

The OPEN DOOR

A Publication of the North Carolina Community College System

Summer 2005 ♦ Vol. 8, No. 1

State Board Has New Chair and Vice Chair

*Pinnix-Ragland is First Woman Chair and First African-American Chair
New Student Representative Also Sworn In*

The State Board of Community Colleges made history at its July meeting. Hilda Pinnix-Ragland was elected chair and Dr. Linwood Powell was elected vice chair.

Pinnix-Ragland, the first woman and first African-American to chair the State Board, is the Vice President of Northern Region Energy Delivery Services for Progress Energy. The Cary resident is a native of Hillsborough. Pinnix-Ragland received the Outstanding Business Leader Award by the Cary Chamber of Commerce in 1998 and was named one of the "Women of Note" by the African American Hall of Fame in 1999. Governor Jim Hunt first appointed her to the Board in 2000 to fill an un-expired term and Governor Easley re-appointed her in 2003. Her term expires in 2009.

Powell retired from Fayetteville Technical Community College in 2003 after serving in various capacities including Vice President for Administrative Services and Interim President. A 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force



Dr. Linwood Powell (left) and Hilda Pinnix-Ragland congratulate each other after the July 15 State Board of Community Colleges meeting.

(USAF), Dr. Powell served in the USAF Security Service. He later became an instructor and commandant of the USAF Leadership Academy. He has also served as an education adviser for the U.S. Army. The State Senate elected him to the Board in 2003. His term expires in 2009.

Steve Johnson, a student at Durham Technical Community College, was

sworn in as the student representative on the Board. He is the North Carolina Comprehensive Community Colleges Student Government Association (N4CSGA) President. Johnson has an Associate Degree in Respiratory Therapy and is now in the College Transfer program at Durham Tech. He is employed as a Respiratory Technician at Rex Healthcare in Raleigh.

Board members praised James J. Woody Jr., the outgoing chair of four year, for his 17 years of service to the Board. His term on the Board has expired. Woody received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine and several resolutions of appreciation.

The Board also showed its appreciation to two other members whose terms have ended. Ann T. Turlington was there to receive a resolution and praise for her 12 years on the State Board and 20 years of service at Sampson Community College. Dr. Jeannette Council's term has also expired, but she was unable to attend the meeting.

You may have noticed the change in names of our newsletter from *Community College Connection* to *The Open Door*. Since a number of newsletters are called *Connection*, we decided that a new name might be appropriate. In doing his dissertation research on the history of the North Carolina Community College System, Dr. Joseph Wescott learned that the first newsletter published by the System was called *The Open Door*. To honor that first newsletter and to emphasize once again our commitment to the open door policy often espoused by Dr. Dallas Herring, we have decided to rename our newsletter *The Open Door*.

Community Colleges To Provide Programs of Study For Lateral Entry Teachers

H. Martin Lancaster, president of the North Carolina Community College System, joined Governor Mike Easley, key legislators and a host of top education officials on July 19 as the Governor signed into law House Bill 563. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Joe Tolson (D-Edgecombe, Wilson), allows community colleges to provide coursework for teachers entering the profession by lateral entry.

"This is an historic day for North Carolina," said Lancaster. "North Carolina's community colleges have

always been in the business of workforce development. When communities identify a need, our colleges try to fill it. Local school superintendents came to our colleges with this need, and they have been among our strongest allies in working for this legislation."

According to Lancaster, "These programs will be particularly important in rural areas that have no four-year colleges or universities. The job of meeting the teacher shortage is big

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enough for everyone to have an important part to play. We look forward to working with our partners in independent and public universities and the public schools.”

Lateral entry programs prepare adults who already have baccalaureate degrees in other fields to become certified teachers.

Easley commended Lancaster for his work in getting the bill through the General Assembly. The governor said that the need for the legislation is clear.

“North Carolina must hire more than 11,000 new teachers every year,” Easley said. “This bill expands options for when and where potential teachers can receive their training so we can put motivated, qualified, well-trained teachers in all areas of the state, especially in more rural areas.”

According to Governor Easley, the state’s public four-year universities produce about 3,300 teachers annually with 2,100 of those new teachers taking jobs in the state. Many independent colleges and universities



Governor Mike Easley (center) and Rep. Joe Tolson (D-Edgecombe/Wilson, right) celebrate the signing of House Bill 563 with President H. Martin Lancaster (left) of the North Carolina Community College System and Howard Lee, chair of the State Board of Education.

also prepare teachers. However, the shortage means that many schools must depend on lateral entry to fill vacancies when hiring teachers.

In recent years, the North Carolina Community College System has been addressing the teacher shortage. Sandhills Community College in Pinehurst and Central Piedmont

Community College in Charlotte have experience with lateral entry.

Across the state, community colleges are already working with universities on “2+2” partnerships that allow students to remain in their home communities, take university education courses on community college campuses and earn their teaching degrees. Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington established one of the first successful programs. Appalachian State University and 10 community colleges make up the Appalachian Learning Alliance. East Carolina University has established the Wachovia Partnership East with 17 community colleges. Surry Community College’s strong partnership with Lees-McRae College is just one example of several collaborations with independent colleges and universities.

(Sara Parsons in the Governor’s Press Office provided background information for this story.)

Budget Negotiations Stretch Through The Summer

As of this writing, North Carolina’s government is operating under a continuing resolution, the second passed by the General Assembly this summer as lawmakers work to resolve differences between the Senate and House versions of the budget.

The state’s fiscal year began July 1 without a budget, necessitating a continuing resolution to allow agencies to operate in last year’s budget. The expiration date attached to the most recent continuing resolution is August 5.

The resolution includes a provision that allows education agencies to move forward. The bill includes \$7,802,343 to fully fund the community college enrollment increase. The Senate and House budget proposals agree on the enrollment increase funding.

They also agree on a four percent tuition increase for community colleges. In anticipation of budget approval, The State Board of Community Colleges authorized colleges to charge the expected higher tuition rate of \$39.50 per credit hour for in-state students and \$219.50 per credit hour for non-residents.

The two chambers agree on many community college items. Both

versions include funding for BioNetwork (\$7.1 million), Small Business Centers (\$1 million), equipment (\$10 million), increased financial aid (\$3 million), a new Enrollment Growth Reserve (\$2 million), and cooperative teacher preparation programs with the University of North Carolina System (\$1 million). The House proposes to increase faculty and professional staff salaries a half-percent more than the Senate.

System President Martin Lancaster said this session will be “one of the best ever for community colleges.” He attributes that success to the hard work of the State Board, presidents, trustees, faculty, staff, and System Office staff. He also says the curriculum demonstrations organized by the Faculty Association “have shown the depth and breadth of our great programs.”

Both budget proposals do, however, contain permanent reductions. Both chambers call for a 10-percent reduction in Community Service Block Grants and in Compensatory Education and a \$7.6 million reduction in the Curriculum Instruction formula, accomplished through a modification in the unit value. Both also propose cuts in funding for Off-Campus Centers.

Budget legislation often includes key provisions essentially unrelated to basic funding. An important one this year concerns retirees from agencies covered by the State Retirement System, **including community college employees.** Called “Return to Work,” the provision prohibits covered employees who retire on or after July 1, 2005 from being re-employed by agencies in the State Retirement System in any capacity for six months after retirement. According to System Office senior staff members, this provision is still under discussion.

**“You cannot teach
a man anything;
you can only help
him find it within
himself.”
Galileo**

Community College News

(news about community college people and programs)

H. Martin Lancaster, president, North Carolina Community College System, received an honorary



Lancaster

doctorate degree from the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland on June 28. Lancaster spoke at the graduation ceremonies. The honor is in recognition of his “outstanding contribution to education in the national and international arena.”...**Dr. Stephen Greiner** is the new president of **Brunswick Community College**.

He replaces the retiring Dr. Michael Reaves. Greiner is most recently the president of Virginia Intermont College



Greiner

in Bristol, Virginia. He assumes his new duties on August 1. Also on August 1, **Dr. Bill Carver** becomes the president of **Nash Community College**. He is most recently the college's vice president of instruction. He replaces Dr. Kathy Johnson, who is



Carver

now president of Pasco-Hernando Community College in New Port Richey, Florida. **Dr. Donald Stanton** is the new interim president of **Haywood Community College**. He replaces Dr. Nathan Hodges, who is now the president of Bowling Green Technical College in Louisville, Kentucky... Three community colleges in North Carolina were recognized in June by the Employment and Training Administration branch of the U.S. Department of Labor. **Rowan-Cabarrus Community College** was selected as the winner in the “Recognizing Special Populations in the Workforce” category for its work in helping to assist the workers laid off when Pillowtex closed its doors.

Central Piedmont Community College and **Forsyth Technical Community College** each received an honorable mention. Central Piedmont worked with the City of Charlotte to retrain workers for the construction industry. Forsyth Tech is developing a biotechnology workforce. North Carolina is the only state with three recipients in the annual awards....GlaxoSmithKline has awarded \$100,000 each to **Johnston Community College, Nash Community College, Vance-Granville Community College, and Wake Technical Community College**. Each school will use the funds to establish the GlaxoSmithKline Scholarship Endowment Fund. Recipients will carry the distinction of the “GlaxoSmithKline Scholar.” Mary Linda Andrews, director of U.S. Community Partnerships at GlaxoSmith Kline, presented the awards at a May ceremony at Nash Community College in Rocky Mount...**Dr. Gary Green**, president, Forsyth Technical Community College, spoke at the United States/European Union Seminar on Local Economic Development in Brussels, Belgium in June. The U.S. Department of Labor invited Green to participate in a panel discussion on workforce development partnerships...In June, **Dr. Tony Zeiss**, president, Central Piedmont Community College, received the L. Richardson Preyer Alumni Award from Leadership North Carolina. The award is given to alumni of Leadership North Carolina who have made a significant improvements to the quality of life in the state...**Dr. Parker Chesson** has been appointed to the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy. Chesson, a former

president of The College of the Albemarle and a former executive vice president, System Office, is also a former chairman of the Employment Security Commission...**Davidson County Community College** officially opened its Thomasville Education Center on July 12. The center, located in a former Thomasville Fire Department building, houses GED, ESL and continuing education classes as well as curriculum courses...WSGE-91.7 FM, the radio station of **Gaston College**, received a boost in its signal power from three kilowatts to six kilowatts in June. The increased power enlarges the station's broadcast signal to include a potential listenership of 1.3 million residents of Charlotte and its outlying areas...Doug Marlette, writer and Pulitzer-Prize winning cartoonist, visited **Pitt Community College** in April. Marlette spoke about his first novel, *The Bridge*, which includes details about Southern textile strikes and mill closings...In June, **Guilford Technical Community College** announced an agreement with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. In August, the university will offer undergraduate classes in aviation management and career pilot technol-

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The Open Door

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The Open Door is an information and idea exchange for employees and friends of the North Carolina Community College System. The ideas and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official policy or view of the State Board of Community Colleges or of the Community College System.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Textile Center Merges With Gaston College

On July 1, the North Carolina Center for Applied Textile Technology (NCCATT), was officially transferred from an independent state operation to one operated by Gaston College.

With this move, Dr. Pat Skinner, president of Gaston College, said the college will expand its class offerings to the new site. "I am very excited by this opportunity to expand Gaston College's mission in serving those who need additional education and skills. We want to meet the needs of area industries and the business community as interests shift and they pursue a more global market," said Skinner.

Dr. Joe Keith has been named dean of the Gaston's East Campus and Textile Technology Center in Belmont. The director of Gaston College's corporate education department for the past three years, Keith will report directly to Skinner. Gwen Perkins is serving as interim director of Textile Technology Center until a permanent director is chosen. The director will provide day-to-day leadership for the textile courses and services. The director will report to the dean of the East Campus and Textile Technology Center.

For more information, call Dr. Keith at (704) 922-6448 or Stephanie Michael-Pickett at (704) 922-6215.

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ogy at Guilford Tech's T.H. Davis Aviation Center at the Piedmont Triad International Airport. The program allows Guilford Tech students to remain in the area while studying for a career in aviation. Embry-Riddle has campuses in Daytona Beach, Florida and Prescott, Arizona...In June, **Piedmont Community College** named its new Person County Campus Learning Resources Center after a former state legislator and long time college trustee, Gordon P. Allen. A Person County native, Allen helped to secure funding for the college while serving in the General Assembly...**Central Piedmont Community College** broke ground in

May on the Joe Hendrick Center for Automotive Technology. The center honors the late partner of Hendrick Motorsports, a supporter of the college. Also in May, Central Piedmont named its northeast campus after Wayland H. Cato Jr., a longtime supporter of the college...In July, **Tommy Eason** was named the new baseball coach at **Pitt Community College**. A native of Snow Hill and a graduate of East Carolina University, Eason will also teach health and physical education at the college...U.S. Representative Patrick McHenry (R-NC) met in June with officials at **Gaston College** to find out ways he could help the college on the federal level.

NC-NET Offers Professional Development

The North Carolina Network for Excellence in Teaching (NC-NET), a professional development initiative launched in 2004, is expanding its range of services and resources for faculty members statewide. The **NC-NET Clearinghouse** will expand the website and communicate with campus liaisons. System Office staff will work with the Clearinghouse to identify long-term faculty development needs statewide, publish online resources dedicated to student services, develop and offer four online courses for the NC-NET Academy, and develop resources for adjunct faculty.

All three regional centers offered workshops in the last year. Among the presenters at the **Western Regional Center**, led by Southwestern Community College in Sylva, were Dr. Richard Paul and Dr. David Gottshall. In 2006, the Western Center's plans to host the Third Annual Teaching and Learning Conference featuring Parker Palmer, author of *The Courage to Teach*. The director of the Western Center is Laura Pennington.

The **Central Regional Center** led by Fayetteville Technical Community College, provided two workshops to introduce their newly developed modules for instructors. During the academic year, the center expanded its discipline-specific resource list, which is a part of the NC-NET Teaching and Learning Database, and developed five self-paced modules in the area of teaching and technology. Bob Ervin directs the activities of the Central Center.

The **Eastern Regional Center**, led by Martin Community College, hosted numerous workshops throughout the spring semester including a series of instructional technology courses that offered both online and face-to-face components; a series of biotechnology workshops; and a "Skillful Teaching Workshop" with Dr. Stephen Brookfield, author and consultant. Five modules in the area of discipline specific resources were developed by the Eastern Center this year. Phyllis Broughton is the director of the Eastern Center.

For more information about NC-NET, contact Nancy Massey, System Office, (919) 807-7131 or masseyn@nccommunitycolleges.edu



President George W. Bush visited Gaston College on July 15. In a speech before students and faculty, Bush outlined his support for the proposed free trade agreement with Central America, popularly known as CAFTA. Bush also toured the R.L. Stowe Mills plant in nearby Belmont. During his tenure, Bush has made several visits to community colleges in North Carolina. In the past, he has visited Forsyth Technical Community College and Central Piedmont Community College.

Marines Learn Arabic At Coastal Carolina Community College

By Kirsten A. Holmstedt, Staff Reporter, Coastal Carolina Community College

Marine Cpl. David Guthrie was standing duty at the gate of an abandoned airfield in Al Kut, Iraq. A chain link fence wrapped for miles around the airfield, which Iraqis had used as temporary lodging until the Marines moved in.

Guthrie, a member of II Marine Expeditionary Force Motor Transport Company from Camp Lejeune, had orders to keep the Iraqis out.

On this evening, 30 Iraqis stood in front of the 25-year-old Marine, anxious to recover their belongings. Guthrie wanted to tell them, "Come back tomorrow." Those three words, in Arabic, could have made a world of difference. Instead, chaos ensued.

"I wished every day that I could speak Arabic," said Guthrie, of his 2003 deployment to Iraq.

Now Guthrie's wish is coming true. He has returned to Iraq, and this time he is armed with an understanding of Arabic, which could turn out to be his best weapon. He intends to use the language to prevent hostile situations from escalating, and to win the hearts and minds of Iraqis.

Guthrie is one of 557 Camp Lejeune marines and sailors who, since January 2003, have completed an Arabic course through **Coastal Carolina Community College** in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The course teaches Modern Standard Arabic, the formal language that is written and spoken throughout the contemporary Arab world. Basic grammar, military vocabulary, and conversational Arabic are emphasized. Graduates are expected to be familiar enough with the Arabic language that they won't have to rely on an interpreter.

Ed Paradysz, a retired master sergeant, is one of the course instructors. He spent 20 of his 22 years in the Marine Corps as a cryptologic linguist. When he started teaching for the community college, Paradysz was the only Arabic instructor and the classes averaged 13 students. Over the past nine months, enrollment has jumped because of guidance by Maj. Gen. Stephen Johnson, commander of II MEF Forward, that 250 additional Marines receive Arabic training. Johnson's objective is to have one Marine from each infantry squad learn Arabic.



2d Lt. Jade Goodhue, HQCO 4th MEB, takes notes during her Arabic class.

"Marines need every advantage possible to help the Iraqis succeed," Johnson said. "Language is a key tool for success."

When the demand for more Arabic classes increased, the college hired another instructor, Kristine Kruchten, a former Army linguist who served with 82nd Airborne in Iraq in 2003. The 160-hour course is taught over 20 working days. Students receive 26 CDs in Arabic to facilitate their learning. In addition, the Defense Language Institute of Monterey, Calif., which developed the course, sent additional instructors to Jacksonville to help handle the request for more Arabic courses.

The goal of the Arabic course is to put Marines in a better position to establish order and reduce friction, according to Lt. Col. Michael Kaine, a training officer for II MEF G-3 Operations. Knowing the language will also enable Marines to seek help and information from Iraqis, and to communicate at check points and house searches.

Kaine said he does not expect the Marines to be fluent when they graduate from the Arabic course, but they should be able to pick up on key words or phrases and communicate on a basic level with the Iraqis.

Guthrie hopes that he will be able to identify words in a sentence, such as "American" and "bomb," so that he can

anticipate a hostile action and warn his fellow Marines.

The Iraqis who want to converse with the Marines will have to speak slowly, but they won't mind, Kaine said. They will appreciate the effort the Marines are making to learn their language and culture.

The last time Guthrie was in Al Kut, one of his daily responsibilities was delivering food and water to Marines staying on another base. To get to the other base, he had to travel in a large truck down a narrow, one-lane road. Protesters walked alongside Guthrie's vehicle; one threw a brick at his windshield.

If he had known Arabic, Guthrie would have understood what they were saying and been able to explain that he was simply taking food to the Marines on the base.

Guthrie has participated in humanitarian efforts, such as giving Iraqis food and playing soccer with them. Learning Arabic is another step in the right direction. "It shows that we have respect for them," he said. "Maybe they'll be more respectful of us."

2nd Lt. Andrea Goeman, 24, and an air support control officer for Marine Air Support Squadron 1, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, learned that certain American hand gestures can be offensive to Iraqis. She will refrain from making such gestures and from offering Iraqis food and beverage during Ramadan, the month of fasting for Muslims. "That would be considered rude," she said.

"I was definitely glad I had the opportunity to take the class before I deployed," Goeman said.

In the future, when a Marine from II MEF and an Iraqi come face-to-face, opportunities for communication and understanding will be greater than ever. So whether armed for battle or for winning hearts and minds, Marines will benefit from their knowledge of Arabic, and likewise, nations.

Editor's note: Kirsten A. Holmstedt is a staff reporter for Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville, North Carolina. She is working on a Master of Fine Arts in creative nonfiction writing at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She is also writing a book about women in combat.

Athletes Find A Home At Community Colleges

By Meredith Hines, System Office, Public Affairs

Editor's Note: Due to space considerations, we could not mention every community college sports team in the North Carolina Community College System. For more information on sports teams at your local community college, contact that college's athletic department.

When Jeremy Harper graduated from high school, he knew he wanted to play college basketball. His SAT scores arrived too late for him to enroll in a four-year college, so he started looking at community colleges. An athlete in high school, he wanted to continue playing basketball and had already heard from coaches about the basketball program at **Rockingham Community College** in Wentworth. Harper is one of the relatively few student athletes who have heard about athletic programs at community colleges.

"I think in North Carolina and in our region, community college athletics is an unknown territory," said Robby McGee, director of student activities and athletics at **Cape Fear Community College** in Wilmington. "A lot of local athletes have no prior knowledge the fact that community colleges have competitive sports."

At least 18 of the 58 schools in the

North Carolina Community College System participate in some form of athletics whether they are intercollegiate, intramurals, or industrial league. Most of the colleges are members of the National Junior College Athletic Association Region X. This region includes North and South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. The sports played range from men and women's basketball, to golf and soccer. The two most common sports are basketball and volleyball.

Some schools have recently added athletics in the past five years or so while others have had programs for over 10 years. As interest increases in a sport, coaches consider adding it to the program. However, some prefer to concentrate on the sports they already have.

Despite each college's efforts to inform would-be-students of their athletic programs, many athletes are unaware of their options at the state's community colleges. Coaches said that they believe there would be increased enrollment in community colleges if more people knew about athletics at their schools.

"We have many students that are here because we offer their particular sport where another community college does not," said Jeff Moore, athletic director at **Catawba Valley Community College** in Hickory. "It stands to reason [that] if we had a greater variety of sports we would be attractive to more potential students." Other athletic directors echo this belief.

"If student athletes had the opportunity to compete at the collegiate level and attend a community college to further their education," said McGee, "I feel more people would look at community colleges to begin their collegiate career."

"Athletics at the two-year level provides students an opportunity," said Dean Myrick, director of athletics at Rockingham and director of the NJCAA Region X. "Sometimes it gives them a purpose and an incentive to go to college."

Community college gives student another option to pursue education and play the sport they love. Harper said the coaches at Rockingham made it clear on the first day they were serious about the athletes' schoolwork and even told them they were limited on the number of

classes they could miss in order to remain on the team.

According to Myrick, student-athletes must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.00 and pass 12 credits in order to play each semester. The grade requirements are set to encourage athletes to take advantage of the quality education at their colleges and to not attend purely for the sport they play.

The coaches said that athletics provides an opportunity for the colleges to gain more exposure due to media and athletes transferring to four-year colleges. Damon Towe, athletic director at **Blue Ridge Community College** in Flat Rock, said the college's exposure has increased over 100 percent since the addition of athletics. For the athletes, exposure and experience are benefits of community college athletics that many use in transferring to four-year colleges.

Recruitment is something coaches have found to be very important. The coaches try to inform potential students of their athletic programs by sending out mass mailings, calling schools, talking with coaches and student athletes, or any other type of advertising they can afford.

Funding, administrative support, and media coverage are all things that the athletic directors feel need to improve in order to make the athletic programs bring more students to the community college system. According to Myrick, the increase in student-athlete enrollment at the community colleges brings about positive economic results for their areas in forms such as living expenses, lodging of other teams, and visiting parents.

"More community colleges need to know the positive impact athletics can have on their campus and community," said Myrick. "I have had the privilege of seeing many student-athletes turn their lives around and graduate from four-year colleges. Without athletics that would not have been possible."

Harper will attend Appalachian State University in the fall and play on the basketball team there. He recommends that any students second-guessing enrollment at a four-year college attend a community college.

"I wouldn't take it back for anything," said Harper. "It has made me a better player and a better student."



Cape Fear Community College guard, Tim Brown, led the Sea Devils in baskets made behind the arc with 60, and finished second on the team in points (336) and rebounds (121).

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Below is a list of some other community colleges in North Carolina that have athletic teams.

- ♦ **Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute** is the first and so far only Division III basketball team in the Southeast to have competed in the NJCAA National Tournament in New York, finished the season ranked fifth in the nation in 2004 and are the current defending state champs. Three All-Americans have been named from Caldwell as well as several regional and district champions who have gone on to play at 4-year colleges.
- ♦ **Haywood Community College** has a Timber Sports team, which competes in Woodsman's Meets.

This year, Haywood placed first in a competition in Pennsylvania.

- ♦ **Rockingham Community College** pitcher Kyle Warren has been signed with the Atlanta Braves.
- ♦ **Southwestern Community College**, known as Southwestern Technical Institute in the 1960's had a basketball team called the Tangles, then changed to the STI Raiders. Coach Jim Searcy was the first instructor at Southwestern.
- ♦ **Lenoir Community College** basketball player Robert McLaurin was named Region X Player of the Year for the second year in a row. Women's basketball was runner-up in the

Region X Tournament Championship.

- ♦ **Cape Fear Community College** women's volleyball and men's golf teams won the Region X Championships.
- ♦ **Brunswick Community College** men's basketball team is Champion of Region X. Coach Walter Shaw was named Coach of the Year for Region X Division I for 2004-2005.
- ♦ **Catawba Valley Community College** basketball player Kenneth Hewitt was named NJCAA All-American. Freshman player Arthur Whitt ranked 13th in the nation for individual scoring (22 points per game).

North Carolina Community Colleges Earn Top Grades For Performance

A report released in June by the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) indicates that for the second year in a row, all 58 of its comprehensive community colleges met or exceeded the state's rigorous standards in three performance areas last year. The indicators are completer and non-completer satisfaction, employer satisfaction, and business and industry satisfaction with customized training.

These are three of the 12 standards described in the annual **Critical Success Factors Report**, which documents each community college's performance as part of strict accountability requirements of the General Assembly.

For the past five years, community colleges have had the opportunity to earn the designation of "superior" based on their performance results. The first year, only four of the 58 comprehensive community colleges earned a "superior" ranking. Twenty-

six were ranked "superior" the second year, 31 the third year, and 36 achieved that ranking last year.

This year, there are 37 colleges with a "superior" ranking. The rankings are based on the 2003-2004 academic year.

"I continue to marvel each year at how well our colleges continue to perform, especially considering the growing enrollment and funding challenges our colleges must grapple with," said System President H. Martin Lancaster.

Five community colleges received a perfect score by meeting or exceeding all 12 measures: Alamance Community College (Graham); Coastal Carolina Community College (Jacksonville); James Sprunt Community College (Kenansville); Sandhills Community College (Pinehurst) and Tri-County Community College (Murphy). Blue Ridge Community College and Tri-County Community College earned superior rankings in each year the report has been generated.

The following community colleges earned superior rankings: Alamance, Asheville-Buncombe Technical, Beaufort County, Bladen, Blue Ridge, Caldwell, Cape Fear, Carteret, Catawba Valley, Central Carolina, Central Piedmont, Cleveland, Coastal Carolina, Craven, Davidson County, Edgecombe, Fayetteville Technical, Forsyth Technical, Gaston College, Guilford Technical, James Sprunt, Martin, McDowell, Randolph, Richmond, Rowan-Cabarrus, Sampson, Sandhills, Southeastern, Stanly, Surry, Tri-County, Vance-Granville, Wake Technical, Wayne, Western Piedmont, Wilson Technical.

The complete 2005 Critical Success Factors Report is available on the NCCCS Web page at <http://www.ncccs.cc.nc.us/Publications/docs/Publications/csf2005.pdf>

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Upcoming Dates to Remember

October 12-14 — North Carolina Community College Adult Educators Association (NCCCAEA) Fall Conference, Adams Mark Hotel, Winston-Salem. Contact: Darrell Miller, Wilkes Community College,

October 25-28 – North Carolina Workforce Development Partnership Conference, Sheraton Four Seasons, Greensboro. Contact: Stephanie Deese, or 807-7159.

November 18 – Day of Recognition Awards Luncheon, noon, RBC Center, Raleigh. The State Board of Community Colleges sponsors the annual event. Contact: Peggy Beach at 807-6964 or at beachm@ncccommunitycolleges.edu

Campus Highlights

Alamance Community College Graham, North Carolina

- ◆ WorkFast, a program developed to provide quick skills training to laid-off and underemployed workers, served 101 students from January through March. Classes were held in 10 occupational areas including automotive maintenance, basic welding, and customer service. Also, 23 students completed classes in career planning and assessment, resume development, and interview techniques.
- ◆ In June, the college and the North Carolina Biotechnology Center held a weeklong hands-on biopharmaceutical production workshop for university and college faculty.
- ◆ The Summer Teachers' Institute in Mathematics brought math and science teachers from the Alamance-Burlington Schools to the college to learn mathematics usage in allied health and biotechnology.

Catawba Valley Community College Hickory, North Carolina

- ◆ The college will soon offer a new certificate program in polysomnography, or sleep studies. Created initially for individuals who have an associate degree in respiratory therapy or another allied health field, the program prepares them to conduct tests to help determine physical causes of sleep problems. Pitt Community College in Greenville will also offer this specialty health training.
- ◆ The college is building a five-story 135,000 square-foot building that will house new math and science classrooms and laboratories as well as a new library. Funded jointly by the 2000 Higher Education Bonds (\$7.5 million) and a Catawba County Certificate of Participation (\$7 million), the building is projected to be complete by late Spring 2006.

Cleveland Community College Shelby, North Carolina

- ◆ The college, Cleveland County EMS and the Shelby Fire Department developed a structural collapse course.

- ◆ The college will begin offering cosmetology in the Huskins program this fall. Twenty students from the four area high schools will participate in the program. Students will take core requirements at their respective high school each morning and travel to Cleveland's campus in the afternoon for cosmetology courses.
- ◆ The GED Online program began this spring. The college partnered with *The Shelby Star* to offer GED practice tests in the newspaper and to promote the GED Online program.
- ◆ The Foothills Surgical Technology program had a very successful inaugural year. The program, funded by a grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, is a collaborative effort of Cleveland Community College, Isothermal Community College and McDowell Technical Community College. The program is accredited and all graduates are employed.

Edgecombe Community College Tarboro, North Carolina

- ◆ The college sponsored a free seminar series called "Bridging the Divide" in late March through early June. Five seminars on diversity issues were held, focusing on multiculturalism, the Hispanic/Latino population, individuals with disabilities, African-Americans, and female business owners.
- ◆ The college also held public receptions in Edgecombe communities in March and April to introduce Dr. Deborah Lamm, the new college president. Lamm, who joined the college in November 2004, shared her vision for the college with local residents.
- ◆ The college received a \$50,000 Golden LEAF BioNetwork grant and is adding a degree in biotechnology this fall. The two-year degree program is being offered in collaboration with Pitt Community College.
- ◆ The college library and five other libraries in Nash and Edgecombe counties received a \$34,826 federal Technology Planning Grant to develop a comprehensive technology plan for the area. The plan will identify ways to enable library users greater and easier access to all library resources.

Haywood Community College Clyde, North Carolina

- ◆ The college's spring semester 2005 enrollment reached another milestone, surpassing the 1900 mark for the first time. The college has experienced record enrollments for spring semester since 2000.
- ◆ Haywood Community College celebrated its 40th anniversary with "Mountain Echoes: A Homecoming, Reminiscing through Stories and Music." The daylong festival was so successful that it is now slated to become an annual event. Preparations are underway for next year's event.
- ◆ The nursing program was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust.
- ◆ *Crazy Mary*, a film by students in the film and video program, was selected for viewing at the Asheville Film Festival in November.
- ◆ The Learning Resource Center received a collection of over 300 items about rhododendron and azaleas from the estate of Atwell David "Pete" McNeese. The collection, which may be one of the most complete collections on the genus in the south, includes resource books and some first editions.

Lenoir Community College Kinston, North Carolina

- ◆ The college was awarded a \$1.98 million Golden LEAF grant to build a state-of-the-art machinist training shop at the Global TransPark Education and Training Center.
- ◆ The college bought nine acres of land in Jones County with plans to build a \$1 million school building there. The land is directly in front of the Jones County Industrial Park and west of Trenton. Greene County Center will also be expanded to meet the needs of Greene County. The current facility is adjacent to Greene Central High School.
- ◆ The main campus is undergoing a \$5.5 million construction project. The project includes a new state-of-the-art science building and a new facility for the college's culinary arts program.
- ◆ Baseball pitcher Anthony Hernandez pitched a nine-inning no hitter recently, a first for the college.

Campus Highlights continued

Montgomery Community College Troy, North Carolina

- ◆ Discovery Place in Charlotte asked the college's professional crafts/clay program to create replicas of the vessels in which the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Students are making eight six-foot, one five-foot and one four-foot vessel for the display that begins in February 2006.
- ◆ The college was awarded a \$149,000 grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust to start a curriculum diploma program in dental assisting this fall.
- ◆ The college signed a consortium agreement with the North Carolina Department of Corrections to be the regional training provider for surrounding correctional facilities in Randolph, Stanly and Montgomery Counties.
- ◆ The college foundation raised more than \$168,000 this year. Six new scholarships were endowed and 100 percent of the board of trustees, foundation board of directors and college employees contributed to the annual fund drive once again.

Pamlico Community College Grantsboro, North Carolina

- ◆ Pamlico Community College was recently awarded a \$1,500,000 grant from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). The funds will be used to match state bond monies and construct a \$3,400,000 Life Care Learning Center which will house state-of-the-art allied health classrooms and labs as well as an auditorium for college and community events, exhibits, fairs, and concerts. The auditorium will also serve as Pamlico County's sole hurricane shelter.
- ◆ In addition to a medical assisting program, Pamlico currently hosts an electroneurodiagnostic technology program and will soon begin two other health care programs. Data compiled in the EDA grant process revealed large numbers of health care related job openings in the region within the next five years. Local hospitals have encouraged the expansion of training programs as they seek to fill professional and technical positions.

Richmond Community College Hamlet, North Carolina

- ◆ Construction is ahead of schedule on the 35,608 square-foot Joseph W. Grimsley Health Science Building. The college raised \$2.3 million to add to the \$3.5 million in construction funds made available through the 2000 Higher Education Bond Referendum. The building should be ready for occupancy in January 2006.
- ◆ The college became a Microsoft IT [Information Technology] Pro+ Academy in April. In addition to access to the Microsoft Official Curriculum, students will receive hands-on training on recently purchased and installed state-of-the-art PCs, servers, routers, and switches. Students will use an independent server that provides a very real learning situation.
- ◆ Vocational courses made a comeback this summer though the college's continuing education department. Courses in residential wiring and plumbing received great interest from the community. A residential carpentry course will be paired with wiring and plumbing for fall offerings.

Southeastern Community College Whiteville, North Carolina

- ◆ Students from college's choir sang at Carnegie Hall during a chorale festival in March. Robin Fort, choir director, Dr. Sharyn Edwards, piano instructor along with choir members, Mary Barrett, Sara Barrett, Connie Haynes, Dr. Thelma Mitchell, Deseree Muraglia, and Clara White, participated in the event. John Rutter, a leading composer of twentieth century choral music, was the conductor. The orchestra was the New England Symphonic Ensemble. Fort also served as a participating director of the festival.
- ◆ The college has organized a 35-member community band that is directed by George Nickerson, who was the first U.S. Marine to conduct the British Royal Marine Band in Scotland. The Southeastern Community College Community Band course is offered to anyone in the community aged 16 and older for college credit or just for participation in the band. The band's first concert was presented in May.
- ◆ Institute for Today's Leaders, Southeastern's leadership program, graduated the second group of faculty

and staff. The graduates are Karen Anderson Tatum, public information officer; Melody Callihan, processing assistant for Business and Technology; Barbara Campbell, student activities coordinator; Kathryn Clark, Talent Search counselor; Laura Davis, Mathematics instructor and Honor Programs coordinator; Cathy Frye, Nursing instructor; Susan Houseman, Forestry instructor; Terri King, processing assistant for Arts and Sciences; Queen Lewis-Odom, Upward Bound director; Gloria Perry, JobLink counselor; Connie Porter, Office Systems instructor; Richard Rabon, Psychology instructor; Julia Roberts, Practical Work Experience coordinator and Office Systems Technology instructor; Betty Jo Sanders, controller; Meg Sellers, program assistant and processing assistant for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program; Sylvia Tart, assistant registrar; and Jackie Williams, Basic Skills coordinator.

Tri-County Community College Murphy, North Carolina

- ◆ Thanks to major funding from Duke Power and Golden LEAF, the continuing education division has introduced a machinist training program. College officials estimate that nearly 200 employees in local industry will be able to enhance their job skills by participating in the new program. In addition, qualified members of the general public can enroll in the program.
- ◆ The college's three-phase renovation projects are nearing completion. Members of the business technology faculty have moved into new classroom and office space, while health and science faculty members are watching the finishing touches being added to their program areas.
- ◆ The college and Western Carolina University (WCU) forged an educational partnership agreement on May 24 that will open the door to direct university admission for qualified Tri-County students. Beginning this fall, students at Tri-County interested in advancing their education beyond the associate degree may enter Western Carolina University through this new simultaneous admission program. The new entry Program will provide vital support and education for Tri-County students as they advance through their studies.

Versatile Actor Returns to Community College Roots

Graduate of Western Piedmont Teaches English to Lenoir Community College

By Meredith Hines, System Office, Public Affairs

Mitch Butts knew he wanted to act from an early age. A native of Mount Olive and an only child, Butts spent a lot of time dreaming up characters.

"I was also an avid television watcher and was fascinated by such shows as *The Wild, Wild West*, *My Favorite Martian*, *Andy Griffith*, etc. Television was my escape," said Butts. "My hometown, did have one movie theatre in which I spent most Saturday afternoons."

Butts, who graduated from **Western Piedmont Community College**, now an English instructor at **Lenoir Community College**, was an avid reader.

"I was always reading," said Butts, "which is a necessity to developing a career as someone who can portray others." Butts is also a playwright and an actor working in theater, film, and television.

Butts' experience in theater includes such plays as *Damn Yankees*, *A Chorus Line*, *Oliver*, *How the Other Half Loves*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. His film and television experience includes *The Bedroom Window*, *The Portrait*, *Rescue 911*, *America's Most Wanted*, and *Dawson's Creek*.

"Being an actor provides a great deal of satisfaction," said Butts. "Being a playwright is rather like sending a child out into the world and hoping he or she will do well." Butts said he enjoys how live theater interacts between the characters and the audience and he finds it very satisfying. He does add however, that television acting and film acting pay the best and give him greater recognition on a broader level. Butts said he makes an effort to portray characters with which most Southerners can identify.

"The presentation of true Southern characters is very important to me," said Butts. "Southerners have a rich and wonderful heritage that has made us unique. Andy Griffith taught me how to present a Southern gentleman, and my work on *Matlock* only added to my admiration of him." Among his other role models are actress Bea Arthur, North Carolina writer and director Charlie John Smith, and his business partner, Kevin Holmes.

He and Holmes are founding members of The Road Less Traveled Theatre Company in Oxford. "The



Mitch Butts teaches English at Lenoir Community College

Road Less Traveled is exploring the possibility of a Kinston/Lenoir Community College outdoor drama on the Civil War in North Carolina," said Butts, who is very

proud of the company's founding. The amateur community theater, founded in 2004, is currently launching *A Few Good Men* and is setting up for a run of *Macbeth* in 2006.

Butts has worked with many well-known people including Jay Leno, Steve Guttenberg, Lauren Bacall, Clarice Taylor, James Wood, Elizabeth McGovern, and Margaret Freeman. He has also worked with Gregory Peck.

Butts is presently revitalizing Lenoir's drama program. "The president, Dr. Brantley Briley, shares my belief that theater and the performing arts only serve to strengthen a community," said Butts. "I am very pleased he supports my efforts to bring theater back to the Lenoir campus." The theater students will perform this year in *Nunsense*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *An Evening with Poe*, *Honk*, and *Godspell*. In addition, the students will also sponsor an invitational forensics (debate and public speaking) tournament at Lenoir for the first time.

Butts enjoys his job as an instructor at Lenoir and said that teaching is actually a full-time acting job. "I have to be able to encourage and inspire students who may be unsure on themselves, or who may be uninspired to actually do a research paper or to read a book," said Butts. "I love helping people understand the joy of reading, the importance of increasing their own base of knowledge, or the necessity of writing correctly."

After graduating from Western Piedmont, Butts attended the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and then earned his masters degree at North Carolina State University. During his time in Wilmington, Butts worked with

the Thalian Association of Wilmington and earned 263 awards in debate and public speaking.

Butts' advice to young people and those who act is simple: "Do it. Go wherever you need to go to do it. Do not slow down. Do not get discouraged by rejection. But do it." This motto motivated Butts to learn about as many things as he could. In addition to acting, writing, and directing, Butts is also a certified pastry chef, an award winning ballroom dancer, and he is registered in American Sign Language. According to Butts, part of being an actor is being able to support oneself when acting jobs are in short supply.

Many plans for future projects are up Butts' sleeves. He is working on his version of *Cinderella*, a one-man show on the life of Abraham Lincoln, a Kinston/Lenoir Community College outdoor drama, and a children's book. Butts also wishes to dramatize the life of Sam Byrd, also from Mount Olive. Byrd, who died in the 1950s, is buried in Mount Olive.

"His headstone reads, 'Writer, Actor, Producer.' I want mine to read the same," said Butts. "I am in no way ready for that. I have a lot left to do. The best is actually yet to come."

Looking for Community College Graduates

We at the System Office frequently hear stories about community college graduates who are successful in their careers and who contribute to their communities. We enjoy reading those stories and ask that you send us more!

The Open Door is looking for community college graduates like Mitch Butts (seen above), for feature stories in future issues. Also, the staff of the System Office, Public Affairs, is planning an alumni section on the system website.

We need your input so please submit any story ideas and photos of graduates to *The Open Door* news hotline at or 919-907-6964.

All story ideas will be considered. However, publication is not guaranteed.

Thanks for your help.