

CRAVEN

COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAGAZINE



2023



ON THE COVER: *Craven CC students walk along the new pathway between the Brock Administration Building and the parking lot.*

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A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Among my professional passions is community history. As a new arrival to the College eight years ago, I took on the task of reviewing the minutes of every Board of Trustees meeting at the College since Founder's Day on April 23, 1968. At that organizational meeting, the trustees elected Dr. Lynn Kelso as their first chairperson and Dr. Thurman Brock as the first College president. Tracing the governance conversations that have taken place since those early days gave me an immediate and deep appreciation for the influential role our College has played throughout our region across nearly 60 years. A total of 27 community leaders have led the Board of Trustees since then, and I'm honored to be the fourth successor to Dr. Brock.

I'm pleased that our College continues adding to the already tremendous and storied history of New Bern, Havelock, and Craven County: North Carolina's colonial capital, the birthplace of Pepsi, and home to the East Coast's largest Marine Corps aviation base.

Nine years after our trustees had their first meeting, the Craven Community College Foundation formed in 1977 and was first ably led by Clarence "Fred" Wheeler. Anne Schout is the 20th and current leader of an extraordinary group of civic-minded directors that are opening financial doors of opportunities for our students.

The 2023 edition of Craven Community College Magazine reflects on many of the College's accomplishments over the past year. In addition, you'll get a look at our newly penned five-year strategic plan, which includes an updated vision statement. "Purpose-driven teaching and learning for Craven County" invokes an intentional, goal-oriented, and locally focused approach to education for our students.

Underpinning this vision is the desire that every education stakeholder—students, faculty, staff, administrators, parents, families, and community members—can relate each individual's contribution to a desired learning outcome. Those outcomes are as diverse as are our students. Among these are new job opportunities, preparation for baccalaureate education or a career change, upward economic mobility, military-to-civilian transition, community re-entry, life skills, or personal enrichment, just to name a few.

Our new strategic plan was the product of a months-long shared governance process that engaged trustees, faculty, staff, and administrators in assessments of past successes and shortfalls, present capabilities, and an optimistic look at new and potential opportunities for future successes.



Over the years our College has been blessed with a wide variety of community partners through whom we've reaped amazing results. In the past couple of years, we've doubled the size of our Associate Degree in Nursing student cohort, thanks in great part to the financial and leadership support of CarolinaEast Health System. The Volt Center is a state-level benchmark for community partnerships in the economic development and workforce development arenas. The first F-35 has landed at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, and we are poised as a prime partner in support of this generational upgrade to our national defense capability. This year, our Foundation surpassed the \$500,000 threshold for annual fundraising on behalf of our students. The Community Fabric Awards continued as a celebration of individual leadership, business philanthropy, and educational innovation. The 13th annual edition of the iconic event recognized the three newest award recipients in front of more than 500 attendees.

I hope you enjoy reading about the College's activities and accomplishments during the 2022-2023 academic year. Our College family is proud to add another successful chapter to our community's exceptional history.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Staats". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue background.

DR. RAY STAATS
PRESIDENT



Craven CC Hosts Statewide AVID Education Conference

The college's Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) hosted a Higher Education Conference featuring Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) in May. AVID is an academic support program that helps prepare students for college eligibility and success.

This two-day event brought together over 100 education leaders, instructors, and support services teams from multiple states to network and learn how to implement high-engagement instructional strategies to address gaps in opportunities, expectations, and achievements among students.

"The conference provided participants an opportunity to network and discuss the work they are doing that is making a positive impact on students," said Dr. Jenifer Marquis, Dean of Teaching & Learning.

The event featured speakers and sessions focused on leadership, instruction, guided pathways, and student support services by highlighting emerging and best practices for holistic student success. Dr. Bill Carver, then-Interim President of the North Carolina Community College System, was the keynote speaker, and several Craven faculty and staff members presented.



The AVID Conference enabled higher education faculty and staff members from around the state to network and gain insight on best practices for student success.

Sessions allowed participants to explore the emerging role of artificial intelligence in the classroom, with demonstrations of active learning strategies using virtual reality equipment and curriculum. Topics included igniting student motivation, creating seamless transitions between K-12 and college, and streamlining learning experiences.

Community Enrichment Program Relaunches with Classes for All Interests

In fall 2022, the college's Community Enrichment Program (CEP) came back to life with a lineup of fun classes for the community. Formerly known as the Adult Enrichment Program, the CEP's wide range of courses allows people of all ages and interests to experience the joy of taking up a new hobby or learning a new skill. Topics offered are based on community input and range in skill levels from beginner to advanced.

"The Community Enrichment Program's aim is to bring community members together to learn exciting new skills while having fun," said CEP Coordinator Dr. Suzanne Madison. "Whether you just want to hone your skills in a particular topic or try something new, I invite you to take a look at our offerings. We are continuously seeking community feedback and welcome all suggestions for new classes."

Community members have enjoyed taking part in both new classes and fan favorites, allowing community

members to create lasting memories through photography, original works of art, boat safety, new languages, hands-on cooking, self-defense techniques, and much more.



Students of all ages and interests enjoy a wide variety of classes through the Community Enrichment Program.

news briefs

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS

Esthetics Program Introduces Two New Services

In March, Craven CC's Esthetics Technology program added two new services to their public offerings and student certifications: microneedling and dermaplaning. Both services are provided in the college's esthetics salon by appointment.

Microneedling is a procedure that uses fine, sterilized needles that lightly puncture the skin to encourage collagen production. Dermaplaning is a non-invasive exfoliating procedure to reveal smoother and healthier skin. Both services help to minimize the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles and can improve scarring.

The Esthetics Technology program provides hands-on experience in the art of skin care, general health and wellness, and basic dermatology. Students receive practical training in basic facials, electrical facials, hair removal, and other custom facial principles.

Upon graduating from this program, students are prepared to take the North Carolina Esthetic State Board Licensing Exam and are ready to enter the workforce immediately.

"This opportunity to have advanced, hands-on training and become certified is a great advantage for career placement once the students have taken their state boards," said Shelby Davis, Esthetics Technology program instructor. "In addition, our students are now providing these services to our clients, allowing them to perfect a new skill."

Students in the program offer services to the public at a reduced cost, allowing them to serve the community and gain hands-on experience under the guidance of top-tier industry professionals. Other services include facials, makeup application, and hair removal.

Students in our Esthetics Technology program offer **discounted services** to the public, including **facials, makeup, and hair removal**. Learn more at **CravenCC.edu/Services**.



Craven CC's Esthetics Technology students are now able to become certified in microneedling and dermaplaning. These and other services are offered to the public by appointment.

Craven CC, NC Wesleyan Connection Strengthened with New Partnership

The college expanded its partnership with North Carolina Wesleyan University (NCWU) in January by signing an education partnership agreement that supports undergraduate and graduate degree completion opportunities for Craven CC employees.

This partnership allows Craven employees to receive reduced tuition rates of \$350 per credit hour for undergraduate programs and \$400 per credit hour for graduate programs at NCWU. One-on-one advising support and mentoring is also provided. This allows employees to continue their careers while attending classes online or one night per week.

This is in addition to existing transfer agreements that allow Craven CC students to transfer to NCWU and complete a bachelor's degree online or from Craven's New Bern campus in business administration, organizational administration, accounting, criminal justice, and marketing.

"We are here to provide educational opportunities to our community, and there is no reason those opportunities should be limited to incoming Craven CC students," said Dr. Ray Staats. "Our faculty and staff are vital to our success, and we are excited and grateful to offer this opportunity with one of our closest and most valued educational partners."



Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats and NC Wesleyan University President Dr. Evan D. Duff sign a new agreement to provide discounted tuition rates for Craven CC employees.

Celebrating Black History Month with 'Dialogues on Diversity'

Craven CC celebrated Black History Month with a free program entitled "Martin Luther King and the Strength of Shared Dreams" on Feb. 23. The event was hosted by Dialogues on Diversity, a social justice and diversity theater company that utilizes theatrical models to deliver messages on difficult and complicated issues.



Ron Jones, executive director of Dialogues on Diversity, speaks during the college's Black History Month event.

New BioWork Program Established on Havelock Campus

Craven CC's Havelock campus is introducing a new BioWork certification in time for the fall 2023 semester. It will teach students the foundational skills needed to start a career as a process technician for a biotechnology, pharmaceutical, or chemical manufacturing company. The course includes hands-on lab simulations, classroom learning, and soft skills training, as well as assistance with job searches and professional résumé development.

Process technicians work in manufacturing environments and must excel at a wide range of responsibilities in all stages of the manufacturing process, including operating equipment, documenting and analyzing data, monitoring machinery, and improving manufacturing processes. Process technicians also maintain safety, health, and environmental standards, with the end goal of producing a quality product that meets required standards.

This program caters to a variety of backgrounds and career goals, from recent high school graduates ready to get started in a growing industry to transitioning military or seasoned employees looking for a change.

STRATEGIZING FOR SUCCESS

Preparing a blueprint for another successful five-year period at Craven CC

Craven Community College has a new blueprint to follow for the next five years that will guide growth, student experiences, community engagement and more. The 2023-2028 Strategic Plan was officially adopted by the Board of Trustees on Feb. 21 after a 6-month period of reflection and discussions that included college staff, students, and community stakeholders.

"Our colleagues and Board of Trustees exerted immense effort to take all the information gathered and put them together to form this comprehensive plan," said Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats. "I am confident in our foresight and innovative ideas and look forward to seeing our college family progress to meet these goals."

The strategic plan is updated every five years and gives stakeholders an overview of the college's vision, mission, and core values, as well as a summary of the college's forthcoming initiatives.

To realize optimal results, it is also imperative to reflect on the past few years to determine strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for growth. This was achieved through a development period that began with a planning retreat by the Executive Leadership Team, continued with panel discussions and workshops among staff, faculty, and students, and concluded with adoption by the Board of Trustees.

College leaders conducted numerous listening sessions during departmental meetings to develop these goals and consolidate them into a cohesive strategic plan. The plan's initiatives are organized into four themes that reflect the college's mission priorities: Teaching and Learning, Student-Centered Experience, College Environment, and Community Service and Engagement.

Under each theme are several goals and initiatives set forth to help the college achieve its updated vision statement: "Purpose-driven teaching and learning for Craven County."

Some of the newest and most ambitious goals include paramedic program accreditation, development of Heavy Equipment Operations and BioWork programs, and construction of new infrastructures for Public Safety, Health Programs, and Corporate Training.

The Teaching and Learning priority includes proactively adapting program offerings to continually changing student demographics; continuing to support community, military, and business needs through dynamic programs; promoting durable skills in the classroom; and implementing seamless pathways from high school to career attainment. The college will also emphasize educational opportunities through external partnerships with universities including NC State, NC Wesleyan, UNC-Chapel Hill, and ECU.

The Student-Centered Experience will extend the college's "students first" culture through connecting academic offerings to professional expectations, improving student persistence and program completion, conducting intentional and proactive student support services, and developing student leaders.

College Environment goals will accentuate the college's goal to be a student's first choice, as well as an exceptional place to work. This will be accomplished by developing more employee professional leadership opportunities, adapting the college's infrastructure to meet evolving needs, maintaining safe and accessible campuses, and enhancing and upgrading campuses and facilities. Progress has already been made on a number of campus and facility upgrades (see page 26).

Finally, Craven CC plans to fulfill Community Service and Engagement plans through promoting generous Foundation giving, engaging college retirees and alumni, connecting with diverse community constituencies, and advancing the college's reputation as an exceptional teaching and learning institution. 🦋

2023-2028 STRATEGIC PLAN

New Vision Statement

Purpose-driven teaching and learning for Craven County.

New Core Value

SERVICE: We make selfless and intentional decisions and actions that contribute to the welfare of our students and community.

Strategic Priorities

TEACHING AND LEARNING

OUR CORE MISSION

- Secure SACSCOC Reaffirmation in 2027
- Conduct high quality, rigorous programs that are current and relevant to community needs
- Implement seamless pathways from high school through career attainment
- Proactively adapt program offerings to changing student demographics
- Advance lifelong educational opportunities through external education partnerships
- Connect academic teaching to life applications and experiences
- Develop a dedicated Health Programs infrastructure footprint
- Develop and implement programs responsive to community, military, and business needs

COLLEGE ENVIRONMENT

'FIRST CHOICE' FOR STUDENTS; EXCEPTIONAL PLACE TO WORK

- Develop faculty and staff for professional leadership opportunities
- Sustain the College as an exceptional employer and a great place to teach and learn
- Adapt the College's infrastructure to evolving teaching, learning, and community needs
- Maintain welcoming, accessible, safe, and secure campuses
- Sustain "first choice" campus facilities and grounds

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGED, AGILE, & RESPONSIVE TO DIVERSE CONSTITUENCIES

- Promote generous Foundation giving
- Engage College retirees and alumni
- Engage diverse community constituencies
- Market the College strategically

STUDENT-CENTERED EXPERIENCE

'STUDENTS FIRST' CULTURE

- Connect academic offerings to professional expectations
- Improve student persistence and completion
- Provide intentional student support services
- Sustain "student first" culture

Scan to view
the 2023-2028
Strategic Plan



Foundation Staff, Dr. Staats Recognized by Phi Theta Kappa

The college's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) international honor society chapter inducted 51 new members during a ceremony held Nov. 3, 2022. Among the inductees were honorary members Charles Wethington, executive director of Institutional Advancement, and Christina Bowman, assistant director of the Foundation. Both were recognized for the Foundation's outstanding support of PTK members over the last year.

Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats was presented with a gold medallion for being selected as one of 13 college presidents nationwide to receive the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction. He was previously recognized for this accomplishment at the PTK Catalyst convention in April.

In addition, Wethington was one of 30 college administrators presented with a Distinguished College Administrator Award during PTK's annual Catalyst convention April 20-22 in Columbus, Ohio.

The award recognizes college administrators working directly with student leaders to solve problems on campus and in their communities, while also taking an active

interest in supporting high-achieving students and developing student leaders. Honorees were selected from among thousands of college administrators eligible to receive this award.

Wethington was recognized at the Carolinas Regional Convention in Columbia, South Carolina on March 18 as the only recipient of the PTK Carolinas Region Distinguished College Administrator. He and Foundation Assistant Director Christina Bowman-Murray were also recognized and inducted as honorary members during the college's PTK induction ceremony Nov. 3.



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

Medallions for Marketing

Craven CC's marketing department received four Medallion Awards from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) in October 2022. NCMPR's Medallion Awards recognize outstanding achievement in design and communication among marketing and public relations professionals at community and technical colleges.

The college received a first-place award for the weekly In the Know podcast, which broadcasts live from the Dark Room Studio inside Public Radio East on the New Bern campus. The hosts during the 2022 award period were Workforce Development Coordinator Megan Johnson, Executive Director of Community Engagement Craig Ramey, and former Director of Library Services Wendy White. Production was overseen by former Marketing Specialist Meredith Laskovics, and later Communications Specialist Holly Desrosier and Multimedia Services Coordinator Zaneta Padilla.

Additionally, the team received a bronze medal for the redesigned Craven Community College website, which came on the heels of winning the first place NCMPR national Paragon award in March 2022.

Third place was also received for the marketing team's 2022 April Fools' Day video, as well as the 2021 Craven Magazine, edited by Ramey, written by Desrosier, and designed by Laskovics.



Pictured left to right: Christina Bowman, Craven CC Foundation assistant director; Kate Amerson, history/humanities instructor and PTK advisor; Dr. Angela Foster, communications instructor and PTK advisor; Dr. Ray Staats, Craven CC president; and Charles Wethington, executive director of Institutional Advancement.

Chili Fest Flare

Craven CC's Havelock campus won two awards during the 2022 Havelock Chili Festival on Sept. 24. With help from students in the Hospitality program, staff, and faculty, Craven CC won the People's Choice for red chili and fifth place for red chili.



Top left: Pictured L-R: Ben Hogwood, Associate Dean; Michelle Pierce, Academic Support Center manager; Chuck Lancaster, math instructor; Angela Hughes, senior administrative assistant; Greg Purvis; Walden Miller, former culinary instructor; and Dr. Tanya McGhee, Havelock Campus dean.

Bottom left: McGhee serves chili at the Havelock Chili Fest.

Top right: Director of Aviation Systems Technology Russ Boyce stirs a giant vat of award-winning chili.

Bottom right: Havelock Student Services Coordinator Eric Sexton is bested by a wooden pillory.

panther praise

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Emeritus Class of 2023

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 2023 class: Patricia Batten, Michael Williams, and Kim Zaccardelli. Each was officially awarded emeritus status during the 56th annual commencement ceremony.



PATRICIA BATTEN

Patricia served as a Cosmetology faculty member for 22 years and retired in 2020. She was instrumental in the expansion of the college's Cosmetology program and a driving force behind its curriculum.



MICHAEL WILLIAMS

Michael retired as a Manufacturing instructor with over 25 years of experience in 2018. He was a key part of developing and modernizing the college's Advanced Manufacturing programs.



KIM ZACCARDELLI

Kim retired as a Workforce Development Coordinator in 2020. She served the college for 26 years and introduced countless students to new career pathways and helped them reach academic goals.

Carpenetti's Out-of-this-World Feats

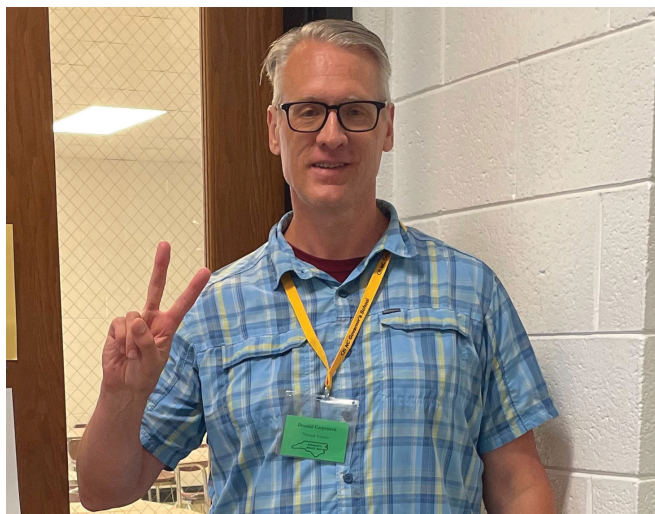
The sky is clearly not the limit for chemistry instructor Don Carpenetti, who completed NASA Solar System Ambassador training in January 2022, and then had his status extended by two more years. The NASA Solar System Ambassadors program is a public engagement effort that works with motivated volunteers across



the nation to communicate the science and excitement of NASA's space exploration missions and discoveries to the people in their communities.

He was also accepted into NITARP, the NASA/IPAC Teacher Archive Research Program. This two-year project involves conducting original research using astronomical data, presenting two science posters on the research project and its application to science education at the American Astronomical Society meeting in January 2024, and a trip to the jet propulsion lab.

Carpenetti became a full-time chemistry instructor at Craven CC in July 2010 and has assisted with the summer science camps for elementary and middle school students.



Chemistry instructor and space aficionado Don Carpenetti is a NASA Solar System Ambassador and part of the NASA/IPAC Teacher Archive Research Program. He is teaching at the North Carolina Governor's School this summer at Winston-Salem State University in the Natural Science Division. He is pictured standing in front of his summer classroom teaching Bonding & Beyond.

EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

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



“It is so important to build relationships with my students in order to understand them and encourage their success. Students learn better when they feel seen, heard, and cared for.”

KAREN GRUBB
FACULTY EXCELLENCE

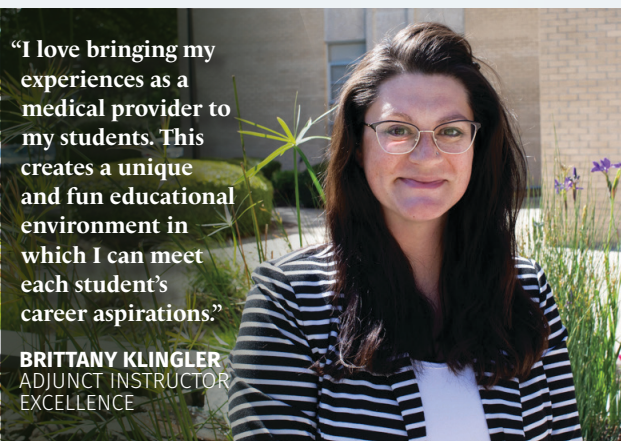
Since middle school, Karen Grubb knew she wanted to go into the physical therapy field. She witnessed her grandmother’s recovery after a double knee replacement and was immediately interested in how physical therapy impacted her grandmother’s quality of life. She started as an adjunct faculty member for the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Craven CC in 2018 and transitioned into PTA Clinical Education Coordinator in 2021. She takes great pride in witnessing her students graduate and pass their board exams. The most rewarding experience for her is encountering former students in local clinics, where they are actively contributing to the community and making a tangible difference in people’s lives.



“My job of cleaning is more than just cleaning. It is going above and beyond to help others by being both professional and respectful of others.”

BARBARA ROWE
STAFF EXCELLENCE

Barbara Rowe has a true passion for cleaning. It makes her feel proud to step back and see what she has accomplished. In November 2020, after reaching a transitional stage in her life, she started as the custodian for Perdue Hall, which houses Craven CC’s Health Programs. Since starting, Barbara has been able to achieve several personal goals, including giving her all to have a clean and healthy environment in her building, encouraging other employees and students, and knowing that her work is appreciated by so many people. She feels satisfied knowing that she is able to help others by providing a clean, comfortable space, and believes the best aspect of her job is being part of a wonderful work team.



“I love bringing my experiences as a medical provider to my students. This creates a unique and fun educational environment in which I can meet each student’s career aspirations.”

BRITTANY KLINGLER
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR
EXCELLENCE

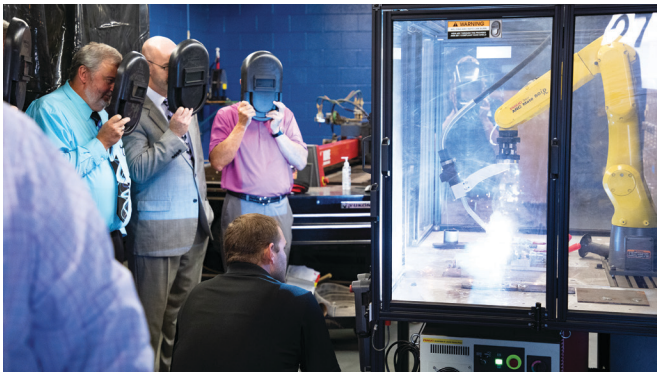
Brittany Klingler has been interested in sports medicine for many years. She worked as a sports medicine athletic trainer for nearly a decade before a chronic illness prevented her from continuing. She began her teaching career at a community college in Tennessee. In 2020, she started as an anatomy and physiology adjunct instructor at Craven and knew she had found her calling. She feels her biggest accomplishment has been twofold: helping her students reach their educational and career goals each semester and winning this award. Helping students combine book and real-world knowledge is vital in her classroom, and winning the excellence award was a truly humbling lifetime achievement she will never forget.

BE A STUDENT'S RAY OF HOPE

Bate Foundation Reaches Historic \$3 Million Milestone

The Harold H. Bate Foundation has been the Craven CC Foundation's staunchest supporter for the past 23 years. The charitable organization recently surpassed the \$3 million mark in support of students in need of financial assistance. The funds go toward students in all programs, including those under Liberal Arts & University Transfer, Career Programs, and Health Programs. The Bate Foundation also sponsors the Toolbelt Trust, which provides training opportunities for students entering the workforce.

Harold Bate has been described as the epitome of the citizen servant and a resourceful businessman with a strong social conscience who without fanfare has used his success as a foundation for good works and philanthropy. His legacy of caring for and investing in the welfare of others remains alive through the Bate Foundation, as well as his post-humous contributions to enable students to continue their education.



Welding instructor Caleb Wetherington demonstrates a robotic arm welder used in the college's Welding Technology program for members of the Bate Foundation.

Students Continue to Benefit from Neuse River Bridge Run

The Craven CC Foundation received a generous \$9,000 donation from the Neuse River Bridge Run (NRBR) in June. The funds were part of \$58,000 raised by the NRBR for their 2023 events in April. Funds were distributed among six other local nonprofit organizations, including Duffyfield Phoenix Project, The Filling Station, Mediation Center of Eastern North Carolina, MERCI Clinic, RCS, and Twin Rivers YMCA.



Photo courtesy of Jeremy LeRay

Since 2005, the NRBR has hosted a series of races for area runners and walkers of all ages. The Foundation has been a sponsor of the event since 2006 and is just one example of the great outreach partnerships the college maintains in the community. Throughout the years, different college groups have taken an active sponsorship role in the NRBR, including the Student Nursing Association, Hurst Student Ambassadors, and students in Phi Theta Kappa. In addition, the college's Basic Law Enforcement Training students help with the Kids Fun Run event.

The Craven Community College Foundation and its donors helped 2,003 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 a Ray of Hope” 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.



International Paper Helps Fund Panther Pantry for Students in Need

The Foundation received a \$5,000 grant from International Paper December 2022 to help support the Panther Pantry, which provides nonperishable food and supplies to students in need. The funds allow the college to purchase a wide variety of canned goods and toiletry items including deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, soap, and feminine hygiene products, as well as household goods like paper towels and dish soap. They also supply childcare essentials such as diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, and baby foods.

The Panther Pantry was originally established by Craven CC students in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Florence. Since then, students and staff have observed a continued need among the student population, and the Panther Pantry has remained an important campus student resource.

Additionally, in May 2023, IP donated several boxes of feminine care (femcare) kits, which provide clean menstrual products to help end period poverty and encourage females to stay in school. The kits were assembled during Women’s History Month with the help of volunteers from West Craven High School and United Way of Coastal Carolina.

Period poverty is a struggle many females face due to a lack of access to adequate menstrual supplies, which can lead to school dropout, reproductive issues, health risks, and unnecessary shame. The kits are available to all Craven CC students in need.



Photo 1: Craven CC’s Panther Pantry receives a \$5,000 donation from International Paper (IP) Dec. 6. Pictured L-R: Craven CC Campus Life Coordinator Emily Howard, United Way of Coastal Carolina board treasurer Jere Kersnar, Associate Vice President for Student Services Zomar Peter, IP Communications Coordinator Catherine Burgess, United Way of Coastal Carolina Marketing Coordinator Sherwood Harrison, and Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Charles Wethington.



International Paper (IP) donates femcare kits to the Panther Pantry in May. Pictured L-R: Campus Life Coordinator Emily Howard, United Way of Coastal Carolina board treasurer Jere Kersnar, Associate Vice President for Student Services Zomar Peter, IP Communications Coordinator Catherine Burgess, United Way of Coastal Carolina Marketing Coordinator Sherwood Harrison, and Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Charles Wethington.

Student Scholarship Reception

The Craven CC Foundation held its annual donor-student luncheon on Sept. 15, 2022, where scholarship recipients were able to meet and thank donors. Students were able to share how donor support has helped them work toward or achieve their academic goals.



Hurst Student Ambassadors Rhianna Day, left, and Brandon Bartlett, right, pose with Dr. David Hurst, longtime college donor.



Several students and donors attend the Craven CC Foundation's annual luncheon on Sept. 15.



Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats talks with one of the scholarship recipients who benefitted from generous donors.



Bate Foundation Chair Don Brinkley greets a scholarship recipient.

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COMMUNITY FABRIC AWARDS

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY LEADERS

The Community Fabric Awards hosted its 13th annual ceremony at the Riverfront Convention Center of Craven County on April 25 to a crowd of more than 500 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.



SUSAN MOFFAT-THOMAS
Individual Leadership Award

Susan Moffat-Thomas has been a dedicated supporter of the city of New Bern for many years. She served as executive director for Swiss Bear Downtown Development Corporation for 30 years before retiring in 2014. During her tenure, she packaged many economic development projects, created strategic planning initiatives, organized numerous fundraising drives, and helped lead the revitalization of downtown and redevelopment of its waterfront. She was also executive director of the New Bern Preservation Foundation and membership administrator for the Chamber of Commerce and assisted Craven CC with its Adult Enrichment Program. Other contributions include serving on the boards of countless local and state organizations and contributor to area publications. She has received a multitude of awards for her efforts, most notably the Order of the Longleaf Pine.



TRADER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
Carl C. Huddle, President
Business Leadership Award

Trader Construction Company is a leading heavy civil construction services provider. Established in 1957, the company is committed to strengthening, developing, and linking communities through their projects. Trader is renowned for providing heavy civil construction services with a focus on safety, value engineering, and innovative solutions. All their employees are guided by the core values of integrity, safety, productivity, and teamwork, which are evident in their approach to every project and long-term business relationships. Trader believes their success is inseparable from the success of the community around them. As such, they are committed to making a positive impact on the lives of those in their community. They believe that leadership is not just about achieving personal success, but also about empowering and inspiring others to achieve their own goals and dreams.



JERRY SIMMONS
Leadership in Education Award

Jerry Simmons finds joy in helping students and teachers realize their happiness and success daily. His 28-year career as an educator included a 10-year tenure as the principal at New Bern High School, as well as serving as a principal in Wilson County for eight years and teaching in Halifax County for 10 years. Jerry received his bachelor's degree in zoology from NC State University, teaching licensure at NC Wesleyan College, and master's degree in school administration from ECU. He retired from the NC Army National Guard with the rank of Major (O-4) after 21 years of service and one tour of duty in Iraq. He has served as president of several boards and associations and has received many accolades for his role as an educator. He is the father of five and enjoys time with family and friends, working to strengthen the positive image of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and supporting youth athletics.

The **Community Fabric Awards** have **raised** over **\$550,000** since beginning in **2011**

WE APPRECIATE OUR DONORS!

The Craven Community College Foundation continues to help thousands 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 2022-2023 fiscal year (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023).

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2,003 students assisted during
the 2022-23 school year



DEVELOPING A NEW TREATMENT PLAN

Nursing program expands and receives accreditation to continue meeting community's healthcare needs

Nothing truly highlights the sacrifices of others like a time of crisis. While nursing is undoubtedly a highly respectable career, the national healthcare crisis over the past few years has unquestionably served to underscore just how important nurses are in our communities.

Nursing is a career that requires a special kind of person who is highly skilled and has received extensive, hands-on training for a multitude of medical situations. This is well known at Craven Community College: Its coveted nursing programs have been producing top-notch nursing professionals for over 50 years.

Nursing is also the fastest-growing profession in the United States, and the demand for knowledgeable nurses is a nationwide need. According to the American Associate of Colleges of Nursing, there are nearly 4.2 million registered nurses, with more than 203,000 new registered nurse positions expected to be created by 2031. This predicted growth, coupled with CarolinaEast Health System's (CEHS) increasing need for highly skilled nurses, led to the addition of a second cohort for the college's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program, allowing students to start the program twice each year in August or January.

The college's strong partnership with CarolinaEast Medical Center has helped increase the number of graduating nursing students from 36 in 2020 to 59 in 2022, and the program now has the capacity for 80 students in 2025.

The latest development occurred on Oct. 18, 2022, when Craven CC became nationally accredited by the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA). This monumental achievement allows graduates from the ADN and Practical Nursing (PN) programs to work on military bases, including the Naval Health Clinic Cherry Point.

"A driving force for getting the accreditation was to better serve our military community on base," said Dr. Alec Newton, dean of Health Programs. "To work on base, a nurse has to graduate from an accredited nursing school. To do this previously, our ADN graduates enrolled in a registered nursing to Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program at an accredited university, while working at a public or private healthcare facility. Since Craven's Nursing program is now nationally accredited, this additional step is no longer necessary to work on base."

While Craven CC nursing students have been working in community hospitals and clinics since the PN program was approved by the State of North Carolina in 1968 and the ADN program in 1974, the NLN CNEA accreditation ensures all graduates are eligible to meet requirements at most federal installations, including military bases and the VA.

"This mark of excellence is the result of many years of very hard work by our Craven Community College team," said Dr. Ray Staats, Craven CC president. "It reflects sustained quality teaching by our faculty, superb program management, and most importantly, outstanding learning results by our students."

The NLN CNEA accreditation requires educational institutions to meet stringent standards relating to program outcomes, governance and resources, student and faculty culture, diversity, and curriculum evaluation. To ensure Craven CC is meeting these standards, the college completed a pre-accreditation self-survey

"This mark of excellence is the result of many years of very hard work by our Craven Community College team. It reflects sustained quality teaching by our faculty, superb program management, and most importantly, outstanding learning results by our students."

— Dr. Ray Staats
Craven CC President

in 2019 and underwent a pre-accreditation review. In 2022, the college submitted a more in-depth self-survey and had a two-day site visit which resulted in receiving full accreditation for both programs.

"I am so grateful for Craven's strong nursing faculty team, because accreditation requires a program to willingly review itself with a fine-toothed comb," added Newton. "It took four years, but the team did it, and I am so proud of all their hard work."

Craven's nursing graduates are qualified to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), which is used to determine if recently graduated nursing students are safe to practice. ADN graduates must pass the NCLEX-RN to earn licensure and legally practice as a registered nurse in the United States, while PN graduates must pass the NCLEX-PN to practice as a licensed practical nurse/licensed vocational nurse.

(Continued on page 32) ►



Craven CC's spring 2023 Associate Degree Nursing cohort had 51 graduates.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Craven CC Students Awarded at SkillsUSA Competitions

Several Craven CC students proved their proficiency during the SkillsUSA National Skilled Trades Championships, held June 20-22 in Atlanta. Students took home a gold medal for Technical Computer Applications and bronze for Crime Scene Investigation.

Benton Melville participated in the Technical Computer Applications competition, which tested his aptitude in installation, configuration, and use of Windows, Mac OSX, and Linux Professional Operating Systems and one or more integrated office suite packages; utilization of instant messaging, collaboration, and social networking software; an oral presentation demonstrating an ability to communicate with others, a hands-on skills demonstration, and a written examination. Melville plans to graduate from Craven's Information Technology Technical Support program in May 2024.

For the Crime Scene Investigation competition, students Matthew Dukes, Grant Hardee, and Michael Rousseau took a test assessing overall crime scene knowledge; processed a staged crime scene that entailed searching, identifying evidence, measuring, photographing, and preparing a sketch; demonstrated skills such as lifting a fingerprint, swabbing serological evidence, and packaging evidence; interpreted common evidence such as classifying a fingerprint pattern; and completed narratives, crime logs, and similar paperwork. Students do not know anything about the crime scene until they walk into it. Hardee will complete Craven CC's Criminal Justice program next May, while Dukes and Rousseau graduated this year. Dukes and Rousseau will begin the college's Basic Law Enforcement Training program this fall.

All students who competed in Atlanta were able to go at no cost thanks to the generosity of the Craven Community College Foundation, Carl Perkins Grant Funding, and the Havelock Rotary Club.

To qualify for the national competition, students were required to place in the SkillsUSA State Conference, which was held in Greensboro in April. There were 15 Craven CC medalists, including Melville for Technical Computer Applications and Dukes, Hardee, and Rousseau for Crime Scene Investigation, all of whom brought home gold.

"We are extremely proud of all of our students for their hard work and perseverance in these competitions," said Matthew Berg, Associate Dean of Career Programs. "Each one showed an incredible amount of skill and demonstrated vast knowledge in their respective fields of study, and I have no doubt they will continue to excel in their career paths."



Craven CC students Grant Hardy, Matthew Dukes, and Michael Rousseau and Craven CC Criminal Justice instructor LauraAnn Avery are flanked on either side by two Georgia Bureau of Investigation agents.



Craven CC Information Technology student Benton Melville poses with his two SkillsUSA gold medals for the 2023 state and national competitions.



Youngest Craven CC Aviation Graduate Prepares for Takeoff

In May, 19-year-old Ashton Warren became Craven CC's newest and youngest pilot to graduate the FAA pilot course. She earned her commercial pilot license in March, followed by her multiengine and flight instructor credentials in May. Warren started the program upon graduating high school and received her Associate in Applied Science degree in Aviation Management & Career Pilot Technology during the college's 56th annual graduation ceremony on May 12.

Warren had already realized her dream of becoming a pilot when she was 12. Originally, her brother planned to become a pilot while Warren was to be a flight attendant on his plane. It clearly played out a little differently than planned. She is the first of her family to take to the sky and is the first pilot in her lineage.

Warren's immediate goal is to be a flight instructor while working toward her ultimate goal of flying for Delta

Airlines. She is proud to be leaving her legacy on the flight industry, which is currently a male-dominated field with over 70% of pilots being men.

"You can feel it a little, but our [Craven CC] program and the people here have made it to where women don't feel inferior or anything," she said.

New Bern is a flight hub for Eastern North Carolina and home to Coastal Carolina Regional Airport, neighbored by Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in Havelock.

"It's very important to get young people engaged in flight programs early so that they can see how exhilarating flying can be," said Bill Franchi, Aviation Management & Career Pilot program director. "With the tremendous pilot shortage expected over the next five years, it is equally important for them to start building their flight hours now so they may be in a position to be able to apply for pilot jobs when they graduate."

(Continued on page 33) ►

In 2022, Craven CC had 14 new pilots, including 12 Air Force JROTC special flight program pilots.



Ashton Warren is Craven's youngest pilot graduate. She graduated in May 2023 at age 19 and aspires to be a pilot for Delta Airlines.



BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

Room for improvement: Upgrades and beautification projects across the campuses

Craven Community College (Craven CC) has come a long way since its humble beginnings in the Harvey Mansion in 1965. Over its 58-year history, the college's footprint has grown exponentially in terms of students reached and real estate. Now serving almost 4,000 students each year across the New Bern, Havelock, and Volt Center campuses, Craven CC is continually growing to meet demand.

The college's busy year of improvements and updates included a refurbishment of the barbering studio and dedication of Ward Hall, as well as maintenance and beautification projects on the New Bern and Havelock campuses.

Since its inception in 2012, the Barbering Concepts program has been successfully serving hundreds of students and providing barbershops in the New Bern area and

surrounding counties with skilled barbers. From the program's humble beginnings, the students have been sharing studio space with the Cosmetology and Esthetics Technology programs, resulting in the limitation of only offering afternoon and night classes.

After several years of planning and an upgrade to classroom space in Kelso Hall, the Barbering Concepts program officially moved into a new studio with a ribbon cutting on June 7.

The redesigned space will allow the Barbering Concepts program to offer twice the number of classes, while also serving more students per class with 20 stations. This also allowed the Cosmetology and Esthetics programs to upgrade the fixtures in their lab with new countertops, cabinets, sinks, flooring, and the possibility for night classes in the future.

In February, the college held a dedication ceremony to honor David Ward for his 51 years of service by renaming the Student Center to Ward Hall. Ward was a principal advisor to the Board of Trustees during the selection process for all five college presidents and was a trusted confidant and mentor to each of them during their respective tenures. All students and visitors will now see his influence as they enter the building to visit the coffee shop, Campus Life, student lounge, and event spaces.



Pictured L-R: Trustee Bill Taylor, Trustee Chair Whit Whitley, past Trustee Carol Mattocks, President Dr. Ray Staats, David Ward, past President Scott Ralls, and Trustee Kevin Roberts.

Havelock had several upgrades over the past year to improve wayfinding and accessibility. The most notable change includes new wayfinding signs that can be seen by cars traveling near the MCAS Cherry Point base entrance on Highway 101. The Institute of Aeronautical Technology building in Havelock also got a makeover with new flooring, paint, and bathroom fixtures.

More projects are on the horizon for Havelock, including a new welding lab and static airplane display, as well as a memorial garden that is currently in progress as an Eagle Scout project in honor of Vincent Castellana, the former chair of the Havelock campus who passed away in 2019.

The Fitness Center, located in Ward Hall, was also redone with new flooring, and most of the fitness equipment has been upgraded. With those upgrades, the fitness center is now open for staff and faculty to use outside of teaching hours, and the Craven Fitness Club with over 50 students will enjoy the upgrade.

Gazebos around the New Bern and Havelock campuses have been updated, offering students and employees more seating options.



A new walkway was added this summer to provide a safer and more scenic walk from the parking lot onto campus.

The college had a busy year full of improvements, and there are no signs of stopping. The upcoming year will see continued updates with BIT refurbishments, renovation of the Brock Administration Building elevator, roofing repairs, new windows and doors in Brock, painting and grounds updates, and parking lot and sidewalk renovations across all campuses. 🌱

AT A GLANCE: 2022-23 FACILITIES UPDATES

- New doors and windows in Brock Admin Building
- Early College canopy in Parking Lot 9
- New paint, epoxy flooring in welding lab
- New Kelso Hall Chiller
- New ceramic tile in BIT
- New flooring, sinks, countertops in Esthetics
- Parking lot repairs
- New signage/lettering for Havelock buildings
- New gazebos for New Bern and Havelock campuses



BY THE NUMBERS

3 campuses
19 buildings
170+ acres



PARTNERING WITH PROFESSIONALS

How corporations and nonprofits are utilizing Craven to promote job readiness

It takes a village to raise a child, and the same sentiment can be applied to a student: It takes an involved community to produce a knowledgeable, resilient person who is prepared to go out, excel in, and contribute to the workforce.

Craven CC shares this mentality, as do dozens of other industry partners across Craven County and beyond. Each year, these community partners step forward to collaborate with the college to offer students unique training opportunities that enable them to learn the skills they need to be an asset to local businesses and boost the economy.

In the 2022-2023 academic year alone, Craven CC has initiated several structural renovations, innovative programs, and future facilities, all thanks to supporters who are steadfast in the mission to allow accessible education and workforce training.

FUNDING NEW WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

One way Craven CC adapts to meet the needs of a continuously evolving workforce is to create new programs. Of course, new programs require additional resources, instructors, and facilities to accommodate class sessions. As such, adding to the college's training program repertoire would not be possible without the financial assistance of community partners, such as the Golden LEAF Foundation.

In February, it was announced that Craven CC will receive funds totaling \$495,115 from the Golden LEAF Community-Based Grants Initiative to renovate two structures at the college's Volt Center. This has allowed college administrators to continue the development and implementation of a Heavy Equipment Operator program to help close the skills gap and increase the pool of highly

qualified individuals capable of filling local vacancies, as well as a construction trade/light manufacturing incubator to assist entrepreneurs in establishing trades-based small businesses to support prime contractors.

"This grant will help upgrade two buildings, the last ones at the Volt Center, to provide students with training on large construction equipment through state-of-the-art simulators," said Jeff Schulze, Director of Trade Programs at the Volt Center. "Heavy equipment operators drive, maneuver, and control the heavy machinery that are used to construct our highways, buildings, and structures."

An 1,800-square-foot climate-controlled garage will house Craven CC's new Heavy Equipment Operator program, which will include a classroom and lab space. In addition, a 700-square-foot climate-controlled garage will serve as a workspace for small business construction, light manufacturing, and business startups. The college expects to have approximately 88 students earn credentials over the next several years.

"Our partnerships in the local community will also provide great employment opportunities right here in Craven County," added Schulze. "There are well over 50,000 employment opportunities with median annual wages in the \$40,000 range. This is a living wage with great upward mobility and most importantly is a life-changing opportunity for new entrants into the workforce."

The Golden LEAF Foundation previously provided \$549,000 through the Community-Based Grants Initiative to renovate the Volt Center's largest facility that houses skilled trades including: plumbing, carpentry, construction, heating and air conditioning, small engine repair, and electrical work.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Golden LEAF Foundation for giving us this opportunity," said Craven CC President Dr. Ray Staats. "Hands-on trades programs continue to grow in demand, in Craven County and surrounding areas, so this will allow us to serve a larger portion of our community and prepare them for the workforce while supporting our economy."

PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER

The college is committed to providing the highest quality public safety training possible. Whether investing in ambulance simulators to prepare students for real-life emergency scenarios, promoting safe motorcycle-riding techniques, or learning how to properly extinguish fires, Craven's experienced instructors are committed to training the next generations of public safety professionals.

But what happens when you simply run out of space to facilitate all these programs? In situations such as these, the college relies on steadfast partnerships; in this instance, the Craven County government collaborated to help lease approximately 30 acres of land that will be developed into a public safety training center. Located in the Craven County Industrial Park, the center will be used to provide hands-on training for Craven County public safety agencies, including area law enforcement, EMS/rescue, correctional institutions, and fire departments.

An estimated 1,682 public safety personnel in Craven County will benefit greatly from a centralized training location. Most professionals in these fields require annual training, and the center would be able to provide specialized training. The main purpose of the facility is to provide increased public safety, highly trained staff, and better employee retention in Craven County.

The training center will be developed in stages as funding becomes available. Plans include a 20,000-square-foot shell building, control tower, driving range with skid pad, two-story residential burn building, four-story drill tower, exterior burn area, drafting pit, hazardous waste training area, indoor firearms training facility/shooting range, and vehicle extrication pad. Several of the college's existing programs will increase their capacity by operating at the new location, including Craven County Fire Academy, CDL Truck Driver Training, Motorcycle Safety, Basic Law Enforcement Training, Department of Public Safety, Drone Training, Heavy Equipment Operator Training, Confined Space Training, EMS/EMT, and Hazardous Waste.

"There are well over 50,000 employment opportunities with median annual wages in the \$40,000 range. This is a living wage with great upward mobility and most importantly is a life-changing opportunity for new entrants into the workforce."

— Jeff Schulze
Director of Trade Programs



CONSTRUCTING CORE JOB SKILLS

The construction industry requires the skillset of knowledgeable workers who have been well trained on the art of building a safe structure. In one of the latest efforts to support this high-demand career field, Craven CC introduced an eight-week, fee-waived Construction Academy to expose students to various occupations and skills in the construction trades. Craven is one of 10 community colleges across the state to implement this training program, which will help boost employment in the construction industry.

Students will complete the National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER) Core Curriculum, NCCER Field Safety, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-Hour Safety, and will receive certification for each of these courses upon satisfactory completion. Soft skills and employability training will also help ensure job readiness.

Carolinas Association of General Contractors (CAGC) will administer funds provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury to cover the costs of student registration and provide a \$750 attendance-based scholarship to support the cost of attendance, job searches, or employment needs such as work boots, safety gear, and tools.

“This is a great opportunity for anyone in the community looking to enter the construction field and earn a respectable living,” said Eddie Foster, Dean of the Volt Center. “Many people are often unable to pursue trades careers such as this due to financial constraints, so we are grateful for this partnership that allows people of all walks of life to have that chance.”

Craven CC is 1 of 10 community colleges **in the state** to host a **Construction Academy** program

The college has partnered with local businesses, including Trader Construction, Balfour Beatty, Cieszko Construction, and several CAGC partners. At the end of each course, company representatives are invited to interview students who have completed training. Many companies provide job shadowing and employment opportunities to students.



JUVENILE JUSTICE VOLT CENTER TOUR

On April 19, representatives from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety’s Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Craven County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, and the Methodist Home for Children joined college administrators to tour the Volt Center and learn about all the opportunities available to formerly incarcerated individuals.

Above: Representatives from various local and statewide juvenile justice organizations take a guided tour of the Volt Center.

Below: Volt Center Dean Eddie Foster gives hands-on demonstrations for students during the new Construction Academy training program.



BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

All too often, food insecurities and a lack of income prevent capable people from getting an education or obtaining a sustainable job. The college's recent partnership with the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina aims to bridge that divide with a program that benefits underserved students entering the college's Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program or forklift operations program.

In this new program, aptly named Building Bridges, the Food Bank funds all tuition costs for qualified students seeking to enroll in a CDL or forklift class. Students also receive a \$200 weekly support scholarship while enrolled in and attending the CDL or forklift program, as well as access to healthy food boxes, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and other safety net resources to ensure they have everything needed to succeed. Qualifying individuals must be unemployed, underemployed, or justice involved.

"We are honored and privileged to be part of a program that provides opportunities for our underserved population that will uplift our community," said Tangye Middleton, Craven CC Workforce Development Coordinator. "The college is looking forward to strengthening the workforce and enriching many more lives."

GOING GREEN AND CLEAN WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY

Keeping pace with North Carolina's growing clean energy initiative, the Volt Center is now offering a Renewable Energy program. This training will help students develop core electrical and safety skills needed to develop alternative energy solutions on a corporate and residential level.

"We are excited about all the possibilities this new program will bring to our area," said Dr. Gery Boucher, Craven CC Vice President for Students. "While this initiative is new to the region, we are looking forward to training future leaders of an industry that not only has huge growth potential and proven environmental benefits, but also has a skillset that is applicable anywhere."

The course will cover electrical theory in alternating current and direct current applications, as well as electronic theory and the associated mathematical formulas to calculate electrical circuitry and electrical components. Students will also learn how to use an electrical meter and oscilloscope to read voltage, amperage, and resistance, then apply it to wind energy and other renewable energy sources.

Coursework includes core instruction through the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), including construction math, hand and power tools, communication skills, material handling, wind energy, electrical, and OSHA 10-Hour construction. There will also be time allotted for site visits to local industry partners and a hands-on project.

Renewable Energy is part of STEPs4GROWTH (S4G), a clean energy (CE) workforce training initiative created and led by the Center for Energy Research & Technology at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T). This was made possible by a \$23.7 million Good Jobs Challenge grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. Funds cover up to 100% of registration and course material costs, and students in the program are paid \$10 an hour during class time.

"We are looking forward to training future leaders of an industry that not only has huge growth potential and proven environmental benefits, but also has a skillset that is applicable anywhere."

— Dr. Gery Boucher
Vice President for Students

S4G plans to create the next generation of CE talent with an emphasis on energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean vehicles, and grid and resiliency. The program aims to create "middle-skill jobs" for college students, high school graduates, and reskilled or displaced workers in Eastern North Carolina. S4G has partnered with dozens of counties, community colleges, workforce boards, chambers of commerce, labor unions, the governor's office, and many other organizations throughout the state. 🌍



Students in the new Renewable Energy training program practice wiring windmills and fitting the head over custom gaskets.

BENEFITS OF AN ACCREDITED NURSING PROGRAM

An accredited nursing program benefits the community in several ways. First, it ensures that students receive a high-quality education that meets the standards of the nursing profession, resulting in nurses that are prepared to provide quality care to patients upon graduating. Accredited nursing programs are also more likely to be financially stable and have access to resources that can help students succeed, such as scholarships, financial aid, and clinical placements. Additionally, accredited nursing programs are more likely to be associated with high-quality hospitals and other healthcare facilities, meaning graduates are more likely to find jobs in their field after graduation. In the case of Craven CC, this strengthens a decades-long partnership with CarolinaEast Health System.

Additionally, accredited nursing programs help to improve the overall quality of care in the community. When more nurses are educated and trained to the highest standards, it translates to better care for patients. This can lead to improved patient outcomes and a reduction in healthcare costs. Overall, an accredited nursing program is a worthwhile investment for both students and the community. 🌟

Did You Know?

- ⊕ According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, registered nurses make an average of \$77,600 each year.
- ⊕ About 203,200 openings for registered nurses are projected each year over the next decade.
- ⊕ Nurses are employed in many different work environments, including nursing and residential care facilities, hospitals, physicians' offices, and home healthcare services.
- ⊕ The college has a strong partnership with CarolinaEast Health System (CEHS), which hires a significant portion of each year's graduating class of nurses. CEHS employs over 40% of both the 60 spring 2022 graduates and the 51 spring 2023 graduates.

10 out of the **29** CarolinaEast Medical Center 2023 United-Based Councils Nurses of the Year were **Craven CC graduates**



Nursing Student Shares Story, Honors Craven CC Foundation

Nursing runs in Lauren Goins' family, and she always aspired to go into the field herself—specifically women's health and neonatal nursing. However, due to some unfortunate life events, she didn't believe she possessed the intellect or financial means to achieve that dream. From Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Goins worked as a successful makeup artist for TV shoots, weddings, and editorial projects. She enjoyed helping people look their best and feel good about themselves but soon had to leave that behind.

Her husband was fortuitously stationed at MCAS Cherry Point and in April 2018, they moved to Craven County when she was seven months pregnant. The process of her daughter's birth only strengthened her desire to become a nurse. Once her daughter was six months old, Goins took the first step and applied to Craven CC. She took prerequisite courses for a year, then applied for the fall 2021 Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) cohort, as well as East Carolina University's Accelerated Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (aRIBN) program, which allows students to earn a bachelor of science in nursing concurrently with their ADN in three years.

While balancing between being a full-time student, mother, wife, and patient care technician at CarolinaEast Medical Center was extremely difficult, Goins relied on a strong support system of peers and family. She also relied on the generosity of the Craven CC Foundation, which provided her with financial assistance each semester of her nursing program up through graduation on May 12, when she proudly walked the stage and earned her associate in applied science in nursing degree with honors. Goins was invited to speak at the Craven CC Foundation's 13th annual Community Fabric Awards event, where she emotionally recounted her powerful story for the audience.

"My scholarships have given my family security during times when I was not able to work in order to focus on my studies," she said. "When my house was flooded in 2021, the wonderful people here at the Foundation helped me replace textbooks and electronics that were destroyed without hesitation. The impact your donation has on students does not go unnoticed for one second—not by me or the many other students who have received assistance. When you give to the Foundation, you are truly doing more than donating; you are changing lives."



Craven CC nursing student Lauren Goins shares her impactful story during the 13th annual Community Fabric Awards event on April 25, then walks the stage as a graduate two weeks later.

Presidential Art Award

The 2023 Presidential Art Award was presented to student Allison Snook. Her artwork, an oil painting on canvas, is titled "Adore." The Presidential Art Award is an annual award that identifies and highlights the potential of emerging artists among students in the college's Associate in Fine Arts - Visual Arts degree program. Selected works of art become a permanent part of the President's Art Collection and serve as a visual history of student artwork. The collection is housed in selected locations throughout the college's campuses, and each piece is labeled with the student artist's name, the name of the piece, and the year of the award. The Presidential Art Award is typically presented each spring at the community's ArtWalk event at the Bank of the Arts. The award includes the presentation of a framed certificate and a \$300 honorarium to the winning student, which serves as a purchase award and secures the artwork as part of the President's Art Collection. 🎨



CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

At Craven CC, our students and employees form powerful bonds and create lasting memories through community involvement, campus events, and more. For more photos, be sure to follow us on social media!



- 1 Fifth graders learn about wildlife from the State Parks department during Careers on Wheels.
- 2 Faculty members enjoy a few moments together before the 2023 commencement ceremony.
- 3 Hurst Student Ambassadors participate in a trash pickup for Earth Day 2023.
- 4 Students in the nursing program hand out snacks to blood drive donors.
- 5 The Craven County Maintenance Department presents to students during Careers on Wheels.
- 6 Students enjoy painting pumpkins and exploring different club opportunities.
- 7 Dr. Staats places an American flag in the ground during the college's Memorial Day tribute.
- 8 The college's Encore! singing group performs during the Havelock campus tree-lighting event.
- 9 Alvin Brown of the NC Department of Public Safety takes a tour of the Volt Center's hospital room



🎓 Congrats to our graduates!

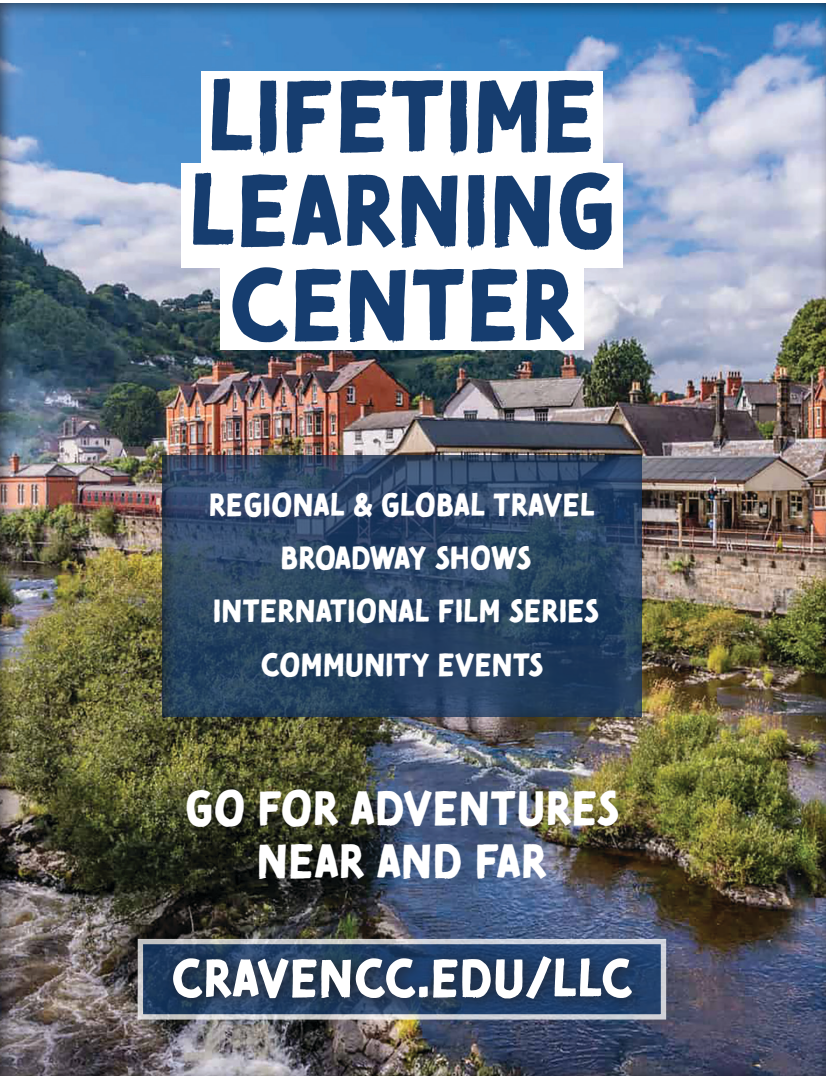




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