ACC Moves Forward on Tech Center with State’s Approval

The College’s proposed Advanced Applied Technology Center—a $15 million project county commissioners agreed to finance in September—is moving forward with solicitation of design bids following approval this fall by the NC Community College System (NCCCS).

“The Advanced Applied Technology Center represents a significant investment in workforce training and economic development for Alamance County,” said ACC President Dr. Algie Gatewood. “Moving forward with this project places us on the leading edge of Governor Pat McCrory’s agenda to repair the skills gap necessary to place workers in advanced manufacturing jobs. The governor is visiting all 100 North Carolina counties touting 21st-century training for high demand jobs. ACC’s Advanced Applied Technology Center will do this.”

ACC’s Advanced Applied Technology Center (AATC) will provide state-of-the-art technology and an expansion of the College’s legacy programs that have seen significant increases in enrollment since 2001 due to enhanced job prospects: Air Conditioning/Heating/Refrigeration, Automotive Systems Technology, Welding, and Computer-Integrated Machining.

The Advanced Applied Technology Center’s $15 million price tag includes funding for design fees, and such pre-construction costs as permits, inspections, site development and contingency fees. ACC administrators hope to fast-track this project and break ground within the next eight months.
College’s ABLE Students Win Volunteer Award

The College’s ABLE (Adult Basic and Literacy Education) program at the Dillingham Center was recognized by Alamance County’s Community Council in November with the Volunteer Group award for their project, “Pillows with a Purpose.”

ABLE instructor Kathy Goodlett, along with instructor Emily Kirkley, led her class last year in the project. Using donated materials, the class cut and helped sew more than 300 pillows used by Cone Health patients recovering from surgery on their arms, shoulders, and bellies. The project served as a math instruction and community service unit. Emily Kirkley, ABLE instructor, said projects like this give the students a chance to immerse within the community and perform a public service, as well as learn math and coordination skills.

Pictured: Academic and Career Readiness Coordinator Jennifer Mock (left) and ABLE instructor Kathy Goodlett accepted the award with student Jason Warren and Scott Reavis, Community Council member and Special Olympics director. Photo contributed.

ACC, Goodwill Partner for CNA Class

ACC and Goodwill Industries celebrated a unique workforce development partnership at an open house on Dec. 1 showcasing an accelerated 8-week Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training program that begins in early January at Goodwill’s Resource Center in Burlington. ACC President Dr. Algie Gatewood said, “The College is committed to providing job training beyond our walls and that’s why I’m so excited about this partnership with Goodwill Industries.” ACC and Goodwill Industries plan to work together in 2015 to host a Pharmacy Technician training program at the Resource Center.

ACC’s Childcare Center Earns Another 5-Star Rating

ACC’s Childcare Center was awarded its third consecutive 5-Star rating this fall, the highest possible from the State of North Carolina’s Division of Child Development. The stringent licensing system, in effect since 2000, first awarded the College’s Child Care Center with its top rating in 2008 and again in 2011.

Only a fraction of the state’s child care centers offer the kind of professional programming and teaching expertise that qualifies for a 5-Star rating.

“We are very fortunate to have highly qualified lead teachers at ACC,” said Rashad Roberts, ACC’s Child Care Center Coordinator. “All of the lead teachers have either an associate or bachelor’s degree. We also have a supportive environment from various departments on our campus.”

ACC’s Child Care Center serves as a convenient learning lab for students enrolled in the Early Childhood program. It gives students a personal and ongoing view of child development. While many Early Childhood teaching programs must send students off-campus for this kind of unique learning opportunity, ACC’s Early Childhood students can remain on campus, a significant time and money savings as well.

While ACC’s Child Care Center provides convenience and peace of mind to faculty, students and staff with young children, it is also open to the general public. ACC’s Early Childhood teaching staff hopes more parents will take advantage of a quality program that is not available in many parts of North Carolina. ACC’s Child Care Center can be contacted at 336-506-4123.
ACC Fire Academy Graduate Worked Her Way Up the Ladder

All it took for April Robertson to realize her dream career was in fire prevention was simultaneous experience as a 911 dispatcher, part-time job with Alamance County EMS, and volunteer hours at Alamance County Rescue. But it started with earning certification in the EMT-Basic course through Alamance Community College.

April had a gut feeling about pursuing a career in which she could help people, but it didn’t come together until she immersed herself in the excitement and adrenaline that derives from working the 911 phones and gaining experience with her EMT skills she learned through the College’s program.

“I felt the need to do more,” she says. “I wanted to be the first on scene in any emergency situation.”

What solidified it for her was talking to family friend, Alan “Bud” Catoe, a Captain with the Burlington Fire Department and an ACC educator who teaches firefighters-in-training.

Catoe told April that, to become a firefighter, she needed to earn her Level I and Level II firefighter certification, along with HazMat Operations training.

Because April lived inside the Burlington city limits, she could not volunteer at a county fire station to train and complete her needed courses. But later that year of 2002, Alamance Community College opened its first Fire Fighter Academy and April was among the first to enroll.

“It was a huge challenge that so many said I couldn’t do,” she says. “But I have always been taught that you can do anything you put your mind to. So I decided to take on that challenge.”

As a member of the first class to pilot ACC’s program, April and her classmates—mostly men—made it through with all the certifications needed to become firefighters. ACC’s Fire Academy provided basic physical training every morning, Personal Protective Gear training, SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) training, ladders, live fire training, and search and rescue.

April had been riding with the Burlington Fire Department with the hope of being hired there, but she kept her options open by applying to other area fire departments. She was hired by the Greensboro Fire Department. Over the years, April has worked at several stations in Greensboro, riding both Engine and Ladder trucks. She spent a couple of years in the Fire Marshal’s office, earning her Level I and Level II Fire Inspector certifications, and assisting with education.

When the position of Fire & Life Safety Educator became open a few years ago, April decided that she wanted the job. She returned to the Fire Marshal’s office, completed her Level III Fire Inspector certification, then studied for and obtained her certifications in Fire Educator that led to being hired as Greensboro’s Fire & Life Safety Educator.

State System Selects ACC to Mentor Community Colleges

As a result of Alamance Community College’s 80.5 percent GED high school equivalency pass rate, the NC Community College System (NCCCS) selected the College to mentor other community colleges across North Carolina on this key performance measure.

This year, the College is sharing best practices and assisting other institutions in raising their passing rates. ACC’s GED pass rate—achieved by staff in Academic and Career Readiness under director Claire Ricci—exceeded the average college percentage of 73.6 percent and the NCCC System baseline of 49.3 percent.

The GED Pass Rate is one of eight 2014 performance measures for student success as mandated by the state. This performance measure is based on the percentage of students taking at least one GED test during a program year who received a GED diploma during the program year.

Said Scott Queen, Interim Executive Vice President: “This clearly validates that ACC has a quality program. In terms of performance based funding, the College will receive a portion of the performance-based funding for this measure for which it is eligible.”
**NEWS ABOUT EMPLOYEES**

**ACC Names New Vice President**

ACC named Cindy Day Collie as the new Vice President of Administrative and Fiscal Services this fall.

Since 2011, Collie had served as Controller for the College, responsible for supervising the quality of accounting and financial reporting. In her new role as vice president, Collie works closely with executive administrators, and supervises construction, building/grounds maintenance, and security.

Prior to joining ACC three years ago, Collie worked as a Senior Internal Auditor at Cone Health, and as an adjunct instructor in accounting at GTCC. Her previous work experience includes senior accountant at businesses in Greensboro and Raleigh. As a student at UNCG, Collie earned a B.S. in Information Systems-Operations Management and a M.S. in Accounting. Collie is also a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in North Carolina.

The position of Vice President of Administrative and Fiscal Services had been filled on an interim basis last summer by Kennon Briggs, a retired executive with the NC Community College System. He remains with the College during a transition period.

**New Employees Join ACC This Fall**

**Katherine Sutton** is Office Assistant in the Student Success division, where she works with admissions and student records. Previously she worked part-time at the College in the Registrar’s office and as an administrative assistant in the English department. Katherine earned an Associate of Arts from ACC in 2013 and this year graduated with an A.A.S. degree in Accounting.

**Tamra Franklin** is Office Assistant in the Student Success division, where she works with admissions and student records. Her previous experience includes work as a Remote Reader/Evaluator with Measurement Inc. in Durham; Program Records Coordinator with Institute for Family Centered Services in Durham; and as a student mentor at Durham Tech. She has an A.A. in Business Administration from Durham Tech and a B.A. in psychology from UNC Chapel Hill.

**Tammie Burgess** is Lead Teacher in the College’s Childcare Center. Her experience includes teaching at child care centers since 1999, most recently at Duke Children’s Campus in Durham. She earned an A.A.S. degree from ACC in Early Childhood Education in 2008.

**Norine Tweedie** is Administrative Secretary to the President. Since 2007, she had worked as Human Resources Administrative Assistant and Risk Manager at Ukiah Unified School District in California. She has a B.A. in History from San Francisco State University and a Certificate in Technical Communications from University of California, Los Angeles Extension.

**Brenda Brower** is Office Assistant in Administrative Services after serving in the Small Business Center since 2007. Previously she worked at Central Carolina Community College as night supervisor and secretary. She is certified in Key Punch and MOUS (Microsoft Office User Specialist). Brenda also attended Asheboro Commercial College and Central Carolina Community College.

**Faculty/Staff Writing Contest Winners**

**NARRATIVE/STORY**

**Faculty:** 1st–Inez Bostic; 2nd–Susan Dalton; 3rd–Olivia Stogner; Honorable Mention–Thomas Drago

**Staff:** 1st–Mark Botero; 2nd–Arleen Petrea; 3rd–Ed Williams; Honorable Mention–Ed Williams

**POETRY**

**Faculty/Staff:** 1st–Debra L. McCuscker; 2nd–Olivia Stogner; 3rd–Olivia Stogner; Honorable Mention–Marc Botero

**Employees Earn Service Pins**

Eight employees received service pins at faculty/staff meetings this fall for their years of service to the College.

- **Wally Shearin**–30 years
  Dean, Industrial Technologies

- **Kathy Church**–20 years
  Cosmetology Instructor

- **Carol Yavelak**–15 years
  Senior Office Assistant, Student Success

- **Vernell Rone**–10 years
  Administrative Secretary, Financial Aid

- **Toni Roberson**–10 years
  Coordinator, EMS

- **Jan Vass**–10 years
  Secretary, Dillingham Center

- **Claire Ricci**–5 years
  Director, Academic and Career Readiness

- **Olivia Stogner**–5 years
  Instructor, English
Two ACC Horticulture Students Served at National Conference

ACC Horticulture students Ruth Morgan and Jeff Webster were selected by PLANET (Professional Landcare Network) to represent the association as Student Ambassadors at the Green Industry Conference in late October.

Eight students were selected overall to experience the Green Industry Conference from behind the scenes. Students assisted PLANET staff by introducing speakers in the educational sessions, helping with registration, and participation in the GIE+Expo trade show.

ACC was the only school in the country to have two Ambassadors chosen.

Morgan and Webster’s selection positioned them for direct contact with top leaders in the industry, many who often seek student candidates for future employment opportunities. Ambassadors are also provided with the opportunity to establish a high-level networking and mentor opportunity through their face-to-face involvement and contact with PLANET leadership and members.

Now in its 25th year, PLANET’s Green Industry Conference (GIC) is the most highly anticipated landscape and lawn care industry education and networking experience of the year. A speaker lineup composed of the industry’s leaders and most successful entrepreneurs, a landscaping, lawn care, and hardscape trade show floor hosting nearly 500 exhibits, and an unparalleled opportunity to be inspired, learn about industry trends.

Two ACC Horticulture Students Received SECU $5,000 Scholarships

Kristi Elaine Dixon of Gibsonville is a second-year student pursuing an associate’s degree in Animal Care and Management. After ACC, her goal is to earn a bachelor’s degree in zoology at NC State University. She performs musically for charity events in communities across North Carolina, including Guilford County Animal Shelter, Alamance County Animal Shelter and the Piedmont Wildlife Center.

Andrew Carlton Mason of Burlington is pursuing an associate in science degree at ACC and plans to pursue a career as a diesel mechanic. He participates in Habitat for Humanity projects and a program called “Helping Hands” where he helps feed the residents of Alamance County. He graduated from Clover Garden Charter School where he participated with Special Olympics during his junior and senior year.

Qualifications for the SECU scholarship include documented need, grade point average, community service, and commitment to ACC for two years. The $5,000 scholarships are given to two students from each of the state’s 58 community colleges to support two years of schooling.

The funding comes from SECU members who contribute a $1 service fee per month on their checking accounts.

Financial Aid Scholarships

Impact the World Scholarship: 200-word essay required on “How I plan to impact the world through my program of study.” Deadline for University Transfer students is Dec. 31; deadline for 2015 high school students is July 31, 2015. To apply go to: http://geediting.com/about/scholarship-program

Carol Bond Fund Community College Scholarship: Students who are pursuing a degree in Environmental Sciences or Environmental Education at a community college. The application and eligibility information can be found at www.nc-safewater.org/scholarships.
Four Named to ACC Foundation

Joining the Alamance Community College Foundation’s 32-member board as of January 1, 2015 are Justin Church, Brad Harmon, Grover W. Moore Jr. and Vicki Moran. These four will serve four-year renewable terms with the responsibility of fundraising and promoting the interests of the College.

Justin Church is Burlington City President at SunTrust and has worked in banking locally since his graduation from East Carolina University. He has volunteered with the Boy Scouts, the Alzheimer’s Association and Alamance Breakfast Rotary.

Brad Harmon is President and Co-Owner of Syntech of Burlington, Inc., a custom interior sign manufacturing company specializing in ADA-compliant signage. He is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill.

Grover W. Moore Jr. is an Assistant to the Chairman’s Office for Carolina Biological Supply. A graduate of Catawba College, he has volunteered with Macedonia Lutheran Church, Twin Lakes and the Burlington Housing Authority.

Vicki Moran is Vice President of Operations for Alamarce Regional Medical Center. A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, she also holds a master’s in Health Administration from Duke University.

Help ACCF by Shopping at Amazon.com

Planning to buy that holiday CD, book, or other gift through Amazon.com this giving season? Why not go one extra step and help the ACC Foundation scholarship fund at the same time? How? Just Google the website called “smile.amazon.com” and:

- Enter your email and password as you usually do to shop on Amazon.com.
- Type in “Alamance Community College Foundation” when prompted to list your favorite nonprofit/charitable organization.
- Now ACCF is linked to your Amazon Smile account.
- Make sure to bookmark your Amazon site now as “smile.amazon.com” — rather than the usual amazon.com — and your current Amazon account now will have one difference: 0.5% of your purchases will be donated to the ACC Foundation.

BLET Student Earns Scholarship

Eddie Souther, a student in the College’s BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training) program, received the Chief Michael Woznick Scholarship this fall.

Mike Woznick was Gibsonville Police Chief when he died suddenly from a heart attack in May 2013. A 28-year veteran of law enforcement, Woznick began his career at the Gibsonville Police Department in 1999. He previously worked for the Elon, Graham and Bell Haven police departments and was a reserve deputy with the Alamance County Sheriff’s Dept.

Friends, colleagues and family contributed to create the scholarship in Chief Woznick’s honor to help ACC students pay for expenses and supplies needed in the BLET program.

ACC, Elon University Sign Scholarship

ACC President Dr. Algie Gatewood and Elon University President Dr. Leo M. Lambert signed an agreement in late October that allows one ACC student to benefit from a scholarship totaling $67,500 toward the cost of tuition, fees, room and board over a three-year period. The award will continue to benefit a new ACC student every three years who transfer to Elon.

The scholarship, initiated by an anonymous donor, is intended to support ACC students with documented financial need and who would not be able to attend Elon University without significant financial assistance. Each scholarship recipient will be chosen based on outstanding character, academic promise and talent valued by the Elon community, with preference given to Alamance County residents.
Approximately $5,500 was raised by runners and sponsors at the second annual Reinhartsen 5K on November 1 to bolster an ACC Foundation scholarship named for the late Steven Reinhartsen, a college career counselor who passed away two years ago. The ACC Foundation coordinated the event.

The event saw 81 college employees, running club members, and local residents brave a cold rain to run or walk the track along Jimmie Kerr Road and through the campus in Haw River.

ACC’s Computer-Integrated Machining program made the winners’ medals.

Representing Students
Student Government Association (SGA) executive officers for 2014-15 are (from left) Jodie Thompson, vice president; Stephen de Simone, secretary; Gabrielle Adkins, treasurer; and Jeff Webster, president.

Helping Those in Need
Evening students in the Nursing Assistant program donated food to ACC’s Food Bank this fall, which distributes canned goods to students in need who request it. The Food Bank is located in the Academic Advising Center.

ACC Students Target “Movember”
Medical Assisting instructor Janie Bowen (3rd from left) and her Exam Room Procedures II class participated in the City of Burlington Employee Health Fair in October. The students distributed patient education materials regarding men’s health and the “Movember” movement (raising awareness about prostate and testicular cancer). The students took employee blood pressure and pulse measurements as well as height, weight, and BMI. The students made and decorated shirts to honor the mustache theme of “Movember.”

Induction Ceremony
ACC’s Spanish Honor Society—Sigma Delta Mu—inducted 14 new members in its fourth annual ceremony on November 11. To qualify for induction, students must have have taken at least two semesters of Spanish and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Sigma Delta Mu is the National Honor Society for two-year colleges. Faculty advisor is Cristy Waugh-Ellis.
ACC History Club Honors Veterans with Breakfast, Speaker

ACC’s Social and Behavioral Sciences Department once again honored all U.S. military veterans—ACC students and from the community. Veterans were served a breakfast buffet, courtesy of the ACC Café manager Ted Kallam, followed by a guest speaker in the auditorium—Patricia Harris (top right), Past State Commander (2013-14), American Legion Dept. of NC. Harris is the first woman and first African American elected to the post.

The History Club, assisted by students in Career College program, also planted American flags along Jimmie Kerr Road to honor all veterans.

Right: History Club president Tiffani Latimer (right) and club member Ashlei Summers helped select the winners of a raffle this fall that raised more than $900 for the ACC Veteran Student Distress Fund, which provides gift cards for gasoline and groceries to any student military veteran who requests it. The winner of the raffle for two tickets to the NFL Panthers/Seahawks game on Oct. 26 was Cassandra “Casey” Cone, a local resident who purchased the winning ticket from a History Club student. Any ACC student who is a military veteran and needs financial assistance can contact the College’s Veterans Office (G132), David Crane (B113), or Sherri Singer (B205).

ACC Celebrates Native Americans

Mechanical Drafting Technology student Darius Carter, a Native American whose roots include the Cherokee and Blackfoot tribes, spoke to students as part of November’s Native American Heritage Month. He emphasized the history and culture and discussed harmful stereotypes associated with Native Americans. The presentation was sponsored by the Diversity Committee.

Officer of the Quarter

for the third quarter of 2014 was presented to Brandy Mansfield, who has served as a campus security officer for the past year. Security Supervisor Ryan Hendricks presented the plaque to her for her service.
State Fair Awards ACC Horticulture Two Blue Ribbons
Two blue ribbons were the reward for hard work by ACC’s Horticulture Technology students in competition at the NC State Fair in late October. They received first place for a “Tinker Bell”-themed garden and another blue ribbon for a “Wine Bottle Waterfall” garden. This was the sixth straight year that the program has won first place in the garden display competition. Horticulture students were assisted on elements of the projects by students in Advertising and Graphic Design and Welding Technology. Said ACC President Dr. Algie Gatewood: “When programs such as horticulture, graphic design, and welding can partner on a project like this—and do it so well that it garners statewide recognition—it gives students practical experience and confidence to perform well in their future careers.”

Bowling for Junior Achievement
ACC representatives participated in Junior Achievement’s annual Bowl-A-Thon as a way to promote ACC among educators, area businesses and government organizations. Team members were (l to r) Stephanie Waters, Erin Flowers, Dr. Terry McNeill, Beth Brehler, Sonya McCook and Ed Williams (not pictured).

ACCF Scholar-Donor Reception
The ACC Foundation’s annual Donor-Recipient Reception was held in October as a way for student scholarship recipients to meet with some of their benefactors.

ACC Gives High School Students Lessons on Career Opportunities
Careers in health sciences, culinary arts and horticulture was the focus for area high school students who visited the Alamance Community College campus on Nov. 12 for an enrichment day initiative that included live demonstrations and hands-on activities.

For the second consecutive year, the College partnered with Alamance-Burlington Schools, Orange County Schools, and Chapel Hill Schools to provide an up-close look at programs that have robust career opportunities. Students rotated through stations held in all five health career areas: Nursing, Nursing Assistant, Medical Assisting, Medical Laboratory Technology/Biotechnology, and Dental Assisting. They also spent time in the Culinary Arts kitchen and Horticulture Technology greenhouse.