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This year was my fifth as president of the incredible institution that is Nash Community College. Leading TEAM NASH, the 420+ people who work here, fills me with pride and continues to be my good fortune and the is the largest honor of my life.

Nash Community College continues to weather the post-pandemic world very well, thanks to the dedication of the Board of Trustees, Faculty, Staff, and, as importantly, our students. We continue to rebound strongly and will continue to be the rock of Eastern North Carolina for decades to come

We take immense pride in our impact on Nash County. During the 2023-2024 academic year the college served 20,717 students in our five areas of study: Continuing Education, Career and Technical Education, University Transfer, Special Enrollment (students attending other colleges and universities but come to us for a class or two) and Adult Basic Education. Beyond the impact on students, the college has a very large annual economic impact on Nash County. This impact is \$86,000,000 (\$22,000,000 million direct, and \$64,000,000 million attributed to the college being here since 1967). This value represents a 30 to 1 return on funding investment for Nash County, and a 3 to 1 return on funding for the state of North Carolina. While numbers like those above are impressive, the most impressive to me is that 1 out of every 38 jobs in our county has been touched by the college. Taken together, Nash Community College has a truly significant impact on many levels, not only on Nash County, but on the entire region surrounding the county.

To sum up the 2023-2024 academic year I continue to use one word...RESILIENCY! Our faculty, staff, and students have demonstrated, and continue to demonstrate, true and incredible resiliency. All have overcome so many obstacles since the onset of the pandemic in 2020 and have done so with incredible strength of spirit and grace. I remain so very proud to be the leader of this awesome...no...incredibly awesome...team: TEAM NASH!

We all look forward to the next academic year, and the many that come after it. We want everyone who reads this annual report to know that we are here to assist you at any time! We literally have something for everyone! We are Nash County's Community College, and as we are fond of saying at Nash Community College...Nighthawks Forward!!

Best Regards,

Lew K. Hunnicutt, Ph.D. Nash Community College President

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Dear Nash Community College Community,

As the Chair of the Board of Trustees, I am delighted to reflect on the 2023-24 academic year and share a warm thanks to all the students, faculty, and staff for their dedication and enthusiasm to make Nash Community College what it is. NCC is the cornerstone of our vibrant and thriving community.

To our Students: Whether you are just beginning your educational journey or continuing toward your goals, we are here to support you every step of the way. Our commitment to providing a high-quality, affordable education remains steadfast. We hope that you were able to take advantage of the numerous resources available to you, from academic advising to extracurricular activities, all designed to enrich your college experience, and we encourage you to continue to lean on these experts as your academic journey continues with us.

To our Faculty and Staff: Thank you for your unwavering dedication and hard work. Your expertise and passion for teaching and supporting our students are what make Nash Community College an exceptional place to learn and grow. We are grateful for your contributions and overjoyed for the successful year of collaboration and achievement.

As we embark on another academic year, let us continue to work together to make Nash Community College a place of inspiration, innovation, and success. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome, as they help us grow and improve as a community.

Thank you for being a part of the Nash Community College family. Best wishes for a productive and fulfilling year ahead.

Warm regards,

James Mercer 2023-2024 Chair - NCC Board of Trustees

#### 2023-2024 Board of Trustees



Vice Chair

**Rocky Mount** 



RUSSELL L. PROCTOR, III NATALIE A. BROOKS Nashville



SAMUEL DICKENS, III **Rocky Mount** 



**Rocky Mount** 





**Rocky Mount** 

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**Rocky Mount** 

**JAMES T. MARTIN Rocky Mount** 



**J. WAYNE OUTLAW Rocky Mount** 



**DAMIAN L. TUCKER** Dortches



#### **Senior** Leadership **Team**



LEVY BROWN, Ed.D. Vice President, Student Access and Success



**ADRIENNE COVINGTON** Vice President, Finance **Chief Financial Officer** 



AMY HARRELL, Ed.D. Vice President, Instruction Chief Academic Officer



KEN LEWIS, Ph.D. Vice President, Institutional Techology Chief Information Technology Officer



**WENDY MARLOWE** Vice President, Continuing Education and Economic/ Workforce Development

#### Continuing Education | 6,594 Students

- Occupational
- **Criminal Justice**
- 43% 27%

8%

6%

- Basic Skills
- Fire & Rescue Servces 6% Health Occupations 4%

6%

6%

5%

- **Human Resources Development**
- **Emergency Management**

#### Curriculum Programs | 3,667 Students

- Career & College Promise
- **University Transfer**
- **Allied Health Business**

27% Public Services 25%

17%

12%

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**xpenses** 

- Applied Engineering
- Fire & Emergency Services 5%
- Electric Line Construction 3%

#### **Student Geographic Origin**

- Nash **59%**
- Edgecombe 10%
- Wilson 6%
- Other 25%



10,261

**Total Enrollment** 



\$32,749,930	State Appropriation	\$16,711,579
	Federal Funds	\$9,953,648
	Tuition & Fees	\$2,440,771
	County Appropriation	\$2,868,573
	Gifts and Grants	\$2,289,478
	Sales & Services	\$1,407,047
5	• Other	\$78,835



	Instruction	\$11,637,498
	Academic Support	\$1,479,622
	Students Services	\$1,606,324
	Instituitional Support	\$3,641,462
78	• Operation & Maintenance	\$2,729,669
\$27,936,978	Student Financial Aid	\$2,964,671
99	Auxiliary Enterprises	\$2,303,257
5	Depreciation	\$1,563,724
S	• Other	\$10,750

This report reflects an unduplicated count of 2023-2024 enrollment totals.

Soaring to

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"NCC's PTA program prepared me expeditiously for a career in Physical Therapy through the dedication and commitment of the faculty and staff to the PTA Students. They provided me with up-to-date knowledge, research advancements, and resources, as well as ample opportunities to serve the Nash County community."

Brianna Taylor Physical Therapy Assistant Graduated in 2024

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## NCC Ranked Among Best in the U.S.

In its annual assessment, Intelligent.com, a trusted resource for higher education program rankings and planning, has honored Nash Community College with the Best Community Colleges in North Carolina for 2024.

Intelligent.com's institutional rankings, which are set apart from other conventional ratings, are deemed the benchmark of academic evaluations for online and hybrid programs. An exclusive methodology is used to rank each institution on a scale from 0 to 100 across six categories. Evaluations are based on quantitative measures such as academic quality, graduation rate, cost and ROI, and student resources. With top picks that are highly regarded, affordable, and offer the tools and resources students need to successfully graduate and excel in their fields.





#### Cheska Pringle



#### Natasha Neal



Deyanna Geathers



Robin Latham

#### Staff Award

"In the spirit of Blue Love, Cheska is vital to the NCC's loving and inclusive culture. Cheska has played a pivotal role in following the college's mission positively, ensuring alignment with the values of inclusivity and accessibility."

#### Excellence in Teaching Award

"Natasha is gifted both as an artist and an instructor, and she has excelled at using her talents to help her students hone their own artistic abilities. Anyone who has seen the work created by the Advertising and Graphic Design students knows that they have been carefully and diligently taught."

#### Academic Excellence Award

"Deyanna is a shining example of how determination and passion drive excellence.""Everyone in the cosmetology department has been honored to watch her grow and we are so proud of her. She is a future industry leader, and we look forward to seeing what successes await her."

#### Outstanding Alumni Award

"The beauty of Latham's nomination is that she has not only given her life to being a public servant for the college, but she has also been a servant to her community, as well."

Wanda Tyson SkillsUSA Advisor of the Year

Nash Community College is proud to continue to be a participating member in the SkillsUSA State and National competitions. The college is even more proud to recognize Wanda Tyson, Department Chair for Applied Engineering Technologies, for being named the 2024 North Carolina State Advisor of the Year.

"I am so proud of our entire 700+ students who are members of our SkillsUSA Chapter. It was great to have 40 of them compete at the state competition and set new records for NCC," said Dr. Lew K. Hunnicutt, President of NCC. "The cherry on top was when Tyson was named Advisor of the Year! I do not know anyone more passionate about SkillsUSA than her. She is the glue that holds our Chapter together. She mothers us all through the process...and we all need that!"

The award was announced at the opening ceremony on April 23 (NCC SkillsUSA Chapter attended and competed at the SkillsUSA North Carolina State Conference on April 23-25). Tyson expressed her shock.

"I was so surprised! I had no idea, and it left me speechless. It is truly an honor to receive this award," said Tyson.

She shared that it takes a village.

"I know that without the support from everyone at Nash Community College, this wouldn't have happened!" Tyson expressed. "All the chapter advisors, NCC SkillsUSA Chapter Officers, students, administration, maintenance, Linda Snell and group, NCC PR, the print shop and many more. I have so much help!"

Alex Barnhill, former Dean of Curriculum Career and Technical Education, often works with Tyson as he oversees the Applied Engineering Technologies Department. He shares some words regarding her work ethic and qualities that allowed her to win this award.

"She is the embodiment of unwavering dedication to students and student success," said Barnhill. "Tyson understands the importance that SkillsUSA plays in developing the whole student and ensures they understand the value of implementing the tenets of the



organization's framework into the classroom and everyday life, along with developing the technical skills to succeed even beyond the college experience. Her approach to the role of advisor mirrors who she is as a person, someone who has the ability to see the potential in every student; she is able to provide students with the support, advice, and most importantly, the care needed to support their growth and success."

Tyson has spent over 14 years at NCC in Computer Engineering Technologies. She has been an instructor of Computer Engineering Technology for almost 15 years (five years as an adjunct instructor). In 2022, she was named Director of the Applied Engineering Technologies program, and in November 2023, she was promoted to Department Chair for Applied Engineering Technologies. During her time at NCC, she received the Master Instructor of Higher Education designation and received the 2020 J. Edgar and Peggie T. Moore Excellence in Teaching Award.

## College Racks Up State Awards

NCC attended the SkillsUSA State Conference with over 3,500 members of the conference. The college competed, placed in 21 competitions and took home 25 medals (breaking the record for most medals earned). This includes one student that received two gold medals, a first in NCC history. Forty students participated (double the number of participants in 2023) from the NCC SkillsUSA Chapter from 10 programs of study with 15 advisors present.

For the fifth year in a row, NCC received the highest SkillsUSA state honor: Gold Chapter of Distinction and a 100 percent participation award.

NCC won nine gold medals (most gold medals earned by NCC and these students will attend the SkillsUSA National Conference in June), seven silver medals, and two bronze medals at the state conference. Seven other competitors also placed in the top five of their competitions.

#### **Gold Medals:**

CNC 3-Axis Milling: Troy Chappell Technical Computer Applications: Mitchell Jones Robotics and Automation Technology: Team A – Drindzle Hall & William Medford Beginner Cosmetology (CCP): Fallon Curtis Beginner Cosmetology: Caprice Jones Cosmetology: Lindsey Judd Skills Showcase – Cosmetology: Adrienne Williamson Job Skill Demonstration – A: Adrienne Williamson

#### **Sliver Medals:**

CNC 2-Axis Turning: Jennifer Caspern Electronics Technology: Josiah Carpenter Job Interview: Rhiannon Bowen Medical Assisting: Taylor West Adobe Visual Design: Autumn Biggers Digital cinema Production: Team D – Arthel Hayes & Jacob Smith

#### **Bronze Medals:**

CNC Programmer: Deven Scoggins Beginner Cosmetology: Melody Maryland







# Amber Greer Receives MCSMA Award

Nash Community College is proud to announce that its very own, Amber Greer, received the prominent Mary S. Grubb Award presented by the North Carolina Society of Medical Assistants (NCSMA).

"We are extremely proud of her and this substantial accomplishment in her professional and personal life," said Dr. Lew K. Hunnicutt, President of NCC. "This honor doesn't surprise me because she has extended this work-ethic into our SkillsUSA Framework that is built throughout our curriculum instruction."

Greer currently serves as the Director of Medical Assisting, Practicum Coordinator and Professor for the program. She has been a member of the NCC faculty since 2012 and previously served in a medical assistant role at the East Carolina Heart Institute at ECU.

This award is the highest level of excellence of a medical assistant professional.

The award was named in honor of one of the first vice presidents in NCSMA, who passed away from cancer before taking office as president. Last awarded in 2015, it is only given to members who have made outstanding contributions to NCSMA.

Her nominator, a member of the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA), Rebecca Walker, CMA, noted the following regarding Greer's work-ethic, innovativeness and leadership:

"Amber is the ideal choice as a recipient of NCSMA's Mary S. Grubb Award. When she first became active in the organization, she took on the challenge of reviving her local chapter, the Pitt County Chapter which was inactive due to lack of leadership. She reorganized and invigorated the chapter. She remains steadfast and continues to work to make the chapter more participatory both on the local and state levels. She has served as its President for many years and was the chair of the NCSMA Winter Seminar hosted by the chapter in 2022. Often, she is the lone representative of the chapter to NCSMA Board of Directors meetings or to the House of Delegates, but she continues in that role to ensure the chapter is represented and that they have a voice in the business of NCSMA."

Amber is a leader, who is organized, responsible, fair and able to make well thought out decisions. She also has the vision to see what can be, realistic enough to understand what is possible and the ability to somehow make it happen



anyway. She is committed to all levels of AAMA and has demonstrated her commitment by working diligently to promote the medical assisting profession by furthering the aims of NCSMA and AAMA. Amber expects no award for her service, but she is eager to nominate and support others for awards. This is the mark of recognizing others rather than awarding herself. She is a great example of someone who deserves to be a recipient of the Mary S. Grubb Award.

Greer has served in various capacities throughout both the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) and North Carolina Society of Medical Assistants (NCSMA). These include currently serving as the National Chair of the Continuing Education Board of AAMA and Website Committee Chair in the NCSMA. Her former roles include National Vice Chair of the Continuing Education Board and Leaders in Education and Practice (LEAP) Task Force Member for the AAMA and Immediate Past President, Nominating Committee Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian for the NCSMA.

She earned a Bachelor of Science focused in Business Administration from Mount Olive College and an Associate Degree of Applied Science from Pitt Community College focused in Medical Assisting. Greer is a certified Phlebotomist (American Society for Clinical Pathology), Certified Medical Assistant (American Association of Medical Assistants), certified Level one and Level two Online Instructor (North Carolina Community College System), Master Instructor for Higher Education Certification from NCC and a member of the Delta Mu Delta International Business Honor Society, N.C. Association of Medical Assisting Educators, N.C. Society of Medical Assistants and American Association of Medical Assistants.

"My time in the machining program at Nash CC has been one of the most enjoyable experiences in my life. I have learned so many things and cannot wait to learn many more."

Thad Gatza Computer-Integrated Machining Graduating in 2025



## New Driver Training Center



Nash Community College held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Driver Training Center on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

Various community members attended the ceremony, including NCC Board of Trustee members, NCC Staff and Faculty.

This center will be used for all programs that require a Commercial Drivers License (CDL).

"This new facility will allow us to provide a space for all of our programs that require CDLs," said Dr. Lew K. Hunnicutt, President of NCC. "Many of our programs like Basic Law Enforcement Training, Fire Services, Emergency Services, Electric Line Construction, Commercial Driving courses require Class A CDL to complete their certifications."

The new center will sit adjacent to the campus on over 14 acres the college received from Nash County.

"A few years ago, Nash County acquired 23 acres of land adjacent to the campus," said Dr. Hunnicutt. "The Nash County Board of Commissioners used 5 acres to develop the Pet Connections Adoption Center, which is the same color brick as our school colors, and then they deeded us 14 acres to the college to develop this impactful addition to our facilities."

The estimated completion is mid-summer and will be over \$2.6 million funded from the State and Capital Infrastructure Fund. The center will include storage, restrooms and office space for faculty and staff.

"This has been a long road," Dr. Hunnicutt expressed. "For some time, we have been utilizing locations around Nash County to fill the need for a space to have our CDL and other programs practice their driving requirements. We would secure vacated buildings and have them approved, then go through that building being purchased and us having to move and find another location. This removes the need and will allow us to become a regional hub for first responder driving training."

Nash Community College will remain a leader and primary educational partner in elevating the region's economic prosperity and educational attainment.

"We are excited about this for many reasons, but one of the most important is that this allows us to build upon our goal to serve as Nash County's Comprehensive Community College," said Dr. Hunnicutt. "We are a standard for economic and workforce development, and we will take every opportunity to continue to provide the best quality of education and training for Nash County residents and industries."

Dr. Hunnicutt, Nash County Commissioners' Chairman Robbie Davis, NCC Board of Trustees Chairman James Mercer and NCC Vice President of Continuing Education and Economic/ Workforce Development Wendy Marlowe all provided comments during the ceremony.

Chairman Robbie Davis expressed the continued need for community colleges and how important they are to the region's workforce development.

"The college is committed to providing quality educational and customized training for the county, and we are proud to have such a strong partnership with both them and the public school system," said Davis. "We often meet with the team here, in addition to Susan Phelps (Nash County Economic Development Manager), who spends a lot of time filling the gaps and putting together offerings that fit the needs of what businesses and industries need."

James Mercer currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for NCC and is a longtime member of the NCC family.

"I have spent a long time engaged in this community college, from being a student to now serving as the Chairman of the Board; it has been a full circle moment," said Mercer. "I am proud of all we have been able to accomplish, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, our president, and the students, we are thankful to Nash County and the commissioners for their continued support and for deeding us this land to become a regional hub for first responder driving training." Oakley Collier Architects completed the architectural design of the new Driver Training Center, and Calvin Davenport, Inc. is handling the center's construction.

"We are proud to have such a strong partnership with both Oakley Collier Architects and Calvin Davenport, Inc.," said Paul Jaber, NCC Board of Trustee member. "They have completed various projects for us at NCC, and we are grateful to have foundational community partners."





Chester H. Brantley recently established the Chester H. and Eliza Ann Brantley Endowment for Basic Law Enforcement Training and Emergency Dispatch.

The endowment will cover the cost of textbooks and uniforms for cadets who enter the academy.

"Essentially, this will make our cadets' training at NCC free," said Tim Mehus, Director of Basic Law Enforcement Training at NCC. "Potential cadets come to us in three different ways: they are either sponsored by a Law Enforcement Agency, already hired with an agency and are being sent to us to be trained, or they come to us as walk-ins. Our policy requires some sponsorship, which covers their tuition."



Before this endowment, cadets were still responsible for covering the cost of their own books and uniforms.

"This is a game changer and thoughtful gift from Mr. Brantly and his family," said Pam Ballew, former Vice President of Advancement at NCC. "The Brantley family has a commitment to the emergency services profession that is admirable."

This endowment will also cover the costs associated with the training in the Emergency Dispatch program.

"Our dispatch program is a well-versed career choice, and we have students that range from 18 to 50 years old and are thankful to have partnerships with local and neighboring emergency management services," said Olivia Moss, Department Chair of Emergency Management Services at NCC.

NCC is proud to provide an educational opportunity that meets the needs of students who want to take themselves to the next level academically and professionally.

"Endowments like this allow us to continue to be competitive in the quality of education we provide for every student that steps on this campus," said Ballew. "We are working towards a world where we can remove as many barriers as possible with the available resources."

## College Receives SECU Career Award

Nash Community College was selected to participate in the 2023-2024 SECU (State Employees Credit Union) Bridge to Career Program to support Continuing Education student scholarships.

NCC first participated during the 2022-2023 term. The program will operate during the period of July 1, 2023, to Aug. 31, 2024.

SECU awarded \$18,000 to fund over 30 scholarships and administrative expenses. "The SECU Foundation Bridge to Career program supports North Carolina Community College System students seeking to obtain state-regulated or industry-recognized credentials through the Workforce Continuing Education Division that lead to sustainable wage careers within their local communities," said SECU Nashville, NC Branch Manager, Susan Stephens.

This award provides 30 scholarships, each in the amount of \$500, to assist students in continuing their studies and



making a difference in a life-changing career.

"We do some great work here at NCC, and this award will allow us to continue to support all of the great individuals that participate in our programs and give back to our community," said Carla Dunston, Dean of Continuing Education at NCC.

## **College Receives** Fire Truck Donation



Things just got a little more exciting for Nash Community College Fire Academy cadets and instructors. On Jan. 18, Momeyer Fire & Rescue donated a Fire Truck to the academy.

Momeyer Fire & Rescue reached out to NCC Fire Services Director and retired firefighter, Joseph Parks to inform that they were looking to donate the truck and if NCC would be interested in the machine.

The apparatus is a 1979 Ford Continental Pumper/Tanker that can hold over 1000 gallons of water and can pump 1000 gallons per minute.

"The new equipment will be used for training and will be a valuable asset for our future fire academies," said Parks. "It will also be beneficial for our Driver/Operator Pump series classes, so in more than one area this donation is a needed addition."

Momeyer Fire & Rescue is located in Nashville and has served as a partner with NCC for some time. NCC partners with all the fire departments in Nash County.

"We truly treasure all of our agreements and partnerships with surrounding fire departments," said Parks. "These relationships allow us to use their equipment for training and certification classes. Now that we have our own machine, we have more versatility of the things we are able to do."

A hose, ladders and other equipment will be added to the truck.

"This allows us to provide that type of training on campus, where in the past we may have had to travel to complete," said Parks.

"Being in the Medical Assisting program at Nash Community College has given me the knowledge and skills needed for a career as a Certified Medical Assistant. In the program, I've had many opportunities to grow and learn, making my time in the program full of fun and challenging experiences."

Gabriela Medina Medical Assisting

## President Hunnicutt Throws First Pitch at NCC Mudcats Family Night

Presidents throwing out the ceremonial first pitch dates back to U.S. President William Howard Taft in 1910; well, this time, our President, Dr. Lew Hunicutt, joined the ranks of many before him. Dr. Hunnicutt, an avid participant in Tomahawk throwing as a hobby, had his baseball skills put to the test in front of the Carolina crowd on Friday (Aug 25) night.

Dressed in a personalized NCC Jersey...he approached the pitcher's mound, set his feet, launched the ball, and executed. "I practiced many afternoons as we got closer to the pitch. After the pitch is really when I started to have fun. The goal was no dirt ball."

Safe to say, he succeeded and set the tone, readying the Mudcats to conquer their adversary.

Dr. Hunnicutt's pitch was followed by a bird that just might be close competition for our NCC staple Newton and a little girl with a fastball that has indeed won her a host of ball games.

Along with Dr. Hunnicutt throwing out the first pitch, NCC Student Engagement provided a flurry of NCC-branded



Poms Poms for students, staff, and faculty in attendance. NCC Public Relations and Studio67 were able to capture various memorable moments showcasing Team NASH's spirit, like dancing, singing, and just having a good time.

And at the end, it was icing on the cake as the Carolina Mudcats lit up the sky with fireworks for its fans. Despite the Mudcat's defeat, the Nighthawk Family Night provided NCC members a relaxing experience to enjoy the Friday night and celebrate all the accomplishments for the year ahead.

## **College Partners with the Mexican Consulate**

Earlier this year, Nash Community College hosted the mobile Mexican Consulate to assist individuals of the Hispanic population with services needed for Mexican citizens living in the U.S.

The consulate officials were on campus for three days and provided services for over 300 people.

"In the last census, we saw demonstrated growth in Nash County's Hispanic population," said Carla Dunston, Dean of Continuing Education at NCC. "Bringing on Andrea Giddens as the inaugural Coordinator of Community Engagement and Latino Programs was a decision that didn't take a lot of contemplation."

This partnership was established through the help of Giddens. She recently joined the NCC team as someone with the passion and responsibility for being committed to serving the population of current and prospective students.

The agency is referred to as the Consulado Sobre Ruedas.

"This agency brings consular services closer to communities located far from the consulate office in its respective states. In North Carolina, the consular is in Raleigh," said Giddens.

The mobile Mexican Consulate can produce a Mexican Passport, Mexican Consular I.D., Mexican Birth Certificate and Voter Registration (Instituto Nacional Electoral – INE) documents for Mexican citizens.

"The amazing thing is that I spoke to a gentleman one morning who traveled from Atlanta and made it here before the consulate arrived to ensure he made his appointment," said Giddens. "The 300 attendees came from across four states: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia."



On Aug. 29, Nash Community College hosted Congressman Don Davis during a visit to Rocky Mount to discuss apprenticeships and needs from Washington, DC.

Born in Snow Hill, North Carolina, and working in the tobacco fields as a young man, he learned the value of hard work and education.

"My grandmother is the reason why I understand the value of education," said Rep. Davis. "What is truly influential is that I have gotten to experience what it is like to have little and now what it is like to be in a position where I can make real change and support the communities like I grew up in."

Rep. Davis has had an interesting path, and everything has come together. He has spent his life as a United States Air Force Veteran, educator, minister and public servant.

"Starting with eating food off of my grandmother's plate to serving this great country to serving as a member of the Agriculture Committee in the United States House of Representatives, I have made it to a place where I can have thoughtful conversations and policy that will ensure that everyone in America can eat without worry," said Rep. Davis.

He shared insights into North Carolina's growing station in the country.

"For the second time, we have been ranked as the number one state to do business," said Rep. Davis. "In addition to that, we are one of the fastest growing states in terms of population in the nation."

Rep. Davis believes that community colleges are the backbone of education in a community.

"Community colleges are the backbone of the educational and workforce development in local communities," said Rep. Davis. "Education fundamentally is a lifeline that changes the trajectory of everything we do."

He and his team are working with fellow congressmen/ women to support further crucial apprenticeship work nationwide, not just in North Carolina.

As he finished up, Rep. Davis opened the floor to representatives (Cummins, Boice-Willis, ApprenticeshipNC, Nash Community College, City of Rocky Mount) in the room to share with him what they are doing and what they need from those in Washington to support what they are doing.

"The ask is to spread the word," said Haarish Venkitachalam, Senior Director of Operations at Cummins – Rocky Mount. "From outside in, the trade world doesn't look appealing anymore, so we need help generating interest again."

Boice-Willis shared that it's crucial that both Rep. Davis and all other members in Washington to simply continue to be present.

Funding is how ApprenticeshipNC determines whether it will continue effectively accomplishing its goals.

"With this, we stay ahead of employment trends and, of course, enhance workforce development," said Dale Yarborough at ApprenticeshipNC.

Rep. Davis's framework is supported through necessary funding and, more specifically, grants.

"Grants and the importance of grants in coordination with how federal appropriations allow local and state communicates to employ, train, and education is vital in the big scheme of things when thinking about how we can do better," said Rep. Davis.





Phil Ford Comes to Town

UNC Tar Heels basketball legend Phil Ford will participate in the Nash Community College 34th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic. In addition to other arenas, Ford has given back to his home community in multiple ways, including his guest appearance in a tournament that benefits essential scholarship funding.

Former NCC Vice President of Advancement Pam Ballew, expressed her excitement for the visit. "We wanted to add something special to the Golf Classic this year, and we are over the moon that basketball star Phil Ford will join us as we raise much-needed funding to support our scholars at NCC."

Billed from Rocky Mount, North Carolina, and standing 6 foot, Ford played over 120 games during his college career as a UNC Tar Heel. He was dominant on the court, leading to a professional career in the National Basketball Association (NBA), the world's most prominent basketball sports league. As a Tar Heel, he was coached by the legendary Dean Smith, for which the primary home arena is named after. With over 2200 points scored; he played on multiple NCAA Atlantic Coast Conference Men's Basketball (ACC) tournament teams.

"When you think of UNC Tar Heel basketball, Phil Ford comes across that list of players to remember," shared Denise Beamer, Former NCC Coordinator of Donor and Alumni Relations. "We hope that both Rocky Mount and the tournament participants will remember this and share our innovative ideas to promote more participation in the tournament every year."

One of the highlights of his college career was his 1978 senior year. During this season, Ford averaged 20.8 points and 5.7 assists per game and scored a career-high 34 points in his final home game – a victory against Duke, which clinched another ACC first-place finish for the Tar Heels. His success garnered another consensus first-team All-American and recognition as the National Player of the Year when he won the USBWA, NABC, and Sporting News Player of the Year awards and the John R. Wooden Award. The latter represents the most outstanding men's and women's college basketball players.

Ford's contribution to the world spans far beyond stats. He was named one of the ACC's Top 10 Male Athletes in history and held the Carolina career scoring mark for 31 years. In 1976, he became an Olympic gold medal winner, in addition to names like Jesse Owens, Michael Phelps, and Michael Jordan. The list goes on; he has etched his name in the history books. Ford has given back to the game, spending 12 years (1988-2000) as a Tar Heel assistant coach, leading UNC to six Final Fours. His achievements culminated in his #12 jersey being retired and induction into the NABC College Basketball Hall of Fame in 2012.









## Advanced Manufacturing Build Blue Pinwheel for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness



NCC's Advanced Manufacturing department and students (Advanced Manufacturing Club & SkillsUSA) created the pinwheel to raise awareness for children who die every year at the hands of child abuse.

"I'm not sure this was anything that needed to be discussed. My wife, Shanna (Brannan), a Teacher Assistant at Coopers Elementary, shared the idea with me, and I jumped on the opportunity," said Jason Brannan, Instructor of Computer-Integrated Machining at NCC. "A fellow former Instructor, Jay Manning, and I discussed what all we needed and how it needed to be created, and off we went."

The pinwheel took one day to complete with materials donated by Edwards, Inc., and Moore's Bicycle Shop in Rocky Mount.

It was a beautiful afternoon as Coopers Elementary and the school's Principal, Michelle Griffin, dedicated a moment of remembrance for Lane.

"Nine months ago, we lost a very precious child, and many are still struggling with this," said Griffin. "As a part of our healing process, finding things to honor her memory has worked well for us. We have planted a tree, dedicated sunshine benches and here today, the opportunity to utilize the national symbol (a blue pinwheel) for child abuse prevention to memorialize her in front of this school for years to come."

NCC President Dr. Lew K. Hunnicutt was in attendance to show his support for the cause and the school's gesture.

"It is so important that we continue to raise awareness for something like child abuse that happens too often," said Dr. Hunnicutt. "We (NCC) are here for the community, and we support the efforts of all our partners, especially NCPS, and what better way than to utilize our fantastic students to donate something of importance to the school that is sure to have a lasting impact."

The ceremony ended with an emotional tribute from her teacher and a prayer from Griffin.

"Christal loved this place, her classes and her classmates," said Griffin. "I hope that when you all are having a bad day, you come this way to look at this plaque and pinwheel and be comforted by the idea that she brought joy to everyone and was a light in her life."







"My experience in the Nash CC EMT Program was absolutely amazing, and I couldn't have asked for better instructors or curriculum. Going into the Emergency Services field of work, I feel very prepared from this course!"

Garrett Mehus EMT Certification Graduated in 2024

## **College Driven by Core Values: Meeting Students Where They Are**

Nash Community College breathes the ethos of constructing an environment that meets students where they are. This simple statement serves as the driving vehicle for the 'Blue Love' culture and Nighthawks Forward spirit.

NCC, during its 2021-2026 Strategic Plan development, built five core values to serve as the blocks to become a leader and primary educational partner in the Eastern North Carolina Region:

#### **Student Success**

NCC values an environment where all students are supported and provided with the resources needed to achieve their goals and to gain skills needed for future adaptability and success.

#### **Teaching & Learning**

NCC values innovative, high-quality instruction and service to facilitate student growth and development.

#### Community

NCC values its role as a regional hub of educational advancement, economic development, and cultural enrichment.

#### Respect

NCC values diversity, equity and inclusion, believing that all should be treated with fairness and dignity.

#### Integrity

NCC values honesty and uncompromising adherence to ethical principles and responsible stewardship.

"I've had the pleasure to sit down with our Dean of Continuing Education, Carla Dunston, and for her to share the new model she and her staff are focusing on, which is a spotlight on "investing in relationship building," they are taking more of a front seat into becoming a strong advocate for every student," said K.J. Askew, Director of Marketing and Strategic Engagement at NCC. "This model includes recognizing those who have become lifelong learners with us (NCC) and encouraging them to stay with us in new opportunities."

Many students don't realize that if you initially pursue something on the Continuing Education side, the college has different pathways that can filter right into attaining a complete two-year degree. "If we can aid these students to tap into their full potential, then we have successfully done what we are here to do," said Dr. Lew K. Hunnicutt, President of NCC.

This is unique because NCC is sticking with a student from the first interest to graduation. NCC has Success Coaches, a Student Wellness Center with a certified Social Worker Clinician, Finish Line grant funds to do exactly that, get students to the finish line, and community committed Student Government Association and Student Engagement team, along with many other vehicles of assistance and resources to "meet students where they are."

"Core values matter," said Askew. "Our values are a reflection of reality. We have resources that serve our students and their needs, our academics team continues to develop new learning opportunities like course offerings throughout the academic year from 16 weeks to four weeks (students can enroll at NCC whenever works best for them) and we are an effective partner in Nash County."

NCC's mission is to provide an educational environment that meets students where they are and prepares them for successful college transfer and rewarding careers in a global and diverse society.

"We are able to hold to that mission by providing quality instruction and services," said Dr. Hunnicutt. "Additionally, we provide a quality whole view perspective with impactful technology, workforce development, and partnerships with hundreds of agencies that allow us to do what we do best, and that is providing lifelong learning opportunities."

# NCC, NCWU and NCPS sign Nash County Education Network Partnership

On Nov. 7, Nash Community College (NCC), North Carolina Wesleyan University (NCWU) and Nash County Public Schools (NCPS) signed a partnership agreement that ensures an affordable and extensive pathway from completion of high school to obtainment of a bachelor's degree, known as the Nash County Education Network.



Nash County Public Schools | Nash Community College | NC Wesleyan University

The partnership is effective Nov. 7, with a formal start in January 2024. A signing with NCC President Dr. Lew K. Hunnicutt, NCWU President Dr. Evan D. Duff and NCPS Superintendent Dr. Steve Ellis at NCWU's campus celebrated the occasion.

"We are committed to keeping our best and brightest in Nash County," said Dr. Duff. "These are the communities' local talent, and we are prideful of our ability to have people live here, shop here and grow here."

The partnership will assist a student in a seamless pathway to attend NCC after graduating high school and then set up to attend NCWU for an undergraduate degree for less than people might believe.

"There is a misconception that as a private university, NCWU is just too expensive to attend, but that's not true," said Dr. Hunnicutt. "We have set up an excellent pathway plan that sees students complete their academic journey from high school, through NCC and ultimately NCWU for less than \$20,000."

The partners anticipate a future byproduct setup pathway that involves various industries that will connect students who complete this program with designated interviews to get jobs at any of the institutions' workforce partners.

"It is very rare to have such a strong and extensive partnership between the K-12 school system, a public two-year and a private four-year, but here in Nash County, we see no other way than to capitalize on all of our resources, mend them

together and provide the absolute best quality of education of Nash residents for a fraction of the cost," said Dr. Duff.

NCPS and NCC have an impactful College and Career Promise partnership that allows high school students to complete dual enrollment courses at NCC, where students can earn dual credit and meet high school graduation requirements with college courses. The CCP Program at NCC includes four university transfer pathways and 23 Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways.

"This pathway will have a profound impact on our public school system and our students' futures. It opens doors to higher education and career opportunities that were once out of reach for many," said Dr. Ellis.

These exclusive opportunities are tailored for Nash County students who complete their associate degree at Nash Community College, reinforcing the strategic educational journey from local classrooms at NCPS to the business world, including internships and job placements.

"We don't have an intention to expand to additional educational institutions," said Dr. Duff. "We are here to support our students and our community; this opportunity is exclusive to Nash County talent."

Qualification for NCEN depends on a variety of academic and economic factors. To qualify for the \$20,000 or less tuition, the student must be in good academic standing upon graduation from NCC. The student must also be fully Pell-eligible, an NC resident and a commuter student at NCWU.



## NCC and UNCW Partner for PathWays Program

The new PathWays program, previously known as UNCW Pathways to Excellence, will further enhance the university's collaboration with community colleges by providing qualifying students with a clear and guaranteed path to admissions. Students in this program will receive tailored communication and program opportunities. In addition, they will be connected to a Transfer Student Success Coordinator who can work with them to create a transfer plan based on their interests and intended major. Transfer students will also have UNCW application fees waived and priority status for merit scholarships and deadlines.

"This partnership is exciting as it allows us to provide an easier pathway for our students to directly attend UNCW and continue their journey to accomplish the educational goals they have set for themselves," said Dr. Lew K. Hunnicutt, President of NCC. "A partnership like this is valuable because we are looking out for our students in the best way possible and providing them the roadmap to success in their next step." Stefanie Norris, UNCW director of transfer partnerships, said the majority of community colleges are participating in the PathWays program. Additionally, the university is adding more qualifying associate degrees to better meet the needs of students and the region's workforce.

"This program is one of our many commitments to making UNCW a more transfer friendly destination for students across North Carolina," Norris said. "We deeply value our partnerships with the North Carolina Community Colleges and want to assist students finding their way to UNCW as best we can."

Students who had previously opted into the former Pathways to Excellence program are automatically transitioned into the new PathWays program, pending a partnership agreement with their community college.

# College Registered Apprenticeship with U.S. Department of Labor



A select group of students at Nash Community College gets to participate in a registered apprenticeship in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship.

"This is a unique opportunity for students enrolled in the Medical Assisting program to gain insightful knowledge of the medical assisting industry," said Amber Greer, Professor and Director of the Medical Assisting Program at NCC.

The medical assisting curriculum prepares multi-skilled healthcare professionals to perform administrative, clinical and laboratory procedures.

"While students are in the medical assisting program, they can expect to learn how to schedule appointments, coding and

processing insurance accounts, billing and collections, along with a list of other relevant coursework," said Greer.

The North Carolina Community College System Office approved this Medical Assistant Apprenticeship, and began in May.

"NCC students continue to benefit from solid partnerships with local clinical and industry employers," said Greer. "In May, Boice-Willis Clinic interviewed and selected four students to hire as apprentices."

Local employers have agreed to participate in the assistant apprenticeship and will provide on-the-job training, which serves as a requirement for the apprentices.

"Students will be responsible for completing over 3000 hours of training, in addition to other diploma requirements," said Greer.

NCC's accredited medical assisting program graduates are eligible to take the American Association of Medical Assistants Certification Exam to become Certified Medical Assistants.

"Not only is the apprenticeship a great opportunity for students, but the program at NCC, in general, prepares the next generation of leaders in the medical assisting field," said Greer. "We can expect our graduates to go into the professional space and work in physicians' offices, health department and more."



# Mother and Daughter Duo Graduate Together

Nash Community College is proud to have had Dulce and Delia Escobar graduate from our program with their associate's degree and high school equivalency diploma, respectively.

The Escobars were a part of two parent/child pairings that graduated and had their names called together during the May commencement exercises next month.

"Graduating with my mom was so special to me, and I could see how all her hard work and late nights made it all worth it," Dulce expressed. "This was something that she would have never thought she would finish because of how hard it was, but she pushed through and did it!"

She notes that her mother (Delia) is her role model. "She is someone I will always look up to."

Dulco

Dulce's decision to attend NCC was one rooted in family support.

"I wanted to attend NCC to help my parents take care of my younger siblings, and this allowed me to be at home with them while my parents could work and my mom could go to school," said Dulce. "I wanted to be near my family and be able to support my mom in her studies. NCC was a perfect fit because it offered many different courses, and I was able to take online courses, work and babysit. My older sister obtained her associate in arts in 2021 and was able to tell me firsthand her experience and how much she loved it."

Dulce is 20 years old and graduated from Northern Nash High School in 2022. She pursued and graduated with her Associate in Arts from NCC and transferred to Barton College (Wilson, N.C.) in January 2024 to major in Political Science – Pre-Law Track to attend law school in Fall 2025.

"While at NCC, I didn't get the opportunity to take part in clubs and organizations because of my work schedule," said Dulce. "Since transferring to Barton, I have switched to part-time and have served as a Student Ambassador, member of Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honors Society) and named to the Barton College Spring Dean's List."

She plans to pursue a new pathway for Hispanic Students in the fall.

"Pursuing a political science degree with a pre-law track allows me to take one step closer to my dream of being an Immigration Lawyer," said Dulce.

Her time at NCC is one that she remembers for her personal experience, the experience of her family and especially her mother.

"I would just like to say that my family was such a big help and support when it came to my mom and me," said Dulce. "Having that support system helped us so much with everything. This past year is one that we will never forget because, after so many years, my mom was also able to get her citizenship! My dad is working on getting his green card as well! We just want to give all the glory to God and let everyone know that you can do it!"

NCC provided her with the tools to be successful and a bucket of motivation along the way.

"My experience at NCC was amazing, and the staff was always willing to help me through everything. One moment that did stick out was when I was working full-time and trying to balance school as best as I could, and one professor, Professor Cherie Winstead, was able to help me understand what I was going through and told me to get some rest," she expressed. "I was so overwhelmed with different things going on in my life, and she helped me get through my last semester and to get rest; it is important. I loved all of my professors, and they are ones I will never forget."

Delia

At 45 years old, Delia Escobar graduated from NCC with her High School Equivalency diploma. She last attended school in the 8th grade in 1992.

"She has worked extremely hard to balance a full-time job and being a mom while pursuing her studies. I am so proud of my mom for overcoming all her obstacles and being my inspiration," Dulce expressed.

Delia was born in Tamaulipas, Mexico, and came to the United States in 1989. She grew up in Homestead, Florida, before moving to North Carolina in 1996.

She has six children and also raises her grandson. Three of her children have attended college. Her daughter, Serena (second oldest), is attending East Carolina University pursuing Speech Pathology. Geovanna (third oldest) also attended East Carolina University and received her Bachelor's in Hispanic Studies and is pursuing her Master's in Education, while Dulce, as mentioned, is pursuing a Political Science – Pre-Law track degree from Barton College.

Delia expresses that this has been a personal goal for her.

"I've felt stuck for so many years," said Delia. "I was working different jobs that did not make me happy, and I knew there was more out there and more opportunities. Going back to school was a hard decision because I knew that I had so much going on, but it was something I wanted to do for myself."

She wanted to set an example for her children and act true to her lessons to them about the importance of education.

"I want them to know that they can all do it and it can be hard, but do keep on going," said Delia. "I could not get any jobs because I did not have my high school equivalency, and I knew that there was so much more out there in life and this would bring more opportunities for my family and me."

It was not all easy and there were times of trials in her journey to completing her diploma.

"The times that felt hard were balancing working, going to school and being there for my kids because I wanted to be there for them as much as possible. It was sometimes difficult to do this, and I would even feel discouraged, but my family pushed me and helped me so much through my time at NCC," she expressed. "My children helped me with math and understanding how to do certain things and taught me how to use a calculator. My children also helped me learn how to work a computer and were there for me when I studied. My husband helped me by always being by my side and always believing in me."

Delia has some words of wisdom for any parent who's contemplating returning to school.

"A piece of advice that I would give to a parent who is thinking of going back to get their High School Diploma is to take the chance, do what you love, and that it is never too late to make your dreams come true."





Dear Nash CC Foundation Family,

As the President of the Nash Community College Foundation Board, I have witnessed firsthand the impact each of your donations have had on the lives of our students as well as our community.

Donors, I want to personally thank you for your continued support and generosity for Nash Community College, its students, and the Foundation. Because of your gifts, the lives of our students have been changed. Whether you are a business partner or an individual, your generosity is a true investment in our community. These skills and degrees earned by our students provide our community with quality workers and strengthen our economy.

Many of our students face challenges in and out of the classroom, but through your generous donations, many can complete their educational goals and dreams. Our students represent a variety of backgrounds and seek to become an asset of our

community. By continuing to support our Foundation, you continue to change lives. What you do is priceless!

Students, I ask that you consider the scholarship funds you received and remember the gift of education that will remain with you the rest of your lives.

Donors, on behalf of the Nash Community College Foundation Board of Directors, as well as faculty, staff, and students, thank you for all you do to support the college and help our students achieve their goals.

Sincerely,

Brian Hutson 2023-2024 NCC Foundation Board President

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Dear Faithful Donors,

I am excited to introduce myself as the new Executive Director for the Nash Community College Foundation.

My priorities for the Foundation include enhancing broad scholarship opportunities to support our diverse student body, fostering community partnerships to increase resources, and promoting innovative programs that align with workforce needs.

Together, I believe we can empower our students to achieve their academic and career goals. I look forward to collaborating with you to strengthen our mission and make a lasting impact on our community.

Sincerely,

Kari Young Executive Director, NCC Foundation

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#### **IN KIND**

Anna Costa Anne Masters Mobile Pet Salon Anne's Donuts and Bakery Around the Table Bakery **Atlantec Engineers** Bailey's Fine Jewelry Bakin 'N' Bacon **Barley & Burger** Belmont Lake Golf Club Berry Landscaping Bin and Barrel Canteen Vending Carolina Eagle Distributing, Inc. Carolina Jewelry & Pawn Carolina Premium Outlets Chick-Fil-A Clair De Lune **Clicksuasion Labs Country Inn & Suites** 

Courtyard by Marriott Adrienne Covington Creekside Insurance, LLC The Dunn Center Edgecombe-Martin EMC **EM Structural** EP Mart Finch Forest Farm Amanda Guy Hampton Inn Gayle High **Highgate Hotels** Holiday Inn Dr. Elizabeth Hood Dr. Lew Hunnicutt Paul Jaber Jon Chelles Day Spa Lakeland Cultural Center Lou Redas Melanie Diehl & Co. Rebecca Murray Nashville Chamber of Commerce NCC Campus Store NCC Metal Workers Club NC IDEA NC SBTDC **Oakley Collier Architects** Office of the Mayor, Sandy Roberson Park's Plastic Surgery Liz Proctor Rachel K's Bakery Rehab Revolution, Inc. Residence Inn by Marriott **Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce** The Rocky Mount Mills Rudv's Theater SH Hotels and Resorts Smith Red & White South Boutique Southern Scents Standard Insurance Stocks Engineering Sylvan Heights Bird Park The Vino Market Waters Bros. Contractors Trudi Waters Westridge Grill The Wooten Company

#### **NCC GIVES BACK 2023-2024**

9/11 Community Ceremony American Cancer Society American Red Cross Blood Drives Autumn Care Nursing Home The Blood Connection City of Rocky Mount Communities in Schools Free Will Baptist Children's Home Halifax County 4-H Club Koats for Kids My Sister's House Nash Central High School Nash Community College Food Pantry Nash Community College SGA Nash Community College Success Closet Nash County DSS Nash County Department of Social Services Nash County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Nash- Rocky Mount Rotary Club Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools Nashville Blooming Festival NCC Foundation Employee Campaign NCC Foundation Scholarships NCSO Adopt -a-Family Program Northern Nash High School Relay for Life Ripe for Revival Mobile Market Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce Rocky Mount Evening Lions Club Rotary Club - Thanksgiving Food Delivery Salvation Army Volunteering Southern Nash Athletic Booster Spring Hope Area Chamber of Commerce Spring Hope Pumpkin Festival Tackle the Tar United Christian Ministries United Way Tar River Region

> The mission of the College is to provide an educational environment that meets students where they are and prepares them for successful and rewarding careers in a global and diverse society.

Nash Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate degrees. Nash Community College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Nash Community College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

