

CareerFocus™

Edgecombe Community College

Fall 2014

Volume 10 • Number 1

**College Transfer Program
Gives Students an Edge**
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**New Programs in
Continuing Education
Focus on Job Training**
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On the cover: Graduates of Edgecombe Community College's College Transfer program are (from left) Michael Tillery, Payton Owens, Jasmine Dancy, Sarah Grady, and Corey Davis. Read more about them on page 3.

CareerFocus™

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College Transfer Program Gives Students an Edge

Students earn college credit and save money; it's a win-win!

by Mary Tom Bass

Ten years ago, when Elizabeth Snell was a student at Edgecombe Community College, she could not have envisioned how far she would go.

Today, she is a doctoral student at Columbia University in New York City.

Snell, who grew up in Pinetops, received an associate in science degree from ECC in 2005. She excelled in her classes and was one of two Edgecombe nominees to receive the 2005 North Carolina Academic Excellence Award.

She says attending community college was her choice, a deliberate move on her part. "My dream was to attend UNC-Chapel Hill, but I didn't think my high school transcript was strong enough to get me there."

By enrolling in the College Transfer program at ECC, she was able to strengthen her study skills,

complete the general education courses required by the state's public institutions, and log an enviable GPA. Plus, she did it all without accumulating a dime of college debt.

"I learned discipline at ECC, how to be a student, and how to study," she says. "I had amazing instructors who were very passionate about what they did, instructors like Mr. [Stephen] Herring, Ms. [Monika] Fleming, Mr. [Harry] Cain, Mr. [Trey] Cherry, and Ms. [Kimberly] Cobb Cherry. They made college very interesting and sparked an interest in me," she says.

Snell achieved her dream and went on to attend UNC-Chapel Hill, receiving a bachelor's degree in anthropology with a minor in medical anthropology. She became interested in teaching and pursued a master's degree in applied behavior analysis from Teacher's College of Columbia University.

Now, with her first year teaching K-2 special education behind her and working on her Ph.D. in applied behavior analysis at

Columbia, Snell's goal is to consult with school districts to help develop and implement behavior intervention plans for students – "teaching teachers," she says.

College Transfer revised

The College Transfer program is the second largest program at ECC. Of the 2,828 students enrolled in Spring 2014, 450 were College Transfer students.

ECC offers associate in arts (A.A.) and associate in science (A.S.) degrees through its College Transfer program, which is based on the North Carolina Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA)

Developed in 1997, the CAA is an agreement between North Carolina community colleges and UNC institutions that outlines how course credits transfer between the two systems. Students who complete the associate degree programs are assured admission to one of the 16 UNC institutions with first-semester junior status.

A number of independent colleges and universities also endorse the agreement, including North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount and Barton College in Wilson.

In February, the State Board of Community Colleges and the UNC Board of Governors signed a revised CAA, making college transfer options more defined and easier to follow.

According to Megen Hoenk, director of marketing and external affairs for the NC Community College System, "The revised agreement, driven by an increased focus on student success and the growing number of NC community college students transferring to the state's public universities, will save students and their families both time and money."

Under the revised agreement, which goes into effect this fall, community college students will enter pathways that lead to associate degree completion, admission into the major, and baccalaureate completion.

Dr. Harry Starnes, dean of the Division of Arts and Sciences at Edgecombe Community College, says that among other changes, the addition of a new course – ACA 122, College Transfer Success – may have the most impact.

"Students will take ACA 122 in their second semester at ECC," he explains. "They will have to contact a university and decide what their major will be. Then they will have to plan their final two semesters with us.

"Once they understand the university's requirements for a particular major, they can better plan their final year of course work at ECC, ensuring a seamless transfer. It's a more structured approach, and it guarantees greater success for our students."

ECC's College Transfer advisors have been trained on how to advise new College Transfer students. Returning College Transfer



Students in Chemistry 151 – General Chemistry – study the fundamental principles and laws of chemistry. The College Transfer course is designed for science and engineering majors as well as nursing students who may apply it toward B.S.N. requirements. From left are Ryan Summerlin, Michelle Way (partially hidden), Ezequiel Mosso, Malik Dancy, and Alex Derby. "I love teaching College Transfer students," says chemistry instructor Dr. Alma Bracete. "I spent six years working in industry, and on the first day of the first class I taught at a community college, I knew that's where I belonged."



Elizabeth Snell completed her first two years of higher education at Edgecombe Community College. Now a Ph.D. student at Columbia University, she credits ECC with giving her a solid foundation. “I tell everyone they should start at a community college,” she says.

students will continue under the existing agreement.

Of his 34 Arts & Sciences faculty members, Dr. Starnes says that 22 teach College Transfer courses. “It’s an excellent program that provides a multitude of benefits to students.

“Our classes are always small, usually 15 students or fewer. Our faculty advise students, they teach the classes, and they grade the papers. We don’t use teaching assistants.”

Savings are significant

“Another advantage is savings,” Dr. Starnes says. “Attending ECC for the first two years provides substantial savings for families.”

“Nearly 24,000 students who began their studies at a community college are now undergraduates on a UNC campus, accounting for more than half of all UNC transfer students. By working together, UNC and the NC community colleges can continue to grow that number and better meet North Carolina’s future workforce needs.”

– UNC President Tom Ross

He’s right. Proposed Fall 2014 tuition and fees at East Carolina University for an NC resident attending full time (12 hours) for one semester are \$3,071.50. At Edgecombe Community College, tuition and fees for a full-time student for one semester are \$891.

Jasmine Dancy, who received an associate in arts degree from ECC, a bachelor’s degree from Barton College, and is now working toward a master’s degree in social work at the University of South Carolina, says that cost was a leading factor in her decision to attend a community college.

“The financial incentive was a big part of my decision to attend ECC. Plus, I wasn’t ready to leave home,” she says. “My mom said it would be better for me to attend community college and then transfer, and she was right.

“Edgecombe Community College was very good for me. It was exactly what I needed.”

Dancy was a Student Ambassador at ECC, a program sponsored by the ECC Foundation that rewards academic excellence. Student Ambassadors assist with college events like registration, and they receive a stipend for their service.

She says, “While I was an ECC student, I was involved in three different campus organizations as well as my church, and I was able to balance all of this and do well in my studies. I learned discipline, and I learned how to balance my life.”

Michael Tillery, who holds an associate in arts degree from Edgecombe and is studying animation and graphic arts at East Carolina University, tells a similar story. “I wasn’t ready to go to college after high school.

“Art is very demanding, more than people may realize. I needed to improve my study skills, and I also needed to work on time management.

“Attending Edgecombe Community College for the first two years helped me move forward, and I’m proud to say that because of it, I’m doing well at ECU.”

For more information:

College Transfer

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Dean of Arts and Sciences
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On the Cover:

Jasmine Dancy

Age: 24

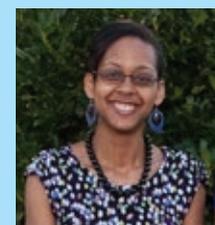
High School: Tarboro High School

Degrees: ECC associate in arts, May 2011

Bachelor of social work degree, Barton College, May 2013

Working toward master’s degree in social work at the University of South Carolina

Favorite ECC instructor: “Carolyn Winfree, my advisor. She definitely believed in me. Edgecombe Community College gave me my start. I love it.”



Corey Davis

Age: 35

High School: SouthWest Edgecombe High School

Degrees: ECC associate in arts, December 2000

Bachelor’s degree in mass communication, North Carolina Central University, December 2004

Occupation: Staff writer, Rocky Mount Telegram

Favorite ECC instructor: The late Bob Cole, biology instructor. “He was a good hands-on professor. He presented the material in a way that we could understand it. Also, if we needed help, he would take his time with us.”

Sarah Grady

Age: 20

High School: Tarboro High School, valedictorian

Degrees: ECC associate in arts & associate in science, May 2014

Began study toward accounting degree at North Carolina State University, August 2014

Favorite ECC organization: Student Government Association

“I was able to get involved in the life of the college. It made the experience more enjoyable. Also, I served as a vice president in SGA, so I was able to develop leadership skills.”



Payton Owens

Age: 20

High School: Edgecombe Early College High School

Degrees: High school diploma and ECC associate in arts, May 2012

B.S. degree in criminal justice, East Carolina

University, May 2014

State Bureau of Investigation internship completed May 2014

Began study toward master’s degree in criminal justice in August 2014

Favorite ECC class: “I enjoyed Monika Fleming’s history class. It was tough, but I learned a lot.”

Michael Tillery

Age: 22

High School: Tarboro High School

Degrees: ECC associate in arts, May 2013

Working toward bachelor’s degree in fine arts at East Carolina University

Why he chose ECC: “I wasn’t ready to go a four-year school right after high school. I needed time to develop and mature.”



Student Mentors Pay It Forward

Male students serve as mentors to Stocks Elementary students

by J. Eric Eckard

When Stanley Drake first started mentoring a second-grader at Stocks Elementary School in January, the seven-year-old had a bit of a behavior problem. Nothing major – he didn't mind his mother, and he picked on his classmates.

But after several weekly sessions with the young student, Drake says, things changed.

“He wants to please his teachers now, and he has stopped talking back to his mother, well, mostly,” Drake says.

Drake is part of a new mentoring program launched by Edgecombe Community College in the spring. The program paired a group of leaders in the area, including ECC students, with 57 students at Stocks Elementary in an effort to build self-confidence and instill self-esteem in the young students.

The college began its own mentoring program for minority males in 2003 as a way to reach out to its students. This is the first year EMPAC – Empowering Males with the Purpose to Achieve and Celebrate – has ventured off-campus to help others.

Kenny Parker, EMPAC advisor, explains that Stocks Elementary

“We attach ourselves to these young men, and we try to relate. It’s an uphill battle, but it’s not impossible.”

Principal Erin Swanson heard about the program and reached out to the college last year. A group of 29 men started weekly mentoring sessions at Stocks in January.

“We mainly just spent time with the students at Stocks, read with them, had lunch with them. A lot of them got excited about it, and they looked forward to their time with the mentors.”

Edgecombe’s mentors included retired military and law enforcement, executives, factory workers, teachers, and ministers. Drake, 44, who was older than many of his ECC classmates, was asked to join EMPAC as a mentor.

“I talked to him like a friend but also like a father figure,” Drake

says of his seven-year-old mentee. “He started to open up, and I learned a lot of things about him.

“I saw lots of improvement, and I was amazed and happy with the outcome.”

According to Parker, many of the Stocks students chosen for the program came from single-parent households.

“Single mothers struggle to raise sons without a male figure in the home,” Parker says. “And many of them have discipline and self-control problems.

“We attach ourselves to these young men, and we try to relate. It’s an uphill battle, but it’s not impossible.”

Parker hopes to see EMPAC remain at Stocks in the future, and he’d also like to carry his mentor program into other schools in the area.

“If we can change the culture of our young people, we can change their lives,” he assures. “In the end, we all win.”

For more information:

Kenny Parker
EMPAC Advisor
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parkerk@edgecombe.edu



Members of EMPAC attended the statewide Minority Male Mentoring Conference in Durham in March. From left are Dr. Jeffrey Smith, vice president of student affairs at Shaw University; Edgecombe Community College students Andrew Anglin, Stanley Drake, Michael Bandy, and Nassar Hill (back); Jaleen Moore, an Edgecombe Early College High School student; and Dr. R. Scott Ralls, president of the North Carolina Community College System. Also attending but not pictured was ECC student Jamie Raya.

Coeds Take Flight through BUTTERFLIE

When Edgecombe Community College established its minority female mentoring program in

2006, it was in part designed to help students stay in school and graduate.

While helping students complete their programs is a large part of BUTTERFLIE – Building Unity through Teamwork, Empowerment, Respect, Friendship and Leadership to Inspire Excellence – they’re not the only goals of the program.

Jasmine Dancy, 24, was enrolled at Edgecombe in 2010, working on her associate in arts degree. She was focused, motivated, and working hard.

“I was never at risk of dropping out,” Dancy says. “But the group

sounded interesting, so I decided to give it a try.

“I was glad I got involved because of the mentorship I received, and I especially enjoyed the social aspect.”

Lori Winstead, BUTTERFLIE program coordinator, has been involved since the beginning. A minority male mentoring program – EMPAC – already was in place back then at the college, and there was a push to add a program focused on women.

In the first year, there were more mentors – all of whom are female – than the 12 student participants. But it’s grown significantly since then, with almost 50 students signing up for the program this past year, Winstead says.

The mentors help not only with interview skills and resume

writing, but also with time management and social interaction.

“A lot of it is balance,” Winstead says. “I think it helps both sides. The mentors often learn just as much from the students as the students learn from the mentors.

“Also, several students have come back to serve as mentors.”

Dancy says she received so much help and fellowship from BUTTERFLIE that she believes it should be billed as more than a retention and graduation program.

“It brings forth so much more,” she says. “The network is very strong. It’s empowering to have a group of women come together and work together.”

Since Dancy graduated from Edgecombe Community College in 2011, she has earned a bachelor of social work degree from Barton

College in Wilson, and she is working toward her master’s degree in social work at the University of South Carolina.

She worked at the college part time over the summer. Following graduation next year from USC, she says she wants to return to Tarboro.

When she does, she says becoming a BUTTERFLIE mentor is at the top of her list.

– J. Eric Eckard

For more information:

Lori Winstead
BUTTERFLIE Program
Coordinator
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Scholarship Benefits Automotive Students

The family of a beloved auto mechanic has funded a scholarship in his honor.

The Thomas Wilson Hatchel Sr. Scholarship, affectionately dubbed the “Sparkplug Scholarship,” was established in the spring by Thomas Hatchel Jr. and other family members.

Will Hatchel enjoyed a lifelong career as an auto mechanic. For many years he worked at Boyd’s Service Station in Tarboro. “Sparkplug” was his CB handle.

The scholarship will cover the full amount of tuition and textbooks for the three-semester automotive systems technology diploma program. Upon completion of the program, recipients will receive a tool kit that will help them as

they establish a career in auto mechanics.

Hatchel’s goal is to create a partnership between the scholarship committee and local auto mechanic shops in order to establish internship opportunities that may lead to full-time jobs.

According to Jamie Hathaway, Will Hatchel’s granddaughter, “The objective is to help local

students who will then remain in the area and live and work in our community.”

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Sparkplug Scholarship or to any of the scholarship funds at ECC, please contact Karen Andrus at 823-5166, ext. 212, or andrusk@edgecombe.edu.

– Mary Tom Bass



Linda Hatchel Cobb (left), daughter of Thomas Hatchel Sr., presents the Sparkplug Scholarship to Tre'Quez Johnson, a May graduate of North Edgecombe High School. Shown with them is his mother, Gwen Watson. While attending high school, Johnson earned two certificates in collision repair and refinishing at Edgecombe Community College. This fall, he will begin course work toward a diploma in automotive systems technology.



In early May, Joseph M. Bryant (second from left) received the first Sparkplug Scholarship. He attended North Edgecombe High School and graduated in 2005. From 2006 to 2012, Bryant was a machinist mate in the Navy. Shown with him are his parents, Scott and Kay Howard, and Thomas Hatchel Jr. (right). Bryant received the scholarship for summer and fall 2014 semesters.

Industry-Education Partnership Creates Bridges to Employment

ECC, KCST, and SouthWest Edgecombe unite to strengthen local workforce



Edgecombe Community College is currently training about 30 Keihin Carolina System Technology associates through a customized training program in electrical measurements. According to instructor Dr. Stan Garren, the class is meeting twice a week at 7:15 a.m., 12:45 p.m., and 2:45 p.m. so that associates from all three shifts can attend. “We’re focusing on troubleshooting, reading and interpreting, and electrical schematics,” he says. “The associates are highly motivated, and this training gives college instructors a great opportunity to work with people in the field.” Shown with Dr. Garren (center) are KCST associates Darius Weatherbe (left) and Beverly Webb.

by Mary Tom Bass

Edgecombe Community College, Keihin Carolina System Technology, and SouthWest Edgecombe High School are working together to develop a homegrown workforce.

“Attracting and retaining a skilled workforce is our greatest challenge,” says Keith Jordan, KCST senior manager.

“It’s too late to try to reach people when they’re adults. We needed to start much earlier.”

In 2011, KCST took action and launched an apprenticeship program with SouthWest Edgecombe and an internship initiative with Edgecombe Community College.

SouthWest Edgecombe apprenticeship

The first SouthWest Edgecombe student began apprenticeship training at KCST in 2012. Students receive high school course credit for their hours of apprenticeship training.

In 2013, KCST management and volunteers donated time and

materials to help renovate the SouthWest Edgecombe electronics lab. Upgrades included ten new workstations, ten bench-top power supplies, a drill press, and a large-screen TV with wireless computer networking.

Edgecombe Community College internship

In 2011, KCST and Edgecombe Community College developed an internship program in conjunction with the NC Advanced Manufacturing Alliance, a consortium of 10 community colleges that received an \$18.8 million federal grant for job training and workforce development in manufacturing.

The college purchased new manufacturing lab equipment through the grant, and, in 2012, KCST engineers assisted with the design and layout of the Advanced Manufacturing Lab on the Tarboro campus.

The first student intern enrolled at ECC in the fall semester of 2013. He works at KCST while he studies toward an associate degree in manufacturing technology. His internship hours on the job reinforce his studies, and he also gains valuable job experience.

KCST’s goal is to have two new high school student-apprentices and two new college student interns each year.

“We want to get young people excited about the manufacturing

industry so they will pursue a career in that field,” explains Jordan. “Hopefully, they’ll remain in Edgecombe County, and, better still, working at KCST.”

Growing Edgecombe’s workforce

The three-way partnership between KCST, SouthWest Edgecombe, and Edgecombe Community College is “a fantastic example of how industry and education can partner to grow a skilled local workforce,” says Dr. Deborah Lamm, ECC president.

“The apprenticeship and internship programs are a very creative response by KCST to meet their need for more highly trained workers.”

ECC and KCST partner on a number of additional training programs. The college provides pre-hire training to new KCST associates through its Introduction to Electronics Manufacturing course.

KCST associates complete Lean Six Sigma training and professional development courses through college programs.

In addition, the bachelor of science in industrial technology transfer program enables KCST associates to transfer to East Carolina University to complete their bachelor’s degree once they have attained ECC’s two-year manufacturing technology degree.

“The apprenticeship and internship programs are a very creative response by KCST to meet their need for more highly trained workers.”

Biotechnology and Simulation Center Will Strengthen Health Care Education

Simulation training will be the hallmark of teaching and learning

by J. Eric Eckard

After Edgecombe Community College's new Biotechnology and Simulation Center is built on the Rocky Mount campus, passersby will think there's a new hospital in town.

To accommodate the growing training needs and programs in health sciences at ECC, the new facility will look and feel more like a hospital than a typical classroom building.

"That's the most important part of the design," says Robin Pigg, dean of the Division of Health Sciences.

Rooms will be set up to operate like emergency rooms, operating rooms, intensive care units, nurses stations, and even the back of an ambulance. Students are expected to move from their present cramped and outdated classrooms and labs into the new facility by 2016.

"The building will be a state-of-the-art facility," Pigg says. "We'll have multiple high-fidelity simulators, which are talking mannequins – their lips turn blue, they sweat, and their vital signs change depending on the situation."

"We have one simulator now, but we'll have several by the time the building opens."

A recent Edgecombe nursing graduate who had a simulator in her classes says simulation training helps students experience emergency situations in a risk-free setting. "You feel like you have a real patient and someone's life and care in your hands."

"The instructors would throw curve balls at us, like pretending to be an irate family member. So you're trying to help the patient while an angry sister is yelling at you. It was a great learning experience."

Simulations will guide instruction

ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm says simulated hospitals that provide realistic training



Biotechnology and Simulation Center
Rocky Mount Campus

opportunities for health sciences students are becoming more popular across the country.

"Simulation training environments are quickly becoming the model for health care education today," she says.

In the new building, which will be located on Edgecombe Community College's downtown Rocky Mount campus, debriefing rooms, classrooms, and labs will cater more to group activities than a traditional lecture-style environment.

During simulations, instructors will record the scenarios and replay them to students during debriefing sessions, Pigg explains.

"Students typically do best when they see their own mistakes rather than a teacher telling them what they did wrong. They get feedback immediately."

Opening slated for 2015

Construction is expected to begin later this year, and the building is on schedule for completion in fall 2015, with classes starting shortly thereafter. Dr. Lamm says she'll be glad to see the hard work of many people come to fruition.

"Health sciences programs have long been a hallmark of the college," she says. "Waiting lists for students seeking admission to our health programs are common, and space for teaching and learning is stretched thin."

"The college is running out of space for these students."

The new 45,000-square-foot facility is expected to change that. It will house 12 of the 22 health sciences programs at Edgecombe, including phlebotomy, respiratory therapy, home care aide, and surgical technology.

College officials plan to grow the number of health programs once the building opens. An occupational therapy assistant (OTA) degree and a central sterile processing certificate are being planned, among others. The need for certified OTA professionals is expected to grow by 43 percent over the next 10 years, according to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"In order to expand and prepare the next generation of health care workers, the college needs a new facility equipped with the latest technology," Dr. Lamm adds.

Biotechnology and Simulation Center

Current Programs

- Biotechnology
- Computed Tomography (CT)
- Human Services Technology
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Medical Assisting
- Medical Office Administration
- Medication Aide
- Nurse Assistant
- Phlebotomy
- Radiography
- Respiratory Therapy
- Surgical Technology

New Programs

- Breastfeeding/Lactation Therapy
- Central Sterile Processing
- Geriatric Aide
- Health Coach
- Home Care Aide
- Mammography
- Occupational Therapy Assistant

"Providing advanced facilities for the training of these men and women improves the lives of all Edgecombe residents."



Personal Attention Sets Edgecombe Community College Apart

Students say instructors go the distance to help them succeed

Amanda Ellis Biermann already had a bachelor's degree from East Carolina University when she decided that nursing was her calling. She enrolled in the associate degree nursing program at Edgecombe Community College and thrived, encouraged throughout the program by supportive instructors, she says. Now a cardiac nurse at Wilson Medical Center, she is working toward a bachelor's degree in nursing.

by J. Eric Eckard

Growing up in Eastern North Carolina, Amanda Ellis Biermann was surrounded by educators. Both her parents had made careers of working in local schools, and naturally, she followed in their footsteps.

But after earning a bachelor's degree from East Carolina University and getting a job teaching elementary school, something was missing.

"Education was very natural for me, but I had always wanted to be a nurse," Biermann says. "I never got it out of my system."

In 2011, after two years as a teacher, Biermann enrolled in the

associate degree nursing program at Edgecombe Community College to fulfill her lifelong dream.

"Nursing school is difficult," she says. "You have to be focused and extremely dedicated. You basically have to put your life on hold for two years."

But that rarely happens for anyone. Life goes on – whether it's the mundane daily events or larger life-changing experiences. While in nursing school, Biermann went through two major events – she got married, and her grandfather passed away.

Throughout these and other experiences, the nursing instructors at Edgecombe were always there for her, she says.

"Being able to talk with and lean on them was so important. Each one has such a distinct personality, but they're all so approachable."

Training for the real world

Robin Pigg, dean of the Division of Health Sciences, says she's proud of the health care programs at the college, particularly the graduates' high scores on national certification exams and their ability to find jobs after graduation.

She credits a big part of that success to her faculty.

"Traditionally, health care instruction is a fairly rigid teaching style with the teacher delivering four-hour lectures to students, but we're working hard to move away from that," Pigg explains. "There still need to be high expectations, but learning has to be fun. Sometimes students learn the most difficult concepts from other

Health Sciences Graduates Achieve 100% Pass Rate on National Certifications

Graduating classes from a number of Edgecombe health sciences programs attained 100% pass rates on their national certification exams in 2013.

Edgecombe's practical nursing students who were admitted in fall 2011 and graduated in August 2012 scored 100% on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN). These scores were announced in February 2013. Practical nursing is a three-semester diploma program.

One hundred percent of the 2013 magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) graduates passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologies national exam for certification and registration as MRI technologists. MRI is a two-semester diploma program.

Also, computed tomography (CT) technology graduates in both fall 2012 and spring 2013 semesters scored 100% on the CT certification exam by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. CT imaging, a specialty for radiographers, is a one-semester certificate program.

"The teachers are really outstanding. Each one brought something unique to the table because of their various backgrounds."

students when they work together in groups.”

Even with 6 a.m. clinicals, late-night study sessions, and the stress of exams, Biermann says the instructors made the difference in her time at school.

“The teachers are really outstanding,” she says. “Each one brought something unique to the table because of their various backgrounds.”

Pigg says the instructors try to promote a spirit of teamwork with the students, who work together in small groups on case studies during a portion of their class period so they can learn from each other as well as the faculty.

“We try to promote collaboration,” Pigg says. “We try to help them understand that they’re in this together, first as students and in the future at the workplace.”

“Recognizing their interdependence with all members of the health care team will help to improve patient safety. Faculty even arrange for senior respiratory therapy and nursing students to work together as a team in the care of a human simulator with a complex medical condition. This kind of planning takes a lot of time but is a great example of the dedication of our health sciences faculty.”

The instructors are “great,” says Phillip Martin, who completed the associate degree nursing program in May. He managed several surf shops in Wilmington before deciding to pursue nursing.

“Working in Wilmington was fun, but I didn’t get a sense of fulfillment,” he says. “With nursing, I still get to work with the public, but on a much more personal level.”

“I’ve talked to enough students in other nursing programs to know that at Edgecombe, we benefit in unique ways, like the assignment to create a portfolio for job interviews. I haven’t talked to any student from another school who had to make a portfolio, and it’s been very helpful,” Martin explains.

Training in health care leads to jobs

In late May, six of eleven of the college’s May 9 respiratory therapy graduates were hired by WakeMed Health and Hospitals in Raleigh.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, respiratory therapy is expected to grow by almost 20 percent over the next 10 years. Overall, more than half of the fastest growing



From left, associate degree nursing students Phillip Martin and Robin Barbour joined nursing instructor Loretta Langley to volunteer for Edgecombe County Special Olympics held at SouthWest Edgecombe High School in April. Second-year nursing students are required to complete five hours of community service. “I like helping people, and I like volunteering,” Barbour says. A number of college programs encourage volunteerism, and several regularly sponsor blood drives on campus, including associate degree nursing, practical nursing, medical assisting, and criminal justice.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, respiratory therapy is expected to grow by almost 20 percent over the next 10 years.

occupations in the country are in the health care field.

Edgecombe Community College offers training in virtually all of these fast-growing occupations. Dr. Deborah Lamm, president of the college, says that having a strong health sciences curriculum helps grow the economy in Eastern North Carolina.

“Continuous growth in programs that prepare our citizens for the health care industry, which is viewed as recession-proof, is essential to lower the unemployment rate and raise the quality of life in Edgecombe County,” she says.

Biermann epitomizes that. Today, she is a cardiac nurse at Wilson Medical Center. In less than a year on the job, she was chosen as a preceptor, meaning she mentors new nurses in her unit.

“I’ve been able to use my education background and nursing school experience as a preceptor,”

Biermann says. “I’m putting teaching and nursing together.”

Recently, an ECC student was assigned to her unit, and it gave her a chance to see some familiar faces.

“I saw a former instructor, and it was so good to catch up with her,” Biermann says. “I still feel that I could contact them even now if I have questions about nursing – or anything really.”

Biermann doesn’t just rave about Edgecombe Community College’s nursing program in public. She does so in private, also.

“I would come home so excited about the nursing program that my husband noticed that enthusiasm and is now pursuing a career in the medical field as well,” she says.

Thomas Biermann II, who has four-year degrees in business administration and economics, is currently enrolled in Edgecombe’s respiratory therapy program and will graduate in 2015.

And if he got a job at the same hospital as his wife, that would be just fine for both of them.

“The nursing program at Edgecombe has given me the ability to make a living doing what I love,” Amanda Biermann says.

For more information:

Kim Hampton
Nursing Counselor
823-5166, ext. 259
hamptonk@edgecombe.edu

New Programs in Continuing Education Focus on Job Training

by J. Eric Eckard

The words “college campus” typically conjure up images of young students on their own for the first time, studying outside under a tree or playing tag football in the quad.

But take a walk around today’s campuses, and you’re more likely to see a middle-aged mother of three working on her second career or a grandfather who wants to make himself more valuable to his company.

“The average student age at Edgecombe Community College is 31 years old,” says Lori Winstead, human resources development coordinator. “We are seeing more students between the ages of 30 and 50 coming back to school.”

With the 18- to 22-year-old student now in the minority, college officials across the country are redirecting their efforts to cater to the rising trend in non-traditional students.

At Edgecombe, the Division of Corporate and Community Development is strengthening its slate of continuing education offerings. Over the next year, the college plans to add three new programs: cooking classes, natural hair care licensure, and basic law enforcement training.

“We are seeing more students between the ages of 30 and 50 coming back to school.”

“We’re trying to meet the needs of today’s students by offering relevant, income-producing training in our continuing education programs,” says J. Lynn Cale, associate vice president of instruction.

Become a natural hair care specialist

The natural hair care licensure program is designed for individuals who want to focus on braiding hair. It’s a 300-hour program that includes 240 hours of practical application, explains Trudy Lynn, director of special programs.

Students will work on both mannequins and live models to learn about braids, twists, knots, cornrows, locks, artificial hair, and braid removal.

“A lot of people do this at home,” Lynn says. “This way, individuals can earn a certificate, apply for licensure, and be paid for their skills.”

Upon completion of the two-semester training, graduates will be eligible to sit for the North Carolina Natural Hair Braiding License Exam.

Learn how to cook various cuisines

For students interested in cooking classes, the college is renovating



Robin Oakley (left), cosmetology program chair, shows student Mechelle Boyd how to braid Ayanna Goddard-Carter’s hair. Natural hair care is a new weekend program that begins this fall on the Tarboro campus. Students will work on both mannequins and live models to learn about braids, twists, knots, cornrows, locks, artificial hair, and braid removal. Upon completion of the two-semester training, graduates will be eligible to sit for the North Carolina Natural Hair Braiding License Exam.

its catering kitchen in the Fleming Building on the Tarboro campus to offer a cuisine-related curriculum. Staff are working to retrofit the present kitchen with ovens and cook tops.

Kitchen modifications won’t be complete until fall, so ECC officials plan to begin by offering cooking demonstrations led by local and regional chefs. Mobile cooking carts will be utilized to implement the first phase of the new program, Cale says.

“The initial classes will be seminars,” he explains. “The second phase will begin once the current catering kitchen is renovated. Then, we will offer more hands-on classes.

“We’re hoping to get chefs from the Outer Banks, for example, to come to Tarboro during their off-season to teach classes. But we’ll also have local chefs.”

The monthly demonstration classes will begin in September, and the full program is slated to begin later this year, Cale adds.

Start a career in law enforcement

The basic law enforcement training (BLET) program will begin in 2015. The program is a 650-hour course in which students will attend classes eight hours a day, five days a week, for one semester.



Culinary classes begin in October

Culinary classes led by a prominent local chef will begin on the Tarboro campus in October.

Stephen Ribustello, executive chef and co-owner of On the Square restaurant and wine store in Tarboro, will lead a series of two classes on the following Tuesdays:

October 21, 6-9 p.m.
Fleming Building, Room 152
Soups and Sauces



November 18, 6-9 p.m.
Fleming Building, Room 152
Holiday Appetizers

The cost of each class is \$25. To register, contact Trudy Lynn at 823-5166, ext. 220, or lynnt@edgecombe.edu.

“We’re trying to meet the needs of today’s students by offering relevant, income-producing training in our continuing education programs.”

BLET requires about 17 weeks. Upon graduation, an individual is eligible for certification as a law enforcement officer in North Carolina. This eligibility is good for one year from the date of graduation from BLET.

All staff, equipment, and supplies have to be in place before the state will approve Edgecombe’s plan to implement the program. The college is in the process of ordering items such as ammunition, training tools, and other gear for the program.

Course work includes firearms, driver training, motor vehicle laws, ethics, self-defense, domestic violence and S.C.A.T. training, subject control, and arrest techniques. In addition to classroom instruction, practical training on driving courses, firing ranges, and mock crime scene settings will take place.

Also, students will undergo vigorous physical training. “It’s not only a mental challenge, but also a physical challenge,” Cale says.

Basic law enforcement training is available at several community colleges in surrounding counties. Consequently, Cale realizes that

ECC’s new program will need to set itself apart.

“The key is to have the best instructors in the area,” he says. “That’s the way to be successful.”

For more information:

Natural Hair Care Licensure & Cooking Classes
Trudy Lynn
Director of Special Programs
823-5166, ext. 220
lynnt@edgecombe.edu

Basic Law Enforcement Training
Lt. Bernie Taylor
Instructor/Coordinator
823-5166, ext. 175
824-3605 or 567-6967
taylorb@edgecombe.edu

New! Study Natural Hair Care on Weekends

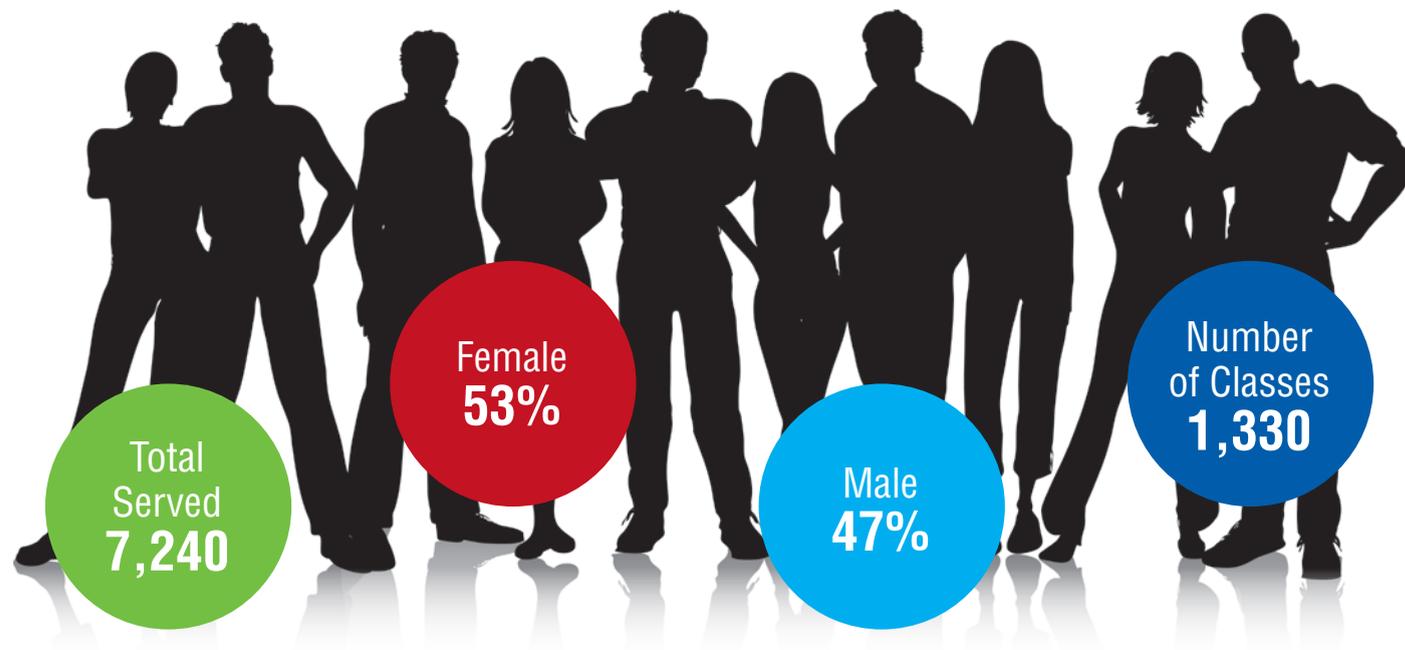
August 15, 2014 – February 21, 2015

Class meets:
Friday, 5:30-9:30 PM
Saturday, 8 AM-5 PM
Tarboro campus

Tuition is \$180, plus kit and book.

To register, contact 823-5166, ext. 220, or lynnt@edgecombe.edu.

Continuing Education Students • Fall 2012 – Summer 2013



Commut-EDGE Service Shuttles Students between Campuses

Sixteen miles might not seem very far, but when you have no vehicle and no public transportation available, it might as well be 160 miles.

For years, transportation is an issue that has challenged Edgecombe Community College, with two campuses – one in Tarboro and another in Rocky Mount.

After trying other options to get students from one campus to the other efficiently, the college added a shuttle service this summer.

According to Michael Jordan, vice president of student services, “We’ve looked into shuttle services before, but they’ve always been cost-prohibitive. They’re in the business of making money; we just want to get students from one campus to the other.”

The shuttle van is operating on a limited schedule this summer. In the fall, the shuttle will expand

operation, starting at 7:30 a.m. in Rocky Mount with a run to Tarboro and ending with a run from Rocky Mount to Tarboro at 3:40 p.m., with three trips in between.

Students need a pass to ride the shuttle, and they’re required to be enrolled in classes on the other campus. Passes are available at the Office of Students Services or online. Staff and faculty also can use the shuttle.

The college will give priority to students who are enrolled in classes that are held on one campus only, such as auto body repair, auto mechanics, facilities maintenance, electronics, and manufacturing, all of which are taught in Tarboro.

In the past, Rocky Mount students may not have signed up for these programs because of transportation issues.

“We’re trying to remove all obstacles for the students,” Jordan says.

COMMUT-EDGE Transportation Between Campuses



The college has one van that seats 8-12 passengers, and officials may purchase at least one more vehicle – possibly a 12- to 15-passenger van.

“We will re-evaluate this initiative mid-semester to plug any gaps,” Jordan explains.

“We haven’t yet solved the night class issue, but we’re working on it.”

– J. Eric Eckard

For more information:

Commut-EDGE

Tarboro campus
Charlotte O’Neal
Student Services
823-5166, ext. 255

Rocky Mount campus
Patricia Pryor
Student Services
823-5166, ext. 319

ECC Travel Abroad Tours Baltic Capitals

Nineteen people from Eastern North Carolina sailed on a nine-day cruise on the Baltic Sea May 27-June 6 through the ECC Travel Abroad program. Shown right is the group enjoying their last dinner together before they reached the port in Copenhagen, Denmark, where all passengers disembarked and headed home. Visiting the six capitals of Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Russia, Finland, and Sweden created memories filled with rich history and culture.

Shown from left are (sitting) Bonnie Gainey, Ruth Fleetwood, Jessie Jones, Susan Galbraith, Stephanie Rook, Josie Davis, (standing) Retha Deaton, Freda Wright, Stanley Harrell, Clara Harrell, Deborah Lamm, June

Cherry, Lance Cherry, Jennah Summerlin, Mahlon Deloatch, Brenquitta Webb, and Vines Cobb. Shown inset are Edgecombe Community College students Brenquitta Webb (left) and Jennah Summerlin, who benefited from

this life-altering experience, exploring cultures, traditions, customs, and history unlike their own, experiencing the trip of a lifetime. Not pictured are travelers Carnell Lamm and Laura Ashley Lamm.



Edgecombe Community College Cooking School

Stephen Ribustello, executive chef and co-owner of On the Square restaurant and wine store in Tarboro, will conduct a culinary demonstration on Tuesday, September 16, from 6 PM to 9 PM in the Fleming Building, Room 152, on the Tarboro campus.

Ribustello will show the class how to prepare an entire meal, from salad to dessert.

Learn the techniques used in food preparation and presentation.

Draw for door prizes.

Cost: \$25

To register, contact Trudy Lynn at 823-5166, ext. 220, or lynnt@edgecombe.edu.



Study Criminal Justice or Natural Hair Care

Criminal Justice

Earn an associate degree in Criminal Justice in two years through online courses and face-to-face classes held on weekends.

Natural Hair Care

Complete the Natural Hair Care licensure program in two semesters by attending weekend classes.

To learn more about the Weekend College, please contact:

Patricia Saunders

Director, Evening and Weekend Programs

823-5166, ext.113

saundersp@edgecombe.edu

 **Edgecombe**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Register TODAY!

Final registration for fall semester

is **August 19 & 20**. Classes start

August 21. Call **823-5166** or

log onto **www.edgecombe.edu**.

Especially for Plus 50 Students



Are you 50 or older? Edgecombe Community College has been chosen to join the Plus 50 Encore Completion Program, a national effort to train baby boomers for new jobs in health care, education, and social services.

ECC training programs for high-demand jobs

Health Care

Emergency Medical Technician
Health Information Technology
Medical Assisting
Medical Office Administration
Medication Aide
Nurse Assistant I & II
Nursing & Practical Nursing
Phlebotomy
Radiography
Respiratory Therapy
Surgical Technology

Education

Early Childhood Education
Effective Teacher Training
School Age Education

Social Services

Human Services Technology
Substance Abuse

ECC special services for Plus 50 students

- Open House and orientation
- ACA 111 course, "College Student Success"
- Computer skills boot camp
- Seminars
- Job fairs
- Career advising
- Networking opportunities



“ Edgecombe has been a safe haven for me. Staff and faculty took the time – one-on-one – to help me get up to speed with new technology. As an older student, that was my biggest challenge. ”

– Joe Collins, 54
Human Services Technology major

 **Edgecombe**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Ready to
get started?**

Contact
Marie Wilson
823-5166, ext. 331
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