern North Carolina, MERCI Clinic, RCS, and Twin Rivers YMCA.

Since 2005, the NRBR has hosted a series of races for runners and walkers of all ages. The Foundation has sponsored the event since 2006, which is just one example of the great outreach partnerships the college maintains in the community. Throughout the years, different groups within the college have taken an active role in volunteering at the NRBR, including the Student Nursing Association, Hurst Student Ambassadors, and students in the Phi Theta Kappa organization. In addition, the college's Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) students manage the Super Kids Fun Run event.



Top right: Craven CC Basic Law Enforcement Training program students hand out medals to children finishing the Neuse River Bridge Run's Super Kids Fun Run event. Above: Carol and Bob Mattocks, longtime Craven CC supporters, participate in the 2022 Neuse River Bridge Run 5K event. Photos courtesy of Jeremy LeRay.

donor support

THANK YOU

WE APPRECIATE OUR DONORS!

Donations to the Craven Community College Foundation continue to help hundreds of students reach educational goals and new career opportunities. We appreciate your generosity and investment in each student's future as we all work together to build a stronger community.

*The following donor list includes all cash and in-kind gifts received in the 2021-2022 fiscal year (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022).

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Number of **students**
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2021-22 school year



How simulation technology is preparing students for the road ahead

Many of Craven CC's graduates hold a person's life in their hands within the first few weeks of graduating. Law enforcement students become sworn officers who must protect the public from dangerous criminals. Nursing and EMS students must identify life-threatening injuries in a matter of seconds. Aviation students become pilots and flight instructors who must safely take off and land during storms, engine failures, and countless other threats. To better prepare students for situations where mistakes can be a matter of life and death, Craven CC has invested in simulation technology that can provide students with hundreds of hours of practice in a safe environment.

EMS WORKERS TAKE THE WHEEL

Much of emergency medical services (EMS) training is based on caring for the patient, but none of that training matters if the ambulance does not safely pick up the patient and deliver them to the hospital. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates there are 6,500 accidents each year in the United States that involve ambulances, with 35% of those resulting in injuries. To help ensure each patient is safely delivered to the hospital, Craven CC now trains its EMS and paramedic students on emergency driving with the EV-1000 Fire/EMS Driver Training Simulator by FAAC.

“We had been looking at simulators for a year,” said Jon Stephens, EMS programs coordinator. “The ambulance saves money on gas. There are no injuries if they crash. It better prepares the student for their ride time. If we trust them to drive the simulator, pick up the patient, and drive them to the hospital in one piece, we’ve done our job.”

The simulator provides modeling and simulation technology that creates lifelike virtual experiences for emergency drivers. Students sit in a single seat surrounded by three 62-inch computer monitors, authentic dash components, true-feel steering, and a motion seat. The simulators provide safe, effective training, student knowledge of rules and regulations, and proper radio communication. Drivers experience a wide variety of city and rural landscapes, weather, and traffic during each simulation.

“As the operator of the simulator, I can make the tire blowout or the engine overheat,” said Stephens. “Now they have to spend more time with the patient. A lot of EMT students are new to the EMS world. So the first time they would step on any kind of truck would be the real time. That causes a lot of anxiety. This gets them used to driving, treating, and reporting to the hospital—the whole deal of what they would do in a real scene.”

EXTENDING THE RUNWAY

Before aviation students have a chance to spread their wings in the air, they step into the DCX MAX Advanced Aviation Training Device (AATD) cockpit system at the Institute of Aeronautical Technology on the Havelock campus. This state-of-the-art aviation trainer offers an impressive list of features that prepare aviation students for virtually any situation, aircraft, and location.

“It saves money and time,” said Bill Franchi, director of the Aviation Management and Career Pilot Technology program. “You can practice all you want. Even if you make a mistake, we pause, talk about it, and move on. It’s proved to be an invaluable tool.”

The AATD can simulate 35 different airplanes, including a twin engine, to better prepare students for aircraft that may not be available in Eastern North Carolina. The two-seater cockpit system includes rudder pedals, yoke, 4K monitors, interchangeable start panels and fuel selectors, and virtual access to 500 different airports from around the world.

“We are also able to help students work a specific problem,” said Franchi. “We can go in the simulator and work the same issue over and over without wasting time, gas, or endangering the student or yourself. One student was having a lot of problems entering holding, a procedure to slow you down. But we put her in the simulator with (instructor) Mike McGee, and now she doesn’t even think about it anymore. She just does it.”

"It saves money and time. You can practice all you want. Even if you make a mistake, we pause, talk about it, and move on. It's proved to be an invaluable tool."

**— Bill Franchi,
Director of the Aviation
Management and Career
Pilot Technology Program**

LIBRARY EXPANDS TO INCLUDE VIRTUAL REALITY

While simulations have grown in popularity across health care and aviation, many individual classes have embraced the benefits of virtual technology as well. The Godwin Memorial Library now has 22 virtual reality (VR) headsets that are available for checkout and classroom projects.

Popularity has grown to a point where the library now has a dedicated room for VR. Some learning examples that have been used so far include Craven Early College students learning about WW2 through a tour of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, art students creating sculptures from various mediums, and virtual chemistry labs.

“Students can pour chemicals, mix them, and learn how to measure without breaking anything,” said Becky Arthur, Craven CC library assistant. “And we have Sharecare YOU for nursing. That is an anatomically correct manipulative body. You can go inside the heart, for example, and put in a stent and see how the body reacts.”



Nursing students use VR headsets for healthcare training exercises.



The college's VirTra law enforcement simulator utilizes five screens at 300 degrees to create immersive, realistic scenarios, ranging from encounters with mental illness to vicious animals, that test law enforcement officers' responses and assist with de-escalation.

LEARNING 'PATIENTS' IN THE SIMULATION LAB

The Nursing Simulation Lab, located in Perdue Hall, has become an integral component of Craven CC's nursing program. The lab includes a mannequin patient that is connected to instructors on the other side of a two-way mirror. The simulated patient can talk, breathe, and blink like a real-life patient, which can help students practice their therapeutic communication and assessment skills.

"Simulations are included in each nursing course because they provide an opportunity for students to develop clinical judgment specific to the content area being studied," said Kelsie McBride, nursing simulation coordinator. "Based on behavioral learning theory, simulation helps novice and beginning students practice skills and apply lecture content in a psychologically safe environment."

As students progress through the program, they are able to draw upon their past experiences to explore deeper thinking, while holistically caring for patients who are experiencing complex medical conditions, in a student-centered learning environment.

"The scenario should be as realistic as possible, so students should use their stethoscope to listen to a heartbeat, as well as bowel and respiratory sounds," added McBride. "If supplemental oxygen is needed, or IV medications administered, students should actually perform these tasks during the simulation just like they would for a patient in the clinical setting."

IMPROVING LAW ENFORCEMENT REACTION TIMES

Law enforcement officers have to make decisions in a fraction of a second, which means their reaction must be second nature. Craven CC acquired a VirTra simulator for its Law Enforcement Training (LET) Center in 2021 to help officers improve their decision-making process for situations that may only allow time for reflexes.

"If they are able to train, and if they come up on a situation, and they can reflect on their training and utilize those tools, it will make them a better officer," said Sandy McKenzie, Craven CC director of Service Programs and retired law enforcement officer.

The LET Center is located at the Volt Center and includes a room surrounded by projection screens, as well as a classroom for debriefing. Officers are then subjected to a variety of de-escalation scenarios where they are instructed to speak with a suspect, or draw their weapon, which is an actual firearm that has been modified with a laser that interacts with the simulator. Some scenarios include encounters with mental illness, high-risk vehicle stops, active threats, vicious animals, and dozens more.

"Utilizing this equipment can be a very eye-opening experience," said Mickey Tillman, LET coordinator and retired law enforcement officer. "You're surrounded, 300 degrees, by an immersive, virtual scenario that can give you the footsteps you need to prepare yourself for the unimaginable." 🦋

Over **600 law enforcement officers** have **trained** in the **simulator** since it **opened** on March 9, 2021

community fabric awards

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY LEADERS

The Community Fabric Awards hosted its 12th annual ceremony at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center on April 26 to a crowd of more than 450 people. Presented by the Craven Community College Foundation, the CFAs recognize individuals and businesses that have shown outstanding initiative, impact of service, and inspiration of others.



JONATHAN SEGAL
Individual Leadership Award

Jon Segal started his newspaper career during high school. He worked his way to the New Bern Sun Journal in 1974 and worked with Freedom Newspapers for 40 years before retiring to New Bern in 2012. Jon rings bells for the Salvation Army and delivers new bikes to children for Rotary's Empty Stocking Fund each year. He has "fostered" a family through the Interfaith Refugee Ministry and participates in the New Bern Noon Rotary Club and nonprofit boards, including: the Craven County Chapter of NC Community Foundation, the Craven County Disaster Recovery Alliance, NC Aquarium Society, and Tryon Palace Commission. He also served on the Craven CC Foundation Board and established the Segal Family Emergency Fund that helps students continue their education during hardships and emergencies.



BSH HOME APPLIANCES
Andrew MacLaren, Head of Site New Bern
Business Leadership Award

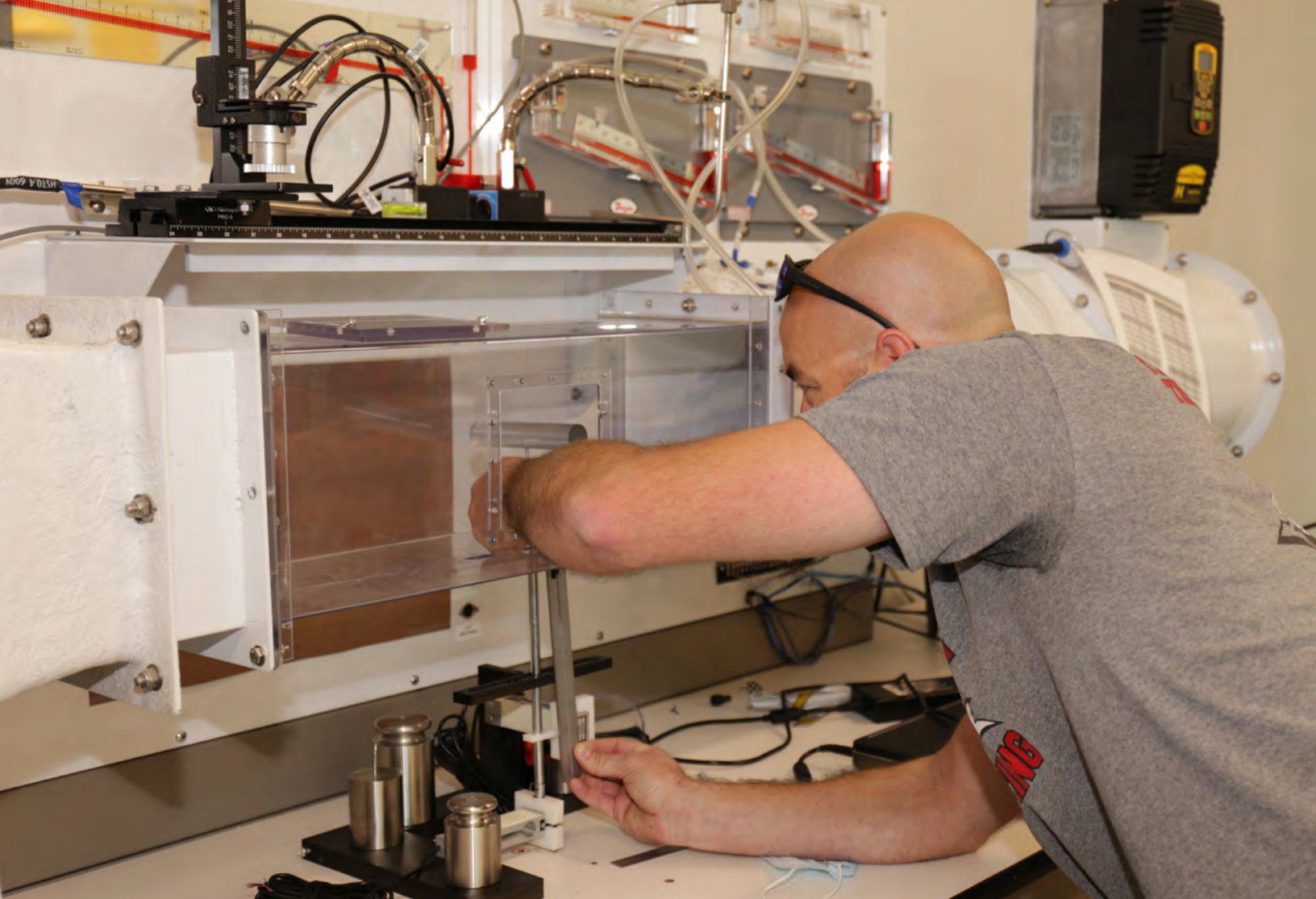
BSH recently surpassed over \$1 million in giving back to the community through their Bosch Community Fund. At the Volt Center, BSH has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in equipment, including an assembly line, forklifts, and tugger trucks. Nearly 2,000 students have been trained there since opening in June 2019. Over 500 have been offered full-time employment with BSH and other local manufacturers. BSH also supports high school students and community groups such as Craven County Partners in Education, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain, Jones County Schools, and Craven Smart Start, as well as various STEM education and sustainability projects. BSH exemplifies the qualities of an equitable, supportive, and philanthropic partner that truly cares about the community.



GREG SINGLETON
Leadership in Education Award

Greg Singleton is a powerful teacher, role model, student motivator, and liaison between students and community. He came to Craven CC in 2015 and restructured the Keys to Freedom program for formerly incarcerated individuals. In 2017, he developed the college's Job Readiness Boot Camp, which is now offered statewide by NC Community Colleges. It supports individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, or formerly incarcerated by teaching soft skills such as resume writing, interviewing, dressing for success, and communication, with the goal of improving employability. Greg also served as project manager of the Craven-Pamlico Re-Entry Council (CPRC). In March 2021, the college became the intermediary agency for the CPRC, which strives to put an end to recidivism one case at a time.

The **Community Fabric Awards** have
raised over \$500,000 since **2011**



AN IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIP

Reflecting on a decades-long collaboration with NC State

Nearly two decades ago, aviation maintenance employers in Eastern North Carolina noted a lack of adequately trained employees in a struggling engineering industry. The jobs were there, but there were no real opportunities for them to obtain the training they needed without traveling. Fortunately, leaders at Craven CC, NC State, and Fleet Readiness Center East (FRC East) saw an immense training potential, and a new engineering degree program was born. This year, that program celebrated the 10-year anniversary of its inaugural graduation ceremony in 2012 with four times as many graduates.

“I don’t think any of us realized the partnership would impact Eastern North Carolina in so many ways,” said

Dr. Bill Fortney, NC State regional director of engineering. “The biggest surprise is the major impact to the K-12 pipeline through the outreach efforts.”

When the program was first coming into shape, it was primarily because FRC East, Eastern NC’s largest industrial employer and one of six fleet readiness centers operated by the U.S. Navy, desired a way to “grow their own engineers.” Considering their continual sizeable supply of engineers employed at the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), the need for properly trained engineers in the area would remain constant. With Craven CC’s Havelock campus in such close proximity to FRC East, and with North Carolina State University’s well-established Mechanical Engineering Systems (MES) program, the next step was clear.

In 2004, after close to a decade of planning, the pact between Craven CC and NC State was born. The initial vision was to provide an opportunity for local residents to earn an engineering degree without leaving the area, while also supporting Eastern North Carolina businesses. Craven CC's Havelock campus began offering a site-based Bachelor of Science in Engineering program with a concentration in MES, allowing students to earn their four-year degree from NC State without leaving Havelock, as well as an option to complete their first two years at Craven and finish their last two years at NC State. The program was accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology in 2014. The 10-year process established the credibility of the program and confirmed that the curriculum met industry standards and produced properly trained engineers.

Students are able to take part in interactive video conferences, which allows them to attend the same engineering lectures as students inside a classroom at NC State. It also provides a more intimate learning environment with personalized help. Additionally, students get to work directly with many of the engineers aboard MCAS Cherry Point, gaining hands-on experience and training from experts in their field. The program also offers many enrichment opportunities, such as design competitions, community outreach design projects, robot competitions, local plant tours, and technical seminars.

“The success is a testimony to the power of true collaborative partnership,” added Fortney. “NC State, NAVAIR, and Craven Community College focused on the need instead of on who received credit, and accomplished something amazing. It is rare to find organizations with enough vision to persevere almost 10 years before seeing fruit from their labors.”

What makes this program especially unique is the fact that Craven CC is the only educational institution from which a student can earn a four-year engineering degree from NC State without leaving the area, as well as the only community college with in-person NC State faculty. It is held in the college's STEM Center, a 16,000-square-foot building that opened on the Havelock campus in 2020.



Seventeen students graduated from Craven CC and NC State University's Mechanical Engineering Systems program on May 3.

In May, Craven CC and NC State University celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the program's first graduation. The celebration coincided with graduates' presentations of their yearlong capstone design projects.

“The success is a testimony to the power of true collaborative partnership.”

**— Dr. Bill Fortney,
NC State Regional
Director of Engineering**

This year's project was to design a device to allow the H53 and V22 aircraft to be transported within the depot while the landing gear is removed for repairs. Being able to move the aircraft in this way allows work to continue and enables the aircraft to return to the fleet faster. Seventeen local MES seniors showcased their work and were the largest class to go through the program to date.

“This partnership, which involves visionary NC State Engineering leadership, Craven Community College's unwavering support, and a significant time and talent investment from our entire NAVAIR engineering team—from top level management through to recently hired mentors—is uniquely successful and serves as a template that stretches well beyond just the Department of Defense or the state of NC,” said Mark Meno, executive director at FRC East.

Dr. Bill Fortney, NC State regional director of engineering, has been a cornerstone of the Mechanical Engineering Systems program on Craven CC's Havelock campus.





Since the program began, it has produced 75 graduates, 91% of whom have stayed in Eastern North Carolina. It continues to benefit regional companies in need of engineering talent.

Fortney used the milestone to reflect on the students who have gone through the program, many of whom would not have been able to earn an engineering degree without such an exceptional program. He noted the impact it has had on their lives, as well as the men and women who serve in the military and are affected by the program's support of military aviation.

“The best part of the journey has been watching the students transform,” he said. “Becoming a good engineer is developing your character as well as growing in knowledge. It is an honor and a blessing to play a small part in each life as they transform into an engineer and begin a new life.”

91%

Percentage of
program graduates
hired locally

PANTHER PARTNERSHIPS

Craven CC's success can be attributed to its strong community partnerships.

DEVELOPING NEW APPRENTICESHIPS

Craven CC's newest partnership with Bosch Home Appliances allows students to earn an associate degree in Mechatronics Engineering Technology from Craven CC and have a two-year job commitment with BSH. The college also has an apprenticeship program with Chatsworth Products, a global manufacturer of high-quality information and communications technology infrastructure products. This paid program provides practical training and classroom learning, and students ultimately earn an associate degree in Industrial Systems Technology and a career at Chatsworth.

NEW CAROLINA EAST NURSING COHORT

The college has a strong partnership with CarolinaEast Health System (CEHS), which hires a significant portion of each year's graduating class of nurses. Over 40% of the 60 spring 2022 graduates are now employed there. In response to CEHS's growing need for highly skilled nurses, the college's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program is starting students twice each year in August and January.

PARAMEDIC PROGRAM WITH CARTERET CC

In February, the college signed an agreement with Carteret CC that enables Craven CC students in the Paramedic certificate program to transfer into Carteret CC's Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Emergency Medical Science Bridging degree program. Through the bridging program, currently credentialed paramedics earn credit hours toward the AAS degree, then complete 25% of required credits through Carteret CC.

NC STATE C3 MILITARY CONNECT

Craven CC and NC State University signed an agreement in February that will help qualified military-affiliated Craven CC students transfer to NC State through the Community College Collaboration (C3) Military Connect program. The agreement provides a seamless transfer for active-duty service members and veterans, as well as their spouses and dependents, who enroll at NC State following completion of their two-year degree at Craven CC.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



OLYMPIC MEDALIST VISITS FORMER ESL INSTRUCTORS

Abdoul Razak Issoufou, World Taekwondo champion and Olympic silver medalist, visited the New Bern campus on June 20 to thank the English as a Second Language (ESL) program for their work. Issoufou, a native of Niger, joined the program in 2015 and later went on to win a silver medal in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games, as well as gold during the World Taekwondo Championships.

CAREER TAKING FLIGHT

Five graduates of the of the Aviation Management and Career Pilot Technology program have made the transition from student to teacher. Graduates Nicolo Bluske (2021), Tim Ahmie (2021), and Tyler Burdulis (2022) have been hired by D2 Flight Academy as flight instructors for Craven CC's next cohort of aviation students. Kitchell Mortimer (2021) now works at Crystal Coast Aviation in Beaufort, and Carson Wood (2022) is at Total Flight Solutions.

TWO STUDENTS WIN COSMETOLOGY AWARD

Two students in Craven CC's Cosmetology program won gold during the SkillsUSA North Carolina Championships competition in Greensboro in April. Mykeisa Cooper won the Skills Project Showcase for Cosmetology, while Amy Anderson Ipock won the Cosmetology Competition.

For the showcase, Cooper designed five individual mannequins using an "Alice in Wonderland" theme. Each mannequin included coloring, styling, and adding hair, as well as makeup and ornamentation. Ipock's contest included a women's long layered haircut, a men's haircut, and an additional cut. She had to blow dry and style, as well as design an advanced updo, all while being timed and graded.

ENGINEERED TO SUCCEED

The partnership between NC State, Craven CC, and FRC East has resulted in 10 years of students graduating with Mechanical Engineering Systems (MES) degrees that were earned entirely from the Havelock campus. The goal was to help create homegrown talent that would stay in Eastern North Carolina, and 2022 graduate Mike Howell intends to do just that. Having already earned his associate degree, he started the MES program in 2019 after getting discharged from the Marine Corps. He was offered a job in the Engineering Development Assistant Program at the end of his first semester, and after graduating in May, he was offered a full-time position as a Mechanical Engineer with the H53 Fleet Support Team.

"I've been with FRC for 2½ years and have no plans of leaving," said Howell. "I love what I do. It's rewarding and a cool job. There are endless opportunities—so many jobs you can do at FRC as an engineer. You don't have to uproot yourself to find something you're passionate about. It's a really awesome partnership."

INSPIRING OTHERS

Craven CC student Apostolos Vogiatzis delivered a heartfelt speech during this year's Community Fabric Awards ceremony. After dropping out of high school, he resumed his education in Craven CC's GED program. Vogiatzis went on to graduate from Craven CC in May with an Associate in Arts, was president of PTK, and a member of the Carolina Student Transfer Excellence Program, which allows him to start as a junior this fall at UNC-Chapel Hill. Throughout his journey filled with personal hurdles and adversities, he was thankful and humbled by the assistance he received from GED instructor Anthony Nesbit, as well as the Craven CC Foundation, PTK, staff, and faculty.



VOLT CENTER KITCHEN

COOKING UP CUISINE AND CAREERS

A strong workforce reflects a prosperous community. This has been shown repeatedly in a constantly waxing and waning economy on a local and national level. Labor shortages in the hospitality industry have had a crippling effect on the nation's economy, and Eastern North Carolina is certainly no exception. In fact, leaders of the local hospitality industry recently banded together to collectively find ways to remedy their staff deficiencies. They soon found that trying times can lead to innovative initiatives, and the idea for Craven CC's Volt Center commercial kitchen and hospitality training facility was born. The deal was sealed with its grand opening in July.

"Craven County relies heavily on the hospitality and tourism industry, and it's continually growing," said hospitality expert and Craven CC Trades & Occupations Program Developer Meghan Margarum. "Helping our industry partners by providing skilled entry-level workers

will have a big impact. The hospitality industry has been hurting for workers since COVID began, and most are still not fully staffed. Connecting the dots between skilled students and actual jobs is what we do best at the Volt."

Local restaurant owners initially met with college leaders in 2019 to discuss food service industry training. Participants included representatives from Bengel Hospitality, Persimmons, Captain Ratty's, The Flame Catering & Banquet Center, The Chelsea, and Famous Restaurant & Baking Company. College officials also toured surrounding schools, including Carteret, Coastal Carolina, and Pamlico Community Colleges and New Bern High School, to get a glimpse of successful hospitality and culinary programs in action. Margarum was also brought on board to help turn the vision into a reality. She used to her knowledge of the industry to create short-term, information-packed classes to prepare students for the workforce.

The kitchen soon came to life in an unutilized building that was renovated and outfitted with an industrial-style kitchen to train motivated community members in a number of hospitality trades. It was designed to provide classroom training space and hands-on equipment for hospitality jobs in Craven County. It mimics the setting of a typical restaurant kitchen, complete with top-of-the-line appliances such as prep stations, ovens, fryers, refrigerators, stoves, and a dishwasher, as well as dry food storage, a dining area, and classroom space.

Students are able to train as line cooks, bartenders, food and beverage management, housekeeping, servers, and many other careers that are an integral part of Craven County's livelihood. Classes include ServSafe® Education, Intro to Hospitality, Pro Cooking Fundamentals, Intro to Bartending, and Intro and Advanced Brewing. To assist students who may not be able to afford it, the Craven CC Foundation and Harold H. Bate Foundation have created the Volt Toolbelt Trust, which covers 100% of the registration costs for a credentialed workforce development program.

Craven CC hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new kitchen in July. Approximately 50 individuals were present, including Mayor Dana Outlaw and several City of New Bern officials, college staff and board members, and local hospitality leaders. Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats commended the efforts of the many individuals and organizations who came together to make it happen.

"The late Ronald Reagan said, 'It's amazing what you can get done when you don't care who gets credit,'" he said. "The Volt Center has credit that goes to an awful lot of people. This is our fifth building that we are opening in just three years. I don't know who does that,



Bartending is one of several hospitality programs held in the new Volt Center Kitchen.

but apparently our citizens of Craven County do—a pretty amazing thing."

Sabrina Bengel, owner of Bengel Hospitality, echoed that sentiment and emphasized how the kitchen's grand opening signifies the growth of an important industry for the county.

VOLT CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

- 20% of students walk or bike to class
- Over 2,000 students trained
- Over 600 jobs obtained
- 22,000 square feet

"The impact that tourism has in jobs, in sales tax, and economic impact is amazing, and this is another tool in that tool chest that we're going to be able to use," she said. "If we don't have frontline staff in the hotels, in the restaurants, in the attractions, it's going to be difficult to sustain what we've all worked so hard to bring forth over these many years."

Staats also noted that the college invested less than \$500,000 in capital through state funding for the impressive

22,000-square-foot Volt Center location. The remainder of the over-\$5 million project came from generous community partners who committed to the vision of boosting the region's economy and unemployment rates.

"We have trained over 2,000 students here, and over 600 have obtained immediate employment, most of them before they even finished their training," said Staats. "This is not just any employment—this is ranging from \$15 an hour to \$60-70 thousand dollars a year at the entry level. Employers from all over the region are coming to the Volt Center to interview our students while they're still learning their crafts here. That is amazing testimony."

The Volt Center is part of an ongoing partnership between the City of New Bern and Craven CC and serves as the college's primary workforce training center. Craven CC began offering classes at the Volt in 2019. In addition to the kitchen, the Volt Center includes a workforce training center, diesel and heavy equipment garage, makerspace, law enforcement simulator training, and is home to the Small Business Center. Its newest addition perfectly illustrates how the community comes together to accomplish great things. 🇺🇸

Craven CC and the City of New Bern hosted a ribbon cutting for the Volt Kitchen on July 19.



panther praise

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Craven CC Earns 2022-23 Military Friendly® School Designation

Craven Community College earned the 2022-2023 Military Friendly® School designation for its record of student retention, graduation, job placement, and more among its student veteran population.

The Military Friendly® Schools list is created each year by Viqtory, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB) that connects the military community to civilian employment, as well as educational and entrepreneurial opportunities. Craven CC is proud to offer award-winning services to the community and is honored to support our military and veteran community.



Singleton Wins State Award

Craven CC's former Director of Community Workforce Readiness, Greg Singleton, was named the 2022 North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) Staff of the Year. This prestigious award recognizes excellent performance and commitment to the community college mission by the non-teaching staff of the 58 institutions of the NCCCS and System Office.

Singleton joined the college's Human Resource Development department in 2014. He launched the Job Readiness Boot Camp in 2017, which supports unemployed, underemployed, and formerly incarcerated individuals. Singleton served as project manager of the Craven-Pamlico Re-Entry Council and was instrumental in writing a \$250,000 grant to support the efforts of the Council. He successfully placed the Re-Entry Council under Craven CC's guidance, and it serves as a model for the NCCCS to replicate in other communities.



Former Director of Community Workforce Readiness Greg Singleton, center, was named the 2022 North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) Staff of the Year during the State Board of Community Colleges awards dinner on July 14. Pictured left to right: State Board Chairman Burr Sullivan, NCCCS President Thomas Stith, Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats, and State Board Vice Chairman Bill McBrayer.



New Website Wins National Award

Craven CC received a first-place national award for its new website. The National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) presented the prestigious Paragon Award during a national conference in Denver on March 25. NCMPR's prestigious Paragon Awards recognize outstanding achievement in design and communication at community and technical colleges. It is the only national competition of its kind that honors excellence exclusively among marketing and public relations professionals at two-year colleges.

The reimaged website launched in August 2021. Redesign efforts consisted of a complete renovation of previous site content and rebranding to accurately represent Craven CC. The site shifted directions to focus on content relevant to current and prospective students in an aesthetically pleasing format. In addition, nearly all page content was rewritten in a way to engage readers, and the layout was greatly enhanced to provide simpler navigation and a positive experience for site visitors.

The 2021 Paragon Awards drew 1,719 entries from 232 colleges nationwide, judged by nearly 70 professionals from the marketing and public relations industry.

The modernized website was the result of collaborative efforts between (pictured above from left to right) Christina Sobrido, Office 365 Systems Administrator in the IT department; Meredith Laskovics, former marketing specialist; Craig Ramey, director of communications; and Holly Desrosier, communications specialist. Continuous input throughout the process was also received from a Website Redesign Committee consisting of faculty, staff, and students.

Emeritus Class of 2022

Craven CC's College Emeritus 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 2022 class: Joyce Belfance, Mit McLean, and Mark Best. Each was officially awarded emeritus status during the 55th annual commencement ceremony.

JOYCE BELFANCE

Joyce served as a dedicated nursing faculty member for 17 years and retired in 2019. Due to her passion for the healthcare field, she has continued to be part of the college family as an instructor for the Nursing Assistant program.



MIT McLEAN

Mit retired from her position as an Academic Advisor in the Student Services department in 2017. She continues to graciously assist the college in many roles, including stepping in to fill temporary staff vacancies during peak registration periods.



MARK BEST

Mark retired from his position as the Director of Workforce Readiness and Special Programs in 2017. He steadfastly served for 31 years, and he remains committed to supporting the college through his assistance with classroom instruction.



CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

At Craven CC, our students, faculty, and staff forge strong bonds and make lasting memories through community involvement, campus events, and more. For more photos, make sure to follow us on social media!



- 1 Students take part in an interactive DWI exercise aimed at deterring teens and young adults from driving while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or while texting.
- 2 Fifth graders learn about animal pelts from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission during the Careers on Wheels event.
- 3 Students in the Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program assist with cleaning the fleet of patrol vehicles used for BLET.
- 4 Students learn about the BLET program during Careers on Wheels.
- 5 Barbering program students provide free haircuts while practicing their trade during PantherFest.
- 6 The college's Encore! singing group gives a moving performance during the "Tracing Our Past: A Reflection on Craven County's Black History" event.
- 7 The college hosts Job Fair 2022, with 32 local employers giving students and community members an opportunity to connect with careers.
- 8 Students in the Associate Degree Nursing program hold a Community Health Fair to create awareness of many prevalent health-related issues.
- 9 A student enjoys some recreation during PantherFest.
- 10 International Paper officials donate boxes of diapers and wipes for the college's Panther Pantry.



CONGRATS GRADS!

7



8



9



10





800 College Court
New Bern, NC 28562
252-638-7200

Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit # 205
New Bern, NC

Recipient Name
Address line 1
Address line 2
City, State Zip

Flowers are in full bloom beneath the statue "Wind" by Dee Clements. The statue was donated to the college in 2014 as part of the Dr. James B. Congleton, III Sculpture Collection.

