



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rockingham Community College has a rich history of serving students as well as business and industry in Rockingham County and the surrounding region since 1966, when the College opened its doors. Without the support of our community, the College certainly would not have the rich history that it has had.

The relationships and partnerships that have been created over the

years have significantly impacted the College's success. Rockingham Community College is the community's college. We exist to serve our county and this region of the state. We are certainly accountable to the community, and we are charged with providing a quality education to our students and offering training to our business and industry partners. It is a responsibility that we take very seriously. In fact, it is one that we embrace. We believe very strongly in our college and its mission.

This Report to the Community highlights the accomplishments of our college for 2019-20. We hope that you find it informative and appealing.

This past year was unlike any in our college's history due to the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic had on everyone, and RCC was no different. However, even with the pandemic, we had many exciting events and developments in the life of our college. Before I share some of these, I must recognize the professionalism and work ethic of our faculty and staff for the creativity, innovation and hard work all of them showed when we had to convert so much of our instruction to online, and develop different ways to support our students to adjust to the impact of COVID-19.

We are very excited about the progress we made with construction and renovation projects on our campus designed to better serve our students and the community. These projects were made possible by the ConnectNC Bond funds and revenue from the quarter-cent sales tax passed by the county's voters back in May 2018. The College renovated and equipped two new labs including a new Information Technology Lab and a new Cybersecurity Lab. Both labs were renovated with revenue from the quarter-cent sales tax, and both allow the College to do more sophisticated training to prepare students for the Information and Cybersecurity fields. Both labs are located in the Advanced Technology Building. The Board of Trustees approved internal and external concepts for the new Center for Workforce Development. The College is working with ADW out of Charlotte on this project. Groundbreaking for this new facility should take place in early fall 2021, with a completion date for early spring 2023. This facility is the primary investment for the guartercent sales tax revenue. The College completed renovation to the Horticulture Building to get it ready for the new Agribusiness program that is set to begin in the fall 2020. In addition, a new state-of-the-art

greenhouse has been located adjacent to the Horticulture Building to support the Agribusiness program. A new metal storage building will be constructed to house equipment and supplies for the Agribusiness and TRAILS programs. It too will be located adjacent to the Horticulture Building. These were funded by revenue from the quarter-cent sales tax. During the summer, the College completed a project to seal-coat and re-stripe our parking lots and drive-throughs. This project included

updating all of our handicap slots on campus. Completion of this project allows the College to better protect its paved surfaces, and it greatly enhanced the look of our campus as well as our ability to serve our handicapped students and patrons.

Last year, we announced, in partnership with the Rockingham County Schools and the Reidsville Area Foundation (RAF), an initiative to bring RCC courses to each public high school in the county. This allowed us to teach college courses to high school students on each high school campus, thereby increasing high school student access to

college courses since these would be offered on their campuses. The grant with the Reidsville Area Foundation is a four-year investment, and I am happy to report that this initiative is off to a very successful beginning. For fall 2019, 163 students enrolled in college courses on our four public high school campuses, while 117 enrolled in spring 2020 courses. The RAF grant paid all tuition, fees, and textbook costs. In addition, the RAF grant includes funding for Rockingham Promise, which is a program that provides tuition free scholarships to RCC for students who graduate from our public high schools with a minimum of a 2.8 GPA on three or more college courses completed while in high school. These same students can continue to receive tuition free scholarships as long as they maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher while in college and meet other eligibility requirements.

The College is excited about the work we are doing with high school students. In 2019-20, we offered college courses on the campus at Bethany Community School, and we are working closely with private and home school associations in the county to reach out to high school students in these settings so that they too have the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school. In fall 2019, 333 high school students enrolled in college courses through RCC.

For 2019-2020, the College had one of its best years from an enrollment standpoint. For summer 2019, 782 students enrolled at RCC, which represented a 1% decline over summer 2018. For fall 2019, 2,017 students enrolled at the College representing a 16% increase compared to fall 2018. For spring 2020, the College again saw an increase in enrollment with 1,804 students enrolling, representing a 17% increase over spring 2019.

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This page features details of "Monster at Sea," a mixed media piece by RCC Fine Arts student Shelby Nelson.

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RCC had the 4th highest growth in enrollment in the North Carolina Community College System. The College works very closely with the Rockingham County Schools to promote RCC and what we have to offer. For the entering class of 2019, 35.4% of the high school graduating class of 2019 entered RCC straight out of high school. This represents a significant increase since the graduating class of 2015, which had 21.6% entering RCC straight out of high school. We are very proud of this progress and greatly appreciate the partnership we have with the Rockingham County Schools.

Due to COVID-19, commencement and pinning ceremonies had to be altered. Nonetheless, the College celebrated with students at numerous pinning ceremonies and commencement exercises. Spring commencement was postponed until July and combined with our summer commencement ceremony. At the combined spring and summer commencements, the College awarded 106 certificates, 66 diplomas, 111 Associate in Applied Science degrees, 2 Associate

in General Education degrees, 94 Associate in Arts degrees, 4 Associate in Fine Arts degrees, and 55 Associate in Science degrees to 438 total graduates. In other pinning and graduation exercises, 12 Respiratory Therapy graduates, 13 Associate Degree Nursing graduates, 14 Licensed Practical Nursing to Associate Degree Nursing graduates, 24 Practical Nursing graduates, 9 Paramedic graduates, 34 EMS graduates, 12 Surgical Technology graduates, were pinned in different ceremonies. In addition, 22 Basic Law Enforcement Technology students graduated.

Last year, in an effort to continue with our goal to create a more seamless transition for those students wanting to transfer to a university, RCC signed the "Pirate Promise," an agreement with East Carolina University that will make the transfer to East Carolina University from RCC a lot easier for our students. The College, in the previous year, had already signed a similar agreement with (Continued on page 4)

the University of North Carolina at Greensboro called "Spartan Passage." In the summer of 2020, RCC signed an agreement with North Carolina A & T State University, called "Aggie Pride". These transfer agreements are designed to create a more seamless transfer for our students, and we look forward to a closer relationship with these universities.

Other highlights in Academic Affairs included an investment of approximately \$190,000 in new mechanical trainers to improve advanced manufacturing teaching and learning, and the launch of a Career Coach program in the four public high schools and Bethany Community School. The Career Coach program places an RCC Career Coach in each high school to work with the counseling team to advise students on career opportunities at RCC. In addition, RCC, in partnership with the Rockingham County Schools as well as business and industry partners, enrolled 15 new apprentices as part of the RockATOP program.

RCC submitted its 5th Year Interim Report to the Southern
Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
(SACSCOC) as required for its 5th Year Review and as part of its
re-affirmation of accreditation. The College's report was successful,
and the College does not have any follow-up required. RCC's next
decennial re-affirmation is 2024. The College is in the process of
making sure all policies, processes, student outcome measures and
its strategic plan are in place in preparation for the 2024 SACSCOC
visit.

Our college gives its students the opportunity to connect with other students and to serve our community through a variety of student life activities. Activities this past year included a remembrance walk and special ceremony in honor of 9/11; Cornhole for a Cause, which raised funds for a citizen impacted by breast cancer; the Second Annual Halloween Fest, "EAGLEween," that included costume contests, crafts, candy tables and all sorts of other activities for 1,300 community participants; over 3,000 service hours in Rockingham County by the MMA Club; a Christmas Extravaganza hosted by the Early Childhood Club for students' children; a trip to the Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro in honor of Black History Month; the Student Government Association (SGA) taking Valentine's Day cards to nursing homes in Reidsville; and a variety of spirit week events during Spirit Week in March. As you can see, our Student Life program offers students the opportunity to connect on campus with one another through different clubs and to also reach out to the community through various projects.

RCC's women's volleyball team is in a rebuilding process under the direction of Coach David Ragan. We are excited about what Coach Ragan brings in terms of his playing and coaching experience. He is recruiting hard to make sure RCC can compete with teams in our Region X Conference. Beach volleyball, a new sport the College implemented in conjunction with its regular women's volleyball, was canceled due to COVID-19, but we look forward to watching beach volleyball at RCC next year. The College hosted the NJCAA Region

X Women's Volleyball tournament in October. Over 200 people attended the tournament. RCC's baseball season was cut short by COVID-19 in early March. The team had a record of 14-5. Coach Reece Honeycutt earned his 100th win at RCC. Congratulations to Coach Honeycutt. Ending the season was very difficult and sad, but we are excited about next season under the direction of Coach Honeycutt. Our athletics department started an online fundraising campaign with ETeamSponsor, an NJCAA approved organization, and raised over \$5,000 for RCC athletics. Our athletics department spent much of the spring and early summer developing and implementing safety protocol in response to COVID-19. We are planning to host a few baseball games this coming fall semester and continue to follow all safety protocol so that both our baseball and volleyball teams can practice.

The RCC Foundation, one of the largest community college foundations in North Carolina, raised \$255,921.97 in 2019-20, awarded 288 scholarships for a total of \$238,189, and funded \$160,000 in campus grants that go toward improving the teaching and learning environment at the College. The Foundation also launched a new Train and Gain program that awards scholarships for students that want to enroll in continuing education programs that lead to industry-recognized certifications and licenses.

We will continue to partner with the public schools, non-public schools, business and industry, mayors and other city leaders, the county commissioners, the county management team, county and city economic development officials, and many more to make sure our college is serving the citizens of Rockingham County and the surrounding region. Most importantly, this report highlights the accomplishments of our students. Helping students achieve success is our most important initiative.

RCC is fortunate to have a dedicated faculty and staff, a supportive Board of Trustees, and community members who work hard to support the College through the work of the RCC Foundation. We will continue to serve our students and our community. Our work impacts people's lives through education, and we look forward to the challenges ahead and the successes of those we serve.

With Regards,

Mark O. Kinlaw, Ed.D.
President



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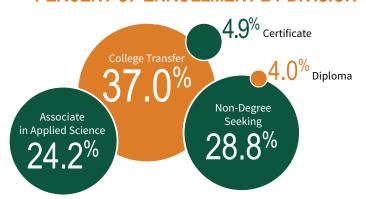


Mr. C. Grayson Whitt Eden

A YEAR IN NUMBERS

CURRICULUM 2,017 FALL 2019

PERCENT OF ENROLLMENT BY DIVISION





AVERAGE AGE OF STUDENTS 21.98

FULL-TIME 32.7% **PART-TIME** 67.3%

FEMALE 60.8%

MALE 39.2%

PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES

Arts and Sciences Workford Development 15.2%

Workforce
Development

Early College HS
and Career and
College Promise

14.9%

Public Safety

23.2%

Health and

2019 ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE PERFORMANCE MEASURE SUMMARY

	Basic Skills Progress	Credit English Success	Credit Math Success	First Year Progression	Curriculum Completion Rate	Licensure Pass Rate Index	Transfer Performance
System Excellence Level	50.6%	66.6%	46.2%	71.9%	52.7%	1.07	89.4%
System Baseline	24.2%	40.1%	19.5%	56.6%	34.1%	0.79	74.4%
Average College Percentage	45.1%	60.6%	42.7%	70.3%	53.4%	0.98	85.4%
Peer Group Average	44.1%	61.3%	43.3%	70.7%	52.8%	1.00	84.0%
Rockingham Community College	48.8%	63.8%	42.0%	69.8%	49.5%	0.97	85.4%

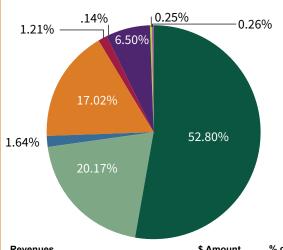
Rockingham Community College exceeded the Average College Percentage in Basic Skills, Credit English Success, and Transfer Performance. The College improved performance in five out of seven measures and was above the baseline in all measures.

Rockingham Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. Contact the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about accreditation of Rockingham Community College.

GRANTS & GIFTS RECEIVED \$5,700,759

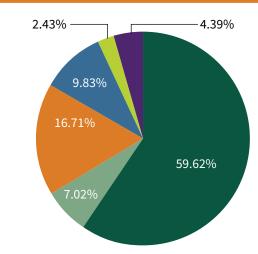
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NCCCS	NC Career Coach	\$79,164
NC Targeted Assistance Grant	Award for student financial aid	\$4,301
NC Community College Grant	Award for student financial aid	\$160,786
US Department of Education	Pell	\$2,789,376
NCCCS	Vocational Education	\$92,700
US Department of Education	Perkins Reserve 2018-2019	\$15,558
US Department of Education	TRIO Grant	\$253,032
US Department of Education	Federal Work Study	\$45,457
US Department of Education	Federal SEOG Grants	\$50,684
US Department of Education	Title III e-Learning	\$449,353
US Department of Education	Federal Basic Skills Allocation	\$161,339
US Department of Education	Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA)	\$9,474
US Department of Education	Additional Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA)	\$15,000
Rockingham County	Education Access Channel	\$27,307
Pepsi Bottling Ventures	Gift	\$14,000
N.C. State Education Assistance Authority	NC Reach Scholarship	\$2,400
VA Educational Benefit	NC National Guard Targeted Assistance	\$613
NCCCS	Small Business Center Counseling	\$51,724
NCCCS	College Career Counselors & Academic Advisors Allocation	\$34,299
Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro	Eastern Triad Workforce Initiative	\$37,585
Reidsville Area Foundation	Rockingham Promise	\$272,469
Wells Fargo	Wells Fargo Technical Scholarship	\$500
NC Division of Parks & Recreation	Mechanized Trail Training for TRAILS program	\$5,000
NCCCS	Golden Leaf Scholars Program	\$14,682
NC Education Lottery	Award for student financial aid	\$67,738
NCCCS	Virtual Student Tutoring	\$31,085
NC Child Care Grant	Child care services for student-parents in community colleges	\$25,329
American Association of Community Colleges	MentorLinks Grant	\$5,830
NCS Pearson	Gift for Basic Skills Department	\$1,600
ETS Order Services	Gift for Basic Skills Department	\$660
US Department of Education	CARES Act - Student Aid	\$466,857
US Department of Education	CARES Act - Institutional	\$466,856
US Department of Education	Cares Act - Strengthening Institutions Program: Title III	\$45,851
Dee & Gerald James Endowment	Gifts	\$2,150

COLLEGE REVENUE



Revenues	\$ Amount	% of Total
State Appropriation	11,345,702	52.80
County Appropriation	4,335,046	20.17
Sales and Service	351,636	1.64
Federal Contracts and Grants	3,657,568	17.02
Federal Aid - COVID-19	260,492	1.21
Investment Income	30,630	0.14
Non-Capital Gifts, Contracts & Grants	1,397,319	6.50
Capital Gifts	54,305	0.25
Other Revenue	56,434	0.26
Total Revenue	21,489,132	100.00

COLLEGE EXPENSES



Expenses	\$ Amount	% of Total
Salaries and Benefits	12,539,611	59.62
College Services	1,475,791	7.02
Supplies and Materials	3,515,345	16.71
Scholarships	2,067,812	9.83
Utilities	511,017	2.43
Depreciation	924,218	4.39
Total Expenses	21,033,793	100.00

FACILITIES & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



rowth is the key to the continued prosperity of Rockingham Community College, and with that growth comes maintenance and expansion of the institution's facilities. The college undertook a number of capital improvement projects during 2019-2020. Highlights include:

- Patching /sealcoating/re-striping of campus parking lots and driveways.
- Installation of generator to provide backup power for computer systems.
- Replacement of Administration Building roof.
- Continued design of the Center for Workforce Development, a \$19 million, 41,000-square-foot building for applied technology and workforce development programs.



GRANT RECEIPTS

Rockingham Community College received grants totaling more than \$5.7 million during 2019-2020, including:

\$979,564

\$449,651

\$272,469

\$253,032

\$79,164

\$37,585

in federal CARES Act funds to help students and the college recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

from the federal Title III program for improvements in the college's distance-learning efforts.

from the Reidsville Area Foundation for Rockingham Promise, an initiative to benefit local high school students.

from the federal Student Support Services (TRiO) program to provide academic, financial, and personal counseling to eligible students.

from the NC Community College System for career coaches

from Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro for the Eastern Triad Workforce Initiative, an effort to increase apprenticeships.

NEW CERTIFICATES & RENOVATED IT LAB SPACE

Information Technology students had a lot to be excited about during the 2019-2020 academic year.

Department Chair Sarah Evans and faculty members Lucien Pere and Kristi Merritt continue to further their education in the field

of IT, to keep RCC at the cutting edge. Pere and Merritt were hired in Summer 2018, and along with an advisory committee that included many IT experts from throughout the county, the entire IT program was rebuilt.

While RCC offers an associate degree in IT, the department introduced five new certificate programs – and a renovated high-



level lab in which to learn.

"You can have an associate degree, but without a certificate, it's much harder to enter the field of IT," said Pere.

Now, students earn certifications as they work toward their Associate Degree in Applied Science. Each certificate requires 12 credit hours, and four of the certificates are industry recognized.

"It prepares them along the way to sit for their industry-recognized certifications," Merritt said.

In its first year, the enrollment in the program increased more than 150 percent, and faculty began focusing on retention and job placement after graduation.

Certificates include:

- · A+ Essentials
- · Cybersecurity
- · Network+ and Security+ Essentials
- · IT Foundations
- · Web Technologies





WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Center for Workforce Development project is on budget and on schedule at Rockingham Community College, with plans to begin construction in late 2021 and finish in early 2023.

Rockingham Community College President Dr. Mark Kinlaw on May 4, 2020, updated the county's Board of Commissioners on the \$19 million project, which is being funded by the quarter-cent sales tax voters approved in 2018. As of May 2020, RCC had received \$2.66 million in revenues.

"I continue to be thankful to all of you for supporting our quarter-cent sales tax," Kinlaw told the Commissioners. "I think we're making very good use of that to improve what we can do for students."

The RCC Board of Trustees approved an exterior design of the CWD in March 2020, which included design modifications they requested after seeing a presentation at their January board meeting.

The one-story building will be 41,500 square feet, with a main entrance roughly in the center, facing the parking lot across from the Science Building. The CWD will house the programs for Electrical Systems Technology, Industrial Systems Technology, and Machining; a lobby; common areas; offices in an administrative area; conference rooms; a 200-seat corporate meeting room; and a kitchen.

"I'm impressed with it," said Trustee Tango Moore after seeing a 3D video presentation of the concept in March. "This is exciting."

Trustee Randy Judkins agreed: "I echo Tango; this looks really good," and Trustee Hal Griffin commended Phillip Steele and Jonathan Koricke, of Charlotte-based ADW Architects, and said he is impressed that they listened to the board's comments two months earlier and made suitable changes to their design.

County Commissioner Mark Richardson asked Kinlaw if COVID-19 is now factor in the planning process.

"It will be as we do the inside," Kinlaw said.

"Life will be different. We'll take protective measures, like we're doing now in other buildings," he said.

The interior was being planned out during the design development phase, which lasted through August 2020, and was approved by the State in October. The remaining timeline includes:

- Construction documents, October 2020-March 2021
- · Advertisement for bids, September 2021
- Bid opening, October 2021
- Construction start, December 2021
- Construction completion, February 2023
- College moves in, April-May 2023

Commissioner Richardson asked why it is taking so long, compared to county construction projects.

"We are working with the Office of State Construction, and are at their mercy," Kinlaw explained.

Any state project with a price tag of at \$500,000 or more is required by law to have its documents – such as schematics and construction paperwork – pass through that office.

All of the Connect NC Bond Fund projects and those paid for with sales tax across North Carolina, go through that office, keeping them busy.

"In my experience in my career, they save us money," Kinlaw said of the State office.

"They work closely with architects. I wish it was faster, because we need the building," he said.

Other Sales Tax Use

As of March 2020, the College had spent \$1.82 million of sales tax revenue, mostly on technology, according to Kinlaw.

RCC upgraded 20 computer labs in seven buildings, replaced several faculty and staff computers, upgraded network wiring, and installed a new telephone system.

"It takes a half million dollars a year to stay current with technology," Kinlaw said, adding that the College was behind on upgrades.

Ideally, he would like to be on a cycle of replacing technology every four years.

"We continue to use the sales tax funds to put the college in a better position to serve students," he said.

Updates on RCC's use of the sales tax and the Center for Workforce Development can be found here: https://www.rockinghamcc.edu/publications/timeline



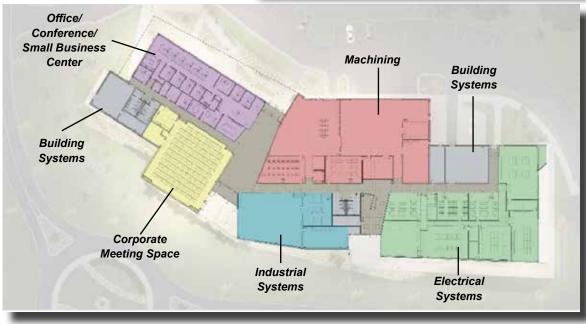




From top:
Renderings
of the Center
for Workforce
Development's
student lounge;
corporate meeting
space; main lobby;
and floor plan.

On opposite page: An aerial view. For perspective, the Administration Building is across the street to the right.

> On front cover: An exterior rendering.





Rockingham County Schools Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell talks about how the school system, RCC, and the Reidsville Area Foundation came together to support and offer Rockingham Promise.

RAF GRANTS \$1.07M FOR ROCKINGHAM PROMISE

The Reidsville Area Foundation stepped up big time in April 2019, supporting Rockingham Promise, a program through which high school students take college courses on their own campus.

The program, which began in Fall 2019, enables the high school students to earn college credits, tuition-free.

RAF is providing \$1,077,271 over the course of the initiative's first four years. The agency is in partnership with Rockingham Community College and Rockingham County Schools, who together pitched in an additional \$1,044,000. RAF's funding for the first year was \$272,469.

"This is the biggest grant we've ever given out," said RAF Executive Director Dawn Charaba.

She said there's been an ongoing discussion of the decline in community college enrollment in rural areas – so a project like this is more than welcome.

"We've engaged with RCC and Rockingham County Schools through Rockingham Promise. We went through the first year and then met to see how things were going. Starting a really big project like that takes a little while to" said Charaba.

"It was great hearing success stories of high school students outperforming traditional college students. There's something magical in the mix, having college professors go to high school campuses," she said.

RAF's money is funding tuition, fees, textbooks, faculty instructional supplies, salaries and benefits.



"There's something magical in the mix, having college professors go to high school campuses."

> ~Dawn Charaba Executive Director Reidsville Area Foundation

"One thing we were able to do, after faculty noticed that students had no access to calculators that are pretty pricey, was to transition some money to provide some classroom sets of calculators," Charaba said.

The program started out very successfully. In Fall 2019, 163 students enrolled in college courses on Rockingham County's four public high school campuses, while 117 enrolled in classes for Spring 2020.

To be eligible to enroll in Rockingham Promise courses, a high school student must have an unweighted GPA of 2.8 or above, or obtain an appropriate assessment score on a placement test.

To be eligible for a college scholarship to RCC, the student must maintain a 2.8 GPA; meet RCC's entrance requirements; and take a minimum of three College and Career Promise (CCP) courses in high school on which they make a grade of C or higher. Once at RCC, tuition-free assistance may continue as long as the student stays in good academic standing and maintains a 2.0 GPA. Scholarship amounts are awarded for the cost of tuition and mandatory fees that are not met by financial aid and other scholarships.



A machining lab that enables students to earn high school credits – and tuition-free college credits at the same time – and to finish with a certificate in hand, opened just in time for the Fall 2020 semester.

High school juniors and seniors can enroll in the program, taught by Rockingham Community College instructors, and pay only for textbooks and student fees. First preference for enrollment is given to students of Reidsville High School, where the lab is located.

The lab was funded with a \$200,000 Golden Leaf grant. Partners in the project include Rockingham Community College, Rockingham County Schools, the City of Reidsville, the Reidsville Industrial Alliance, the Reidsville Area Foundation, and the Rockingham County Education Foundation.

The lab is now furnished with five manual milling machines, five manual lathes, and several smaller support machines.

On April 24, the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges announced to RCC its approval and accreditation of the machining lab.

Students will earn 12 semester hours, split between the fall and spring semesters. In the fall, students will have classroom and lab time during their 90-minute first period, five days each week.

"This is an entry-level, basic manual machining course, and is the first stop to a career in machining and manufacturing," said Kris Brooks, RCC's dean of Workforce Development.

"When they finish, they will have a solid entry-level skill set to



get a job, but they can continue their education at RCC. They will earn a Manual Machining Fundamentals Certificate."

The four classes included in the RHS program are:

- Blueprint Reading, which introduces the basic principles of print reading.
- Industrial Safety, which emphasizes the principles of industrial safety and OSHA regulations.
- Introduction to Metrology, which introduces the inspection of machine parts and the care and use of a wide variety of precision measuring instruments.
- Machining Technology I, which ntroduces machining operations as they relate to the metalworking industry. Topics include machine shop safety, measuring tools, lathes, drilling machines, saws, milling machines, bench grinders, and layout instruments.

"Students can earn valuable skills to get a high-skill, highwage job, or can transfer into the RCC Machining Associate in Applied Science program," said Jennifer Lester, RCC's director of Career and Technical Education



RCC faculty members Deirdre Kearney, above, and Laurie McCollum, at right, are teaching History and English respectively at Bethany Community School. The students simultaneously earn high school and college credits.

CHARTING NEW COURSES

RCC faculty member Laurie McCollum may teach English, but she has a history with the campus where she began teaching high school students in 2019: her mom was involved in incorporating Bethany Community School, and McCollum helped edit its charter prior to its opening in 2000.

McCollum taught in middle school in 2000-2004 as she worked on her dissertation. She went into a career of school administration, and found herself teaching a night class at RCC in Spring 2017. A retirement left a vacancy, and McCollum joined RCC full-time. A few semesters later, she was asked to also teach Bethany juniors.

She felt comfortable on the charter school campus, teaching English Composition. "It was not a huge shift," she said, as she was already teaching Early College High School students on RCC's campus. "A teen is a teen. I love working with them. Students have a lot more energy as teenagers, while more traditional students are quieter and always get their work turned in on time. The attention span of teenagers is not always as good, but that keeps it interesting."

McCollum said Principal Vicky Bethel "is a very savvy, smart leader," and everyone on the staff really helped facilitate McCollum's arrival and use of a coach's classroom. RCC History faculty member Deirdre Kearney agreed, and praised the excellent support of Bethany administrators, who were there every step of the way as she taught American History on the campus.

"The students all knew each other – they were almost like a group of 15 siblings. They have been in school together for 10 years," she said. "I felt like I was given the opportunity to teach them a lot about how college works – how to behave and how to do the work. They were excited to be engaged in a higher level of dialog."

She covered a bit of what students learn in RCC's ACA 111 class, College Student Success, which introduces the college environment and promotes personal development essential for success.

Kearney said she asked legitimate questions about what the students previously learned, and about the current situation in the world.

"In the Spring semester, we went online. And instead of a lot of World War I, it was more about the 1918 pandemic and the lessons learned and how does it apply to current life," she said. "It was higher level critical thinking and they totally got it. It was really great."

These Bethany students are certainly poised for success as they move beyond high school.

"They will be more comfortable enrolling in RCC. They're much more likely to consider it, and I think we'll see students from there," McCollum said.

"They already have RCC email and access to the library. They already jumped through hoops in the Career and College Promise (program), so they'll be able to slip right into RCC," she said.

CAREER COACHES HEAD TO HIGHISCHOOLS

The RCC Career Coach Program places coaches in each of the four traditional public high schools each week to serve as a resource for students to aid in determining career goals and matching students with community college programs that will help the student realize these goals.

These coaches can answer questions and aid in Career and College Promise (CCP) planning, career exploration, or education at RCC after high school graduation.

A grant from the N.C. Community College System enabled RCC to place career coaches on high school campuses across the county beginning in the 2019-2020. The eventual goal is to initially work with middle school students.

RCC Career Coach Director Sharon Galloway rotates among the high schools.

"More and more community colleges are getting on board doing this, where career coaches are going into high schools to be an advocate or to expose students to career pathways – the Career and College Promise (CCP)," she said. "Our focus is not completely on Career and Technical Training (CTE), but just exposing them to careers, advising where needed, introducing them to industry-recognized career assessments, working with directors of CTE, and RCC's Director of Educational Partnerships Chandra Caple."

RCC's career coach is an addition to the usual staff on the high school campuses such as counselors and college advisors.

"We all work well together to meet the needs of the students," she said. A college advisor is geared more toward a four-year university, and preparation for ACT and SAT tests. "Some students are not ready or suitable for a four-year university, so the advisor funnels them through me," Galloway said.



Other students come directly to Galloway, knowing she represents RCC.

"We're really helping students identify their career goals, and try to align them with (opportunities) or expose them to what's available at RCC," she said. "We participate in parent nights, athletic events and such, to get the word out about what we're doing. I meet with students to help them with employability skills, job applications, job shadowing opportunities, internships, and just build partnerships and resources for the students."

The career coach is on each high school campus one or two days a week.

"They are another resource in the high schools, with a community college focus," Caple said.

Galloway also has good relationship with career development coordinators at the high schools, who primarily work with students in CTE classes and internships.

"A lot of the pathways RCC has align with what the high schools are doing. The CTE pathways gives the students an opportunity to jumpstart their careers to see if this is what they're interested in doing."

If high school students complete all the classes within the CTE pathway, they earn a certificate and college credits. If they choose to enroll in a community college, they already have those credits toward their associate degree. Those pathways include Agribusiness, Welding, Machining, HVAC, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Web Technologies, and Business Administration. Manufacturing Technologies is also a pathway, but that is strictly for students in the RockATOP apprenticeship program.



One local company is eight workers richer, after high school seniors and recent graduates in the RockATOP program officially signed on as full apprentices at Machine Specialties Inc. during a ceremony at RCC in the summer. A ninth apprentice signed on with Rockingham County Schools.

Through Rockingham Apprenticeship & Technical Opportunities Partnership, more commonly known as RockATOP, Rockingham County Schools and RCC invited high school students to show off their skills and determination in February in front of representatives from manufacturers and other employers in the area. Students were chosen as summer pre-apprentices, after which many officially signed on to continue with full apprenticeships.

RockATOP enables these students to begin a career during high school and bring home a paycheck for time at school and work – approximately 8,000 hours during the four-year program. Eventually, the apprenticeships will graduate from Rockingham Community College with an Applied Science degree, already with certifications and credentials in hand.

"In my almost six years at the College, RockATOP is one of the best – if not the best – programs we've put in place working with partners across the region," said RCC President Dr. Mark Kinlaw. "This is a

WELCOMES NINE TEEN APPRENTICES



RockATOP apprentices like Rockingham County High School graduate Ethan Cooley were chosen for the program after showing off skills during a February event on RCC's campus.

great partnership and a wonderful opportunity for our students to earn a degree, to work, and apprentice, and after that, to have full employment. I congratulate our apprentices on a job well done, I wish you the very best, (and) I thank our partners."

"The reason I chose to pursue the RockATOP apprenticeship was because I was unsure about what I wanted to do past high school," said Rockingham County High senior Jacob Vaden. "It's a great thing to do. You get college paid for, and you get a career after college."



The new class of RockATOP apprentices, who began their journey in February 2020 and were chosen in August 2020. They are McMichael High School seniors Keelan Slaughter and Kathryn Watson Pinson, McMichael graduate Jacob Smith, Morehead High School seniors Luis Calderon and Bryant Hornback, Morehead graduate Logan Murphy, Rockingham County High School senior Jacob Vaden, and Ethan Jones and Ethan Cooley, RCHS graduates. Pinson now apprentices with Rockingham County Schools, and the rest are with Machine Specialties Inc.



The Owens Health Sciences Building now houses the latest in technology for training students: a virtual 3D dissection table.

The \$70,000 Anamotage Table was paid for through grant money obtained in 2019 from Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina. There are less than 10 of these tables in use across the state.

"Through a research project, cadavers were given to science and they dissected the cadavers every few millimeters, layer by layer, and every layer was photographed," said Jason Collins, RCC's program director for Emergency Medical Services.

Now with the Anamotage Table, the image of one of four full-sized humans appears on the horizontal flat screen surface, as if the cadaver was lying on a table in front of them. Using touch screen controllers around the table's perimeter, the image can be rotated to show the cadaver's front, back or side.

One cadaver is an older female with digestive issues, whose stomach shows a hole where a feeding tube had been inserted.

Another is an Asian male who died of pancreatic cancer.

"You can go into specific body systems," Collins said. "You can take

away the skin, and see all the muscles and nerves, and you can take away the muscles and see the skeleton."

Or users can pull up functioning body parts like a beating heart, and see the beats per minutes, the electrocardiogram (EKG).

"For my paramedic students in particular, they go detailed into the heart and vessels, coronary arteries and electrical systems," Collins said. "They get into cranial nerves, and we can see where they come off the spine.

"Or you can dive into other parts of the body, like the brain, and take pieces away from it," he added. "This opens up other opportunities and learning processes."

The touch screen can be divided into two sections, with students on each end studying different things. Instructors can save images and add pinpoints for tests. Or they can label parts of the brain and save the images for later use in class or in a PowerPoint presentation.

"It definitely gives us a better understanding of the body," Collins said. "It's one thing, looking at a textbook, it's another thing looking at an 'actual' cadaver."

EQUIVALENCY STUDENTS GET LEARNING JPGRADE

In Fall 2019, RCC's College and Career Readiness (CCR) Department started a 60-day trial of a new program to help adult high school equivalency students. It was so successful, then-Director Pam Mitchell requested - and received - a \$3,000 grant from the RCC Foundation to continue offering it for 2020.

"We started with only my online students," said Katie Coleman, instructional specialist with CCR. "It allowed us to meet the needs of some of our adult learners that we hadn't been able to reach before."

Coleman explained that Learning Upgrade is a smartphone app from New Readers Press, which had its computer-based start in the K-12 environment, then shifted to adult literacy learners using it on their cell phones.

"In my training, they were talking about how so many adults have limited access to technology, but they did a study across the country, and almost everybody has a smartphone," she said.

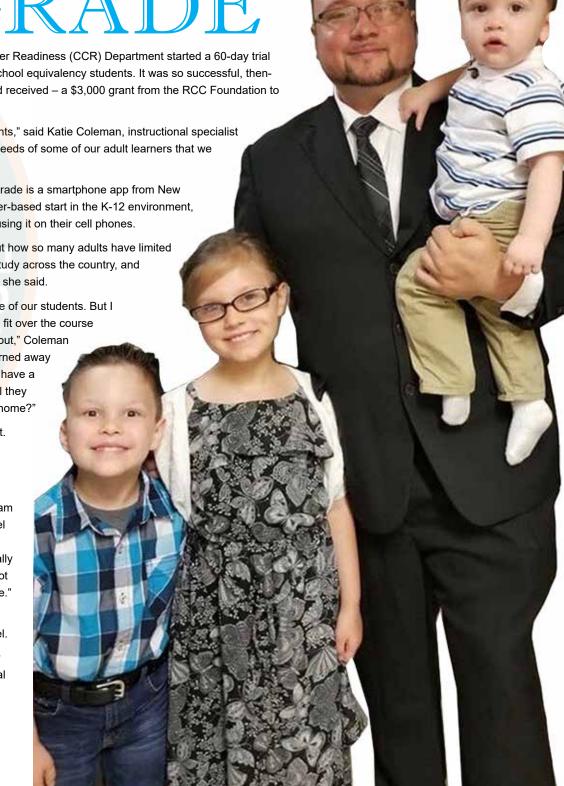
"I was thinking, maybe this will fit some of our students. But I was shocked at how many it really did fit over the course of the first few months that we tried it out," Coleman said. "How many students have we turned away from doing online because they didn't have a computer, or they were not at the level they needed for us to offer the program at home?"

The new app has made a huge impact.

"It is a game changer for a lot of our adult students, because of how easy it is to access, and the curriculum is awesome," Coleman said. "The program does a great job at telling us what level we should place them, and then gives them information piece by piece. It really gauges their performance and does not give them too little or too much at once."

On the literacy side, the lessons stop around the middle-school reading level.

"It's not a program that can take every student all the way through their official tests; what it does, it meets a lot of our students that are low or medium



range and grows them. It gives them a lot of confidence."

And has really helped during the COVID-19 crisis.

"Many of our students had to give up their computer for their child [to go to school virtually] in the spring," she said.

When CCR received the grant from the RCC Foundation, 100 Learning Upgrade "seats" were purchased, enabling expansion to students in the traditional classroom setting and ESL classrooms by early December 2019.

"The biggest impact it's had has truly been on our distance learners. In the classroom, students who have certain barriers like their learning level or their comfort with technology, an instructor can overcome that. But when they need to be an online student because of work or their financial situation, we didn't have a program to meet that need until now," Coleman said.

From January-April 2020, RCC took advantage of free student access to the app through ProLiteracy, an adult education organization with a goal to influence a million adult literacy students across the world by sponsoring programs such as Learning Upgrade.

In May, Mitchell and Coleman learned they had won four of five awards for the four-month period from ProLiteracy.

RCC won the Top Program award, as well as the top three student awards: April Apple for Top Hours, Ernest Orellana for Top Certificates, and Lisa Chavis for Top Lessons. Each student received a \$200 gift card.

"CCR's prize as Top Program was that we had the next year's Learning Upgrade subscription paid for," Coleman said. So when the RCC Foundation grant funding ends in December 2020, ProLiteracy picks up the tab for January-December 2021.

"It's made a big difference for our students," said Coleman. "We didn't realize how many students were uncomfortable and unable to make true progress with the program we had. They fall into these pockets – either it wasn't on their level, or they were uncomfortable with technology – and just because it's an app and it's fun, they really bought into that and want to learn something through interactive games."









ASTELLAR SUCCESS

Paramedic student passes state, national exams on first try

Back in 2016, Logan Boothe had an experience that changed the course of his future.

"My grandpa, who was a big part of my life, got very sick and ended up in Duke and had heart surgery. At the hospital, I was watching the nurses and doctors work around the clock keeping him alive and trying to keep him healthy, and I thought I wanted to be a nurse after that," said the Morehead High School graduate.

Soon after enrolling in the Certified Nursing Assistant program at RCC, Donna Thompson suggested that Emergency Medical Services might be a better fit for him. Thompson, a paramedic herself, is a curriculum assistant for RCC's EMS program, and is the training site coordinator for the American Heart Association.

Boothe heeded her advice, made the switch and began volunteering at the Eden Rescue Squad. He went through the Emergency Medical Technician program from January to May 2017. He then spent more than two years as a part-time EMT with Rockingham County EMS, also enrolling in RCC's Paramedic program. Although he had to drop due to financial reasons, he kept his focus and enrolled the next time it was offered.

"We were one of the strongest EMT classes to come through in a while," he said. "We had a lot of opportunities when we were doing clinicals in the hospitals to do procedures no other class had been able to do. Only one of us wasn't able to intubate patients."

Going through the programs at RCC's Owens Health Science Building's simulated hospital was a great environment.

"The labs were one of my favorite parts. For EMS, we have emergency room bays and a lot of our equipment there is state-of-the-art," he said, including the recent addition of the LUCAS chest compression system and one of the new ventilators the county's first responders use.

Rockingham County EMS made him a full-time job offer a month before his December 2019 Paramedic graduation, contingent on his exam score.

Not only did he and his four classmates pass the North Carolina Paramedic Cognitive Exam, Boothe also passed the National Registry Paramedic Exam on his first try.

He plans to pursue his Associate Degree in Emergency Medical Science.

Looking back at his experiences over these last few years, Boothe is glad he went the Paramedic route rather than Nursing.

"Nurses, besides being in the hospital versus out in the field, their skill set is somewhat limited compared to a paramedic," he said.

"As a paramedic, I have standard protocol. I can do anything from intubating a patient to doing a surgical airway, giving a vast amount of drugs without permission, and doing various interventions and other procedures."

To anyone considering EMT or Paramedic as a career, Boothe has some advice:

"Don't think that you can't do it. It's going to get hard. EMT class is harder than Paramedic class, because you go in with no knowledge and you have three to four months, whereas with Paramedic, you have a base of knowledge, and 12 to 15 months. Anybody can do it, just study hard and understand that you're going to impact patients' lives. It's not going to be an 'if,' it's going to be a 'when.' Focus on studying anytime you can. Don't get complacent, and take advantage of all of your resources. Anytime you can, come in on an extra day and do some labs."

He said the hardest part of the Paramedic program is that students are again covering the basics already learned in the EMT program.

"That's about 90 percent of the program, you just have more time to hit on the very small stuff in those topics – something as simple as the questions you ask a patient, or procedures. While we can intubate and administer medication, our most powerful tool is our assessment. We don't know what to do if we don't know what's going on with the patient."

Boothe recommends to anyone who wants to be an EMT or Paramedic that before taking classes, volunteer at a local rescue squad or fire department.

"Not only will that put in a fee-exempt category (when you enroll in RCC's programs), you will get experience before you ever get a certification. As a volunteer, unless you've had CPR training, you won't be able to do too much. But you're going to learn plenty just by watching and observing, asking questions all the time. You can go on calls with a squad member," he said. "EMS is evolving very rapidly. I think in 2023 is when an Associate Degree will be required, as the credentials move from certification to licensure. Gone are the days of picking up a patient and getting him to the hospital as quick as you can. We have substantially more equipment and tests that we can do."

Before enrolling at RCC, Boothe thought and EMTs and paramedics were the same thing.

"I thought they just came and picked you up. A vast majority of the public don't realize what we do, they think we're just a ride to the hospital," Boothe said "We are very skilled and motivated medical professionals."





ANNE WADE: A CRIMINAL JUSTICE PHENOM

With her exceptional career and advanced education, it's hard to imagine that Anne Wade took such a winding path to her current role as associate professor of Criminal Justice at Rockingham Community College - and as a member of a team that solves cold cases across the country.

"I was the college student who couldn't make up her mind, who loved everything but nothing led to employment. I graduated from Reidsville High School on a Friday, and started taking classes at RCC on Monday," Wade said. With a good foundation and an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts, she transferred to UNC-Greensboro with the goal of a nursing career like her mother.

"That didn't click for me. I did all the AP and hard courses, all the sciences, and wasn't that interested," she said. So Wade instead earned history and psychology degrees.

Again, she realized they didn't easily lead to a job. She then spent three years in law school, but did not want to be a criminal defense attorney.

"I had worked in juvenile detention with really bad children. They had committed three or more violent felonies before the age of 14. That opened my eyes," she said. That experience prompted her to major in Criminal Justice at Guilford Tech, where there were three pathways: law enforcement, juvenile justice, and corrections.

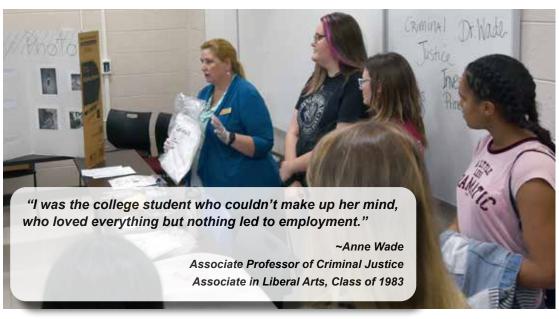
"I did all three and loved it," she said. "I wasn't the only female in the class, but I was definitely a minority."

She enrolled at NC A&T and earned her Masters in Education. As she was finishing up, she was asked to join RCC's faculty, where a Criminal Justice program was being organized.

"I had been working at GTCC, getting paid to role play in BLET, because the director wanted to know if a couple of females could (make it through the program)," she said. "I helped set up scenarios, plan them and record them."

In 1990, Wade joined RCC's Criminal Justice department.

"The defining moment for me was my first class. I was 27 years old,



At far left, Anne
Wade works in
her office, located
in the Advanced
Technologies Building.

At left, Dr. Wade gives an overview of the Criminal Justice program at RCC and careers to which it can lead during RCC Day, which brought hundreds of high school students to campus.

and was probably 120 pounds. I walked in wearing heels and a skirt, and there were probably 40 male cops sitting there. Back then, you could smoke in the classroom. There was a layer of smoke, and I was allergic. I walked in to teach criminology, and they were fantastic. We had a blast. They taught me what it was like to be a cop, and I taught them how to profile."

Wade did ride-alongs with Reidsville police every chance she could for the next 15 years.

Flash forward, and Wade earned her Masters and PhD in Criminal Justice. One of her former students opened a bail bonds office and needed help. For six years, the two women "drove wherever we needed to go in the United States and picked up fugitives," she said.

Wade stopped the bail bond work so she could pursue a Doctorate in Educational Leadership.

"So here I am at RCC. I love what I do, and I love my students. They are the reason I get up and come in here. I love my subject matter," she said. "My give-back is that I work cold homicide cases with a group of NCIS guys – the Vidocq Society."

The founder is Wade's hero. He visits North Carolina each year, and Wade trains with him on how to assess crime scenes.

"From this, I'm in our own little Vidocq Society, the Carolina Cold Case Coalition," she said. "We look at very graphic files. Some are 40 years old, some are 10. We work really hard and do a 'brain dump, and hope that something we know will resonate with investigators so they can solve their case. We get no credit, and that's great. We are shadow people."

Looking back at the start of her career 30 years ago, Wade said it was hard coming into a profession where the expectation was that women would fail.

"I was told, the first person who smacks you, you'll want to get out of this field. As a woman, we are different than men. We have a different skill set and it's well-suited to this field. We're good at respecting other people and we're good at negotiating," she said.

"In my years in bail bonds, I never had to fight a guy. Women were different. But when you respect people, you can bring it down a peg, be a friend, mom or whatever."

"If I can affect an arrest with respect, then we're all happy. If they want to escalate, then we can too," Wade said.

"Women are always touted for not having upper body strength, but we have that different skill set, so we have to use what we have. I'm no faster to go for a weapon than any guy is. The threat's the threat. But if we can negotiate, why would you go to the next level of force?"

When Wade teaches women in BLET, she does not tell them they have to be twice as good as men.

"You have to know your craft, your art, your law, everything. But I push the guys just as hard."

In her older years, Wade is enjoying writing. She has published articles, dissertations and five books, on incivility in the classroom, faculty fear of students, and juvenile justice reform.

"I started my career interviewing serial killers, getting those phone calls into the prisons. That was my thing, to learn to profile from serial killers, to understand the mindset. Everybody's got their specialty. I'm a criminologist. I analyze behavior," she said.

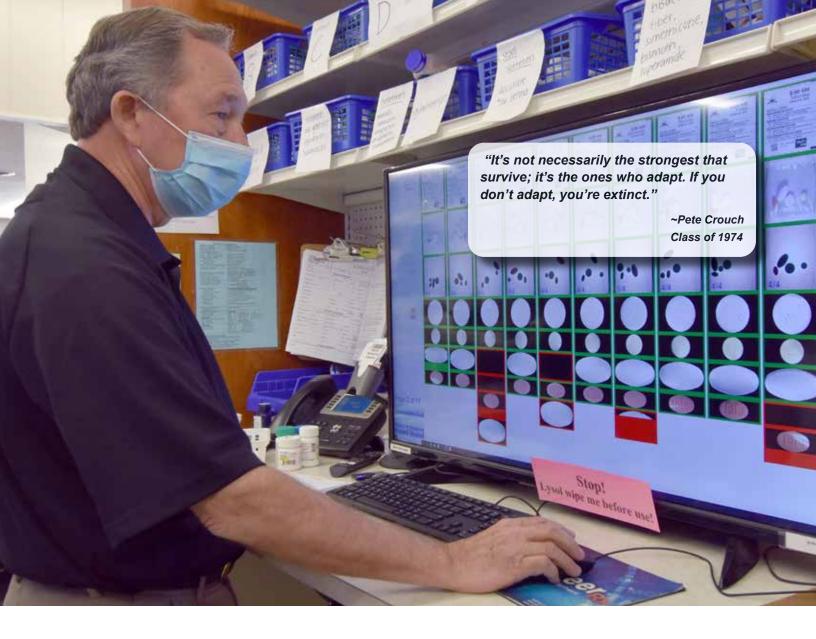
"By comparison, (RCC Criminal Justice Faculty) Ken Hux concentrates on the law – statutes and court procedures – and victimology. If you know your victim, you can get a lot from the crime scene."

In the last 10 years, Wade has branched out into forensics, especially crime scenes and analysis. She has Continuing Education courses in blood spatter and crime scene staging, and learning about 911 call analysis.

Sometimes, though Wade needs to walk away from it.

"That's why I'm an artist. You have that private place you guard, after spending 50 to 60 hours looking at (a graphic criminal file) and knowing nobody has been held accountable for the death," she said.

"Do I regret choosing this field? Heck no, it's exciting," Wade said.



PHARMACIST
PETE CROUCH:
RCC HELPED ME
PREPARE FOR
HIGHER-LEVEL
LEARNING

RCC alumnus Pete Crouch is a long-time supporter of the College.

"RCC helped me prepare for higher-level learning," said the Eden pharmacist. "My parents thought a high school education was fine."

After taking machining in high school, Crouch was taking mechanical drawing – designing blueprints for mechanical parts – and took a part-time job at a community pharmacy. He fell in love with the work and completely changed his career path.

"RCC helped me learn to study and taught me some basic skills I needed," Crouch said. "It's not necessarily the strongest that survive; it's the ones who adapt. Whatever you do, if you don't adapt, you're extinct."

He and his future wife, Debbie, took as many classes they could at RCC. He then transferred to Carolina and she to Appalachian. They married a year later, she transferred to Carolina, and they graduated with the Class of 1976.

By the year 2000, Crouch was working for Eden Drug. Six years later, at the age of 54, he and his wife bought the business.

"Right now is one of the most exciting times to be in pharmacy. I

don't even consider retiring," Crouch said. "Whenever you get a disruption in the status quo (i.e. the COVID-19 pandemic), it brings opportunities. People are up against a wall, and fix what's wrong."

He said the pandemic is causing Americans to rethink education and more.

"How do we take care of patients? Pharmacists now need to step out of their confort zones and do high-level things ... so we need stronger pharmacy techs," he said. "They used to type labels, count pills and talk to patients. Now we have robots. Techs need to evolve, be involved in the whole medication process so pharmacists can help patients get more out of their medications."

He said pharmacists currently check everything pharm techs do, but that may change in the future.

"RCC is a tremendous resource for our county, and has a great Pharm Tech program with a great instructor who is very caring and really nurtures the students," he said. "Students need math skills to really think about going into the Pharm Tech program."

Crouch has been very supportive of the Pharm Tech program, opening his pharmacy for field trips and turning to RCC for qualified employees.

RCC instructor Don Madren said Crouch has contacted him, making it clear that he is looking for "rock stars."

In fact, Eden Drug's chief pharmacy technician, Cassie Scott, was in the RCC Class of 2009, and came highly recommended by the instructor back then. Crouch hired her immediately after the interview.

"She's also our chief problem solver. Her brain works differently," he said. "She has grown with us, through training and advanced leadership. The more we give her, the better she likes it. We have others who are rock stars, and suddenly, mediocre is not okay."

Standing in the back room of Eden Drug in her white lab coat, Scott reflected on her life before RCC

"I was looking for something different to do. I was 20, practically a teenager, and was a waitress. I tried to find a path, a certificate-type program and not a degree," she said. "I took the first class and realized this is very serious and you have to be very dedicated and want it. I love the math part of it."

In addition to math skills, pharm techs need people skills.

"It's a great way to learn and grow

(On opposite page) Pharmacist
Pete Crouch checks on pill
packets at Eden Drug, while
Chief Pharm Tech Cassie Scott
(at right) pulls a precription
dispensed by a robotic machine.

and be able to work in a profession where you make a difference in peoples' lives. We need them so pharmacists can step out from behind the counter," Crouch said.

Job availability in the field as a whole ebbs and flows. But Crouch said he could hire two more pharm techs right now.

In the meantime, even this far into his career, Crouch continues to adapt.

"(We have) built a resilient team, work together, and are highly motivated and trained," Crouch said, adding that training is continuous. "We are the most accessible professional to the public."

Madren agreed. He said on a typical day, a pharm tech is foremost the face of a pharmacy, using communication skills with the public.

"You're on the front line, taking prescriptions and helping customers. You accurately interpret, fill, label and dispense prescriptions to patients. An awful lot goes into all of that," he said.

"CVS and Walgreens invest heavily into the people they hire," Madren said. But hiring people "off the street" as pharmacy techs leads to high turnover. "Pharm Tech is a great starting point. Many people in healthcare start this way."

According to Madren, enrollment in RCC's Pharm Tech program has been steady, with 12 and 13 in the most recent classes. He said it's a "very aggressive" course, with four subject areas: pharmaceutical law; math; art and practice; and pharmacology. He added that 40 percent of the national certification exam concerns medications.

"If you are interested in the whole area of drugs – how they're developed, how they're used, how they work, when they can't be used – and you want to know what goes on behind the counter, the mystery ... if that's intriguing, as a pharm tech, you can be a very productive member of a healthcare team," Madren said. "You earn a credential you can put behind your name. It tells the world you are a healthcare professional."



THE GREAT 58 WITHIN THE 5

NC Community College System recognizes Health Science student

Chase Coggins has been named one of "The Great Within the 58" – a North Carolina Community College System Academic Excellence Award that recognizes one outstanding student at each community college across the state.

His nomination letter, written by an RCC faculty member and presented to an RCC committee to choose its most excellent student, stated, "Rarely does a student rise to the level of academic excellence that Chase Coggins has during his tenure at RCC." ... He scored the highest grade in both Biology 111 and 112, "and his quick grasp of tough concepts in Biology 168 and 169 (Anatomy and Physiology I and II) allows him to be a valuable peer resource to other students; he is constantly mentoring other students before or after lecture and during labs."

The letter further stated that Coggins consistently wrote among the best essays in his English 242 (British Literature II) class, and began working at the Writing Center the following semester. "He is patient, kind, and encouraging to all students, no matter how many issues their assignments might have. Chase's personality and quick wit make him approachable and a favorite in the Academic Resource Center (The ARC) as an English peer tutor for the past two years. The same qualities that Chase exhibited as a student in his English classes – insightful, precise, academic writing on a variety of subjects – are what make him a uniquely effective peer tutor."

Coggins was in his fifth year at RCC in 2019-2020. It's not that he's taking his time finishing his courses; he started taking college-level classes when he was just 14, when he moved from the unincorporated mountain village of Cashiers (population 157) to enroll in Rockingham Early College High School.

He was admitted into RECHS and a similar program in western North Carolina, but chose to move to here and live with his dad and stepmom to attend RECHS.

"(RCC) has networking with UNC-G and so many four-year (colleges) around here, this was the better option for me. Part of the Early College program is that they put you in as many different classes as possible, so you take philosophies, psychologies, sociologies – all different fields. It really helps you in high school, when you're trying to figure out what you want to do," Coggins said.

During his senior year at RECHS, he took Biology 111 and 112 at RCC. "They were some of the first sciences I had taken that really guided me; I knew I needed to be somewhere in science," he said. "Moving here specifically to attend the Early College program within RCC was one of the best choices I have ever made."

Coggins graduated from RECHS in May 2019 with 69 college credits completed, and received his Associate in Science Degree from RCC that July.

But he was not finished.

Coggins continues to take classes, earning an additional 14 credits as of February 2020, and plans to enroll in RCC's Nursing program in Fall 2020.

Coggins has maintained a 4.0 grade-point average at RCC – including the time he was also in high school, the past three semesters holding down two jobs while enrolled full-time, and now as he takes just one course but still works 46.5 hours per week.

Coggins is employed at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro in the neuro-trauma intensive care unit, where he helps with patients who



have had strokes, been hit be vehicles, have suffered gunshots or stabbings, and more.

"I really, really love it. The best description I have is that it's controlled chaos. It's always something new," said Coggins, who also continues to tutor English students at RCC.

"That's another thing RCC has done for me; that's my first job," he said.

Coggins reflected on his time being dually enrolled in high school and college.

"It was a lot, but it was manageable," he said. "When you're in the program, the Early College does an excellent job of prepping you. You don't realize how much faster you're moving."

Counselors told him that if he wanted to finish up in four years instead of five, he would have to take some summer classes at RCC. He did that after his sophomore and junior years at RECHS.

"You take summer classes and dual credit classes. It's not like you're taking all of the classes you would take in high school, and then all of the 69 (college) credit hours; some of the college classes count for high school, so you can "cheat" a little that way," he said with a chuckle.

"It's really just learning to prioritize your time," he said. "That's one thing Early College will teach you, that procrastination will get you nowhere."

Coggins said his main struggle has been balancing work and school.

"I've learned how to go into a mode where when I study, I'm going to study. Instead of studying for three hours with music playing and the TV on, I get rid of all of the distractions and I just study," he said. "I know I don't have three hours for that. I've learned how to optimize my time and really focus. That's one of the biggest things I wish I had

known going into Early College."

That tip is applicable to many things in life. Put all effort into a task and focus, and it will make the task fly by much faster than trying to multitask, he said.

Coggins' efforts also took him through RCC's Certified Nursing Assistant program, which he described as excellent.

"Everything I've ever taken here, I've thought was really good. It's the fact that instructors can really focus on you. They don't have 200 students, they have 20. It's great," he said. "And you save a ton of money."

When he obtains his RCC Associate Degree in Nursing, Coggins plans to take an online Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) program, through UNC-G or Winston Salem State.

"It will depend on what their prerequisites are, and whichever one will be quickest to get into. From what I've heard, in the RN to BSN program, you're just writing a ton of papers. I'm an English tutor, so that's fine. I just want to do it online and knock it out," he said.

Coggins is unsure about what will come after that. He could pursue becoming a Nurse Practitioner or a Certified Nurse Registered Anesthetist. Either way, it's a field from which Coggins has never been far. His stepmother, sister, brother's fiancée, and aunt are all nurses.

"The further I get into nursing, the more I enjoy it. I think it's a field unlike any other. You just have to be a special kind of person for it," he said. "Just that active caring for people, making them feel better, it brings me joy. Even the bad parts that aren't so fun, the good parts make it all worthwhile. That's all nursing is, doing the little things for people to make them feel better again. That's what drew me to the field."





COUNSELOR TACKLES MENTAL HEALTH

f you could be any superhero, who would you be?

For students at RCC, this could be an important question, opening the door to getting counseling or guidance for issues they may be facing during this critical time in their lives.

In September 2019, RCC contracted with Daymark, a Reidsville-based comprehensive behavioral healthcare services provider.

Heather Simons, a Daymark therapist, then set up an office in the Advising and Counseling Center, on the second floor of the Whitcomb Student Center.

"I'm a trauma therapist, but I only do counseling and guidance at RCC," she said, adding that therapy is referred to Daymark.

Holding a Masters Degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Simons is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor, with 23 years of experience. She's been in Rockingham County for seven years.

With just five counselors at Daymark, Simons was a perfect choice to send to RCC - she has previously worked part-time on the counseling staff at Clarion University. Prior to Simons' arrival, RCC's position had been vacant for some time, with a handful of college employees helping students, and occasionally referring them to Daymark.

Simons finds herself guiding students on organization skills, anxiety, depression, and relationship concerns.

Being on campus from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. three days per week, she gets out of the office to interact with students. Simons can sometimes be found sitting at a table with a giant homemade sign that says "Come Talk to Me." She'll pose a question - like the superhero inquiry or "Tell me how you are valuable as a person" - and reward answers with candy.

"Some of the questions are a lot more thought-provoking," she said.
"And I love seeing the students' reactions."

If she doesn't know the student, she passes along her business card, so they know how to find her if they need someone to listen

Simons also visits classes - mainly Psychology and Early Childhood Education - for short conversations about recognizing signs of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and more. And sometimes she invites students to play games, with a twist, like UNO, having the players say something about themselves each time they pick a card.

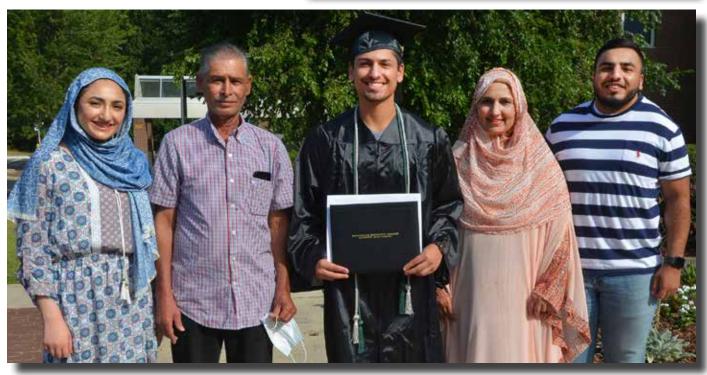
In late February, Simons hosted a lunch for 15 students, during which she gave a presentation on getting organized, scheduling time wisely, studying environments, study tips, and more.

"I may try to do another one on anxiety, since I've had a lot of students ask for that," she said. "And I'd like to start a student support group, where we would meet once per week - it wouldn't necessarily be therapy, just students who need a little extra support, but I would run it, maybe in the Fall."



CLASS OF 2020



















Outstanding Leadership Award, Criminal Justice Club

Timothy Lewis, Emalee Dunn, John Reynolds

Outstanding Leadership Award, Mixed Martial Arts Club

Tory Valentine

Outstanding Service Award, Art Club

Rebecca McMannes-Wells

Outstanding Student Award, Rockingham Community College

David Wells

Outstanding Associate in Fine Arts Student

Julian Stokes

The Phil and Peggy Link Emerging Artist Award

Sydni Vernon

Distinguished Student in Humanities and Social Sciences

Savion Thompson

Outstanding Associate in Arts Graduate

Isaac Chrismon

Outstanding Associate in Science Graduate

Jenna Wray

Distinguished Math and Science Graduate

Michael Mays

Student Nurse Leadership Award

Allen (Joe) Barwick

Outstanding Respiratory Therapy Student

Macy Walker

Welding Technology Outstanding Student

Omar Hernandez

Manufacturing Technology Outstanding Student

Hunter Martin

North Carolina Community College System Academic Excellence

Nominees – Jonathan Birmingham, Kristen Chandler, Chase Coggins, Michael Mays, Candi Money, Savion Thompson Award Recipient – Chase Coggins

All-USA / Coca-Cola Academic Team

Nominees - Mary Finger, Gregory Schenot

Student Government Leadership Award)

Alana Dunlap and Pedro Lopez

RCC Outstanding Student/Athlete

Male Student Athlete – Jarred Simpson Female Student Athlete – Logan Hodges



STUDENT LIFE

Campus activity was abundant during 2019-2020. Events included laster tag, a visit to the Civil Rights Museum, an ugly Christmas sweater contest, a pool tournament, pickleball, yoga, fantasy football leagues, a 9/11 remembrance walk and gathering at the flagpole, cornhole for a cause, a Halloween Fest, club Christmas parties, and more.

When COVID-19 forced the cancellation of in-person events, Student Life Director Maggie Murray did not skip a beat, keeping spirits high with a virtual Spirit Week,



Netflix parties, Name that Tune, live events on social media, a virtual graduation celebration on what would have been commencement day, an SGA week on Instagram, a "Best College from Home" photo contest, and more.

Among other activities, the SGA took homemade Valentine cards to nursing homes.







LADY EAGLES VOLLEYBALI

🐧 he 2019-2020 Lady Eagles volleyball team had a season of growth, with a very young team: one sophomore, Casey Simpson, and seven freshmen, Selina Zenquis, Deja Peeler, Mattie Pergeson, Morgan Billingsley, Amber Johnson, Logan Hodges, and Ariel Grant.

Freshman Jarred Simpson played first base.



Freshman Logan Hodges played

AGLES BASEBALI

Head Baseball Coach Reece Honeycutt celebrated his 100th win at RCC on Feb. 22, with a 17-1 victory in the second game of a double-header. Honeycutt, in his fifth season here, drives to and from Iredell County every Tuesday through Friday and on game days. Back home, he owns a baseball facility and has travel teams.

Several years ago, his nephew, Kane Sutten, had been recruited to play at RCC, so Honeycutt came to watch him play. During his visits, he became friends with the college's athletic director.

When Coach Jake Loye left mid-summer in 2015, Honeycutt approached the athletic director about becoming RCC's assistant coach.

"I really wanted to get some college coaching experience," Honeycutt said. "He asked me if I'd be interested in being head coach."

Honeycutt jumped at the chance.

"I put a lot of effort into coaching. I don't do the glamorous things; it's an awesome hobby," Honeycutt said.

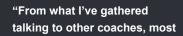
Over the years, he has had four assistant coaches,

including Will Greene as the pitching coach for the past two years. Now Honeycutt coaches the pitching, and his nephew, who also lives in Iredell County, is back on campus as batting coach.

"I'm a good coach and a good manager, but I've always been the recruiter. That's my hitch, getting kids up here," Honeycutt said. "Many people don't

> realize where Rockingham Community College is ... they think it's near the beach. But then they come visit."

> > And those recruitment efforts are what led to his 100 wins in such a short period of time.



get it in year six or seven," Honeycutt said. "But we won 33 games last year, and in the four full seasons, we won 20 or more games."

Honeycutt

The 2019 season's 33 wins were the most wins in a season in RCC's history. The Eagles had backto-back Region X and District D titles in 2018 and 2019. And Honeycutt was named Coach of the Year in Region X and District D, and ABCA Region Coach of the Year the past two seasons.

In a season cut short by COVID-19 game cancellations, the Eagles finished 14-5. See the back cover for team photos.



outside hitter.

34

FACULTY RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Four full-time faculty members have advanced in their ranks.

Deanna Saffold has achieved full professorship. She is a math faculty member, and joined RCC in 2003.

Aaron Bowman, Phil Haralam and Rebecca Gurley have each advanced to the rank of assistant professorship.

Bowman is a Sociology faculty member who also teaches Anthropology. He has been with RCC since 2016.

Haralam is an Art faculty member, responsible for the Associate in Fine Arts Visual Arts program. He has been with RCC since 2016.

Gurley is a Nursing faculty member, and has been employed by RCC since 2013.

RCC is one of just a few community colleges with a faculty rank policy, acknowledging longevity, work-related accomplishments, and the increasing value of service of full-time faculty members. It recognizes achievements under the broad hallmarks of classroom performance, service, leadership, and creativity.

"We recognize them for their achievements and thank them for their service, their leadership, and their commitment to RCC, to their academic disciplines, and to their communities," said Sheila Regan, vice president for Academic Affairs. "Faculty are the heart and soul of a community college, and now more than ever, our students are looking to faculty to not only teach and train them for the next level of employment, but encourage and motivate them to manage and thrive during this (coronavirus) pandemic."

Presenting Saffold with a professorship sash, Regan said, "You've led the effort in the Math department for online learning. You started it and really worked with the software, worked with high schools, I can't tell you how much I appreciate that, considering (virtual learning during the pandemic)."



Professor Deanna Saffold and RCC President Dr. Mark Kinlaw



Assistant Professor Aaron Bowman



Assistant Professor Rebecca Gurley



Assistant Professor Phil Haralam

Saffold said the professorship was a long time coming. "When I first stepped foot on the campus, I felt like I was home and have enjoyed working here. Every year it's a privilege to be a part of this family and this community. I'm very passionate about what I do and the people I work

with. I really love working with the students and seeing them grow. I love to be able to get out there and take initiative and see change happen and see us move in a direction that not just changes students' lives but to see faculty grow and the College grow."

EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR





NADINE JANSEN FULL-TIME FACULTY

Math faculty member Nadine Jansen not only demonstrates genuine compassion for teaching, she also serves as an inspiration to her students, mentees, co-workers, and everyone she's around.

Jansen helps her students reach their full potential through education and guidance.

As a way of instructing her class, Jansen prides herself on the individualized teaching of every student and being accessible. She ensures that students get an adequate amount of material to study from and ask questions about. She never gives out a lecture exam without finishing the material at least a week before she schedules the exam. Doing this ensures that students have ample time to reach out to her with any concerns about the exam review that she makes herself. She has a similar way with her classwork assignments.

Jansen makes herself available to students with flexible hours throughout the day and has been known to come back to campus if a student is not available during her regular scheduled hours.

Every member of the RCC team deserves recognition for the diligent work during this time of economic crisis and pandemic. However Jansen has gone beyond, before, during, and most probably after.

She has displayed a willingness to help others and has shown her dedication to her art of teaching, giving a positive reflection on the core values of this school, county and state.

DANNY EDWARDS FULL-TIME STAFF

Danny Edwards has always been a steady and consistent member of the Technology Support Services team. But with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and mobilizing our workforce to transition to online education, he has emerged as a strong leader for the team. He has coordinated the process of locating laptop parts and configuring them for faculty so they could start working from home. He has made sure they were clean, loaded with the appropriate software, and packaged so they were ready for pick up.

Edwards has kept impeccable records to protect College assets as faculty picked up the devices for use off site. He has also worked in classrooms to make areas available for students who needed to come to campus for the internet. He helped coordinate the relocation of computers to ensure social distancing is maintained for students.

During all of this, he had a smile on his face and maintained a positive attitude while working extra long days to guarantee that faculty, staff and students had everything they required.

As the lead computer support specialist, Edwards has been instrumental in helping RCC stay ahead of the technology curve. He is faithful in keeping up with inventory and has researched, tested and implemented new technologies.

Edwards often works weekends and holidays to ensure no disruptions by technology upgrades. He helps resolve issues by going to classrooms, labs, offices, or through the RCC Help Desk. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, he learned to use Zoom software to assist users. He has even met students in the parking lot to help them resolve technology issues. The challenges have been many over this past year, but Edwards is always willing to help.



JENNIFER ROBERTS PART-TIME FACULTY

Jennifer Roberts has taught in the Basic Skills Department of RCC since January 1999. She has been the lead instructor in many various classrooms and has always graciously moved to and set up new classrooms, depending on where she was needed. While diligintaly working to help many students graduate, she has helped the program reach its goals for FTE attainment and performace measures.

During many of her years with the department, she has had the highest percentage of graduates come through her classrooms. She has helped the College and Career Readiness Department to grow and serve more students. She is well respected by her peers and her students. Other instructors look to her for direction in working with new students and they look to her as a leader.

During COVID-19, Jennifer stepped into a new instructor position without hesitation. She has led the newly state-approved HSE program in the community. Her attention and love for detail has made this a successful new program and has allowed the necessary lessons to get out into the homes of new students as well as students who no longer could come to a face-to-face class.



DEBBIE WODHANIL PART-TIME STAFF

Debbie Wodhanil joined RCC in 2018 accessibility counselor. Her primary duties focus on working with students who self-report disabilities and providing documentation to consider and develop appropriate accommodations for the students in their courses.

Wodhanil has widely engaged with RCC employees to help them understand the availability of accessibility services and procedures that may be followed. She has visited classes, taught a college adjustment course, and developed working relationships to enhance her service to students. She has worked with College and Career Readiness staff who have had students needing attention with regard to accessibility.

Wodhanil also serves on four College committees for which her devotion to accessibility concerns and her knowledge of accessibility issues is highly important. She has developed relationships with colleagues at other community colleges and in other organizations.

Wodhanil has demonstrated a wonderfully genuine concern for students, especially those for whom accommodations may be an important part of their educational experience. Her ability to develop effective connections with other faculty and staff has further enhanced her ability to serve students.

RCC EMPLOYEES

FULL-TIME FACULTY

60

FULL-TIME STAFF

96

PART-TIME FACULTY

225

PART-TIME STAFF

35

udes work-study student employ

FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT



Dear Friends.

This past year the Rockingham Community College Foundation celebrated its 50th year of changing lives through education. The RCC Foundation was incorporated on January 7, 1970 by a group of community leaders who realized the need for an organization to further the goals of the College by supporting students in either obtaining a higher education or obtaining the skills to enter the workforce. The Rockingham Community College and The Rockingham Community College Foundation have both received recognition from all over the state for what they have accomplished over the years.

Many of our fundraising events had to be canceled or rescheduled as the Foundation underwent a reorganization. Even with these challenges, I am pleased to announce that we had another successful year.

Because of you, we received support from individuals, businesses, industries, organizations, churches and civic clubs totaling \$254,921.97. These funds make it possible to provide quality programs, services and scholarships to our students as they attend our community college to further their education.

On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the many volunteers, donors, faculty and staff for their tireless efforts over the years. Thank you again for your support of our students, the College and the Foundation. We are improving the quality of life through education, one student at a time.

Total Raised \$254,922

Sincerely,

Bobby Wharton, RCC Foundation President

RCC FOUNDATION

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William Stone, Eden
Jack Webster, Madison
Charles Wharton, Ruffin

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Janice R. Tate, RCC Board of Trustees Chair
Dr. Mark O. Kinlaw, RCC President
Kim A. Pryor, RCC Director of Development/
RCC Foundation Executive Director

RCCF begins anew after restructuring

The Rockingham Community College Foundation elected a new slate of officers on June 18, 2020 following a restructuring and reorganization.

"I'm very excited about the new board. We have a good group of leadership from across the county, with diverse talents," Immediate Past President R. Scott Barham said. "Several have had experience with the Foundation in the past, so it's always good to have people who have been involved to come back around and serve the community."

President Bobby Wharton served on the RCCF board from the 1970s until about three years ago, and was happy to return.

"The College is about the only entity I know of that touches every foot of the county," he said. "The Foundation's job is to raise money to help students, and we will continue to do that. People realize the importance of the College and Foundation; citizens have been so good to the College and Foundation, and have reached into their pockets over the years."

Two weeks earlier, when everyone gathered for their first meeting as a new Foundation board, practicing social distancing. Interim Treasurer Mark Collins reported that the Foundation's Master Trust account contained \$7.32 million.

"Of North Carolina's 58 community colleges, RCC is second largest in asset size for investments," he said. The Master Trust contains fundraising money from throughout the years. The Endowed Funds Trust, which is restricted-use money for scholarships, had a \$9.11 million balance.

Dr. Mark Kinlaw said he was astounded by the financials of the Foundation when he arrived in 2015 to become RCC president.

"When I got here, I couldn't believe it when I saw the financial report. I came from a larger college, and we didn't even have a million dollars in assets in the foundation," Kinlaw said. "We can do a lot of things that other colleges cannot do because we have a foundation that can support students in ways a lot of rural colleges, in particular, can't do."

He stressed that not everyone needs a college degree to land a job; there are industry-recognized credentials, licensures, and certifications that get people employed.

"We need to build Foundation support for that because that is what industry is telling us," Kinlaw said. Among the \$144,000 in campus grants the Foundation approved that day was \$24,000 for a Workforce Development scholarship program called Eagle Train and Gain.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

he Foundation Talon Club is a comprehensive sponsorship program designed to support activities in all areas of the college, including cultural arts programming, athletics and special events. Just as the talons of the college's eagle mascot symbolizes strength, support provided by the Talon Club Members strengthens RCC. Talon Club members contribute \$1,500 or more annually with \$500 designated for Eagle Train and Gain Scholarships, \$500 for campus projects and grants and \$500 to support the athletic program for which state funds are not available. Talon Club members receive:

- 1) One sponsorship solicitation per year
- 2) Presidential invitations to special campus events with preferred parking
- 3) Sponsorship recognition in all RCC Foundation sponsored programs
- 4) Recognition at annual appreciation event

For additional Talon information, please contact the RCC Development Office at 336-342-4161 ext. 2201.

Dr. Mark Kinlaw and Mrs. Julia Kinlaw

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Powell

Cardinal Recycling, LLC

Mr. and Mrs. Grayson Whitt

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Mr. and Mrs. Alan Isley

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HomeTrust Bank

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Peter F. Osborne

Molly and Kenan Wright

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Gretchen and Wayne Parrish

Dr. Bob Lowdermilk and Mrs. Kathy Cheek

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First Citizens Wealth Management

First Citizens Bank

Reidsville Office City

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Farm Bureau - Reidsville

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ADW Architects

Graphic Solutions

Reidsville Nissan

Dr. and Mrs. William Truslow

Century 21 – The Knowles Team

BB&T

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Cole



TOTAL RAISED BY EMPLOYEES THROUGH CAMPUS FUND DRIVE

\$18,621

he Campus Fund Drive is an employee giving campaign that kicks off each year when employees return to campus for the fall semester. In 2019, RCC faculty and staff raised \$18,621 for the Rockingham Community College Foundation, representing 86.6 percent of the College's employees. Internal support is vital for a successful campaign. It demonstrates commitment, trust, accountability, and loyalty from the faculty/staff that witness how donors' dollars are used every day. These unrestricted dollars help support a number of initiatives on campus including:

- Student Programs & Projects
- Student Travel Program
- Career & College Programs
- Work Study
- Professional Development
- Peer Tutors

- Special Equipment & Supplies
- Ambassadors
- Special Events

EAGLE TRAIN RAIN Scholarship Program

Workplace dynamics are changing across North Carolina and Rockingham County is no exception. The RCC Foundation is better positioned than ever to help Rockingham Community College address the changing needs of business, industry, and students in our county.

The Eagle Train and Gain Scholarship Program, underwritten by the RCC Foundation, was approved by the RCC Foundation in June 2020, just in time to provide financial assistance to Fall 2020 students whose goal is to earn an industry-recognized credential and enter the workforce.

The RCC Foundation has awarded \$10,000 to assist Rockingham Community College students with educational expenses of Workforce Development courses that are 96+ hours and lead to an industry recognized credential that further leads to employment.

This is a big boost for these Continuing Education students, who are not eligible for traditional financial aid.

Beginning with the Fall 2020 semester, any student registering for an eligible Workforce Development Course was awarded \$180 towards the cost of tuition. After registering for one of the courses, the student was directed to visit the Financial Aid Office in the Whitcomb Student Center to complete a Train and Gain application. The money was awarded on a first come, first served basis.

Eagle Train and Gain Scholars are not eligible for federal assistance.

Students in these programs were eligible for the scholarship:

Cardiovascular (EKG) Technician

Central Sterile Processing

Dialysis Technician

Emergency Medical Technician

Advanced EMT

Medical Assisting

Medication Aide

Nurse Aide

Paramedic

Community Paramedic

Pharmacy Technician

Detention Officer

Welding

Certified Medical

Reimbursement Specialist

CompTIA Network+ and Security+

CompTIA Cybersecurity Analyst

MS Office





Above, student Julian Blackwell (center), recipient of the Sergeant Carter Lee Graves Memorial Scholarship, is joined by Ricky Graves and Perry Graves (left and right).

At left, RCC Foundation scholarship recipient Kari Hyler joins scholarship donor Margaret E. Griffin for a luncheon. Hyler also received the Gladys Hall Memorial Scholarship.

RCCF AWARDS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Rockingham Community College Foundation handled 293 scholarships awarded to 202 students in 2019-2020, totaling more than \$242,000 of funding provided by donors in the community.

On Friday, Nov. 1, 2019, the Foundation and the College hosted these students and their donors for an annual scholarship luncheon, providing an opportunity for them to meet each other.

"Students are pursuing their dreams, and donors, you are making those dreams possible," then-Foundation President Jeff Parris announced as he welcomed everyone.

RCC President Dr. Mark Kinlaw thanked the donors for supporting the students, the Foundation, and the College. "I'm a little biased, but I think (RCC) is the greatest asset in this county," he said. "I've been here almost five years now, and as I move around and get to know people in the county, one of the things that I have found out is that people in this county think very highly of this college, and that is something that has occurred over a very long period of time."

Dr. Kinlaw said he was amazed that while posing for photographs with the scholarship recipients, nearly every one of the students knew exactly what they wanted to do.

Chasity Hankins, at left, was on hand to have lunch with BB&T Community Scholarship winner Wendy Martinez. Victoria Rose, not pictured, also received the BB&T scholarship. Martinez was also awarded the John D. Love Family Scholarship.

"We're very proud and very fortunate to have these students that we do," he said. "Students, this is for you. The College is very fortunate to have the support of the community, and we are in the midst of doing a lot of renovations. The new Center for Workforce Development will be built within three years, and we just finished renovating our Student Center."

"There's a lot that's going on (here) on this campus, and it's all designed for one thing: to improve the learning experience that we have at this college so that we can offer the programs and support that our students need to be successful," he said.



"This is a day to celebrate the generosity of our donors and the academic success of our students," said Kim Pryor, Foundation executive director.

Bryson Goins, then-SGA president, agreed, and congratulated both the scholarship recipients and their donors.

"To my fellow students, it is important for us to remember that RCC is a valuable resource for us, as we build a base of education for further studies so we can move on to pursue a four-year degree or move into the workforce. Not only do we benefit from the instruction and guidance given to us by our professors and advisors, we are fortunate to benefit financially with the scholarships that are made available to us," he said.

"Today is also a day where we say thank you to the donors. Your wonderful generosity makes it possible for me and other students here to receive financial support that might not otherwise be possible. Your scholarships give us an opportunity to pursue our dreams. On behalf of all of the students who received your scholarship support, I thank you for your gifts and for your confidence in RCC to provide us with a worthy education," Goins said.

The RCC Foundation offers two types of scholarships. The minimum

At right, RCC student Brandon Ayers meets David C. and Dawn S. Burrt, donors of an endowed scholarship presented to Ayers. Below, a group of Rockingham Community College students came to the Robert C. Keys Gymnasium on Nov. 1 for a luncheon with the donors of their scholarships. donation for an Endowed Scholarship is \$18,000, while the minimum for a General Scholarship is \$500.

For Endowed Scholarships, the Foundation awards 75 percent of the fund's interest, and puts the other 25 percent back into the fund.

General Scholarships can be awarded one time or over an extended period of time.

Benefactors work with the Foundation in creating criteria for donor intent. RCC's Financial Aid Office selects the recipients for each scholarship, based on the established criteria.

For information on becoming a donor, call 336-342-4261, ext. 2201.





RCC: THE BEST CHOICE FOR ME

Students win Foundation essay prizes

Each year, Rockingham Community College students are challenged to tell their story through an essay, for a chance to win a monetary prize from the RCC Foundation. This year's theme was "RCC: The Best Choice for Me."

Eden resident Emily Jarrell won first place and \$500 with an essay that expressed her hesitation to enroll in RCC as an adult student and how the RCC staff and faculty along the way have encouraged her

"As a single mom, the idea of returning to school after nearly a decade was nerve wracking. More than anything, I feared failure. What if I couldn't handle it? What if I couldn't do my work after the kids' bedtime like I had planned? What if I registered for the wrong classes? What if I wasn't up to snuff academically?" Jarrell asked herself.

But she took the first step, visited campus, and met with an admissions counselor.

"In my mind, my education was a bother... I didn't go about my education the right way, so I felt I didn't deserve it as much as traditional college students," Jarrell wrote.

But the admissions counselor was extremely supportive. When Jarrell apprehensively mumbled that one day she'd like to be a midwife, the counselor encouraged her to pursue the Registered Nurse program at RCC.

Jarrell met with an academic advisor and enrolled in classes, on her way to an Associate in Arts degree. She plans to transfer to a four-year university in the UNC system.

"...All my interactions with faculty and staff at RCC have encouraged me; they see me as worthy of a first-rate, enjoyable education," Jarrell wrote. "Maybe without realizing it, they set me on a path toward a completely different future. They equipped me with a top-notch education and boldly urged me to test it out at higher levels. They never once scoffed at my dreams – they were ready to help make them happen."

Jarrell plans to finish her degree in anthropology, join the Foreign Service, and eventually enter politics.

"No matter how it plays out, I'll owe it to a school that refused to let me believe that anything should disqualify me from receiving a quality education and pursuing my goals," she wrote.

Elon resident and Business Administration student Deborah Petty won the \$350 second-place prize. The first-generation college student wrote that she chose RCC for the county's hometown feel, and that "starting local will go a long way." With her degree, Petty plans to run the business portion of her family's chicken breeder farm and her husband's future automotive garage — and still be a stay-at-home mother.

Reidsville resident Jasmine Johnson, an Early Childhood Education student, won the \$250 third-place prize. She wrote, "I truly love being an RCC student. It has been a positive impact in my life and definitely a good change for me... RCC meets each student where they are and helps push students to their highest potential."



HEALTH SCIENCES

STUDENTS GET FOUNDATION BOOST



Kayla Soyars is just one of 76 Health Sciences students who received \$200 from the RCC Foundation to help pay for licensing exams. Soyars received her Surgical Technology diploma in July 2020.

Students in the Health Sciences programs at Rockingham Community College are unlike students in many of the other programs.

"They're not your typical 19-year-olds or just out of high school. They are 30-year-old students coming back to school, working, and raising families. Life is happening to them, big time," said Vickie Chitwood, associate professor and dean of Health Sciences and Public Service Technologies.

"And the last semester of their program is the hardest, with so many costs," she said. Not only must they cover tuition, but also board exams that cost \$190 to \$400, and licensing exams, which are \$300. "We urge them to take their exams as soon as possible, while the information is fresh. Many wait to take the tests because of the money," she added.

Across campus from the Owens Health Sciences building, Sheila Regan, vice president for Academic Affairs, was working with deans and college administrators and having discussions with peers and the N.C. Community College System, trying to find ways to keep students from slipping through the college's fingers as COVID-19 restricted them from campus and pushed them into online classrooms.

For Health Sciences students, face-to-face instruction continued five days a week. Their 12-hour clinical days, however, shifted online.

"The final semester is hard enough, but then when COVID-19 happened, a lot of them lost their jobs. They were struggling," Chitwood said of the Health Sciences students. One Surgical Technology student dropped out as she waited on her unemployment check to pay tuition. Others suddenly had to figure out how to accommodate their children being schooled at home.

Regan and Chitwood approached the RCC Foundation with an idea. While the Foundation awards an enormous amount of scholarships to students each year, it also funds grants for various programs across campus. Regan had realized that not all of the grant money for 2019-20 academic year had been used, and asked the Foundation if it could be switched over to help Health Sciences students to pay for their board and licensing exams.

"Vickie and Sheila came to me and said 76 students had been displaced, and asked if there was anything the Foundation could do to help pay for their licensure exams," said RCC Foundation Executive Director Kim Pryor. The Foundation awarded \$200 to each student.

According to Interim Nursing Program Director Anita Manning, this semester was the first time every single Nursing student signed up to take their tests immediately, Chitwood said. Four students took the Nursing exam and four took the Respiratory Therapy exam, all passing on their first try, within 10 days of graduating.

Many Health Sciences students expressed their gratitude for the unexpected financial boost.

"I wanted to take a moment to send a heartfelt 'thank you.' When starting this semester, I can say I never thought this is the way it would close. Although different, it has allowed some time to reflect to see how grateful we should be," said Nursing graduate Dawn Corum of Reidsville. "Sometimes it is the things such as having the ability to sit in class and see your classmates and sometimes it comes in blessings called grants. Thank you all from the bottom my heart in helping get one step closer."

Nursing graduate Tiffany S. Easter of Ruffin, said, "This will go a long way in helping me to achieve my dream. Things have not been ideal this semester but I will be forever grateful for the support that I have received from RCC on this journey. Thank you again."

Eden Respiratory Therapy graduate Tiffany Kingston also said she is honored to receive the grant and was thankful for the generous award.

And Chitwood can surely imagine the impact of the grant for each of the students.

"I was a healthcare worker who returned to school when I was 30, and I struggled... oh, I struggled. So I know where they've been, where they are now," she said. "Every Nursing, Respiratory Therapy and Surg Tech faculty and staff member is so grateful, so thankful to the Foundation for allowing this to happen, and to Sheila Regan for making it happen."

2019-2020 GRANT AWARDS

Faculty and staff apply each year for RCC Foundation grants.

The Campus Advisory Committee and College President review and prioritize proposals and make recommendations to the RCC Foundation Appropriations Committee for approval.

In 2019-2020, 18 grants were awarded at \$160,000.

Academic Resource Center (ARC) \$15,000

Peer tutors provide academic assistance for students having difficulties in math, English, writing, general biology, anatomy and physiology, chemistry, and business technologies. They work assigned hours to help students on whatever need or weakness has been identified by the student or instructor and to monitor open lab hours. Occasionally, peer tutors may assist in transition math or English courses. The expected outcome is that more students will master the skill for which they sought tutoring and will be successful in their courses. (Don't miss peer tutor Chase Coggins' story on page 26.)

Workforce Development Scholarships \$10,000

Workforce Development (WFD) courses and programs are considered non-credit and not eligible for federal Pell grant or other federal scholarships. There are local jobs that do not require an academic degree, but many require an industry-recognized credential for entry-level employment. Many students do not have the time nor resources to pursue a degree. WFD scholarships provide students an opportunity to earn a credential that leads to employment. Eligible programs must consist of 96+ contact hours that lead to an industry-recognized credential or certification, such as Nurse Aide, EKG Technician, Phlebotomy, Central Sterile Processing, A+ Certification, Network+, Security+, and Welding. Funding is focused on tuition and fees, but can be used for certification/licensure testing if funds are available.



Partial Support of Intercollegiate Athletics at RCC \$25,000

In 2019-2020, RCC observed 21 years of intercollegiate athletics as a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association. NJCAA is the national governing body for two-year athletics programs. RCC competes in two sports in NJCAA Region 10: women's volleyball and men's baseball. RCC is a Division III college, which means that no scholarships are offered or provided for a student to play on an athletic team. The ultimate goal of this funding is for the operation of the athletics program to accommodate student-athletes in a high-quality program. Our two athletic teams typically have 50 to 60 students-athletes, and this is significant in terms of enrollment for the college. The two teams may occasionally engage in fund-raising to support team efforts, but this does not occur with regularity, and is, therefore, not normally anticipated as a funding source. State funds cannot be used to support athletic programs. (See Athletics on page 24 and the back cover.)

Business Technologies Department Industry-Recognized Credential Fees

\$7,000

Accounting and Finance, **Business** Administration, Information Technology, Medical Office Administration curriculum programs are all part of the Technologies Business Department, which is also building and expanding our Continuing Education offerings in these subjects. There are various industryrecognized credentials that are in demand for which students now have access and financial support to obtain. Examples of industry-recognized credentials for which students are prepared include:

- · CompTIA A+
- · CompTIA Network+
- · CompTIA Security+
- CompTIA Cybersecurity (CySA+)
- American Health Information Management (AHIMA) Certified Coding Association (CCA)
- American Medical Billing Association (AMBA) Certified Medical Reimbursement Specialist (CMRS()
- Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS)

The Business Technologies Department requires students to sit for their credential exam in RCC's Testing Center to ensure students are using the scholarship specifically for the credential fees. (See related story, page 9.)

RCC Foundation Student Aid Grants

\$12,000

RCC Foundation Grants are vital to students who do not demonstrate enough financial need as determined by the U.S. Department of Education to be eligible for federal and/or state need based financial aid grant assistance. The RCC Foundation Grants are awarded students who have unmet costs based upon reported family income; however, measured financial strength of the income is not enough to

cover educational expenses. This grant supplements the cost of tuition and fees which will allow students to attend RCC instead of choosing another school that may offer financial assistance alternatives.

Workforce Development Training \$10.000

Recently, the N.C. Community College System has been highlighting the value of third-party workforce credentials such as those granted by the American Welding Society (AWS), Manufacturing Standards Council (MSSC), and the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCCER). RCC is striving to offer more short-term training programs designed to prepare students to successfully apply for such credentials. Examples include Continuing Education (occupational extension) classes in welding, plumbing, construction and electrical. These funds help support students' tuition and supplies for a variety of OE classes which have the potential to lead to third-party certifications in the future. Funding can include certification/ licensure testing costs if funds are available.

Third-Party Industry Credentials (Welding)

\$1,500

The N.C. Community College System has been underscoring the value of third-party workforce credentials such as those granted by the American Welding Society (AWS). RCC has grown its continuing education training in welding over the past several years. Since Summer 2017, there have been 59 students in continuing education welding classes, some progressing up a level each semester. Many students have reached a skill level where they could successfully apply for one more third-party welding certification from AWS. Often, the cost to apply for a certification can be cost-prohibitive for students. This is especially true of continuing education (OE) classes since they are not eligible for federal financial aid. This funding provides an incentive to sit for the third-party

credential exam in welding.

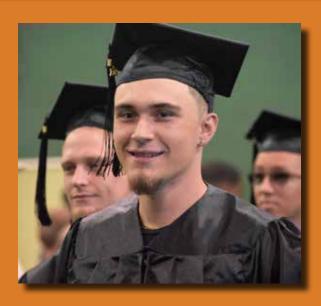
Excellence in Teaching Award and Excellence in Staff Service Award \$5.000

The grant funds for this project provides a monetary award of \$1,000 to a full-time faculty member, \$500 to a part-time faculty member recognized for Excellence in Teaching Award; and \$1,000 to a full-time staff and \$500 to a part-time staff recognized for Excellence in Staff Service Award. In addition, these funds would also provide \$2,000 to the full-time faculty member that is awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award, in order to attend a national conference of their choice. Recipients are announced at the College's annual service recognition event. (See related stories, pages 36-37.)

CCP Scholarships and Career Coach Support

\$15,000

Career and College Promise (CCP) is a dual-enrollment program for high school students. Whereas this program is tuition free, students are responsible for student fees and for textbooks and supplies. The cost of textbooks or access codes can cost a student anywhere from \$40 to several hundred dollars. In the 2019-20 academic year, there was financial assistance for books/access codes for Rockingham County School students only, generously given by the Reidsville Area Foundation. However, this leaves our charter, private and home school students without any aid. There are also mandatory safety supplies not covered by the RAF grant, even for RCS students. The Career Coach program is also vital to the growth of not only CCP enrollment, but RCC's first-time freshmen enrollment as well. These coaches are in every public high school each week, as Bethany Community School regularly and private as needed, being a first face for RCC. (See related stories on pages 12, 14 and 15.)



High School Equivalency Testing Vouchers \$5,600

Testing vouchers are provided for 75 students enrolled in the College and Career Readiness Program at RCC from one of the two testing platforms: GED or HiSET. The CCR budget regulations specifically prohibits the use of state or federal funds for testing vouchers. Testing voucher price varies between testing platforms and between computer-based testing and paper-based testing. Students choose which test to take depending on their level in testing. (See related story on page 18-19.)



NC FAST: Income Maintenance Caseworker

\$5,000

The program is a partnership between the Department of Health and Human Services and N.C. community colleges and was created to address staff shortages in Income Maintenance Caseworker positions within DSS agencies statewide by providing training on DSS's NC FAST software. The program involves two phases: (1) "Human Services Exploration: DSS's Caseworker" focuses on employability skills training and exploration of the position. Students are required to earn the National Career Readiness Certification (NCRC). (2) "Income Maintenance Caseworker - NC FAST" covers a variety of skills associated with the Income Caseworker role to determine service eligibility for government assistance. Skills gained during this phase include proficiency in the utilization of the NC FAST application. Individuals that successfully complete both phases will receive preference when applying for any Income Maintenance Caseworker position with any DSS office in North Carolina. These funds will cover 20 scholarships up to \$250 each.

RCC Wellness Committee \$5,000

This grant helps promote good health for RCC employees by providing individual and group wellness activities, as well as incentives, to motivate more individuals to follow the wellness program. Such pursuits include continued offerings of activities that have been well received in the past, identified via activity evaluation forms (i.e. yoga, self-defense, Zumba, Pilates, massages, circuit training, weight-lifting, dancing, and fitness walking; new activities of interest (i.e. aromatherapy, Tai Chi, pickleball, POUND, seminars on healthy eating, exercising and smoking cessation); and continued events and competitive contests.

RCC Work Study Program \$15,000

The RCC Work Study program offers students with significant financial need and the opportunity to work on campus for additional financial support. This program provides invaluable assistance to many areas across RCC's campus and the community, while giving students a chance to gain experience working in a professional setting. RCC Foundation Grant dollars typically allow for the Work Study Program to continue into the summer semester when other sources of funding have been expended. As a result, Work Study students are often able to enroll in the summer semesters which positively impact their ability to graduate on time. In addition, areas such as Student Development are able to benefit from Work Study employees during the busiest time of the academic year.

Learning Upgrade \$3.000

College and Career Readiness (Basic Skills) was able to purchase an online program called Learning Upgrade, by New Readers Press. The department piloted it for a 60-day free trial. It has proven to help our high school equivalency students. The program has proven successful in improving students' skills in reading and math which will help them progress and earn the high school equivalency. The grant covers 100 seats at \$30 per seat.

Summer Camps at RCC \$2,800

Summer camps are designed to provide enrichment opportunities for students ages 7 to 17 on the campus of RCC. Class offerings include a wide range of topics such as Healthy Cooking, Pottery, and Maker Space. We strive to provide leaning opportunities that are fun, diverse, and support the programs we offer at the college for adult learners.



Employee Relations \$13,300

Throughout the year, the College hosts various groups in an effort to keep them informed of college business. These can include county commissioners, civic groups, public school personnel, business and industry groups, among others. The College is prohibited from using state funds for these functions.

RCC Employee Tuition Reimbursement

\$5,000

RCC is committed to hiring qualified employees. To be qualified without justification occasionally requires completion of discipline specific coursework, or additional degrees or certifications. Acquiring the required credential is expensive and serves as a barrier to employee retention. The tuition reimbursement incentive assists RCC in "growing our own" qualified faculty and staff resulting in retention and satisfaction and ultimately positive student outcomes. Awards are based on the current average rate for UNC System in-state tuition for the appropriate course or credential. Official transcripts are required to show satisfactory course completion before any reimbursement is awarded.

Career Readiness Certification Preparation and Testing

\$4,800

The Human Resources Development (HRD) program assists unemployed and underemployed job seekers of Rockingham County by offering classes and workshops that help individuals gain the skills needed to start careers. This program leads to testing for a National Career Readiness Certification which shows prospective employers that an applicant has the necessary literacy, numeracy, and problemsolving skills to be job ready. The funds help pay for the testing fees and software for the testing in order to continue offering the certification test through RCC. The certification has been identified as a priority in the College's strategic plan and with advisory boards, business and industry, and county commissioners.



CELEBRATING WHITCOMB

The Harold W. Whitcomb Student Center, which underwent a \$1.4 million renovation, was unveiled at a ceremony in September 2019. The RCC Foundation provided a generous \$750,000 toward the project, N.C. Connect Bonds funded \$650,000, and the Kenneth Hanes Estate paid for updated furnishings.

"I can tell you that this college is fortunate to have a Foundation that contributes significantly to the College," said RCC President Dr. Mark Kinlaw.

Bryson Goins, SGA president and student trustee on RCC's Board of Trustees, praised the Foundation's generosity. "On behalf of the student body, I express thanks to those involved in the design process of what turned out to be an amazing area for students to interact and socialize with one another," he said.

RCC Vice President for Student Development Dr. Bob Lowdermilk, whose office is housed in Whitcomb, said the Bookstore renovation is excellent, and the Welcome Desk "stands out as a place for folks who come in to begin their journey." The facility's new look boasts contemporary furniture and decor in fresh, bold colors, the brainchild of Raleigh-based Boomerang Design.

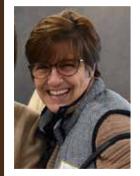






COUNTYWIDE COFFEE

The RCC Foundation hosted its popular annual Coffee event on Jan. 8, 2020, bringing Chamber of Commerce members from Eden, Reidsville and Western Rockingham together on campus to share news, ideas and energy.









THE DONOR HONOR ROLL

The Rockingham Community College Foundation Board, the College Board of Trustees, students, faculty, and staff acknowledge the generous donations of alumni, friends, foundations, organizations, churches, business, and estates. Without you, RCC would not flourish. Listed are names of the donors during the RCC Annual Giving Campaign July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020.

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Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Williams

Mr. Bobby and Mrs. Judy Williams

Mrs. Terrica Williams

Ms Kendra Wise

Ms. Deborah Wodhanil Ms Patricia S Wood

Mr. Steve Woodruff Ms. Leslie L. Wyatt

BUSINESSES/CORPORATIONS

Lowery Dental Laboratory, Inc.

CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

Network for Good Windsor Point Residents Association

