ACC Nursing Graduates to Earn UNCG’s BSN Degree on Graham Campus

Alamance Community College is collaborating with UNC Greensboro to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) on ACC’s campus. The RN-BSN program is designed to offer ACC nursing graduates an opportunity to continue their education once they obtain a RN license.

Classes will begin in the Spring 2015 semester on the Graham campus. Admission preference will be shown to recent ACC nursing graduates. Other RNs in the area will be allowed to join the cohort as space allows.

“This compliments what we do and students will be able to see beyond the Associate Degree Nursing,” said ACC President Dr. Algie Gatewood. “The collaboration will add prestige to our nursing program and will generate stronger interest from qualified candidates.”

Having the RN-BSN “will enable us to attract the highest quality applicants to our nursing program which gives us a competitive edge,” said Kelly Tate, Associate Dean of Health and Public Services. “Moreover, it will significantly increase the employability of our graduates in a changing job market.” The blended format, which combines face-to-face with online classes, is designed to meet the needs of adult learners with career and family responsibilities.

ACC ACCREDITATION REAFFIRMED

Alamance Community College has received preliminary notification of reaffirmation of its accreditation without sanctions by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools-Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

“This means we are in good standing with our regional accrediting agency, provided we continue to follow all principles and standards required by the Department of Education and SACSCOC,” said ACC President Dr. Algie Gatewood. “This is especially true of our strategic plan, mission and vision statements.”

ACC’s reaffirmation of its accreditation signifies that the College has resources, programs, and specific educational objectives to accomplish and sustain its mission consistent with the standards of good practice in higher education. Consequently, it ensures that ACC students are permitted to transfer to accredited four-year colleges and universities.

The accreditation is also important because it means ACC maintains its authority to offer federal financial aid, which is utilized by 70-75% of ACC students, according to the College’s Student Development Office.

“The reaffirmation of our accreditation is the result of excellent leadership and teamwork executed by a great faculty and staff,” said college trustee Dr. Richard “Dick” Fisher.

The College is expected to receive formal, written communication of its reaffirmation within a few weeks. Educational institutions are required to reaffirm their accreditation every ten years. ACC last underwent this process in 2003.

The reaffirmation process began in 2011 with a lengthy self-written, documented compliance
Grant Puts ACC Biotechnology Program Among the Elite

Alamance Community College’s Biotechnology program is helping to establish a regional and national bioeconomy thanks to a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant totaling more than $101,000.

Biotechnology department head Bill Woodruff says this makes ACC’s program the most complete, most advanced Biomanufacturing curriculum—content, skills and equipment—of any community college in North Carolina and matched by very few in the country.

The grant, “Growing a Regional and National Bioeconomy, One Locale at a Time,” funds ACC’s role in forming a self-sustaining regional alliance of seven community colleges working in collaboration with industry, education, professional associations and government to prepare a 21st century technical workforce for the Biomanufacturing sector of the Biotechnology industry.

ACC President Dr. Algie Gatewood says that some of the biomanufacturing jobs that ACC graduates will get in the next few years probably have not been invented yet due to this industry’s expanding opportunities.

“The future is what we teach here at ACC—how to maintain and differentiate stem cells,” says Woodruff. “Jobs are going to exist for our graduates in the near future where trying to keep our bodies healthy can mean replacing damaged organs with ones grown in the lab.”

The grant makes Woodruff one of seven Co-PIs (Principal Investigator), giving him responsibility for administrative, fiscal, and scientific conduct of the project that includes the production of education materials such as textbooks, lab manuals, and ancillary resources for national dissemination. ACC is a partner with Montgomery County Community College located in Blue Bell, PA.

With Woodruff’s elevation to a Co-PI, it means ACC’s program becomes a more complete biomanufacturing program than ever before, providing all the necessary resources to train students through every facet of becoming a skilled biotechnology technician.

“This is a direct perk of being active in such a project,” he says. “Since the Biomanufacturing segment comprises the largest single component of the industry in North Carolina, this is a major accomplishment for ACC.”

Woodruff says ACC’s Biotechnology program first received grant funding for this project about ten years ago, which allowed the program to be a regional hub for three years. The NSF (National Science Foundation) renewed ACC’s grant for another three years after that. That’s when Woodruff entered the picture as a national consultant. He ran workshops for teachers coming from around the nation. Woodruff went from director to Co-PI and now has his own budget with which to purchase operating supplies, and the means to write a textbook for biomanufacturing.

ACC’s Biotechnology program, the oldest two-year biotechnology program in the nation, has better than 90 percent job placement, says Woodruff. “The majority of students who try to find jobs in the biotech field after graduating from our program have done so.”

With the upgrade to ACC’s program and the college’s location between Greensboro and RTP, more biotech companies may consider locating in Alamance County in the future. Woodruff says these may include Flexcell, which provides products for biomanufacturing industry; MycoSearch, which finds pharmaceuticals that can be derived from fungus; and Zen Bio, which turns the fat derived from lipo-suction (Adipose tissue) into other cell types.

ACC graduates will have increased skills and research abilities to move into this field with an associate’s degree. ACC is already on record with producing graduates that attract North Carolina-based companies such as those at Duke University, Spectra Labs in Greensboro, and many located at Research Triangle Park (RTP).

NURSING from page 1

Under the auspices of this collaboration, students taking UNCG RN-BSN classes at ACC will be charged UNCG distance learning rates and not have to pay some of the fees required of residential students. Additionally, classes will be offered on the ACC campus one afternoon a week, saving the student traveling time and expense.

“UNCG is pleased to partner with ACC to deliver a high-quality RN-to-BSN program to Piedmont Triad-area students and nurses,” said Dr. Robin Remsburg, Dean of UNCG’s School of Nursing. “With health care providers increasingly preferring nurses with bachelor’s degrees, our faculty is proud to play a critical role in educating nurses who deliver important health care services to people across the region and state.”

ACCREDITATION from page 1

report by the College addressing 92 standards. After SACS reviewed the report from its Atlanta headquarters, it determined that ACC had 19 areas not in compliance. In summer 2013, ACC addressed these issues. The on-site SACS team that visited the campus in fall 2013 met with numerous faculty, staff, and students and reported that the College had resolved 16 issues with three that needed additional refinement.

The three issues all fell under the category of institutional effectiveness, or how the College operates to meet its mission. Consequently, ACC acted to resolve these data-driven issues that included research-based planning, administrative support services, and student support services.

ACC will submit yearly monitoring reports addressing the recommendations received from the on-site committee visit.
John Drake

John Drake of Liberty, NC, graduates in summer 2014 with his associate’s degree in Computer-Integrated Machining. But John has already been working in the machining field for a year, a semester after he began his studies in ACC’s program.

Going to school to find a new career was not on his agenda three years ago. Back then, the Alamance County native worked as a refrigeration repair technician in eastern North Carolina. But then the rocky economy gripped the industry in which John made his living. He was laid off twice in ten months from two different companies. He moved back home to Alamance County with his wife and two children and filed for unemployment at the Employment Security Commission (ESC).

“I knew then I wanted to go back to school and learn something that wouldn’t be so volatile,” says John. “But I wasn’t sure how to go about it.”

Enter Joe Farinola, JobLink Counselor, who welcomed John into his office at the Employment Security Commission office in Burlington. For years, Farinola has been a link between the recently unemployed and the opportunities available at ACC. Through Farinola, John learned about the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which provides financial opportunities for the unemployed to return to school and ultimately re-enter the workforce. John was awarded a WIA scholarship which led to his enrollment in ACC’s machining program.

“I knew this was a good program with good job opportunities,” says John.

In the spring of his second semester in 2013, John attended ACC’s job fair and talked to a representative from GKN, Inc. Two weeks later, John interviewed with the company and was hired within two days. This spring, John moved on to another company in Randleman, United Brassworks, where he is employed as a machine operator.

“They said one big reason I got the job is because I’m studying machining here at ACC,” says John, who plans to enroll next year at NC A&T State University. “That makes a difference to these companies.”
ACC Names Interim Executive Vice President

Alamance Community College President Dr. Algie Gatewood has named associate dean Scott Queen as Interim Executive Vice President of Educational Programs and Services. He fills the position vacated by Dr. Gene Couch, who has accepted the position of president of Virginia Highlands Community College in southwest Virginia.

Queen is a graduate of ACC and has been with the College for 15 years. During his tenure, he has served as both adjunct and full-time faculty, Distance Learning Coordinator, Business Administration Department Head and most recently as Associate Dean for Business Technologies.

A former recipient of the W. Ronald McCarter Excellence in Teaching Award, he has been recognized for teaching excellence in both the Computer Information Technology and Business Administration Departments. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Community College Executive Leadership from Wingate University.

Dr. Gatewood said that Queen possesses a great deal of knowledge about curriculum as well as the overall operations of the College. He has been instrumental throughout the recent Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaffirmation and strategic planning processes.

Queen began his new role on June 16. Dr. Gatewood said he anticipates that Queen will hold this position for a minimum of six months.

Meet New FA Secretary

Shekitha Rogers is the College’s new Administrative Secretary in Financial Aid. Since November 2012, Rogers has worked as office assistant in Admissions and Records. Her previous employment prior to ACC was three years as a customer service representative at Capital Bank in Graham. She earned an Associate in Applied Science degree from ACC in Medical Office Administration in 2012.

The Financial Aid Office is accepting Child Care Grant applications. Applications can be found at www.alamancecc.edu, click on Documents and Forms and print the 2014-2015 application and submit it to the Financial Aid Office.

For the following scholarships, contact Carolyn Rhode for more information at 336-506-4128 or carolyn.rhode@alamancecc.edu

Did you grow up in a single parent home? If yes, you may be eligible for the Al and Candace Rey Scholarship for the fall semester. Applicants must write an essay.

Are you a Business Administration student with an interest in the field of real estate? If you have a GPA of at least 2.5, you may be eligible for the Everett G. Mogle Memorial Scholarship for the fall semester.
College, Law Enforcement Strengthen Relationship

In an effort to ensure a safer campus, ACC President Dr. Algie Gatewood has initiated meetings with local law enforcement and his college security team to enhance a partnership to create action plans in advance of any crisis situation.

“Alamance Community College has a long history of being an extremely safe campus,” said Dr. Gatewood. “It is my intention of keeping it that way. That’s why we are committed to meeting with our law enforcement partners on a continuing basis. Working closely with local law enforcement agencies in a pro-active manner is the best way to keep our campus safe for our students.”

ACC currently employs two full-time security personnel and 12 part-time security officers.

Among topics discussed recently:

- A “wish list” for the college includes: a single employee to serve as dispatcher to campus security personnel; a school resource officer; and the inclusion on campus of a forthcoming countywide Beacon System, an alert system that Alamance Co. Sheriff Terry Johnson said involves a light atop buildings that remains green except during an emergency when it turns red.
- The need for consistency in communication was discussed. Graham Police Chief Jeff Prichard said he will provide contact information for all 35 Graham police officers to ACC’s Information Technology department to program into the mass notification system used by the college.
- ACC Security Supervisor Ryan Hendricks said he will share current building layouts with local officers and deputies. Special Reaction Teams (SRT) will practice at ACC when school is out of session. Burlington Chief J. Jeffrey Smythe added that this has already been accomplished in his city, and that his officers have immediate computer access in patrol cars to ACC building maps in the event of a crisis.
- Among the community law enforcement resources available to ACC are: unified SRT between Burlington, Graham, and Elon; active shooter incident training; parking lot sweeps, considered an effective deterrent; and joint training days.
- All the law enforcement and security personnel agreed that response teams working together to build and maintain relationships and determine action plans will enhance successful responses when in emergency situations.
- Said Alamance County Sheriff Terry Johnson: “I think it’s great that Dr. Gatewood and the college have developed this relationship with all the law enforcement agencies in the county. We look forward to continuing our work with Alamance Community College.”
- Burlington Police Chief Jeffrey Smythe said, “I certainly value the partnership we are enhancing with ACC. They are a leader in delivering police curriculum to us in the law enforcement realm and play a vital role in educating our young adults. It is incumbent upon us to ensure their safety while learning and this partnership allows us to do that at a very high level.”
- “I appreciate Dr. Gatewood and the leadership of ACC reaching out to local law enforcement to discuss safety concerns of both the Graham and Burlington campuses,” said Graham Police Chief Jeff Prichard. “We all want to provide the safest environment we can for staff and students. Through collaboration and partnerships we will be better prepared to respond should a critical incident occur in either jurisdiction.”
- The meetings are expected to continue to ensure that the partnership between local law enforcement agencies and ACC is strengthened.

Aikido Martial Arts Event Scheduled at ACC

A martial arts class and exam is scheduled on ACC’s main campus in July.

The Greensboro Kodokan Aikido Dojo will hold a class and test 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at ACC’s Carrington-Scott campus on Saturday, July 12. Several ACC students who have taken the aikido class taught by instructor Susan Dalton are planning to take a test for advancement in the art being offered. These students are Grady Blinkhorn, Juan Dark, Tatiana Smith, Nathan Franklin, John Hagerman, and Tori Reid. Other ACC students will participate in the class.

“The really exciting news is that our master teacher, Tanaka Tadamitsu, who holds a 7th degree black belt, will be here,” says Dalton.

Only people with previous ACC or Kodokan Aikido experience will be able to practice on the mat, but all are welcome to watch.

For more information, email susan.dalton@alamancecc.edu.

Susan Dalton and her ACC class demonstrated Aikido techniques at this spring’s Culture Day festival.
A Resource Fair for New Students
...was held on June 18 to give incoming freshmen information about clubs, parking decals, student services, library cards, and the bookstore. Campus tours were conducted every 15 minutes during the two-hour event for new students.

Moving On.
Faculty and staff gathered on June 12 to celebrate the career and leadership of Dr. Gene Couch, who will retire from the North Carolina Community College System next month and transition into his new role as President of Virginia Highlands Community College.

The Board of Trustees
at its June meeting presented plaques to two outgoing members that acknowledged their service. Outgoing board chairman Carl Steinbicker made the presentations to Trustee Dwight M. Davidson, III, who retired from the board after eight years and was cited for “[demonstrating] unwavering commitment to the College’s mission and stewardship of resources...[and] for your dedication to ensuring ACC meets the needs of students, employees, and the community.” Outgoing SGA President and Student Trustee Christopher Seip was cited for his “exemplary leadership skills and commitment to student success [that] have helped make ACC a better institution.”