

Edgecombe Community College

Fall 2010

Volume 6 • Number 1

CareerFocus™

Growing Green at Edgecombe

See page 2

Get An Edge Up

See page 5

Top 10 Career Trends of the Decade

See page 6

New Programs in Fall 2010

See page 8

What do quilts, dancing, and small engines have in common?

See page 10

Edgecombe Community College
2009 West Wilson Street
Tarboro, NC 27886

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
ANN ARBOR, MI
PERMIT NO. 48

ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



Training for the right job, right now.



JobsNOW: 12 in 6 is Governor Beverly Perdue's initiative to train displaced workers in six months or less with the skills that are in demand locally and across the state.

At Edgecombe Community College, JobsNOW programs focus on occupations in health care, technical trades, and green technology.

The following programs will be offered in Fall 2010:

- Ambulatory Billing & Coding
- Nursing Assistant
- Phlebotomy
- Residential Weatherization
- Tire Manufacturing
- Warehouse & Logistics
- Welding

To get started on your new career through JobsNOW, please contact:

Shari Dickens
823-5166, ext. 166
dickenss@edgecombe.edu



Edgecombe Community College Academic Calendar Fall 2010



August 18 & 19 Final Fall Registration
 August 20 Classes Begin
 September 6 Labor Day Holiday
 September 7 Classes Resume
 October 11-12 Fall Break
 October 13 Classes Resume

November 1 New Student Orientation
 November 2-12 Spring Registration
 November 24-26 Thanksgiving Break
 November 29 Classes Resume
 December 17 End of Fall Semester



CareerFocus™

Questions about the ECC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to Student Services at (252) 823-5166, ext. 255.

Editor: Mary Tom Bass

Writers: Mary Tom Bass
J. Eric Eckard

Photography:.....Stacey Patterson

Cover Photography:Ronald L. Sowers

**Visit ECC on the Web at:
www.edgecombe.edu**

**Edgecombe Community College
Board of Trustees**

- Jonathan K. Felton, Chair
- James H. Long, Vice Chair
- Jean M. Bailey
- Wick Baker
- Helen W. Collins
- Jessie M. Jones
- Bernice M. Pitt
- Dr. Jerry W. Price
- Gladys C. Shelton
- Jerry W. Spruell
- James I. Taylor
- Gloria Wiggins-Hicks

Executive Officers

- Dr. Deborah L. Lamm, *President*
- Charlie Harrell, *Vice President of Administrative Services*
- Michael Jordan, *Vice President of Student Services*
- Dr. Kristi Snuggs, *Vice President of Instruction*
- J. Lynn Cale, *Associate Vice President of Instruction*

To advertise in CareerFocus, call (252) 823-5166, ext. 279.

CareerFocus is published annually by Edgecombe Community College, 2009 West Wilson St., Tarboro, NC 27886, in partnership with Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Edgecombe Community College is an equal opportunity institution.

All rights reserved. No part of the material printed may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage retrieval system without the permission of the publisher.

© 2010 Edgecombe Community College

On the cover: Members of the Green Team, ECC's sustainability committee, stand before the Windspire wind turbine installed on the Tarboro campus in April. Shown from left are George Anderson, JobsNOW/sustainability coordinator and chair of the Green Team; Francine Long, math instructor; Troy Winstead, Basic Skills coordinator on the Rocky Mount campus; Shelly Harris, an ECC student; and J. Lynn Cale, associate vice president of instruction.

Features

- 2 Growing Green at Edgecombe**
- 4 The Future Is BRIGHT GREEN**
- 5 College and Public Schools Forge Partnership to Strengthen Edgecombe Workforce**
- 6 Top 10 Career Trends of the Decade**
- 7 Facts & Finds**
- 8 New Programs and Courses Provide More Options at Edgecombe**
- 9 Distance Learning Explodes**
- 10 What do quilts, dancing, and small engines have in common? Special Programs at ECC**
- 11 Not Rich, Just Smart**
- 11 Don't Assume – Apply!**
- 12 Test Your Networking Know-how**



Growing Green at Edgecombe

by J. Eric Eckard



The Windspire wind turbine at ECC is the first at any community college in the state. Installed on the Tarboro campus in April, it will be used primarily as an educational tool.

With a brighter spotlight shining on the environment now more than ever, Edgecombe

Community College is taking a triple bottom line approach to making its campus more eco-friendly.

“People. Planet. Profit. You can’t ignore one over the other two,” says George Anderson, the college’s sustainability coordinator. “There has to be a compromise between all of them; each one has a voice.

“You can’t have a militant environmental approach, and you can’t plunder and pillage. It takes a perpetual compromise to make things work.”

That’s why ECC has implemented a variety of initiatives, programs, and technology in an effort to reduce its footprint on the environment – initiatives from as simple as planting a tree on Arbor Day to as substantial as installing a wind turbine that will both educate and generate power.

“We want to provide educational opportunities and reach out to the community and students at large,” says Anderson, who also is the college’s JobsNOW coordinator. “It’s important to outline and promote sustainability.”

Wind technology blows in

In April, ECC installed a Windspire wind turbine on its Tarboro campus. Coinciding with Earth Day celebrations, the installation is expected to lead to classes pertaining to wind technology at the college.

“We’re not in a very good wind area, yet the rotor has been turning basically since it was installed,” Anderson says. “Its primary purpose, however, is as

an educational tool. We expect to eventually have curricula pertaining to wind turbines – how to install them and how to maintain them.”

The new apparatus looks hardly like any other wind turbine, particularly those found in areas such as Texas, California, and New York, where huge propellers spin freely in massive wind farms. The Windspire cylinder that “catches” the wind is 30 feet tall and 4 feet in diameter, but it has no blades normally found on a windmill.

“It works like an egg beater,” Anderson says. “It’s specifically designed for low wind – below 8 mph. The advantage is that it’s vertical, so it doesn’t matter which way the wind is blowing. A propeller has to be aimed at the wind.”

When the turbine is connected to the college’s power supply this fall, it will generate 1.2 kilowatts of power and supplement the college’s electrical reserves. A typical residence uses about 5 kilowatts of power, Anderson says.

Ram Jack of Charlotte donated the foundation for the turbine, which was installed by Blue Sun Renew, the distributor for Windspire turbines in North Carolina. Windspire donated the turbine to the college for a year, and the school expects to purchase the machine in 2011 at a reduced rate, Anderson explains.

“We also want to do things with solar,” he adds. “But the wind turbine is the kingpin of teaching people about sustainability.”

Reduce, reuse, and recycle

With Anderson on board, the college established a new Green Team, a committee composed of 15 faculty and staff and two students. The Green Team has revitalized college conservation

efforts, concentrating on the standard “reduce, reuse, and recycle” philosophy.

In an effort to “reduce,” ECC students are gaining first-hand knowledge on conservation in residential construction. Using the Norfleet House, a 19th-century structure that was moved to campus in October 2009, students are learning about weatherization in historic homes.

“Using the house as a lab, we are teaching students how to insulate, plug leaks, and make the home more energy efficient,” Anderson says.

The Norfleet House was the site of a recent workshop that demonstrated eco-friendly pest control methods, including treatments for termite prevention. The program also dealt with mold treatment and prevention, using chemicals that are biodegradable and safe for the environment.

A shining example of the “reuse” aspect of the college’s philosophy, students in the Surgical Technology program began wearing reusable cloth scrubs last fall. The new scrubs replaced paper gowns, which were being used at the rate of 50 to 65 a week.

The new gowns are made at a plant in Mebane, which provides pickup and delivery service. The scrubs contain a microchip in the hem that identifies them as ECC scrubs, so the same scrubs are rotated at the college.

The reusable scrubs are saving ECC about \$1,000 each semester.

When Anderson joined the college in October 2009, ECC’s conservation efforts were scattered and unorganized.

“We were doing more than some and less than others,” he says. “There were some grassroots efforts, especially in the recycling program, but everything we’re



Robin Wells (right), Residential Weatherization instructor, explains the House of Pressure to Justin Hughes. The Residential Weatherization program focuses on upgrading existing homes to improve energy efficiency. The House of Pressure simulates air flow in a home and can demonstrate, for example, how to locate leaks or how smoke or carbon monoxide fill a home.

doing now is almost entirely new.”

Anderson hopes the college will ultimately develop a complete “cradle to cradle” model of operation. “Cradle to cradle” is a waste-free system that mirrors nature, in which a tree grows, dies, and then replenishes the earth with nutrients for the next tree.

“We recycle some now, but it’s not enough,” he says. “We want to show people the consequences of their actions. For example, plastic in a landfill never deteriorates. And not all of it makes it there. We find it in rivers, streams, and oceans all the time.”

Tons of trash continue to be pulled from waterways across the country each year during regular clean-up programs. Earlier this spring, a group led by Anderson hauled nearly 600 pounds of garbage out of the Tar River near Tarboro.

In the Pacific Ocean, huge floating “trash islands” made up of bags, bottles, and other debris continue to plague marine life and wreck the environment. Together, the “trash islands” are larger than the state of Texas.

“Plastic bottles were a bad idea,” Anderson says. “We shouldn’t be trashing our world like this.”

ECC is taking a literal approach in its “cradle to cradle” initiative. In March, the college planted a Chinese pistache tree to celebrate Arbor Day. The tree, which is drought-resistant and features beautiful red and orange fall colors, was planted near the Fleming Building on the Tarboro campus.

Next year, the college plans to plant a magnolia tree near the Norfleet House to commemorate Arbor Day.

Earth Day observed

The college also participates in Earth Day, an international program designed to focus on environmental issues across the globe. In April, ECC sponsored its first Earth Day program, an event that featured speakers, exhibits, and classes on environmental topics.

About 150 people showed up to hear about solar thermal energy, wind power in eastern North Carolina, conservation efforts on the Tar-Pamlico River, and wetlands surrounding the campus.

“We have wetlands on college property,” Anderson says. “Wetlands and forests provide valuable resources to filter both

Did you know?

- By recycling one ton of paper, we save 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 380 gallons of oil, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, and enough energy to heat an average size home for six months.
- Manufacturers can make one extra-large T-shirt out of only five recycled two-liter plastic soda bottles.
- Americans throw away enough aluminum every 3 months to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet.
- When one ton of steel is recycled, 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone are conserved.
- Recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy required to make aluminum cans from scratch.
- The amount of aluminum recycled in 1995 could have built 14 aircraft carriers.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

water and air, and they are a habitat for microecology.”

Other exhibits at the Earth Day celebration included Triton Woods’ green building program and live roofs from Riverbend Nursery. Artist David Edgar led Trash-to-Treasure workshops in which participants created art from recycled plastic.

Anderson and the college’s Green Team committee already are working on next year’s plans, which include a cardboard kayak race for Edgecombe Early College High School students.

“I want a whole fleet of kayaks,” Anderson says. “We want to do our own thing and then challenge other schools.” The program would be introduced this fall and then the competition would be scheduled for Earth Day 2011.

“And then we can recycle the cardboard,” he adds.

ECC offers green technology

You don’t have to race cardboard kayaks, plant trees, or study surgical technology to go green at Edgecombe. The college offers both curriculum and continuing education programs that focus on conservation and green technology.

Students can earn a certificate in alternative systems in the Automotive Systems program and study alternative fuels that relate to the growing hybrid and electric technology in the auto industry. In the Manufacturing

Technology program, ECC offers an energy management systems certificate that emphasizes making manufacturing plants more energy efficient.

A green energy systems certificate is available in the Facility Maintenance Worker program, which prepares students to maintain and repair commercial and industrial structures and systems. Building Operator is a continuing education certificate program that teaches facilities maintenance engineers and technicians how to maintain energy efficient buildings. Also, Residential Weatherization is a continuing education certificate program that focuses on upgrading existing homes to improve energy efficiency.

“All the things that we do here are complementary,” Anderson says. “We want to lead by example.

“We want to leave something for the next generation.”

For more information:

Green Programs

George Anderson
JobsNOW/Sustainability
Coordinator
823-5166, ext. 197
andersong@edgecombe.edu

The Future Is **BRIGHT GREEN**



Turns out that what's good for the earth is good for the economy

Green. That just might turn out to be the word of the decade. Green, as in tree-hugging, earth-loving, fossil-fuel-reducing, global-warming-fighting. Green, as in developing new ways to fill our human needs for energy, transportation, housing, and food that don't damage the environment we depend on for life itself. That kind of green.

But that kind of green is beginning to equal the other kind of green. As in money, jobs, and economic growth. Yes indeed, it's beginning to look like it's a smart time to be green if you're looking for a job.

According to *Green Jobs: A Guide to Eco-Friendly Employment*, colleges and universities all over the country are gearing up to train the green workforce with programs in everything from solar panel installation to wind power technician to newer, greener versions of established professions such as engineering, business, and agriculture.

Co-author James P. Hendrix predicts that the growth in green jobs will be equivalent to the tech revolution of the '80s and '90s. "It may even be bigger

than the Internet in terms of creation of new jobs," he says. "Green jobs are becoming so all-encompassing that you can make a case for them touching every sector of the economy. You don't have to install solar panels to have a green job. You can be an engineer, a marketer, a lawyer. You can find a green aspect to virtually any career."

Renewable energy and environmental consciousness are affecting where the jobs and money flow in a number of significant ways. An economic analysis conducted by the Rand Corporation and the University of Tennessee estimates that 25 percent of the country's energy demand could be tapped from renewable energy sources by 2025.

In December 2008, President Bush signed a Green Jobs Act approving \$125 million to train workers for good-paying jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency, such as installing solar panels and weatherization.

In January 2010, President Obama unveiled a program that is providing \$2.3 billion in tax credits for the clean energy manufacturing sector, a move aimed at creating 17,000 jobs. The credit is focused on U.S. manufacturing of clean energy

technologies such as solar and wind. President Obama has said he wants to double the amount of renewable energy the United States uses over the next three years.

These new technologies are opening up new opportunities in so-called green collar jobs. Green collar jobs may be the answer to the problem of America's decline in manufacturing jobs. Trained technicians in these jobs can expect good wages for their work creating the country's new energy infrastructure.

Green building is a growing field

What exactly does "green building" mean? According to the authors of *Green Jobs*, it can mean a lot of things: "It encompasses everything from where and how a structure is sited on the land, to how efficiently it uses resources, to how environmentally friendly the products are that go into its construction and maintenance, to how to handle waste."

For example, using a renewable material like bamboo flooring is green, installing solar panels is green, and so is adding a reflective white roof to minimize heat absorption in the summer or insulation that decreases the need for heating in the winter.

Building green, says Ashley Katz of the U.S. Green Building Council, requires a different overall approach to building. "Green builders have to take a more holistic look at the process,"

she says. "Rather than engineers, contractors, and interior designers working independently, everyone comes to the table in the beginning. Every part of the process is interrelated. For example, the color of a wall may affect how much heat is retained in the building."

According to the U.S. Green Building Council, the green market was 2% of non-residential construction starts in 2005; 10-12% in 2008; and will grow to 20-25% by 2013. Green building will support 7.9 million U.S. jobs and pump \$554 million into the American economy over the next four years (2009-2013).

Four programs at Edgecombe Community College have a green building focus:

- Energy Management Systems certificate is available in the Manufacturing Technology program;
- Green Energy Systems certificate is offered in the Facility Maintenance Worker program;
- Building Operators is a continuing education certificate program that teaches facilities maintenance engineers and technicians how to maintain energy efficient buildings;
- Residential Weatherization is a continuing education certificate program that focuses on residential remodeling to improve energy efficiency. **CF**



Instructors Hank Jackson (second from right) of Asheville and Clay Helm (right) of Rocky Mount lead a class in the Building Operators certificate program. Building Operators teaches facilities maintenance engineers and technicians how to maintain energy efficient buildings. Seated from left are students Joe Gallinato of ASC, and Freddy Whitley and Don Caudle of Edgecombe Community College.

College and Public Schools Forge Partnership to Strengthen Edgecombe Workforce

by Mary Tom Bass

A new grassroots effort to create a more prepared workforce in Edgecombe County is under way. Called “Get An Edge Up,” the initiative unites education, business, government, and economic development in Edgecombe.

About 50 local and state officials gathered at Edgecombe Community College in April to hear the details of this innovative educational initiative ultimately designed to attract new industry to the county. The Workforce Preparedness Forum was hosted by the college and featured remarks by college officials, Edgecombe County Public Schools executives, and other public leaders.

“Everyone here is a stakeholder in workforce development,” Edgecombe County Commissioner Charlie Harrell told the group. “Our goal is to build the best trained workforce possible.”

According to Garrett Wyckoff, a statewide economic development representative with the N.C. Department of Commerce who attended the Edgecombe forum, the “overriding factor” for prospective employers considering locating in North Carolina is “workforce. They’ve got to have access to a trainable workforce.”

College and public school officials have created strategies that would begin in the ninth grade and continue through community college to strengthen readiness for the workplace.

“Nationwide, only five of every 100 ninth graders are prepared and find employment in a related field within a year of graduation,” explains Dr. Kristi Snuggs, vice president of instruction at ECC.

The community college and public schools already have a number of programs in place to promote workforce readiness, such as service learning, co-op, practicums, college tech prep academies, internships, and dual enrollment opportunities.

Get An Edge Up

“Get An Edge Up” will focus on skill areas that are universal to the workplace, skills that have been identified by WorkKeys, a nationally-recognized assessment tool.



“It gives us a common language and a common vocabulary to determine what basic skills are needed for a job,” explains Dr. Randi Dikeman, director of business and industry services at ECC.

According to Dr. Dikeman, 90 percent of jobs in the United States require competency in three areas: applied mathematics, reading for information, and locating information.

These areas are assessed by WorkKeys through Career Readiness Certificate testing. The three levels of the CRC are bronze, silver, and gold. At the bronze level, an individual could successfully enter 30 percent of jobs; silver, 65 percent; and gold, 90 percent.

“The CRC helps the employer match applicants and employees’ work-ready skills with the right jobs,” says ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm.

Edgecombe Community College has offered CRC testing since 2007. To date, more than 4,000 individuals, including local industry employees and ECC students, have tested.

All members of ECC’s Class of 2010 were given an opportunity to complete CRC testing, and many did. Forty-six percent of the college’s 511 students who graduated in May received Career Readiness Certification.

A comprehensive plan

The new county-wide “Get An Edge Up” initiative incorporates WorkKeys into the public schools beginning in the 9th grade. The plan comprises five phases:

• Phase 1 – Freshman Year

All students in the 9th grade will be given the CRC assessment during English classes. Any student not on



Local and state leaders attending the Workforce Preparedness Forum included (from left) Charlie Harrell, Edgecombe County commissioner; Dr. Deborah Lamm, president of Edgecombe Community College; Garrett Wyckoff, statewide economic development representative, N.C. Department of Commerce; Janice Davidson, Edgecombe County Public Schools board member; and Dr. Steve Mozingo, interim superintendent, Edgecombe County Public Schools.

track to score at a reasonable level will receive remediation counseling.

• Phase 2 – Freshman and Sophomore Years

Ninth and 10th graders in remediation will use WIN, a software support program for WorkKeys, in English classes and senior project seminars.

• Phase 3 – Junior Year

Students in the 11th grade will be given the CRC assessment for a second time, and it will be administered by ECC’s assessment team. Any 11th grader who does not achieve a bronze CRC will meet again with a counselor for remediation and may be referred to ECC for additional course work.

• Phase 4 – Senior Year

Additional remediation steps may be implemented with 12th graders, such as enrolling students in community college courses. Graduating seniors who score a level 3 or higher on the CRC will be awarded a CRC credential upon graduation.

• Phase 5 – Community College

All Edgecombe Community College students will be given the CRC assessment in curriculum program courses. Also, individuals from the community can enroll in a continuing education course focusing on workplace behaviors and skill sets. Students will be

eligible to earn a Career Readiness Certificate upon completion of the course.

A “Get An Edge Up” taskforce is being assembled to finetune the plan and determine a timeline for implementation.

According to Dr. Lamm, “The goals of this initiative are to improve the caliber of the workforce and to provide applicants with a credential that will prove to the employer that they are job ready. In other words, this certificate will give Edgecombe students and citizens an ‘edge’ on the job market – a credential that other applicants may not have.”

Fred Turnage, chairman of the Upper Coastal Plain Learning Council, announced during the April meeting that the council has awarded \$12,000 to the initiative. Funds will be used to market the new campaign countywide through billboards and yard signs.

“This is the kind of grassroots effort that will make a difference,” Turnage says. **CF**

For more information:

Get An Edge Up

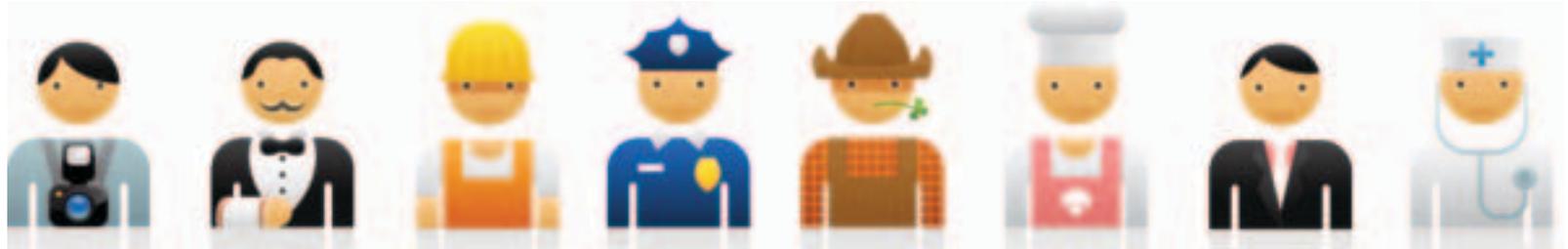
Dr. Randi Dikeman
823-5166, ext. 249
dikemanr@edgecombe.edu

Top 10 Career Trends of the Decade

Workwise, the 21st century started out with a shudder

Today's job seekers face a workplace and job market that have changed dramatically in the past decade. Experts assess the changes: some good, some bad, some a little bit of each.

“Students want to know what majors are in demand and what a typical entry salary would be. Security is uppermost in their minds.”



BAD:

Less satisfaction,
more uncertainty

1 The job market is more volatile

The decade that started in 2000 began with one of the best job markets ever for job hunters, especially in fields like technology. It ended with the country in a deep recession. In between, the job market vacillated between being a buyer's market and a seller's market. “A lot of things have gotten more extreme,” says Joyce L. Gioia, strategic business futurist and president and CEO of the Herman Group. This “seesawing” trend in the job market is one of them.

2 Job satisfaction has dropped

In fact, according to the Conference Board, it's the lowest it's been since they started measuring it. The low marks are especially striking for workers under age 25, says John Gibbons, director of employee engagement research and services for the Conference Board.

3 Workers have less job security

“Companies move their workforces up and down much more fluidly,” says John Challenger, CEO of global outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas. “It leaves all of us more vulnerable to instant job loss, especially in times of recession.”

GOOD:

More freedom,
more innovation

4 Work is more flexible

Non-traditional hours and working from home are very popular with workers, Gioia says. Some employers are still more flexible when it's difficult to find workers – but others have embraced workplace flexibility no matter what the job market is like.

5 There's less stigma to losing a job

The upside to the lack of job security is that workers who are laid off are less likely to have their peers – and future employers – assume they were doing a bad job. “I think we've entered into an era of no-fault job loss,” Challenger says. “People lose their jobs in downsizing even if they're performing OK.”

6 Innovation is on the rise

More companies are realizing that innovation is the key to their success, Gioia says. “Either they will innovate or they will be an also-ran,” she says. This means they are more open to new ideas from employees.

IT DEPENDS:

Fashion, free agents,
and focus

7 More work is temporary

“We continue to see growth in short-term assignments and project work,” Challenger says. For workers who feel that they have been forced into temporary work, this is a negative trend. But some workers appreciate the flexibility, and it's increasingly possible to make a living doing project-based work in some fields.

8 Dress codes are in flux

The decade started out with much more casual dress in the workplace, then swung back to a more traditional tone. Today, “everything is kind of mixed up,” Challenger says. Workers have to take a cue from those around them: Some workplaces are more formal and others are casual. Gioia says both casual and formal workplace dress have gotten less extreme: “I'm not seeing people wearing tank tops and bare midriffs anymore, but at the same time I'm not seeing a return to suits and stockings and heels.”

9 Technology lets workers do more

Now that workers can check their e-mail from the beach and log into the corporate network from home, they are more productive. Companies are also expanding workers' jobs to include a wider range of tasks. “It's a very narrow line that businesses need to walk between the notion of job enrichment and job enlargement,” Gibbons says. Having expanded responsibilities can be a good thing – unless it feels like you're just being asked to do two jobs for the price of one.

10 Career choosers focus on the practical

As the cost of education has sky-rocketed, students have focused on the careers where they are most likely to find a job and earn a good salary, says Susan Walter, counselor and career services coordinator at Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey, California. “Students want to know what majors are in demand and what a typical entry salary would be. Security is uppermost in their minds.” This probably means more students will be able to pay back their student loans, but it also could mean some don't even try to get the job they really want. **CF**

Facts and Finds

“We know that in the coming years, jobs requiring at least an associate degree are projected to grow twice as fast as jobs requiring no college experience. We will not fill those jobs – or even keep those jobs here in America – without the training offered by community colleges.”

– President Barack Obama

“The road to economic recovery in North Carolina goes straight through the community college.”

– Dr. Scott Ralls, president of the NC Community College System

College Today

With more than 18 million people in U.S. colleges today, you might be surprised to learn who these students are and what they’re doing.

- 38.8 percent of all 18- to 24-year-olds are enrolled in college.
- 36.8 percent of all college students are age 25 or older.
- College enrollment has increased 28 percent since 1997.
- More than 6 million undergraduate students are enrolled at public two-year colleges, 7 million at public colleges and universities, and 4 million at private four-year institutions.
- 37 percent of public two-year college students graduate with student-loan debt, compared to 61 percent of public four-year college students and 71 percent of private four-year college students.

From *The Chronicle of Higher Education* “Almanac 2009-2010,” August 28, 2009



Facts AND Finds



Who are ECC students?

Check out these stats on our curriculum students, who are enrolled in a degree, diploma, or certificate program.

Average age	30
Female	75%
Male	25%
Part-time students	67%
Employed while enrolled	47%
Edgecombe County residents	55%
Out-of-county residents	45%

Tuition Rates as of Spring 2010

Undergraduate tuition & fees per academic year

	Full time (12 hours), in-state students
Duke University	\$39,080
East Carolina University	\$4,290

Edgecombe Community College \$1,266

Elizabeth City State University	\$3,031
Fayetteville State University	\$3,152
N.C. A&T State University	\$3,560
N.C. Central University	\$3,861
N.C. State University	\$5,396
N.C. Wesleyan College	\$23,000
UNC-Chapel Hill	\$5,450
UNC-Wilmington	\$4,873
Wake Forest University	\$38,206

ECC instructors love to teach

Community college faculty aren’t the same as faculty in four-year schools: our faculty teach ALL the time. Our instructors don’t have graduate assistants, and we don’t have large lecture halls where students get lost in the crowd.

ECC students are taught by faculty who care about students and what they learn. They have PhDs, master’s, and bachelor’s degrees related to what they love to do – teach.

ECC curriculum faculty degrees:

Doctorate degree	6%
Master’s degree	54%
Bachelor’s degree	23%
Associate’s degree and special certification in field	17%

Feature

New Programs and Courses Provide More Options at Edgecombe

by J. Eric Eckard

With the college's largest class ever graduating in May and record enrollment

this past spring, it would be easy for Edgecombe Community College leaders to sit back and enjoy their success.

Instead, the college has been developing new classes and programs that begin this fall, including a two-year degree program in cybercrime.

Fighting computer crimes

"The field of cybercrime is in its infancy, and we're very excited to be offering this at Edgecombe," says Wes Hill, Information Technology Studies department chair. "We wanted something unique to the area that also meets a growing need."

The only program of its kind at a community college east of Greensboro, the Cybercrime curriculum is a collaboration between the college's existing

programs in Criminal Justice and Information Technology Studies.

Two tracks are available for students: criminal justice and IT security. The criminal justice track will focus on cybercrime investigation, and the IT track will spotlight detection and prevention.

With a 25 percent increase in cybercrimes since 2009, Hill says he expects the industry to boom in the coming years. "(The Department of) Homeland Security has a cybercrime arm, and they predict that the next major terrorist attack will likely be a cybercrime attack."

Crimes that fall into the realm of cybercrime include credit card fraud, identity theft, data hacking, and Internet child pornography. After completing the new program, graduates can go into cybercrime analysis, network technology, security analysis, detective work, or data recovery.

"We want to keep it as comprehensive as possible to give our graduates more employment options," Hill says.



Wes Hill, Information Technology Studies department chair, explains the operation of various computer network devices to students. Cybercrime, a new degree program, combines instruction in criminal justice and information technology systems. It's the only program of its kind at a community college east of Greensboro.

Preserving historic structures

What started out as a one-day Historic Preservation Trades School in September 2008 has morphed into a comprehensive degree, diploma, and certificate program. ECC is one of only five schools in the nation that offers a program in Historic Preservation and the only one in North Carolina.

"There are a couple of public universities that offer a bachelor's or master's degree, but they don't do the hands-on trades training," says Monika Fleming, program coordinator. "Some of those students have actually taken our classes because they wanted to know how to do the work."

Historic preservation trades like carpentry, roofing, plastering, window restoration, tombstone repair, and stained glass are included in the curriculum.

"We teach them how to go in and save old structures," Fleming says. "We show them the old way, but we also explain new methods because they need to know both. They also need to know state and federal standards of preservation."

Following the success of the first Historic Preservation Trades School, ECC offered various classes in preservation trades through its Continuing Education division. In September 2009, the college graduated its first Historic Preservation certificate class, which required six courses.

This coming fall, the program is expanding to include a two-year degree and a one-year diploma.

With hundreds of old homes and buildings in Edgecombe County and more than 800,000 homes in the state built before 1959, opportunities for students to get hands-on experience with preservation trades abound. Job potential is high as well.

The heart of the historic preservation program is the Norfleet House. This historic home was a gift from the Town of Tarboro and was moved to campus in October 2009. Students are restoring the 200-year-old structure and using it as a working lab.

"It's a work in progress," Fleming says.

When the restoration is complete, the home will become the college's new Community Heritage Center and will contain a library for research and a museum where local artifacts will be on display.

The college also works with Preservation North Carolina on the Coolmore Plantation, which dates back to 1859 and is one of 38 National Historic Landmarks in North Carolina. Students recently repaired windows in the former slaves' quarters on the estate just outside of Tarboro.

"Since our program began, other community colleges in the state have shown an interest in starting their own," Fleming adds.

Welding beefed up

For years, ECC has offered welding classes. Recently, the program was improved by adding the opportunity for students to take the American Welding Society's welding qualification test.

"The certificate is beneficial to students seeking employment," says Trudy Lynn, director of Special Programs. "Students actually have a certificate that they can attach to their resume that shows employers what type of welding they are qualified to perform."

The class focuses on hands-on welding, layout, and fitting skills, teaching students principles of welding so that they can learn not only how welding processes work, but also why those processes are used.

In addition to adding a certified welding inspector to its staff, the college also upgraded the welding equipment, expanded the classroom area, and improved lighting.

Of the 12 students who took welding in the spring, seven tested for and received AWS certification, Lynn says.

“Several are trying to get employment at the shipyard in Virginia,” she adds.

Online classes booming

Distance Learning has grown at ECC significantly since Richard Greene took over the reins of the program five years ago. Between spring 2009 and this past semester, Distance Learning enrollment skyrocketed 91 percent. (See sidebar.)

With two programs already completely online – Business Administration and Health Information Technology – the college is adding a third program this fall that students can complete without setting foot on campus: Early Childhood Education.

“In the last five years, we’ve averaged about 15 new distance classes every year,” Greene says.



From left, Certified Welding Inspector Bobbie Perkins demonstrates welding techniques to students James Green and Corey Harris. The course prepares welders to take the American Welding Society certification exam, the gold standard in the industry.

“We’re increasing the library of online and hybrid classes every year.”

With more than 115 online classes and another 90 or so hybrid classes that offer both classroom and online instruction, students have plenty from which to choose.

Many of the classes include a video introduction from the instructor,

as well as streaming video, such as the biology labs. For the Distance Learning students who request a copy, the college will mail them a DVD of the video instruction, Greene says.

In addition to adding new online classes every year, the school also has implemented a quality control program for Distance Learning.

“We’ve instituted a comprehensive evaluation of the courses,” Greene explains. “As our numbers increase, we want to ensure that their quality remains high.”

Like the instructors, who can teach from anywhere, so too can the students receive that instruction from anywhere. This fits with today’s students’ evolving needs and attitudes toward education.

“Most younger people don’t care about meeting their instructor,” Greene says. “Most older students want that face-to-face contact, but it isn’t a priority with younger students. Lately, I am seeing older students who are realizing the advantages of taking courses online without having to come to our campus. Online courses give them the flexibility they want. We are truly a college without walls.” **CF**

For more information:

New Programs

Dr. Kristi Snuggs
Vice President of Instruction
823-5166, ext. 251
snuggsL@edgecombe.edu

Distance Learning explodes

by J. Eric Eckard

In 2005, Richard Greene took over Edgecombe Community College’s fledgling Distance Learning program. The college hired a new president in 2004 (Dr. Deborah Lamm), and she charged Greene with growing the program.

At the time, the college offered a few curriculum courses online as well as a few continuing education offerings.

So Greene, who had been ECC’s director of media/audio visual, gutted the program and started from scratch. The Distance Learning Web site was revamped and simplified, and Greene asked faculty members to develop online classes for their most popular courses that drew the largest enrollment. In literacy, Greene added online the GED and Adult High School Diploma Program.

“My goal was not to just get students from Edgecombe County, but to get students nationally,” Greene says.

“I wanted to reach beyond the local service areas – reach way beyond.”

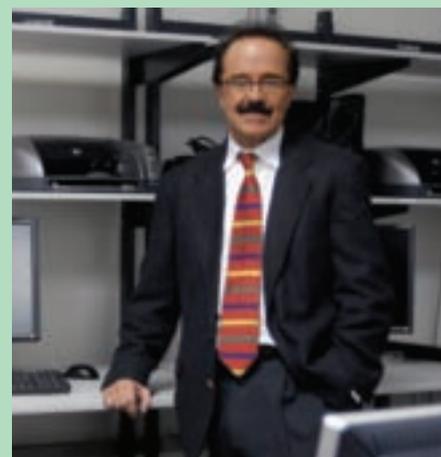
It’s working. In just five years, Distance Learning enrollment is up 307 percent at ECC, making it the fastest growing distance program among the 58 community colleges in North Carolina.

Two-thirds of the students enrolled at ECC take at least one online class, and Distance Learning generated \$2.5 million in revenue during this past spring semester alone.

“Also, we are very proud of our completion rate,” says Greene, adding that 82 percent of Distance Learning students complete their courses.

The dramatic growth has drawn attention from not only other colleges in the state, but throughout the country as well. Recently, a professor in Finland contacted Greene about teaching a Distance Learning class. The irony of the program’s evolution isn’t lost on Greene.

“In 2005, I was contacting other schools looking for advice,” he says. “In the past three years, they’ve been calling me.”



Under Richard Greene’s direction, Distance Learning at Edgecombe Community College has grown 307 percent in the last five years, making it the fastest growing community college distance education program in the state.

Greene says he believes the economy has played a role in the growth of the program, but it hasn’t accounted for all of it.

“The economy has had an influence on this, but in ’06, ’07, and ’08, we still had growth during those years – at least 25 to 30 percent,” he says.

Greene believes the quality of the courses and the personal attention from faculty and the distance department have resulted in the tremendous growth of distance education at ECC. “The students are the only reason we exist as an institution,” he says.

Today, Distance Learning classes available at the college range from physiology to psychology, from health and humanities to criminal justice.

“Distance Learning has undergone a complete turnaround,” Greene says. “This is my 31st year at the college, and I’ve enjoyed the last five years more than any other time in my whole career. It has been very gratifying.” **CF**

For more information:

Distance Learning

Richard Greene
Director
446-0436, ext. 340
greener@edgecombe.edu

Feature

What do quilts, dancing, and small engines have in common? Special Programs at ECC

by Mary Tom Bass

Edgecombe Community College is a great choice for job training or education toward a degree, but it's also a lot more. We believe in lifelong learning, from early adulthood through the golden years.

Whether you need training for professional certification or want to learn a new hobby, our Special Programs division probably has what you're looking for.

Special Programs creates classes based on the needs and interests of adults. Some courses are offered on a continuing basis, while others begin as a result of specific requests by individuals or professional or civic groups. Courses can be developed on or off campus, day or night, or whenever there is an interest expressed by a sufficient number of people.

Trudy Lynn, director of Special Programs, has been in charge of the division since January. Her goal has been to recharge the

program and infuse it with new and improved offerings.

Take welding, for example. The college has offered welding for years. But Lynn stepped it up a notch. She found a certified welding inspector – Bobbie Perkins – and now the course prepares welders to take the American Welding Society certification exam, the gold standard in the industry. At the end of the course, students can elect to take this certification test and receive a certificate.

The program includes modules that make up entry-level, intermediate, and advanced welder courses, and students can register for ARC, MIG, or TIG welding. “We also upgraded the welding lab by adding half a dozen new pieces of equipment,” Lynn says.

Welding begins September 20 and meets 5:30-9:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays through December 8. Tuition is \$175 plus the AWS certification testing fee.

Classes from A-Z



Shari Dickens is teaching a new class in quilting for beginners starting September 7. An ECC staff member who works with the GATE and JobsNOW programs, she has been quilting for about 15 years and learned the craft from her mother. “My interest in teaching the class is to inspire others to continue this art form so that it will not disappear,” Dickens says. She is a member of the Tar River Piecemakers Quilting Guild of Rocky Mount.

“We offer 20 to 30 classes in Special Programs each semester,” Lynn explains. “Some are purely for fun, while others focus on professional certification and continuing education credits, like our series of real estate classes.”

A new pre-teller training course for people interested in becoming bank tellers has been added. “We saw a need that we could fill,” Lynn explains.

Topics include customer relations, handling cash, and professional conduct and dress. “Banks don’t guarantee these students a job, but if the banks have an opening and the applicant has our pre-teller certification, that applicant will be first in line for an interview.” So far, BB&T and RBC Centura have partnered with ECC in the training program, even agreeing to help instruct the class.

The pre-teller training course begins September 16 and meets 6-9 p.m. on Thursdays through November 4. Cost of the course is \$65.

“We have a lot of new and exciting classes this fall,” Lynn says. “We’ve added jewelry-making and beginning quilting,

and classes like shag dance and simple computers are perennial favorites.” Also new is Microsoft Office Application Specialist, which enables an individual to become certified.

A course called Effective Teacher Training is for individuals who want to work as substitute teachers, and the class is offered twice each semester. Lynn says 10 or so students typically enroll. Notary public classes, usually 2-3 days in duration, are offered regularly. So are small engine repair and cake decorating.

“My door is always open,” Lynn says. “If members of the community have a special need for training or are interested in learning about a particular topic, I welcome their input. After all, ‘community’ is our middle name!”

CF

Online Learning Anytime, Anywhere...Just a click away!



Online Courses for Teachers

Edgecombe Community College

Sharpen your skills, or learn new ones with our instructor-facilitated online courses. Online Continuing Education courses run for six weeks (with a 10-day extension period available at the end). Courses are project-oriented and include lessons, quizzes, hands-on assignments, discussion areas, supplementary links, and more. **You can complete any course entirely from your home or office. Any time of the day or night.**

Ready, Set, Read!
Solving Classroom Discipline Problems
Creating K-12 Learning Materials
Survival Kit for New Teachers
The Classroom Computer
Using the Internet in the Classroom
The Creative Classroom
Integrating Technology in the K-5 Classroom
Understanding Adolescents
Microsoft PowerPoint in the Classroom
Microsoft Word in the Classroom
Microsoft Excel in the Classroom
Get Assertive!
Leadership

Enroll Today!

Details on any one of these courses can be found at:
www.ed2go.com/edgecombecc
 You can also reach us by calling
 (252) 823-5166, ext. 220

For more information:

Special Programs

Trudy Lynn

Director

823-5166, ext. 220

lynnt@edgecombe.edu

Not Rich, Just Smart

Transfer students get the same education and spend a lot less

Nationally, about 41 percent of all students get their education at community colleges. While starting at Edgecombe Community College has always been a smart move, in today's uncertain economy, it makes even more sense.

Consider this: Tuition and fees at ECC are \$1,266 per year for a full-time student (12 semester hours). That same credit load costs \$4,290 at East Carolina University, \$5,396 at N.C. State University, or \$5,450 at UNC-Chapel Hill. Looking at private universities, one year in tuition and fees at Wake Forest University costs \$38,206, and Duke University, \$39,080. Add housing expenses, a meal plan, and money for personal expenses, and the cost to attend a four-year school is even more.

Is the value of a college education related to its cost?

Transfer students get exactly the same diploma as students who spend a lot more money at a four-year institution. ECC classes are small, our instructors are committed to teaching, and ECC credits transfer to four-year universities all over the state.

Just doing our job.



Edgecombe Early College High School student Courtney Phillips prepares a polymerase chain reaction sample for analysis in a biotechnology class.

One of the reasons community colleges were created was to provide the first two years of a four-year degree at low cost and close to home. So naturally we know how to do it well. Our classes are designed to transfer and our academic counselors know where to go for the best four-year programs.

Even if you haven't decided on a major and you just need to explore your interests, don't worry. ECC offers three transfer degrees: associate in arts,

associate in science, and associate in science/pre-engineering. All of these programs provide a broad

foundation in humanities and social sciences.

ECC has a Comprehensive Articulation Agreement with constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina that will take your associate degree credits from us with no strings attached. If a student graduates from ECC with an associate in arts or science, he or she is guaranteed acceptance to at least one of the 16 constituent institutions in the UNC system.

Students who complete the associate in science/pre-engineering degree are eligible to apply as juniors to the engineering program at N.C. State.

To make sure you're on the right track in a college transfer program, it's important to work with our professional counselors and advisors to create a plan – and to adapt if it you change your mind. **CF**

For more information: College Transfer

Dr. Alan Stephenson
Dean of Arts and Sciences
823-5166, ext. 221
stephensona@edgecombe.edu

Associate in Science/ Pre-Engineering

Rebecca Stamilio
Physics and Industrial/
Technical Trades Instructor
823-5166, ext. 273
stamilior@edgecombe.edu

Don't Assume – Apply!

The only way to know if you are eligible for financial aid is to apply.

With the skyrocketing cost of college, a degree from a community college remains one of the best educational values available. But many are still faced with the dilemma of figuring out how they will pay college costs.

“Don't assume you won't qualify for financial aid,” says

ECC Financial Aid Director Henry Anderson. “Everyone is encouraged to apply. About 80 percent of our students receive financial aid, primarily through the federal Pell grant program.”

Begin by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you don't have access to a computer, see a financial aid counselor on either the Tarboro or Rocky Mount campus. When the

FAFSA is filed, every student is automatically considered for a Pell grant.

Sure, applying for financial aid can be time consuming and complicated, but ECC's financial aid staff is available to answer any questions you may have about the FAFSA and the application process. **CF**

For more information:

Financial Aid

Henry Anderson
Director
446-0436, ext. 334
andersonh@edgecombe.edu

Test Your Networking Know-how

Smart job seekers know when to put down the mouse

The Internet can be a convenient tool in your job search, or it can become a crutch that lets you avoid personal encounters. These true-or-false questions will help you use online and offline networking effectively.



1 The most efficient way to job hunt online is to post your resume and respond to positions advertised on job boards.

- TRUE
- FALSE

2 You should resist the urge to write in informal texting style when networking online.

- TRUE
- FALSE

3 The first thing you should ask in a networking meeting is, "Do you know of any available jobs?"

- TRUE
- FALSE

4 It's important to control your online brand.

- TRUE
- FALSE

5 If you're not comfortable interacting in face-to-face encounters, you should avoid them and stick to online networking.

- TRUE
- FALSE

6 If you network by e-mail, it's more efficient to send general messages to multiple contacts instead of personal messages to individuals.

- TRUE
- FALSE

7 While networking, you should avoid specifying which type of job you're looking for, in case an employer has a different position available.

- TRUE
- FALSE

The Answers

1 FALSE: "One of job seekers' biggest mistakes is that they're sitting behind a computer sending out résumés to monster.com and then passively waiting by the phone," says Ford R. Myers, career expert and author of *Get the Job You Want, Even When No One's Hiring*. "The percentage of my clients who find their jobs that way is less than one percent." Instead, he says, you should use the Internet mainly to research companies and to arrange and conduct personal networking encounters.

2 TRUE: Online communications should be concise, but that doesn't mean "OMG R U hiring?? ;-)" is an appropriate networking message. "Sending emoticons or abbreviated writing right off the bat sends kind of a sloppy message," says Jason Alba, social media expert and CEO of jibberjobber.com, "And remember that in written communication, it's hard to discern that someone is joking. So if you use humor, it's really easy to screw up your intentions."

3 FALSE: "People need to stop acting like job applicants and start acting like solution providers," Myers says. "It's not about you. If you start by saying, 'I need a job, I want more career growth, blah, blah, blah,' you've got it completely backward. What you should be talking about is what you can contribute to the employer, starting on day one."

4 TRUE: Alba recommends that all job seekers Google their names to see what other people can learn about them online. "If you find a Facebook profile or a Twitter tweet full of foul language or inappropriate conversation, is that the message you want to put in front of a prospective employer?" Fortunately, he says there's a remedy for an embarrassing Internet history. "If it's stuff like Facebook pictures, stuff you have control of, just take it down. But if it's stuff that you don't have control of, start a professional blog; blog every single day, and make sure you put your name in the blog posts. Those posts will start appearing toward the top

of the Google search results, and they'll push the junk down.

5 FALSE: On the contrary, Mathison says, you should do even more face-to-face networking as practice. "These days, job interviews are hard to come by. When they do happen, you need to be prepared. Networking conversations give you essential practice in describing who you are and what you do. With practice, you are less likely to say something stupid in a high stakes job interview."

6 FALSE: "I have had clients who networked effectively through e-mail, but it was very personalized, focused e-mail, not big blast e-mail campaigns," Myers says. "You can get good networking going through personal e-mail, referrals, warm leads, and introductions. But when you do get a response, the first thing you say is, 'Can we get together and meet, or can we follow up with a phone call?'"

7 FALSE: According to Mathison, "It is lame to put yourself out there with some general and vague request that you are looking for a job with a stable employer, great benefits, and plenty of growth opportunity. We're all looking for that job, and we will take it first before we pass it on to you! Be specific. Help your network help you. They need to know specifically the one or two types of jobs you are looking for, as well as the names of possible employers."

Scoring

6 or 7 right: Your networking skills are solid – use them regularly and your job search will end well.

4 or 5 right: More knowledge could help – try reading some networking books, articles, and Web sites.

3 or fewer right: Your networking skills need work – read books or seek guidance from a career coach. **CF**

Have you been laid off? Are you a dislocated worker?

Project GATE can help YOU start a business.

GATE operates as a scholarship program. Those selected for the scholarship will receive:

- Individual assessment of entrepreneurial skills
- Entrepreneurship training and counseling
- An introduction to other resource professionals
- Help applying for a microenterprise loan upon completion of a workable business plan

Applicants must:

- Be dislocated workers (lost a job through no fault of their own due to a business closing or layoff) and be eligible for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program
- Be 18 or older and eligible to work in the United States
- Complete an orientation session and scholarship application

To learn more about starting your own business through GATE, please contact:

Shari Dickens
823-5166, ext. 166
dickenss@edgecombe.edu
www.ncprojectgate.org



How to Apply

Interested in taking courses at ECC, but not sure where to begin? Becoming an ECC student may be easier than you think. Here's how to get started:

1 Submit your application

Your journey to becoming a student begins with a simple application. Applications can be completed the old-fashioned way with pen and paper or online. For a copy of ECC's application for enrollment, go to www.edgecombe.edu or call the Office of Student Services at 823-5166, ext. 255, on the Tarboro campus, or 446-0436, ext. 333, on the Rocky Mount campus.

2 Request copies of your transcripts

Request that an official copy of your high school, GED, or Adult High School transcripts be sent to the Office of Student Services at ECC. If you have previous college credit from another institution, you'll need to request those official transcripts as well.

3 Apply for financial aid

Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov.

4 Complete Placement Tests

Placement tests let your advisor or counselor know where you are academically and ensure

that you get the right classes as you begin your college education. Placement tests are given at various times every month and are usually completed in less than two hours. Please contact the Office of Student Services at 823-5166, ext. 255, on the Tarboro campus, or 446-0436, ext. 333, on the Rocky Mount campus to set up an appointment to take the tests.

5 Schedule an appointment to meet with a counselor

Your counselor will meet with you individually to discuss your educational and career goals. Counselors also will help students with placement test results, transcript evaluations, career assessment, and provide information related to financial aid and other services. Your counselor will assist you in scheduling an appointment to meet with your assigned faculty advisor.

6 Register for classes

During registration, your counselor will help you choose classes that fit your schedule and educational goals. After you decide on your classes, you will get an official registration schedule. Once this is completed, you can pay your tuition in the ECC Business Office.

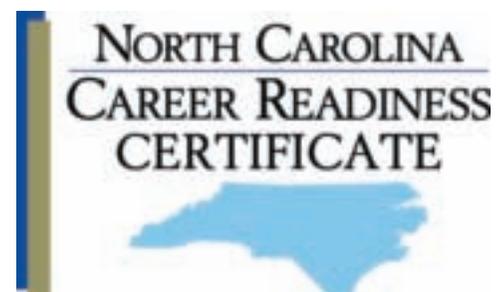
Congratulations, you're an ECC student!



Have you certified your work skills?

Now you can.

**CERTIFY YOUR EMPLOYABILITY WITH THE
N.C. CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE**



www.crnc.org

The Career Readiness Certificate:

- Increases your chances for employment and promotion
- Focuses on employment-related competencies
- Is a credential recognized by employers nationwide

At Edgecombe Community College, over 4,000 assessments have been taken and more than 1,100 Career Readiness Certificates have been awarded.

Contact:
Shari Dickens
(252) 823-5166, ext. 166
dickenss@edgecombe.edu
or
Dr. Randi Dikeman
(252) 823-5166, ext. 249
dikemanr@edgecombe.edu

Business and Industry Services
Edgecombe Community College
2009 W. Wilson St.
Tarboro, NC 27886