1. Construction on the $16 million Advanced Applied Technology (AATC) continues on budget and on target. In November, all footing was poured and the cement pad that undergirds flooring was laid. Concrete masonry units were completed, providing a framework for December work.

Work crews completed roughing in plumbing and electrical systems and completed the first layer of asphalt for the parking lot.

In December, passersby can expect to see steel framing going up.

The AATC – scheduled to open for fall semester 2017 – will house Welding Technology; Mechatronics Engineering Technology; Computer-Integrated Machining Technology; Automotive Systems Technology; and Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Technology.

2. The North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges in November approved ACC’s plans to launch a Histotechnology program as part of its Biotechnology Center of Excellence initiative. The next step in the process is review and approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Histotechnology, which the College expects to start in fall 2017, equips students with the skills needed to prepare tissue specimens for microscopic examination to identify tissue and cell structures. These specimens help to identify abnormalities and formulate treatment strategies.

This program and skills set was identified by the local and regional bioscience industry as a workforce development need for Alamance County.

3. In November, the College began a series of follow-up meetings with staff and faculty to outline the results of the recent compensation study and explain the process used in reaching its results.

That compensation study is meant to better assess market forces and internal inequities that may hinder recruitment and retention of quality employees.

As part of that study, a number of employees were identified as having salaries that fell below minimum targets established for new grades in the initial assessment. As a result,
those salaries were adjusted. Going forward, the College plans to evaluate employee salaries on an annual basis.

Also in November, an ad hoc Merit Pay Committee began meeting to evaluate the feasibility of a merit pay plan that recognizes exceptional and meritorious performance. The committee in November began developing a survey to get input from employees and also began benchmarking merit pay plans at other colleges and universities.

The committee plans to have a recommendation in 2017.

4. In November, work crews made substantial progress on the $275,000 replacement of the stairwell in ACC’s three-story B-Building.

The old stairwell was removed and the new structure will be going up in December and January. The project – funded through grants and county construction monies – is expected to be completed in mid-February 2017. The work is meant to bring that stairwell up to current code.

5. Alamance Community College’s Biotechnology Center of Excellence initiative will be featured in the December/January issue of the American Association of Community College’s Community College Journal.

Dr. Algie Gatewood provided the journal a column that outlined progress in that area, plus a series of milestone achievements: construction of the $16 million AATC, winning a $1 million federal grant to support the Mechatronics Engineering Technology program, partnering with public schools and local industry in a “learn and earn” apprenticeship program, doubling the number of Career & College Promise students, and leading the state in enrollment growth in 2015-16.

6. The Board of Trustees in November approved a $94,000 budget for a multi-purpose court that will allow ABSS and college students to enjoy such recreational sports as basketball, volleyball and pickle-ball. The location is tentatively planned for in the unpaved parking lot at the rear of the College.

The athletic court is largely funded through a $50,000 grant provided to the College from Impact Alamance, whose mission includes promoting healthy lifestyles. The remaining funding will come from bookstore revenues – which can be used for projects benefiting students.

The multi-use court will better provide the physical education (PE) requirements for Early and Middle College students and could allow the College to expand its PE course offerings.
7. The College’s Public Information & Marketing team was recognized with four awards at the 2016 North Carolina Association of Government Information Officer’s annual conference. The College won awards for writing, graphic design, videography and in the Small Budget/Big Impact category for its event marketing during Constitution Day.

Since 2008, the marketing team has won 22 awards at the NCAGIO annual conference and awards banquet that includes competitive entries from such agencies as the North Carolina Department of Transportation, City of Charlotte, Wake County Government, North Carolina Department of Public Safety and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality.

8. On November 5, the 4th Annual 5K Reinhartsen Run sponsored by the Alamance Community College Foundation raised approximately $7,000—about $2,000 more than the totals netted in each of the last two years. The money goes to help bolster a memorial scholarship fund named for the late Steven Reinhartsen, a longtime ACC counselor who died in 2012.

This year 165 runners and walkers—compared to 91 a year ago—ran the 3.1 miles around the Carrington-Scott Campus and along Jimmie Kerr Road.

ACC’s Computer-Integrated Machining students made the winners’ medals. Volunteers who helped with the event included ACC Foundation staff members, ACC Student Clubs, Alumni Council, Boy Scouts, Public Information & Marketing, and ACC Maintenance and Grounds staff.

9. Alamance Community College honored staff and faculty veterans at the annual Veterans Breakfast on November 11, which was hosted by Phi Theta Kappa and the History Club. About 65 veterans were served.

Later that day, student volunteers canvassed spectator crowds at the annual Graham Veterans Day Parade, distributing ACC promotional material.

These activities came during the same month that History Club students began their initial introduction to the Oral History Project, led by the State Archives of North Carolina. ACC students conducted a first round of interviews with veterans employed at the College, recording their memories and thoughts about their service to the U.S.

The service learning project is part of an ongoing partnership with the State Archives, which began in September with the Constitution Day event.

10. In November, nine outside groups utilized facilities and hosted events at ACC’s Carrington-Scott Campus and Dillingham Center. They included: Southern Alamance High School, ABSS Teacher Leadership Academy and the FBI National Association Conference.
So far 130 groups have leveraged campus facilities this year. Getting outside groups and organizations to visit ACC campuses is part of the 2014-16 Strategic Plan aimed at increasing community engagement.

11. Alamance Community College received media attention in November that included:

- **Nov. 2**
The Mebane Enterprise reported that ACC is hosting several information sessions to introduce parents and students to the Career Accelerator Program – a learn and earn apprentice program for high school students.

- **Nov. 10**
The Alamance News reported that Eddie Boswell – chairman of the Alamance County Board of Commissioners – was appointed to ACC’s board of trustees, serving the remaining term of Dan Ingle.

- **Nov. 12**
WXLV ABC-45 reported on ACC’s Biotechnology program and its role as a Center of Excellence.

- **Nov. 13**
WMYV-48 reported on ACC’s Biotechnology program and its role as a Center of Excellence.

- **Nov. 16**
The Burlington Times-News reported that the Early/Middle College at ACC received state recognition for its 100 percent graduation rate in 2015-16.

- **Nov. 17**
The Burlington Times-News reported that college trustees approved spending $94,000 for a multi-purpose sports court on campus.

- **Nov. 19**
The Daily Advance reported that Kennon Briggs – formerly senior executive for special projects at Alamance Community College – has been named interim president at the College of the Albemarle.

- **Nov. 22**
The Burlington Times-News featured ACC’s arborist training program and its star tree-climber as part of the Horticulture curriculum.