

CareerFocus™

ECC Launches Basic Law Enforcement Training

See page 2



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On the cover: Basic Law Enforcement Training cadets are (from left) Alicia Godinez, Darrius Epps, Matthew Boyette, BLET School Director Bernie Taylor, and cadet Cody Lancaster. Read more about the college's new BLET program on page 2.

CareerFocus™

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ECC Launches Basic Law Enforcement Training

Local law enforcement officials look forward to hiring Edgecombe graduates



From left are BLET School Director Bernie Taylor, Edgecombe Deputy Joey Petway, Rocky Mount Police Chief James Moore, Tarboro Police Chief Damon Williams, and Edgecombe Sheriff James Knight. Edgecombe Community College's new BLET program will enable local law enforcement to "recruit, hire, and train locally while maintaining close contact with the cadets and instructors," says Sheriff Knight.

by J. Eric Eckard

When Darius Epps was young, he dreamed of becoming a school band director. He loved music, and he played tuba and drums at SouthWest Edgecombe before graduating in 2014.

But the persistence of a resource officer at the high school gave him new dreams. Epps has traded in his drumsticks and sheet music for a bulletproof vest and a 9mm handgun.

"(The resource officer) bugged me and bugged me about attending the Junior Sheriff's Academy," the 19-year-old Epps says. "It was just a two-week class, but by the time it was over, I was in love with it. I became more interested in law enforcement."

Epps is among 24 cadets enrolled in Edgecombe Community College's first Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy. The 18-week program provides students with 697 hours of classroom work, rigorous hands-on instruction, and physical training to prepare them for careers in law enforcement.

Tarboro police Chief Damon Williams says he's excited about the new program at the college because it will give him and other Tarboro officers a chance to get to know the cadets better.

"It will give us a closer look at the cadets as they go through the program right here in Edgecombe County," Williams says. "We'll be able to get to know the cadets a little better, find out more about

them and their personalities, and see if they're a good fit for our department."

Williams also believes the college's new BLET program will help Edgecombe County law enforcement agencies compete with surrounding agencies to fill spots with graduating cadets.

"In the past, we'd have to drive to Wilson or Nashville and observe them in those settings," Williams says. "It's not the most convenient situation, but also, other agencies would be able to spend more time with them, and bonds would be formed with those agencies more easily because they've seen them more often."

Local expert in charge

The academy began July 6 with its first class of cadets. But the program was established two years ago when Edgecombe Community College started purchasing the equipment needed to start its first class.

Bernie Taylor took over the college's BLET program in 2014 after retiring from the Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office following nearly 30 years in law enforcement. He spent the past nine years as the training coordinator at the sheriff's office.

After the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission approved the college's new program, Taylor started recruiting cadets. Five women are listed on the roster of his first class of 24 students, including Alicia Godinez.

Godinez, 20, says she wanted to join a law enforcement agency to help bridge gaps between the Hispanic population in the area and law enforcement officials.

"I'd like to help my people in some way," Godinez says. "Some Hispanics don't speak any English so I can translate.

"Plus, I know (agencies) need a lot more women. I'm expecting to give it all I've got and make Hispanics proud and to show that a woman can do this, too."

Godinez says she believes she will do well in the academy, especially with the physical training aspect of the program thanks to her athletic past. She ran track and played soccer at SouthWest Edgecombe High School before graduating three years ago.

BLET requires brains and brawn

This year, all BLET programs will implement an overhauled POPAT, or Police Officers Physical Abilities Test. Revamped by the standards commission, the new POPAT has been tested in pilot programs in the state over the past three years. It includes such activities as low crawls, broad jumps, running, dragging a weighted dummy, fence scaling, and push-ups.

"I've already been running a lot," Godinez says.

BLET also focuses on classroom training in ethics, writing reports, communication skills, criminal and constitutional law, domestic violence, and controlled substances. In addition, cadets will be certified in the use of tasers, expandable

batons, and pepper spray after graduating from the program at Edgecombe Community College.

Edgecombe County Sheriff James Knight also says he's excited about the new program because it will enhance the partnership between the sheriff's office and the college.

"We've been looking forward to Edgecombe County having its own BLET program for a while now," he says. "We even had this in mind when the Sheriff's Office Training Center was being built.

"It enables us to recruit, hire, and train locally while maintaining close contact with the cadets and instructors. And, as a bonus, we're able to recruit cadets who aren't local."

For Darius Epps, the new BLET program at Edgecombe Community College seems like a perfect fit.

"I love helping people; I love helping the community," he says.

For more information:

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Husband and Wife – Busy Parents of Four – Earn Criminal Justice Degrees

by Jane Schreier Jones

Melissa and William “Billy” Moore of Tarboro had ample reasons to not go to college.

Each works full time – he

is a patrol sergeant with the Edgecombe Sheriff’s Office, and she manages a shoe store. They have four children, ages 9 through 17, with full schedules of activities.

Yet on May 9, 2015, Melissa, 38, and Billy, 41, each received an associate degree in criminal justice from Edgecombe Community College.

“If we can do it, anybody can,” says Melissa emphatically.

“We had terrific support from our children, including pitching in more around the house so the parents could do homework! We also had instructors at Edgecombe who bent over backward to help us.”

Melissa had attended another community college straight out of high school. But “life happened,” including marriage to Billy and later four wonderful children: Victoria, McKenzie, Alexandria, and William Jr.

A few years ago, Billy overheard some coworkers on the squad talking about earning a degree in criminal justice. Billy decided to see what Edgecombe Community College offered, and then made the decision to begin work on his own degree. He started classes in 2011.

“I knew a criminal justice degree would help me on the job,” Billy reports. “Plus, I’m retiring in 11 more years. This degree opens up new opportunities such as a job in private security, as a magistrate, or another local or federal job.”

Soon after her husband started school, Melissa “got the bug” and began working on her degree at Edgecombe also. “I always wanted to earn a college degree,” she says. “When I saw Billy’s determination



Working full-time jobs and caring for four children didn’t stop William “Billy” and Melissa Moore from earning associate degrees in criminal justice. The couple graduated in May. They credit their children with “pitching in more around the house so the parents could do homework!” Shown with their parents are (clockwise from top) William Jr., 9; Victoria, 17; Alexandria, 13; and McKenzie, 14.

and how he was making it work, I wanted to do it, too.”

Melissa earned her degree in criminal justice in order to land a job as a probation patrol officer for juveniles. She worked in the prison system years ago and wanted to combine that experience with her love for kids in order to help juveniles.

In addition to their associate degrees, both earned certificates in crime assessment. Billy also earned an additional certificate in criminal justice.

The Moores’ accomplishments were part of a record-breaking year for ECC. Theirs were among the 621 credentials awarded – the most in college history – to members of the Class of 2015.

The Moores are proud of their achievements, pursuing their dreams despite their busy lives. “There were a lot of late nights and

instructors understood his life. “Lots of times I had to wear my uniform to class. If my radio went off, the instructors understood I had to leave,” he says. He remembers one time when he had to miss a test because of work, and instructor Gerald Pitkin brought the test to him.

Both Moores have high praise for Rick Basile, program chair of criminal justice at ECC. “He kept us going and was so encouraging,” says Melissa. “His advice and support were very important to us.”

“That kind of support is a big reason why I’d recommend Edgecombe to anybody,” Billy says.

Would it have been easier if only one of them was taking classes? “No, it was better that we both did it together,” Billy says. “We pushed each other,” Melissa adds.

The Moores are relaxing and enjoying being finished with classes and studying. But the feeling of accomplishment – and the degrees – are theirs forever.

Melissa made a promise to herself that she would earn her college degree before their oldest child was graduated from high school. “And I did it; Victoria doesn’t graduate until January,” Melissa says with a smile. “It’s a great feeling.”

even some tears,” Melissa admits. “Not only were we busy with our jobs, but the kids had ball practice, Scouts, cheerleading, and all the rest. But we were determined to finish what we started.”

Billy, the first in his family to attend college, says the Edgecombe

“If we can do it, anybody can.”

Basic Law Enforcement Training

- ▶ Emphasis on high-risk calls
- ▶ Certification in tasers, expandable batons, and pepper spray
- ▶ Additional hours in Officer Survival Training
- ▶ Successful grads receive 19 credits toward associate degree in criminal justice



Next Academy begins **March 2016!**

Jump on the Fast Track to College or Career

High school students can earn college credit and save money

by J. Eric Eckard and Mary Tom Bass

When Joshua Hudson graduated from high school earlier this year, he already was ahead of most his fellow graduates in Edgecombe County.

The 18-year-old earned two certificates – one in collision repair and refinishing technology and a second in automotive systems technology – thanks to his enrollment in Edgecombe Community College courses through the NC Career and College Promise program while he was a high school student at North Edgecombe.

“It was great; I loved it,” Hudson says. “The instructors were amazing.”

NC Career and College Promise

Hudson was a student in the Career and Technical Education Pathway, one of three pathways available to Edgecombe high school students to take college classes – tuition free – giving them a jumpstart on their workplace or college preparation.

NC Career and College Promise unites the Department of Public Instruction, the NC Community College System, the University of North Carolina system, and many independent colleges and universities.

Three pathways for high school students are available through NC Career and College Promise:

#1 College Transfer Pathway

This option is for high school juniors and seniors, who can earn up to 30 hours of college credit toward a four-year degree.

#2 Career and Technical Education Pathway

This option also is for high school juniors and seniors. Students earn college credit toward an associate degree, diploma, or certificate.

#3 Edgecombe Early College High School Pathway

Beginning in the ninth grade, Early College students can enroll in college courses. Students may complete an associate degree or earn up to two years of college credit within five years.

In both the College Transfer and Career and Technical Education pathways, transportation to the college via county school buses is provided in the afternoon.

Another option for high school juniors and seniors is to take Edgecombe Community College courses that are based in the high schools. Public Speaking and Introduction to Computers are available in the fall at North Edgecombe. Early childhood education and college biology courses are offered in the spring.

Early childhood education and electronics are taught at SouthWest Edgecombe. Early childhood education also is taught at Tarboro High School.

Gaining savings and scholarships

Thirty Edgecombe high school students received certificates through the College Transfer and Career and Technical Education pathways at Edgecombe Community College’s graduation in May. These certificates were in early childhood education, collision repair and refinishing, industrial controls, criminal justice, and automotive systems.

An additional 17 students received associate in arts and associate



Collision repair and refinishing is a popular ECC program among high school students. Standing center is Joshua Hudson, who earned two certificates from the college in May, completing the course work while in high school. He also graduated from North Edgecombe High School in May. Shown front right is Richard Mata-Reyes, who earned a college certificate while enrolled in high school. Mata-Reyes is now an ECC student, working toward a degree in collision repair and refinishing. Instructor Tim Fox is shown front left.

in science degrees through the Edgecombe Early College High School. The Early College class, comprising 32 students, earned a total of 1991 hours of college credit, with an average of 62 hours per graduate.

According to Kathy Webb, Early College liaison/high school coordinator, “Early College graduates earned more than \$189,000 in free college tuition and books, which is a savings to each student of about \$5,916.41.

“These students earned 1,991 hours of college credit with an average of 62 hours per graduate,” she says. “Also, every student tested for and received a Career Readiness Certificate, which tells employers in the community they have the skills necessary to be employable.”

As of June 30, 44 Edgecombe County students had been accepted into the Early College’s fall program. With a maximum enrollment of 160 students, Early College officials look at academics, attendance, behavior, maturity, and other factors when reviewing applications.

“Our student body has to mirror the demographics of the county,” Webb explains. “Sometimes that’s difficult. Attracting males to the Early College can be a challenge because there are no sports.”

But the program does offer lots of extracurricular activities, including a drama club, quiz bowl, leadership conference, a running club, flag football, mentoring, service learning, and ECC organizations.

Tailoring schedules to students’ needs

Faculty and staff at the Early College work with students and parents each year to develop a customized schedule for each student.

First and foremost, the Early College emphasis is on high school completion, but plenty of attention is aimed at college readiness.

This year, 25 out of 32 graduates received a College Transfer degree, either an associate in arts or associate in science, or, in some cases, both.

Hudson says college readiness was a key component of his experience at ECC. When he was a high school junior, all of his classmates were other high school students. But as a senior, he shared classrooms with older college students.

“I had to adjust to it because of the age difference,” Hudson says. “After I got to know some of the college students, I opened up, and the experience helped me mature.”

For more information:

NC Career and College Promise

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Harvard Dream Comes True for ECC Graduate

by Jane Schreier Jones

When he was a boy, Zack Cowan of Tarboro, son of a factory worker, used to joke that he was going to attend Harvard someday.

That day has come. This month, Cowan will begin studying law at the prestigious Harvard Law School.

He is filled with gratitude for the college that launched his journey in higher education. "If it weren't for the instructors at Edgecombe Community College, I would not be going to Harvard," he says, emphatically.

Years ago, Cowan, son of Fredia and Vernon Cowan, constructed an extremely thorough education plan starting with attending Edgecombe Early College High School, which is based on the campus of the community college.

One of three NC Career and College Promise pathways open to Edgecombe high school students, the Early College enables students to earn a high school diploma and a community college associate degree or two years of college credit in five years.

"I knew I needed to save money on higher education," says Cowan, who is now the first college graduate in his family. "The Edgecombe Early College High School was an ideal way to earn college credit while in high school. I wanted to graduate debt-free."

So Cowan spent his high school years on the Tarboro campus of Edgecombe Community College. He earned his high school diploma and then some – not one, but two associate degrees, one in arts and one in science – all with a 4.0 GPA.

"I love to learn, and since I wasn't sure what career path I wanted, I figured a broad education would be best," he says.

This hard-working young man praises the education he received at the college. "My instructors had a passion for learning, and I always

knew they wanted me to succeed," he says. "There's no slipping through the cracks at Edgecombe. You're surrounded by people dedicated to helping you."

Cowan received his pair of associate degrees at the college's May 2011 commencement ceremony, and two weeks later, he was valedictorian at his high school graduation.

Next step? Landing scholarships in order to earn a bachelor of arts degree with majors in economics and psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He graduated in December 2014 as a Phi Beta Kappa inductee with a 3.9 GPA.



Zack Cowan of Tarboro is heading to Harvard Law School. By attending Edgecombe Early College High School, he was able to complete two associate degrees at Edgecombe Community College – tuition-free. "The Early College High School was an ideal way to earn college credit while in high school," he says.

He also worked during his college years and completed his undergraduate education free of debt, for which he credits the model of hard work set by his parents.

During his years in Chapel Hill, Cowan served as a family law intern in Burlington and a legal aid intern in Wilson. "I realized that corporate law isn't what I wanted in a career," says Cowan, a big fan of author John Grisham.

"When I'm a lawyer, at the end of the day, I want to know I made a difference, helping people with backgrounds similar to my own. A legal education will give me the tools to help combat systemic flaws that affect our nation's disadvantaged."

Cowan is grateful to his parents, his grandmother Judy Cowan, whom he calls "my rock," his instructors and professors, and the people of the area.

"Edgecombe is one of the poorest counties in North Carolina, but my county continues to invest heavily in education to prepare for its future," he says. "I am one of many who has benefited from these investments."

Since the Revolutionary War, Cowan's family has lived in Eastern North Carolina. Now he's leaving for Harvard, nearly 700 miles north in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Will he return to Tarboro?

"My family's roots, values, and traditions run deep here," he says. "I don't know what the future will bring, but I wouldn't be surprised if I end up right back here."

FREE! NC Career and College Promise Pathways FREE!

High school students can jumpstart their futures by earning tuition-free college credit while they're in high school.

#1 College Transfer Pathway

High school juniors and seniors earn up to 30 semester hours of college credit toward a four-year degree. Students can take courses that lead to an associate in arts or an associate in science degree.

#2 Career and Technical Pathway

High school juniors and seniors earn college credit toward an associate degree, diploma, or certificate. Programs include:

- Automotive Systems
- Business Administration
- Collision Repair and Refinishing
- Computer Technology Integration
- Cosmetology
- Criminal Justice
- Early Childhood Education
- Electrical/Electronics
- Electrical Systems
- Facility Maintenance Worker
- Historic Preservation
- Human Services
- Manicuring/Nail Technology
- Medical Office Administration
- Manufacturing Technology
- Nurse Aide

#3 Edgecombe Early College High School Pathway

Beginning in the ninth grade, Early College students can enroll in college courses. Students may complete an associate degree or earn up to two years of college credit within five years. Students apply to Early College High School in January/February of their 8th grade year.

To take advantage of these opportunities, students should contact their high school counselor or an ECC career coach.

Students and parents also can contact Kathy Webb, Early College liaison/high school coordinator, at 823-5166, ext. 205, or webbk@edgecombe.edu.

Schools Partner with Cummins to Grow Manufacturing Workforce

by J. Eric Eckard

A recent study shows that North Carolina faces a gap between workforce supply and employer demand in the coming years.

To address that gap, Edgecombe Community College has unveiled a collaborative program with Edgecombe high schools that will enable teenagers to take college classes and get early experience in the field of manufacturing.

The Advanced Manufacturing Program Academy will officially kick off this fall.

“A capable workforce having the skills to be successful in the new advanced manufacturing arena will be and should continue to be a focus in the educational and partnering strategy with companies in Rocky Mount and surrounding areas,” says Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant Manager Calvin T. Balance.

“In order to bring industry into our region and develop the economy, there must be a capable workforce and strong education system.”

Nancy Hobbs, project manager of the NC Advanced Manufacturing Alliance at ECC, says Cummins has been pivotal in establishing the AMP Academy.

“It’s all about partnerships,” Hobbs says. “There are jobs, but we don’t have the workforce. We have an opportunity to meet the needs of the community with the new AMP Academy.”

Manufacturing skills in short supply

According to an NC Commission on Workforce Development study, which focuses on the state’s labor force through 2017, the state is in the midst of a talent shortage.

“The state’s economy is creating a substantial number of higher skilled jobs, demanding ever higher sets of skills and offering higher and better wages,” the study says. “The challenge for North Carolina’s workforce and education system will be to ensure that North Carolinians are prepared to take advantage of the better-paying, higher skill jobs, and preventing people from having to accept low pay jobs just because they are not prepared for the good job opportunities available in the state.”

For the past few years, Edgecombe Community College has offered several manufacturing classes at Edgecombe high schools for juniors and seniors. The AMP Academy will shift the focus to freshmen and sophomores so that students are college-ready as juniors and seniors, according to Hobbs.

“Students can earn college credits while in high school for free, and they also can earn a manufacturing technology certificate,” she explains. “This can feed into the diploma program at Edgecombe Community College and possibly an internship at Cummins.”

AMP Academy a win-win

Balance calls the AMP Academy a “win-win” situation for area high schools, the college, students, and industries in Eastern North Carolina.

“Our partnerships with education allow us to speak with middle school students and parents to explain the careers available locally at Cummins,” he says. “The academy is designed for students to take manufacturing-related courses and some college courses that prepare them for certain majors at Edgecombe Community College.

“While students receive practical work experience and skills necessary to be successful in manufacturing, Cummins benefits from receiving potential future employees.”

Balance believes that partnerships like the one with Edgecombe Community College are important in developing workforce readiness in the region and the state.

“We all have a stake in finding solutions to the training processes

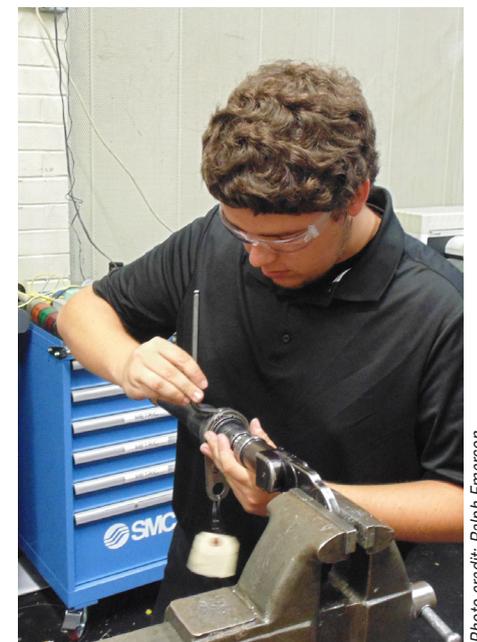


Photo credit: Ralph Emerson

ECC student Josh Sears is working as an intern at Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant. “I love it,” he says. “I’m working with great people and have tons of new things to do every day. It’s really fun.” Sears is majoring in manufacturing technology.

and skills gap challenges in our communities,” he says.

“Industry engagement and collaboration are vital to creating a strong pipeline of skilled workers.”

For more information:

Advanced Manufacturing Program Academy

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Early College Liaison/High School Coordinator

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Graduate Finds Success through Education and Hard Work

Whip smart with a litany of honors to his credit, Andre Cooper remains quiet and unassuming about his remarkable accomplishments in recent years.

A May graduate of Edgecombe Community College, Cooper was recognized at



commencement exercises as the 2015 North Carolina Community College Academic Excellence Award recipient from ECC.

He served two terms as president of the Student Government Association. He was an ECC Foundation Student Ambassador, a member of the student honor society, and a volunteer mentor to second graders at Stocks Elementary School.

A business administration major, he received a national award for public speaking in 2013 from the Future Business Leaders of America.

Cooper, 36, wasn’t always successful. At one point in his life, he says, “I felt like a failure, like life had passed me by. In short, I felt like

a loser. That’s when I decided to go back to school.”

He chose Edgecombe. “Edgecombe Community College believed in me, and I started believing in myself.”

Throughout his years as a busy student, Cooper worked full time at McClane, formerly Meadowbrook Meat Company. In November 2014, he was promoted from warehouseman to floor supervisor.

“During my time at ECC I found happiness, success, family, and my self-esteem. Thanks to Edgecombe Community College, I finally found the winner in me.”

— Mary Tom Bass

Andre Cooper, who attained a 3.26 GPA at ECC, says, “Dreams do come true if you work hard. It’s not the naysayers who define us; it’s the work we put in. Dream big – that’s my motto.”



Associate degree nursing graduate Heather Ross took and passed the licensure exam for registered nurses in June. In July, she began working in the cardiopulmonary support unit at Nash General Hospital. “It all comes down to quality,” she says. “ECC’s nursing program shines.”

Mom of Three Gains New Career – and New Confidence – through Nursing

by Jane Schreier Jones

Heather Ross stood on stage in the Keihin Auditorium at Edgecombe Community College, wearing the nursing pin she had just been awarded for completing the college’s associate degree nursing program.

“I looked around at all the people who helped me achieve this dream – my fiancé, my three daughters, other relatives, and the instructors at Edgecombe – and I was filled with gratitude,” says Ross, 46, one of 28 graduates in the May class.

“I couldn’t believe I made it!”

A few years ago, Ross had little belief this triumph was possible. After being an at-home mom for 13 years, she divorced and became a single parent.

“I was scared,” she admits. “I lacked confidence but needed to earn enough money to support my

kids.” Her children are Lindsey, 16; Haven, 14; and Charlotte, 6.

Ross had always loved medicine and science and describes herself as a people-person. A career in nursing seemed an ideal fit. Upon a strong recommendation from a person “in the know,” Ross chose nursing at Edgecombe Community College.

“Kathy Williford was director of nursing programs at Edgecombe and helped the college earn an excellent reputation as the number one place for nursing in this area,” Ross says. (Williford retired in May.)

In fact, in April, Edgecombe’s associate degree nursing and practical nursing programs received accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

ACEN accreditation is a voluntary peer-review process. Though ACEN accreditation is not required for nursing education programs, it demonstrates an institution’s

heightened commitment to quality instruction.

“ACEN accreditation shows that the college wants its nursing program to be the best,” says Ross. “It all comes down to quality. ECC’s nursing program shines.”

Ross began her studies at Edgecombe in the fall of 2012. “It’s a tough program, but the instructors want to make sure we have the knowledge and skills needed to provide the best nursing care possible. They also focus on preparing us well for the NCLEX-RN.”

Graduates must pass the NCLEX-RN – National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses – to become registered nurses. ECC’s associate degree nursing graduates in May 2014 scored 96% on the exam, exceeding the national average of 84% for first-time test takers.

Ross, who lives in Rocky Mount, says it was a challenge to juggle

family and studies, but “you do what it takes.” She reports that the instructors at Edgecombe played a significant role in her success.

“They expect a lot out of you because the health care field will, too. But they also support you. For instance, Ms. (Barbara) Knopp instilled such confidence in me. When I was doing clinicals, Ms. Knopp would say to me, ‘You got this!’ and I began to believe in myself.”

Ross is enjoying a busy summer. She took and passed the NCLEX-RN in June and began her career as a registered nurse in the cardiopulmonary support unit at Nash General Hospital in July. She also was married in July. Ross says returning to school for a bachelor’s degree in nursing is a possibility.

“I am proud that I showed my girls I could do this,” she adds. “I showed them that when your life takes a turn for the worst, you can turn it around.”



June 29, 2015:
Front view of the
Biotechnology and
Medical Simulation
Center

Biotechnology and Medical Simulation Center Will Revolutionize Area Health Care Education

Patient simulators will be the cornerstone of teaching and learning

by Mary Tom Bass

The real thing is coming to Edgemcombe.

In January 2016, Edgemcombe Community College will begin training health sciences students in its new Biotechnology and Medical Simulation Center, a state-of-the-art facility that will launch a new era in health care education for the region.

Construction began in October 2014. The three-story, 45,000-square-foot facility located on the Rocky Mount campus will house 14 of the college's 22 health sciences programs with the capacity to add new programs.

The cornerstone of the new center is a simulated hospital environment. Rooms will be set up to function like emergency

rooms, operating rooms, ICUs, nurses stations, and the back of an ambulance.

"The new health sciences building will change everything about how we train students at the college,"

"The new health sciences building will change everything about how we train students at the college."

says ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm.

"We've been using patient simulators for years, but we've never been able to use them in a simulated hospital environment. Students will be able to learn and make mistakes in a setting that replicates the workplace."

The simulated hospital will encompass 20,000 square feet in the new Biotechnology and Medical Simulation Center. This environment lies at the heart of what will make teaching and learning unique in eastern North Carolina. The hospital will be equipped with interactive mannequins that will enable students to perform advanced life support skills.

Currently, students stand by and watch clinicians perform these

skills on live patients. In the new simulated hospital, they will be able to work in teams to assess and treat the simulated patients.

"Students are the stars of this teaching modality," says Ralph Webb, chair of respiratory therapy at ECC. "This will be a tremendous learning tool."

"The simulated hospital will be very different for Eastern North Carolina," says Dr. Lamm. "Students who train with us will have the very same equipment and the same scenarios they would see in the workplace."

"We are confident they will have a seamless transition when they graduate and enter the workforce."

Many educational institutions in the area offer simulated labs, but none have simulated hospital



June 29, 2015:
View taken atop
the Alford Building
at the corner of
Sunset Avenue and
Washington Street

What's Inside

Biotechnology and Medical Simulation Center

1st Floor

- Training Rooms (Classrooms)
- Teaching Auditorium
- Biotechnology Lab
- Simulated Ambulance Lab

2nd Floor

- Patient Rooms/Skills Labs
- Emergency Training Rooms
- Examining Rooms
- Phlebotomy/Blood Bank Lab
- Radiography Training Lab, including:
 - Mammography Room
 - X-Ray Room
 - X-ray Quality Control Room

3rd Floor

- Home Health/Community Health Room
- Counseling/Mental Health Training Room
- Intensive Care Training Room
- Occupational Therapy Lab
- Operating Room Lab
 - Scrub Room
- Respiratory Care Lab
- Occupational Therapy Lab
- Central Sterile Clean Room
- Obstetrics/Neonatal Training Room
- Observation Rooms
- Debriefing Rooms
- Nurses Stations

environments, according to Dr. Lamm.

“We will have something really special, not just for our students but also for local health care professionals who come to us for specialized training.”

Wick Baker, president of Vidant Edgecombe Hospital and chair of the Edgecombe Community College Board of Trustees, agrees that the new facility will be a “terrific way to train community college students as well as hospital staff who need refreshers or additional training.”

“The different scenarios that can be programmed into the mannequins will really test the student’s hands-on knowledge in what can be a tense situation, so it mimics what takes place in a hospital and other health care settings in a safe environment. It’s a fantastic teaching tool.”

Edgecombe County and the Golden LEAF Foundation are providing funding for construction, while the college is providing funding for equipment and technology.

The facility is expected to be completed in November. Faculty will move into the building by December in anticipation of classes beginning in January 2016.

Establish a Legacy in Education

Edgecombe Community College is committed to preparing the next generation of health care workers through the new Biotechnology and Medical Simulation Center.

Donors may play a role in helping the college meet the workforce needs of the area by making a gift to the Legacy Campaign. Contributions will be used to provide equipment and technology in the new center.

Gifts of all levels will be greatly appreciated. Gifts of \$10,000 or more will have naming rights in the new facility.

The college is grateful to the late Gracie McBryde of Tarboro for being the first donor to make a commitment to the Legacy Campaign. To recognize her generous contribution, the teaching auditorium will be named the Lacy and Gracie McBryde Teaching Auditorium.

Recognition Plan

Naming Opportunities

Biotechnology and Medical Simulation Center	\$1,000,000
Biotechnology Lab	\$100,000
Radiography Training Lab	\$25,000
Operating Room Lab	\$25,000
Respiratory Care Lab	\$25,000
Nursing Skills Lab (reserved)	\$25,000
Obstetrics/Neonatal Training Room (reserved)	\$25,000
Lobbies (3)	\$25,000
Skills Lab	\$20,000
Nurses’ Stations (2)	\$15,000
Occupational Therapy Lab	\$15,000
Computer Labs (2)	\$15,000
Home Health/Community Health Room (reserved)	\$15,000
Computer Labs (2)	\$15,000
Phlebotomy Lab	\$10,000
Counseling/Mental Health Training	\$10,000
Training Rooms (7) (2 reserved)	\$10,000

Investor’s Society

Friend	Up to \$999
Associate	\$1,000 – \$2,499
Fellow	\$2,500 – \$4,999
Partner	\$5,000 – \$7,499
Founder	\$7,500 – \$9,999

To make a contribution, please visit www.edgecombe.edu/biotechnology-and-medical-simulation-center

To request additional information, please contact Dr. Deborah Lamm, ECC President, at 823-5166, ext. 253, or lammd@edgecombe.edu.

Study Confirms that ECC Is a Major Economic Driver for Area

Impact of college and its graduates totaled almost \$80 million in FY 2012-13

North Carolina's institutions of higher education deliver a solid return on investment for their students and the state, according to the first-ever statewide analysis of higher education's impact on the state's economy.

The North Carolina Community College System, the University of North Carolina system, and the 36 campuses of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities together created \$63.5 billion in added economic value during fiscal year 2012-13 according to a recent study conducted by Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI). The findings were released earlier this year.

Higher education is a key economic driver in North Carolina, the study found, with business and industry relying on the state's education institutions to produce skilled employees and foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

The state's community colleges are often cited for the cost savings they offer students and families, and the impact of these lower-cost educational and skill development programs are evident in the impact on alumni wages outlined in the study.

Today, 40 percent of North Carolina wage earners have received education or training at a North Carolina community college during the last 10 years. The accumulated contribution of former students

totaled \$19.6 billion in added state income, which is equivalent to creating more than 322,000 new jobs, according to the study.

Edgecombe Community College's impact

During FY 2012-13, Edgecombe Community College spent \$16.6 million on payroll and benefits for 538 employees – full time and part time – and spent another \$11.4 million on goods and services to carry out its day-to-day operations.

This initial round of spending creates more spending across other businesses throughout the regional economy, resulting in multiplier effects. EMSI estimated these multiplier effects in the study and

reported the additional economic activity that is created by ECC and its students and alumni.

Impacts are reported in terms of total income, which is analogous to gross regional product, and the corresponding number of jobs created.

These economic impacts break down as follows:

Operations spending impact

Payroll to support day-to-day operations of ECC amounted to \$16.6 million. The net impact of the college's operations spending in the ECC service area during FY 2012-13 was approximately \$18.9 million in added regional income, which is equivalent to creating 570 jobs.

Edgecombe County Planning Director Got Her Start at ECC

by Jane Schreier Jones

Still settling into her new position that began in April, Edgecombe County Planning Director Cynthia Jenkins clearly remembers, and appreciates, the first degree in higher education she earned – at Edgecombe Community College in 1996.

"I am deeply appreciative to the instructors at Edgecombe Community College," this talented leader says. "Their outstanding classroom skills as well as their willingness to help whenever you need it makes for a wonderful campus that feels like family."

Although Jenkins would go on to earn a bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning with a minor in public administration from East Carolina University in 2002 and a master's degree in public administration from North Carolina Central University in 2009, it was on the Tarboro campus of ECC that a young Cynthia Jenkins realized that attaining a college education was possible.

"I graduated from Rocky Mount Senior High School in June 1993.



"I love what I do, but I always remember that it started at Edgecombe Community College," says Edgecombe County Planning Director Cynthia Jenkins.

That September, I gave birth to a baby girl," Jenkins recalls. "The day I had her, at age 18, I became an adult. From the start, I knew I wanted to receive a higher education degree and show my

daughter that hard work and learning leads to achievement."

With a terrific support system – mom, dad, and sisters – new mom Jenkins enrolled at Edgecombe Community College that same year. "I received wonderful assistance from ECC's Office of Financial Aid, including a work-study position in the Rocky Mount campus library, plus I worked part time at Montgomery Ward," she recalls.

"It was a grueling schedule, but a big plus was that I felt comfortable at ECC. Many of the students were older than me, and they were so kind. I was shy but soon came out of my shell."

Jenkins earned her associate degree in administrative office technology in May 1996. She had already decided to remain at ECC to take college transfer courses which allowed her to enroll at East Carolina University.

After received her degree from ECU, she landed a job as a planner with the Edgecombe County Planning Department and worked there from 2001 to 2005.

But a promise she made to herself kept nagging her. "I said that before my daughter finished high school, I would have my master's degree."

She accepted a job in 2005 as a planner/zoning enforcement officer with the Durham City-County Planning Department and moved to Johnson County. She enrolled in an 18-month weekend program at North Carolina Central University and earned her master's in public administration – before her daughter completed high school.

Today, Jenkins is delighted to be back home in the Edgecombe County Planning Department. Much of her attention will be on state and federal Community Development Block Grant programs and on dealing with the influx of solar energy farms into the county.

"I love what I do, but I always remember that it started at Edgecombe Community College," she says.

"My daughter was the reason I got my degrees. But my loving family and the people of Edgecombe were so important, supporting me as I went down the right road."

FOR EVERY \$1 SPENT BY ...

STUDENTS

\$2.30

Gained in lifetime income for STUDENTS

SOCIETY

\$7.00

Gained in added state income and social savings for SOCIETY

TAXPAYERS

\$2.80

Gained in added taxes and public sector savings for TAXPAYERS

INCOME CREATED BY ECC IN FY 2012-13 (ADDED INCOME)

\$18.9

MILLION

Operations spending impact

\$284.6

THOUSAND

Construction spending impact

\$317.5

THOUSAND

Student spending impact

\$60.1

MILLION

Alumni impact

\$79.6 MILLION TOTAL IMPACT

Construction spending impact

ECC built or renovated a number of its facilities during the analysis year. This spending generated a short-term infusion of income and jobs in the regional economy.

The net impact of the ECC construction spending in FY 2012-13 was \$284.6 thousand in added regional income, equivalent to 9 new jobs.

Student spending impact

Around 42% of students attending ECC originated from outside the region. Some of these students relocated to the ECC service area and spent money on groceries, transportation, rent, and so on at regional businesses.

The expenditures of students who relocated to the region during the analysis year added approximately \$317,500 in regional income for the ECC service area economy, which is equivalent to creating 9 new jobs.

Alumni impact

Over the years, students gained new skills, making them more productive workers, by studying at ECC. Today, thousands of these former students are employed in the ECC service area.

The accumulated contribution of alumni currently employed in the ECC service area workforce amounted to \$60.1 million in regional income added to the ECC service area economy, which is equivalent to creating 1,321 new jobs.

Return on investment to students, society, and taxpayers

Student perspective

Students attending ECC during FY 2012-13 paid a total of \$5.1 million to cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and supplies. They also forwent \$41 million in money that they would have earned had they been working instead of learning.

In return for the money students invest to earn their degrees, they will receive a present value of \$104.4 million in increased earnings over their working lives.

This translates to a return of \$2.30 in higher future income for every \$1 that students invest in their education. The average annual return for students is 11.6%.

Societal perspective

North Carolina as a whole will receive a present value of \$498.1 million in added state income over the course of the students' working lives. Communities will also benefit from \$11.9 million in present value societal savings related to reduced crime, lower unemployment, and increased health and well-being across the state.

For every dollar that society spent on educations at ECC during the analysis year, North Carolina communities will receive a cumulative value of \$7.00 in benefits, for as long as the 2012-13 students of ECC remain active in the state workforce.

Historic Preservation Graduate Has Successful Business

by J. Eric Eckard

Chris Jones has been working with wood and building things most of his adult life – primarily on the side to help out friends and family.

But an injury that left him unable to work as a driver making deliveries for a grocery distribution company led to him to turn his love of woodworking into a full-time job, restoring historic homes and buildings in Eastern North Carolina.

“It was really just a fluke,” the 51-year-old says.

Jones was taking his stepson to Edgecombe Community College so he could enroll in the collision repair and refinishing program. Jones decided to flip through the college catalog while waiting on his stepson when he noticed the college’s historic preservation curriculum.

“I saw they had an associate degree program for it, and I was on long-term disability,” he explains. “I didn’t want to sit around the house for a year, so I decided to give it a try.”

Eighteen months later he completed the program, and the college hired him to continue working on the Norfleet House, a historic home on the Tarboro campus that has been restored by historic preservation students. Jones made fireplace mantels, repaired windows, and refinished floors inside the structure, which is nearly 200 years old.

“I think it’s a great program,” Jones says about the college’s historic preservation curriculum. “They show you the right way to do things.”

“My past (woodworking skills) benefitted me a lot. I knew the tools and what to do with them, but now I can recognize what’s there and the importance of keeping the original items intact.”

With his degree in hand, craftsmanship skills, and newfound love of history, Jones has been working regularly since graduating from the program in 2013. Presently, he’s refurbishing interior walls in an 1820s house in Grimesland and restoring 41 windows in a Greenville structure built in 1917 that now houses a law firm.

“I thought the program was very helpful,” Jones says. “And I really enjoyed learning about the history and the development of preservation.”

Taxpayer perspective

In FY 2012-13, state and local taxpayers in North Carolina paid \$18.1 million to support the operations of ECC. The net present value of the added tax revenue stemming from the students’ higher lifetime incomes and the increased output of businesses amounts to \$47.1 million in benefits to taxpayers.



“I think it’s a great program,” says Chris Jones, 2013 graduate of ECC’s historic preservation program. “They show you the right way to do things.”

Savings to the public sector add another \$3.7 million in benefits due to a reduced demand for government-funded services in North Carolina.

Dividing benefits to taxpayers by the associated costs yields a 2.8 benefit-cost ratio, i.e., every \$1 in costs returns \$2.80 in benefits. The average annual return on investment for taxpayers is 10.0%.

Edgecombe Community College A-Z

Following is an alphabetical list of programs offered at Edgecombe Community College. Contact (252) 823-5166, ext. 255, or visit www.edgecombe.edu to learn more.

Credentials Offered

Program	Degree	Diploma	Certificate
Accounting	✓	✓	✓
Associate in Arts	✓		
Associate in General Education	✓		
Associate in Science	✓		
Automotive Systems Technology		✓	✓
Barbering		✓	
Biotechnology*	✓		
Business Administration	✓	✓	✓
Business Administration – Shooting & Hunting Sports Management	✓	✓	✓
Collision Repair and Refinishing Technology	✓	✓	✓
Computed Tomography & Magnetic Resonance Imaging	✓	✓	✓
Computer Technology Integration	✓	✓	✓
Cosmetology		✓	✓
Criminal Justice Technology	✓		✓
Cyber Crime Technology	✓	✓	✓
Dental Assisting*		✓	
Dental Hygiene*	✓		
Early Childhood Education	✓	✓	✓
Electrical Systems Technology		✓	✓
Esthetics Technology			✓
Facility Maintenance Worker		✓	✓
Funeral Service Education*		✓	
Geospatial Technology	✓		✓
Global Logistics & Distribution Management			✓
Health Information Technology	✓	✓	✓
Healthcare Management Technology*	✓		
Historic Preservation Technology	✓	✓	✓
Human Services Technology	✓		✓
Industrial Systems Technology		✓	✓
Lateral Entry Teaching – Collaborative Agreement			✓
Manicuring & Nail Technology			✓
Manufacturing Technology	✓		✓
Mechanical Drafting Technology		✓	✓
Medical Assisting	✓		✓
Medical Office Administration	✓		✓
Nurse Aide I			✓
Nursing	✓	✓	
Office Administration	✓		✓
Radiography	✓		
Respiratory Therapy	✓		
School Age Education	✓	✓	✓
Surgical Technology		✓	
Therapeutic and Diagnostic Services: Nurse Aide		✓	

*Collaborative Agreement



Come Build a Career

- 170+ credentials, including two-year degrees, one-year diplomas, and certificate programs
- 13 programs that are unique in the Edgecombe area
- 2 programs that are unique in North Carolina
- 260 distance education courses
- 184 faculty and staff to help students meet their educational goals
- 15:1 student/faculty ratio
- 8 START@ECC new student orientation events annually
- 13 student clubs and organizations
- 48 years of service to the community



 **Edgecombe**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Register TODAY!

Register for **Fall 2015 semester**

by **August 14**. Classes start

August 20. Call **(252) 823-5166** or

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



Money Matters

Tuition at Edgecombe Community College remains affordable year after year.

- \$74.75 per semester hour in tuition and fees
- Just \$1,188 per semester for NC students
- 97% of students receive financial aid
- Average award amount is \$2,865

Financial aid is available through a combination of grants, scholarships, loans, and work. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Go to the ECC home page at **www.edgecombe.edu**, click on Become a Student," and see **Step #2**. To contact the Office of Financial Aid, call **(252) 823-5166** or email **financialaid@edgecombe.edu**. The ECC Financial Aid code is **008855**.



SOAR — WEEKEND COLLEGE
STUDENTS ON THE ACADEMIC RISE

Fall 2015

COLLEGE TRANSFER

College Transfer Associate Degree – Complete in 2 Years
Associate in Arts & Associate in Science

Study through online courses and face-to-face classes held on weekends. Classes start August 20.

Contact Dr. Harry Starnes:
(252) 823-5166, ext. 221
starnesh@edgecombe.edu

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Criminal Justice Technology Associate Degree – Complete in 2 Years
Criminal Justice Technology Certificate – 2 Semesters
Crime Assessment Certificate – 3 Semesters

Study through online courses and face-to-face classes held on weekends. Classes start August 20.

Contact Rick Basile:
(252) 823-5166, ext. 162
basiler@edgecombe.edu

NATURAL HAIR CARE

Natural Hair Care Licensure – Complete in 7 Months

Complete the Natural Hair Care licensure program in two semesters by attending weekend classes. Classes start October 23.

Contact Trudy Lynn:
(252) 823-5166, ext. 220
lynnt@edgecombe.edu

