

HAYWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2021
-
2022



**ANNUAL
REPORT**



TABLE OF CONTENTS



1 >> WE ARE HCC

25 >> INFRASTRUCTURE

4 >> ENROLLMENT

29 >> STUDENT SUCCESS

10 >> ENGAGEMENT

35 >> FOUNDATION

22 >> EMPLOYEES



WE ARE HCC

FROM THE **PRESIDENT**

Thank you for taking time to read Haywood Community College's Annual Report for the 2021-2022 Academic Year. This year was an exciting return to many events and activities, for students, employees, and our community.

In April, HCC's Wildlife Society hosted a "once in generation" event on campus – the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave. Over 300 students from 17 colleges and universities across the Southeast came to HCC to compete in a variety of challenges to test their knowledge, skill, and teamwork.



Dr. Shelley White, HCC President

Throughout the year, the College continued to make progress on new facilities and emerging technologies. Progress continued on the construction of the Health Sciences Education Building, with the added excitement of securing grants to support the integration of state-of-the-art technology for student lab and simulations spaces. Renovations also began on the Workforce and Industry Training Center to bring short-term workforce training and enhanced learning spaces to HCC's High-Tech Center location. Two large grants were awarded from the Department of Labor and Golden LEAF totaling over \$2.5 Million to add programs in construction, plumbing, HVAC, truck driver training, and electrical line worker.

In the Summer of 2021, HCC launched a new Strategic Plan, with an emphasis on five goal areas. Read more about the Strategic Plan on page 2. Throughout this report, you'll find the year's events and activities organized around these five goal areas: Enrollment, Engagement, Infrastructure, Employees, and Student Success. In this way, HCC is focused on our bright future – working together to make our goals a reality.



RECOGNITION

Haywood Community College was ranked among the **top 10** community colleges in the nation. A study from SmartAsset analyzed the student-to-faculty ratio, graduation and transfer rates, and the cost of tuition and fees at more than 800 community colleges nationwide, and HCC ranked number nine overall.

ABOUT HCC

Haywood Community College was founded in 1965 and continues to offer an array of affordable programs with small class sizes so students receive the personalized attention they deserve.

Aside from classroom instruction, students have the opportunity to participate in hands-on learning experiences through their program and student clubs.

Tucked away in the Great Smoky Mountains, the campus is a designated arboretum and features walking trails and a recently upgraded disc golf course.

The campus woodlands contain over 1,000 trees, which range in age of up to 140 years old. Today, the arboretum provides an outdoor laboratory for many fields of study and provides a beautiful college campus for students and the community to enjoy.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE 2021-2026

MISSION

We serve the educational needs and economic growth of our community, by promoting lifelong student learning and success.

VISION

To Enrich Everyone Through Education.

GOALS

1

Enrollment

Increase enrollment to pre-pandemic levels (2019-2020) over a four-year period college-wide, with an emphasis coming from Haywood County residents.

2

Engagement

Consistent year-over-year improvement on our engagement levels with students, community, and employees.

3

Infrastructure

Progress on our short- and long-term facilities and infrastructure needs based on our comprehensive infrastructure facility roadmap.

4

Employees

Meet or exceed expectations on employee engagement, diverse representation, people development, and talent recruitment, based on a defined workplace culture of excellence, well-being, and high performance.

5

Student Success

Increase student success metrics over a four-year period, to ensure students are progressing on or meeting their goals and the college is providing skilled workers to the community.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2021-2022



Dr. Tom McNeel, Chair

Haywood Community College's Board of Trustees recently welcomed new member H. Lee Davis, Jr., appointed by the Haywood County Commissioners. Members Lynn Milner and Rhonda Schandavel were reappointed by their respective agencies.

The role of the Board of Trustees is to provide direction and oversight for Haywood Community College.



Lynn Milner, Vice Chair



John Campbell, SGA President



Jim Blyth



Gorham Bradley



H. Lee Davis



Dr. Elizabeth Ferguson



Tammy Hall McDowell



Dr. Morgan Plemmons



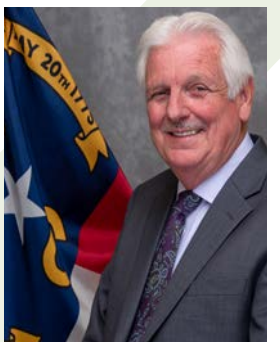
Dr. Deborah Porto



Kaleb Rathbone



Rhonda Schandavel



Danny Wingate

ENROLLMENT

PEAK WEEK

Our recruitment and registration team welcomed students to campus during **Peak Week**, a special registration event to get new students registered and ready for the fall semester. From free treats to an easy-to-follow registration checklist, we were excited to welcome students to campus in a fun way!





Start Your Journey at Student Services (Hemlock Building)
8am-4pm daily
HCC
HAYWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Steps to Get Started

To get you successfully along your registration path, complete these five simple steps prior to meeting with our team. We can assist you with these on-site but completing these ahead of time will make for a quicker in-person journey.



Complete the HCC enrollment application

Visit myopenadvising.com to get started and choose the path that's best for you. Our online admissions application will get you on the right track to your journey at HCC.



Apply for Financial Aid

Complete the FAFSA so you're eligible for financial aid and scholarship opportunities at studentaid.gov
Complete the HCC scholarship application at myopenadvising.com

Phone Number _____
Email Address _____
Name _____
Student ID _____
Program of Study _____

NATURAL RESOURCES OPEN HOUSE



In April, the **Natural Resources** program held an open house for students interested in entering the program. With demonstrations, tours, and detailed information, potential students attended the event to learn more about the program and why it attracts students from across the region.

BOBCAT CHALLENGE

APPLY NOW!



828.627.4500

enrollment@haywood.edu

Start your application
at haywood.edu



GET STARTED NOW!

Contact us today
to start your future.

Work with a
success coach to
create your
educational path
to be successful
at HCC.

DEGREES
CERTIFICATES

CONTINUING
EDUCATION

PERSONAL
ENRICHMENT

HIGH SCHOOL
PROGRAMS

SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE

In the fall of 2021, the **Bobcat Challenge** was launched – an all-encompassing focus on recruitment efforts. As an internal program, each month featured a different focus area for our employees to engage with community members in a different manner. With special business card handouts and a focus on employers looking to train their employees, the college worked hard to ensure the benefits of attending HCC were shared to encourage community members to follow their educational dreams.

Develop your skills,
fuel their passion.

You'll LOVE what we have to offer!



REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 21

HAYWOOD.EDU

BOBCAT TO BULLDOG PROMISE



Photo Credit: UNC – Asheville

The **Bobcat to Bulldog Promise Program** was established in August between HCC and the University of North Carolina – Asheville. This program provides HCC graduates direct admission to UNC-Asheville which offers a collaborative partnership focused on bridging student pathways to success in Haywood County, Western North Carolina, the State of North Carolina, and beyond. HCC students can obtain their associate degree for guaranteed admission to UNC-Asheville with no additional application fee. This agreement also prioritizes the ability to receive admission, financial aid, registration and orientation communications early in the transition process, setting HCC students up for maximum success at both institutions.

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO VISIT

HCC welcomed representatives from the **University of Idaho** as their team explored the many aspects of our Natural Resources program. Students graduating from this program area will have the opportunity for a direct transfer to the University of Idaho as they continue to pursue their career path in the Natural Resources industry.



AMERICAN BLADESMITHING SOCIETY

HCC was pleased to welcome back the **American Bladesmithing Society** to campus for their Hammer-In tour. Sidelined for a few years due to the pandemic, bladesmiths and interested spectators came out for this exciting event on campus. With demonstrations, learning opportunities, and more, the sharing of this special trade was a sight to see!



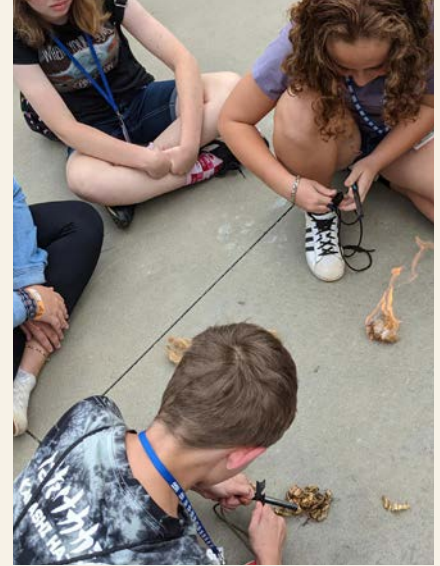
Virtual Reality has become mainstream in our world. We have taken this great technology and formed it into an amazing resource at HCC. As part of the instructional design department, we have enhanced classroom learning with educational virtual reality experiences that supplement coursework and engage students in a new and unique way.



Bobcat COLLEGE



Opening our doors to middle schoolers in July gave children the opportunity to explore career paths they could someday choose as they look to the future. **Bobcat College** offered the chance for children to be on campus full days for one week during the summer to experience real-world simulations and activities in a variety of industries.



Community SCIENCE NIGHT

In April, HCC hosted the inaugural **Community Science Night**. With the hard work and dedication of HCC instructors, over 100 children attended this event that was in partnership with NC Bio Network to provide multiple science stations including airzookas, battle bots, fizzing rockets, and much more! This community event offered the opportunity for children to see how fun science can be and for adults to enjoy a family night out on our beautiful campus.



NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

CURRICULUM STUDENTS

39.8% - Career & Technical Education

22.9% - College Transfer

17.5% - Career & College Promise

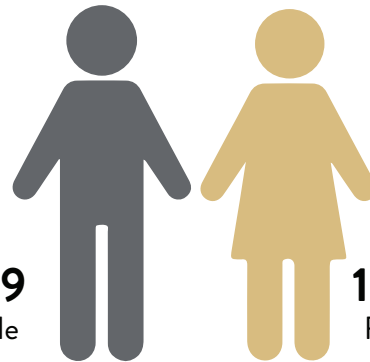
10.7% - Early College

10.6% - Special Credit/Other

TOP 5 PROGRAMS OF STUDY

- Associate in General Education - Nursing
- Associate in Arts
- Early Childhood Education (*Career option non-transfer track*)
- Business Administration
- Associate in Science

599
Male



1,200
Female

STUDENTS ENROLLED

1,210

PART-TIME STUDENTS

589

FULL-TIME STUDENTS

CONTINUING EDUCATION

TOP 5 COURSES:

Fire & Rescue Services - 603

Emergency Medical Services - 565

Criminal Justice - 433

Customized Training Programs - 273

Self Support - Occupational - 232

1,799

ENROLLED
STUDENTS

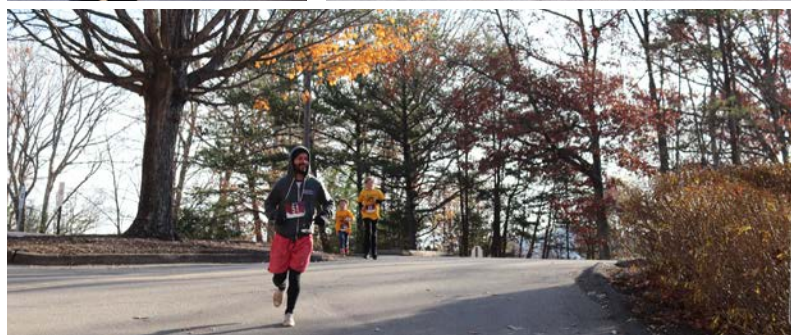
TOTAL ENROLLED STUDENTS: 3,598



ENGAGEMENT



Our second annual **Turkey Trot** was held on a chilly day in November, but we were excited to welcome racers to campus for an in-person race featuring two laps around campus. With on and off-road paths, racers were challenged on our terrain but everyone had a great time! We were also glad to support our community with proceeds from the race benefiting flood victims in our region.



JOINT MEETING



Photo credit: Tyler Auffhammer, The Mountaineer

In March, stakeholders from the Haywood Community College Board of Trustees, Haywood County Board of Commissioners, and the Haywood County Schools Board gathered together for a historical meeting. The group was able to discuss their partnerships, sharing of services, and the key focus areas for each group in the near future.



HIGH SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION



In Spring of 2022, HCC hosted its inaugural **High School Art Exhibit**. This showcase featured artwork from local high schools on display in the Mary Cornwell gallery on campus. Students, their families, and school representatives were invited to a special reception with the show on display for two weeks, open to the public. This event showcased amazing talent and offered interested high school students the opportunity to see where their talents can take them in the future.



With podcasts continuing to gain in popularity, HCC decided to take our own leap into this outreach method by starting our own podcast – **Bobcat Chat!** From Dr. Shelley White to our fire instructors and Foundation Director, we are excited to share more about HCC and more about on-campus happenings and helpful information for our current and potential students.



BLOOD DRIVE

Each year, Student Life coordinates **blood drives** on campus as a convenient opportunity for students and employees to donate blood and support others in our community. We look forward to hosting additional events in the future and truly thank all those that made a donation.

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

HCC partners with many local businesses to help train their future employees. Our team works closely with employers such as Giles Chemical, ConMet, and Evergreen Packaging to ensure our programs meet their training needs. In the Spring we welcomed **Pratt & Whitney** to campus as an opportunity for community members and prospective students to learn more about their company and available job opportunities. Our team was also on-hand to share the classes and programs available to help them earn the credentials they need to earn an interview with Pratt & Whitney and other local employers.



FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING

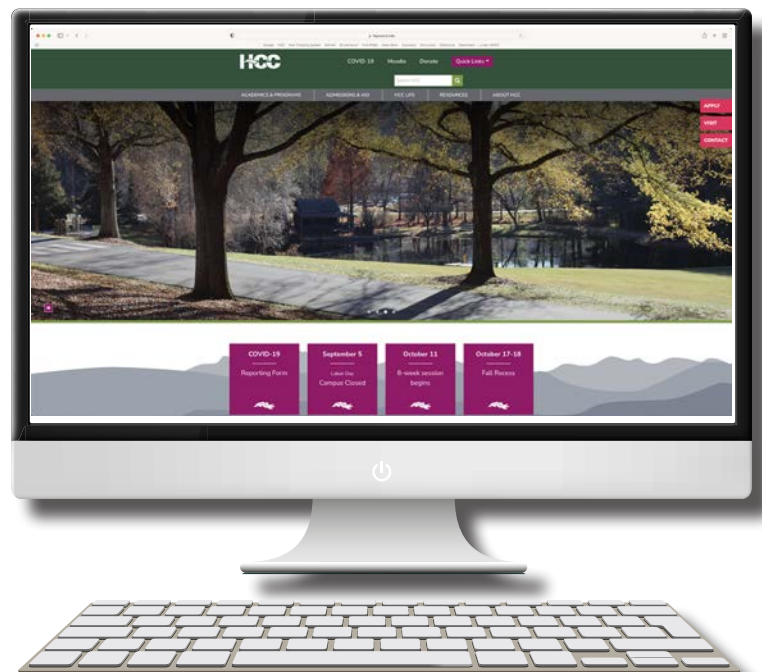
Haywood Community College hosted the North Carolina Forest Service's annual **Fire Academy** training on campus. Over 150 attendees participated in courses and activities designed to provide the skillsets and confidence to handle a range of situations centered around building leadership skills. The participants were

wildland firefighters from various agencies, primarily the NC Forest Service. In addition, there were representatives from NC State Parks, US Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, City of Asheville Firefighters, the Department of Defense at Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base and the National Parks Service.



NEW WEBSITE

After a lot of planning and coordination, HCC launched a **new website** in December of 2021. The fresh site allowed our team the opportunity to not only freshen the look and content but to also consider the user experience and overall layout. This new website is welcoming and easy to use, making it the perfect tool for new and current students to find what they need!



EARTH DAY



A sub-committee from HCC's newly established Sustainability Committee planned and executed an **Earth Day** celebration event on our campus. Featuring numerous community partners, student presentations, activities and the dedication of our Moon Tree, we were excited to see employees, students, and the community join in on the festivities for the day. During the event, students from the Environmental Leadership Club gave presentations about conservation and community partner projects. Students also had the opportunity to paint a pendant and everyone received an Earth Day sticker and flower seed bracelet.



FALL in the Field

Bringing back a favorite event, **Fall in the Field** featured a kickball tournament between students and employees.



Attendees also enjoyed some free food and more to celebrate fall and a great time on campus.

15^{YRS} BALSAM RANGE

2007-2022

Coming back to where it first started, on the grounds of HCC, **Balsam Range** performed their 15th anniversary show near the HCC Mill Pond. Over 1,000 concertgoers enjoyed the music, scenery, and beautiful Spring weather. Having this experience on campus was truly magical and we were excited to welcome so many visitors to campus as returning guests or those that have not visited before.





HOLIDAY PARADES

What a festive time at the Canton and Waynesville **holiday parades**! It was nice seeing all the smiling faces along the parade routes.



STUDENT-FOCUSED EVENTS



Our fall and spring semesters provided a variety of student-focused events. Votes were taken, and two movies were shown at **Smoky Mountain Cinemas** around the holidays. In addition, everyone enjoyed a warm waffle cone at **Jack the Dipper**, compliments of HCC and a great night at **Tube World**.

FLOOD EFFORTS

In August, Haywood County was devastated by Tropical Storm Fred. Following this weather impact on our community, HCC quickly acted. Our student welcome back event was transformed into a hygiene packing kit event for those impacted by the flood. HCC was also able to support those in need by offering space at one of our campus locations for donations. In addition to offering physical space, our employees also volunteered their time at the storage location to assist with intake, organization, and the distribution of the donated items. Approximately 26 employees donated their time from 1-2 hour shifts to as much as 8 hours at a time both inside and outside of working hours. The support HCC offered lasted into the fall semester as needs continued throughout the communities after initial cleanup efforts took place. HCC was able to work with local nonprofits to finalize the distribution of all the donated items to ensure those that needed supplies had it then and into the months that followed the initial event.



Other WNC community colleges helped with donation efforts. Thank you Blue Ridge Community College and McDowell Technical Community College.





TROUT RACE

Haywood Community College's Professional Crafts Wood instructor Brian Wurst and student lab technicians crafted a few hundred wooden fish for use in Haywood Waterways Association and Big Brothers Big Sisters **Trout Race**. This partnership allowed HCC to support this community event in a unique way while also supporting the overall mission of the college.



FISH FEST

Fish Fest is back! Our Fish & Wildlife students welcomed children and adults to campus in April for the annual Fish Fest. This event allows the opportunity for children to fish at our mill pond and receive expert training from HCC students.



2022 SOUTHEASTERN



WILDLIFE CONCLAVE



After a two-year pause on the **Southeastern Wildlife Conclave** event due to the pandemic, HCC was excited to partner with Western Carolina University to host the 2022 Wildlife Conclave on our campus in April of 2022. This gathering of student chapters of The Wildlife Society has occurred annually for 50 years and is a tremendous opportunity for students to experience the importance of professional involvement firsthand. The event consists of three days of wildlife management-related academic and physical competitions, hands-on workshops, professional talks, and the opportunity to network. Attendees are among the best and brightest of our future wildlife conservation professionals.



ARCHERY



LAB PRACTICAL



**TRAP
SETTING**



TELEMETRY



**KAYAK
RELAY**



ARTWORK



Over 300 students and faculty from wildlife and fisheries management programs from 17 universities throughout the southeast attended this major event.



Thank you!



HCC

SMALL BUSINESS CENTER

IMPACT AT A GLANCE



Ashley Swanger,
Small Business Center Director



100

CLIENTS SERVED



41

JOBS CREATED



7

BUSINESSES
STARTED



76

JOBS RETAINED



68 EVENTS WITH
225 ATTENDEES



482

COUNSELING
HOURS

21/22 HIGHLIGHTS

- Support of businesses through the NCDOR Business Recovery Grant
- Held annual Agribusiness and Craft Artist Business Summits
- Collaboration with EmPOWERing Mountain Food Systems awarded 7 grants to local agribusiness owners.



EMPLOYEES

HAYWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PLUNGE 2022
FREEZE FOR HCC

We came, we froze, we conquered. This year HCC won First Place Top Fundraising School for the **Haywood County Waterways Plunge** at Lake Junaluska! Ultimately winning the golden plunger for fundraising efforts, it was a wonderful day to showcase support of our community through the generosity of HCC employees. The HCC Employee Senate was responsible for coordinating donations and involvement of employees.





Employees and students were excited to give our teachers a warm Thank You during **Teacher Appreciation Week** in May. Instructors that have dedicated their time inside and outside of the classroom were featured on social media and students had the opportunity to write their own thank you note to an instructor that has made an impact on them.



SERVICE AWARDS



We took time to recognize our employees that reached employment milestones in the NC College System and with HCC. Congratulations to employees and their milestones! Five Years: Austin Floyd, Cathy Gilchrist, Shane McElrath, Farrah Rodriguez. Ten Years: Christopher Bond, Dr. Michael Coleman, Tina Robertson, Justin Stocker. Fifteen Years: Clay Couch, Melanie Hannah, Christie Medford, Shannon Rabby, Susan Roberts, Phillip Turner. Twenty Years: Vickie Ansley, Karen Denney, Dr. Shelley White.

Big Brothers Big Sisters OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA



In March, HCC employees took to the bowling lanes for a great cause. Big Brothers, Big Sisters holds the 'Bowl for Kids' Sake' bowling tournament annually as a way to raise funds and awareness for the supportive services the organization offers throughout the year to the youth of our community.

Living WELL



A variety of activities were coordinated on campus to support the HCC employee Living Well program. This yoga class was an excellent opportunity for employees to enjoy the beauty of campus while getting some exercise.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



Front row: Barb Browning with AB Tech, Michelle Harris, Christie Medford, and Tina Lee.
Back row: Dr. Shelley White, Danielle Harris, Justin Stocker, Larry Davis, and Sara Phillips.

Leaders from Haywood Community College, Blue Ridge Community College and Asheville-Buncombe Technical College have been working on a joint leadership program and in 2021 this vision became a reality. Six employees from each college participated in a year-long **leadership program** with content ranging from personal values, communication styles, ethics, and more. This program offered each participant the ability to understand themselves better and how they fit into the leadership model at their own college and the ability to network with colleagues from other colleges.



INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILDING WORKFORCE **TRAINING**



HCC welcomed Senator Kevin Corbin and representative Mike Clampitt for an update on plans to enhance workforce and industry programs with a new grant to expand training for construction trades. This program offers a core construction class and subsequent focus areas for specialization opportunities

To make all these classes become a reality, the Workforce Training Center has undergone a renovation project to create dedicated class space at the facility and obtain the necessary equipment to train students in each program and focus area.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR GRANT

In late 2021, HCC was excited to receive the news that the Department of Labor fulfilled a grant request of \$1.196M to provide a construction program for the community. This short-term training program provides the opportunity for students to learn about three different trades in the construction industry, in addition to an introductory construction course. This program is a partnership with the Haywood County Detention Center, Southwestern Workforce Development Board, and local construction, plumbing, and HVAC businesses. This initiative provides a pathway of rehabilitation for individuals who have been incarcerated looking for re-entry into the workforce with High School Equivalency certification and job skills training. Additionally, this program provides the training needed for anyone to enter the industry as well as training for current construction business employees.



Pictured left to right are members of the Haywood Community College Project Up grant team Alicia Jack, Wendy Hines, Doug Burchfield, Chief Deputy Jeff Haynes of the Haywood County Sheriff's Office, HCC President Dr. Shelley White, Jennifer Yowell and Jessica Honeycutt.

GOLDEN LEAF FOUNDATION GRANT

The Golden LEAF Foundation awarded Haywood Community College \$1.45 million to upgrade facilities to prepare individuals for high-demand infrastructure and construction fields, including energy, communication, transportation, and construction industries.

The funds will be used to begin programs for electrical lineworker, truck driving and broadband technicians. Each of these programs will provide short-term training that will lead to careers that are in high demand and provide a solid career, all while supporting our local communities.

The Electrical Lineworker course will give students the skills and knowledge to join the workforce after completion of a 16-week course. Participants will learn the knowledge and skills to install, maintain, and repair power transmission lines.

In the 9-week Truck Driver Training Program, students can earn Class A and B commercial driver licenses and will find ready employment to help to address the shortage in our region and across the nation.

Funds from Golden LEAF will be used to redesign space to allow for these new programs to accommodate large trucks and an outdoor climbing lab for hands-on training.

This initiative is a competitive process that focuses on a region and is designed to identify projects aligned with Golden LEAF's priority areas of job creation and economic investment, workforce preparedness, and agriculture that are ready for implementation and have the potential to provide a significant impact.

DISC GOLF COURSE



Thanks to a grant from the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority, HCC had the opportunity to expand and refurbish its **Disc Golf** course. Improvements were made to pathways, basket placements, and tee boxes. To celebrate the renovation, a ribbon cutting and Bobcat Tournament were held on campus for disc golfers to experience the new course and share their positive feedback.

MOON TREE

During the Earth Day celebration held on campus in the spring of 2022, HCC officially dedicated its **moon tree** that has been on campus since the late 1970's.

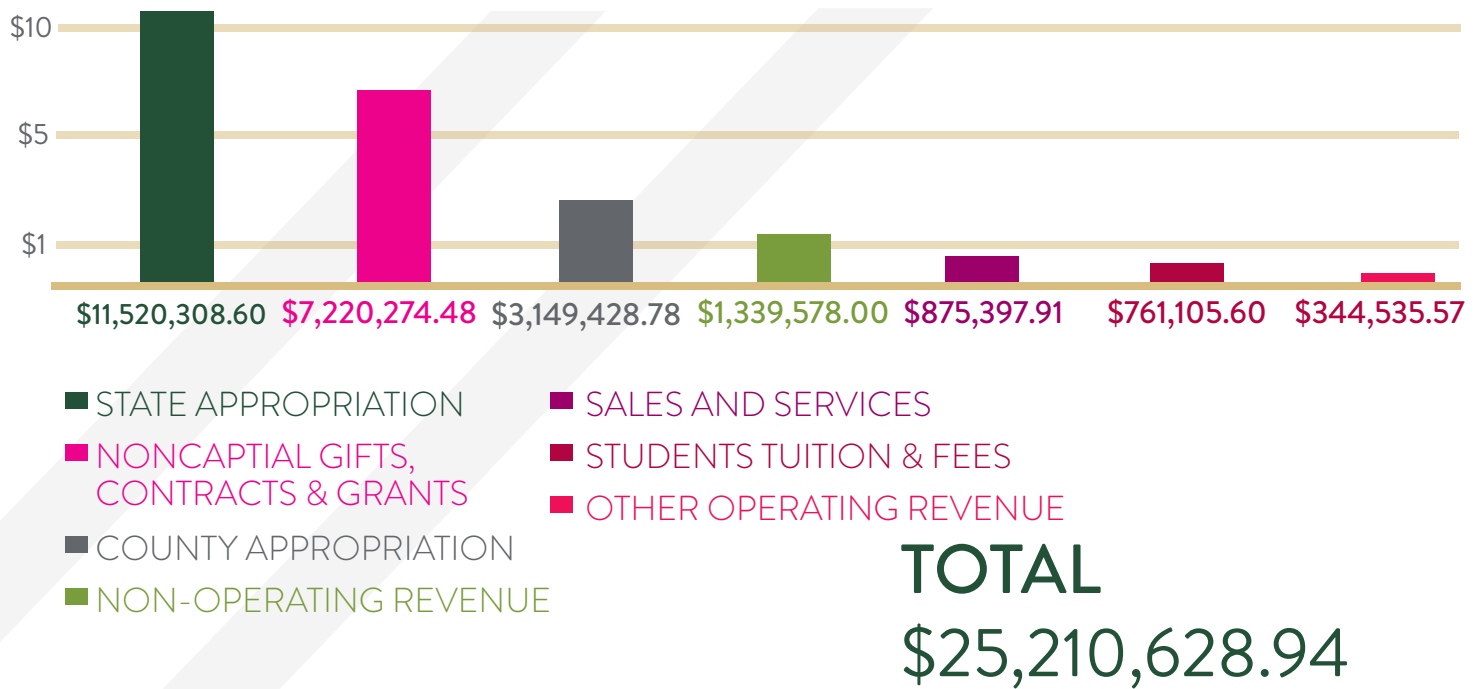
Upon receipt of the young tree, HCC's horticulture technician and grounds crew member worked with students to plant the tree on campus.

This special tree continues to receive recognition through coursework in the Natural Resources program and in April, an official dedication ceremony occurred with a plaque to mark the tree and the original horticulture technician, Doyle Justice, present for the ceremony.



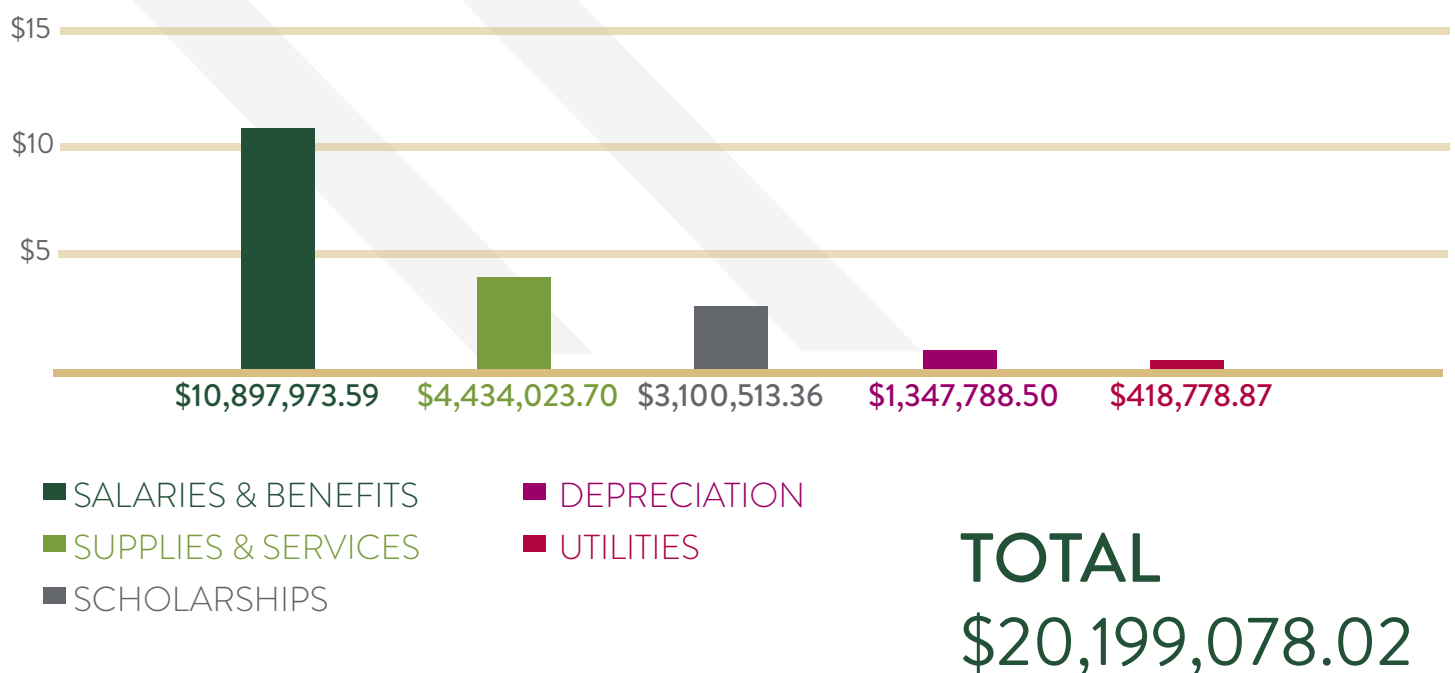
REVENUES (in millions)

SOURCE: UNAUDITED HCC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, JUNE 30, 2022



EXPENDITURES (in millions)

SOURCE: UNAUDITED HCC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, JUNE 30, 2022

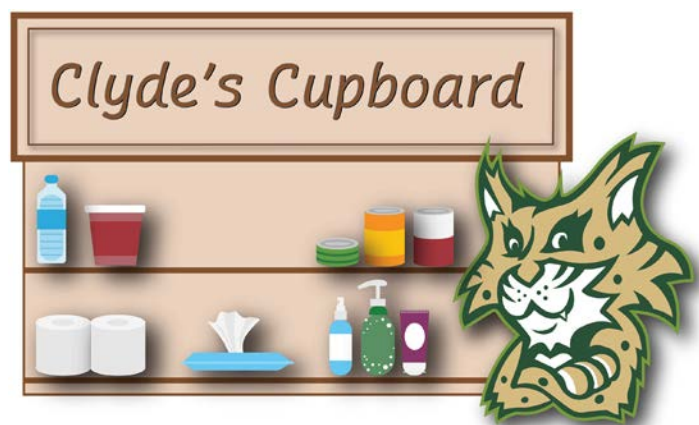




STUDENT SUCCESS

CLYDE'S CUPBOARD

In late spring of 2022, employees embarked on a new offering for students. **Clyde's Cupboard** was launched which offers food and hygiene items to our students. The cupboard is being funded through the generosity of donors and employees and is available to students that may be facing food insecurity or other situations where this service can be helpful for them to stay on track with their studies.



Medical Assisting

50th Anniversary

1971-2021

In October of 2021, HCC celebrated the **50th year** offering the Medical Assisting Program to our community. Featuring activities all week, culminating with a special presentation and time capsule placement, HCC was able to highlight the wonderful work Medical Assistants do for our community and all those that supported our students along the way.

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

Medical Assisting

50th Anniversary

1971-2021

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, October 19th

1pm-2pm | 5pm-6pm

Tours and program sessions available to learn more about the Medical Assisting program

Thursday, October 21st

5pm-8pm

Open House reception to celebrate 50 years featuring highlights from the program and networking.
Location: Hemlock Building, lower level

Friday, October 22nd

10am

Placement of time capsule



Medical Assisting students now have the opportunity to work in an Emergency Room thanks to a partnership with Haywood Regional Medical Center. This provides students another career path following their graduation and the medical center only expects this opportunity to grow even more.



NEW CLUB



Keeping students engaged out of the classroom is one of the key areas of Student Life. To continue supporting this mission, we are always looking for great ways for students to network and learn outside of their regular classes. To support this effort, the **Environmental Leadership Club** was established for Environmental Science students to get together and work on projects in the community outside of their coursework. This provides an opportunity for students to see first-hand that what they are learning about in the classroom has a direct tie to the communities in which they live.



JOHN G. PALMER INTERCOLLEGIATE WOODSMEN'S MEET

Taking a quick pivot following the Haywood County flooding, HCC hosted the annual **John G. Palmer Intercollegiate Woodsmen's Meet** on our campus. Events from the Cross Cut to the Water Boil featured participants from 5 colleges. Ultimately the HCC team took home the gold, a testament to how hard the Lumberjack team trains year-round to compete at a high level for all events and activities.

Photo Credit: Lee White





GRADUATION

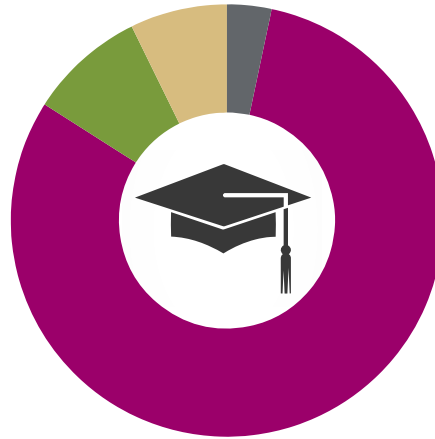


The day we were all waiting for – **graduation**! This year we celebrated with six separate graduation ceremonies for students from each program area. Over 500 credentials were conferred which included degrees, diplomas, and certificates. HCC also graduated almost 60 students from the College & Career Readiness program which is designed for students looking to finish a high school education, learn English, or build skills.





Dr. Tom McNeel,
Board of Trustees Chair



GRADUATES

389 - Career & Technical Education

42 - College Transfer

35 - Early College

16- Career & College Promise

GRAD DAY



What a fun way to celebrate graduates! **Grad Day** offered special treats and lunch, a free graduation portrait, something special for our new Alumni, and everything students needed to prepare for graduation. What a fun way to congratulate our graduates before the big day!



HAYWOOD EARLY COLLEGE

Haywood Early College students were excited for their big day! Completing their high school and HCC degree programs simultaneously, these students are ready for their next steps whether it's entering the workforce or continuing on to work towards a higher degree.



35
GRADUATES



APPLE DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

Apple named Haywood Early College an **Apple Distinguished School**. This makes the Early College one of approximately 690 schools around the world to have this designation. Schools with this distinction indicate they are centers of leadership and educational excellence with a vision for using technology to support learning efforts. Haywood Early College qualified for this recognition through their established one-on-one programs, implementing an innovative way to use the Apple platform, ensure faculty proficiency with iPads or Macs, and much more. The hard work put into these important efforts paid off to receive this recognition.



HCC

FOUNDATION

Mr. Jon Overbay
Chair



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

Mr. Gorham Bradley
Dr. Ed Brown, III
Mr. Bill Cannon
Dr. Elizabeth Ferguson
Ms. Marion Hamel
Mr. Jeff Haynes
Mr. Charles Henson
Mr. John Keith
Dr. Lucina Lampila
Ms. Angie Guy Leatherwood
Ms. Susan Mahoney

Ms. Tammy McDowell
Mr. Scott McLeod
Ms. Lynn Milner
Mr. Torry Pinter, II
Dr. Joseph Ramellini
Mr. Walton Shepherd
Ms. Amy Boyd Sugg
Ms. Laura Tragesser
Ms. Phyllis Vance
Dr. Myra Watson

Mr. Jack Bishop, III
Vice-Chair



Ex-Officio Members:
Dr. Shelley White, President
Hylah Birenbaum, Foundation Executive Director
Ms. Karen Denney, VP of Operations

NEW DIRECTOR

Haywood Community College welcomed Hylah Birenbaum as the **new Executive Director** of the College's Foundation in October. Birenbaum has called Waynesville home for more than 25 years and holds a Bachelor's degree in finance from American University in Washington, DC. She came to HCC from Smoky Mountain News where she served as editor-in-chief for Smoky Mountain Living magazine and Blue Ridge Motorcycling magazine. She also worked for USA Today and owned and operated a bed-and-breakfast in Waynesville for 10 years.

"The Foundation Board was excited to welcome Hylah to the position of executive director," says Jon Overbay, HCC Foundation Board Chair. "She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from her work with numerous other charitable foundations. She approaches the position with an unbridled enthusiasm that is contagious. Hylah's leadership enables the Board to strengthen and expand its financial support of the students, faculty and staff of Haywood Community College. We are thrilled to have her on board."

Birenbaum has extensive experience with non-profits and community boards including Haywood County Friends of the Library, Haywood County Schools Foundation, and the Haywood Healthcare Foundation. She also served on the North Carolina Arboretum Society Board for three years. She has two sons, Evan and Chace, plus two dogs and two cats. She enjoys running, hiking and gardening.



75 SCHOLARSHIPS

\$337,598
AWARDED

274 STUDENTS

CALENDAR FUNDRAISER



HCC FOUNDATION | 2022 CALENDAR

Continuing a successful fundraising campaign, the **HCC calendar** was again printed as a fundraiser for the HCC Foundation. Not only could anyone submit a photo to be featured in the calendar, but all proceeds from calendar sales directly benefited the foundation, leading to an increase in support for students.

Scholars Day

Combining events this year, the Foundation took the lead to recognize scholarship recipients, donors, and student academic awards. Introducing **Scholars Day** – an event recognizing the great work of our students and wonderful support from our community members. Attendees were able to network with each other so scholarship donors could meet the scholarship recipients. Friends and family could also be in attendance for the scholarship thank you program and academic awards making it a special event for everyone involved.

Donor representative from the Haywood Regional Medical Center Volunteer Association, Marion Hamel, addressed attendees about the value of volunteering and giving back to the community. Student scholarship recipient Ivey McClure told those in attendance how education had changed her perception and goals and the value of receiving a scholarship in helping her excel in the classroom.



LAUGHTER & Libations

Introducing a new event this year allowed the Foundation and community to support the new trail system that is in the works for HCC's campus. **Laughter & Libations** was a networking event created to get community members involved with the efforts of the Foundation and back to celebrating the wonderful things occurring at HCC.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

FISH & WILDLIFE GRADUATE CHAD FISHER

*Fighting Fires from the Arctic Circle to the Everglades-
A Haywood Community College Fish & Wildlife Graduate's Career*

Haywood Community College 1990 Fish and Wildlife Management graduate Chad Fisher has spent a career fighting fires from near the Arctic Circle to the Everglades of South Florida and a lot of country in between. After many years of experience, Fisher was named the Chief of Wildland Fire for the National Park Service in March of 2021. In this position, Fisher leads the team responsible for operations, science and ecology, and planning and budget for the service's wildland fire management program.



"Early in my career, my favorite parts of the work were the people I worked with and the sense of camaraderie we had from the shared effort of hard work," Fisher explains. "Today, the best part of the job is knowing I can have an impact on the generation of fire managers just behind me and the generation behind them who are getting started in their career. It's exciting to think I can share a vision of how the National Park Service wildland fire program can be successful for the next decade."

Fisher came to HCC after graduating from Rosman High School. During his last quarter of school at the college, Fisher took a field trip to multiple locations across the state, and it was during a connection made on this trip that he landed his first job in the field. "At Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, we met with the fire management officer who told us they were interested in hiring firefighters for Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. I started a job there within weeks of graduating."

After working in the field for a while, Fisher returned to the classroom at the University of Montana, where he received a Bachelor's degree in resource conservation. "Due to the strenuous academic component of my education at HCC, I was well prepared when I decided to pursue my Bachelor's degree," he says. "I really liked the hands-on learning environment at HCC and the challenge set forth by our instructors. These instructors set a high standard and expected us to meet them, yet they were there to help us as well. I do believe it set me up to move into the career field with a foundation of understanding of what would be expected in the workplace."

Throughout his career, Fisher has held several field positions, including being a Hot Shot, smokejumper, helitack crew leader, and Wildland Fire Module leader. In these positions, he jumped, hiked and flew into fires as part of a highly-skilled crew. These jobs require high qualifications with extremely effective results through a variety of fire operations. He was a training specialist and wildland fire safety program manager for the National Park Service and national fire training specialist for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Prior to his most recent promotion, Fisher served as the National Park Service's wildland fire operations program leader since 2017.

Fisher lives in Boise, Idaho with his wife and two sons.

MINI GRANT BIOLOGY SPECIMENS

Biology Instructor Dawn Cusick received a mini-grant from the HCC Foundation to buy new specimens for biology classes. From the specimens used up to this point, the new additions are a vast improvement. Cusick is excited to do outreach with these new items. She stated that these new additions will last much longer and are easier to share.

These specimens are immersive and interactive and can be viewed by the naked eye or under dissecting microscopes. Classes to benefit include biology, zoology anatomy and physiology. Students can get an up-close look at a brain set, heart set, spine set, large mantis, large locust, long-horned beetle, life cycle of a silkworm, octopus, bat skeleton, large gecko, snake, frog, fish, lizard, or web. What a great way to enrich hands-on learning.



« Your blessing helps confirm my path and calling in becoming an excellent woodworker. I hope to build beautiful, interesting, and functional works of art as well as mentor youth who have and interest in the same path. »

Jason - Judith Steffen Endowed Scholarship

THANK YOU NOTES

« I would like to thank you for enabling me to reach my fullest personal, academic, and professional potential. My educational pursuits would not have been possible without your generous donation. »

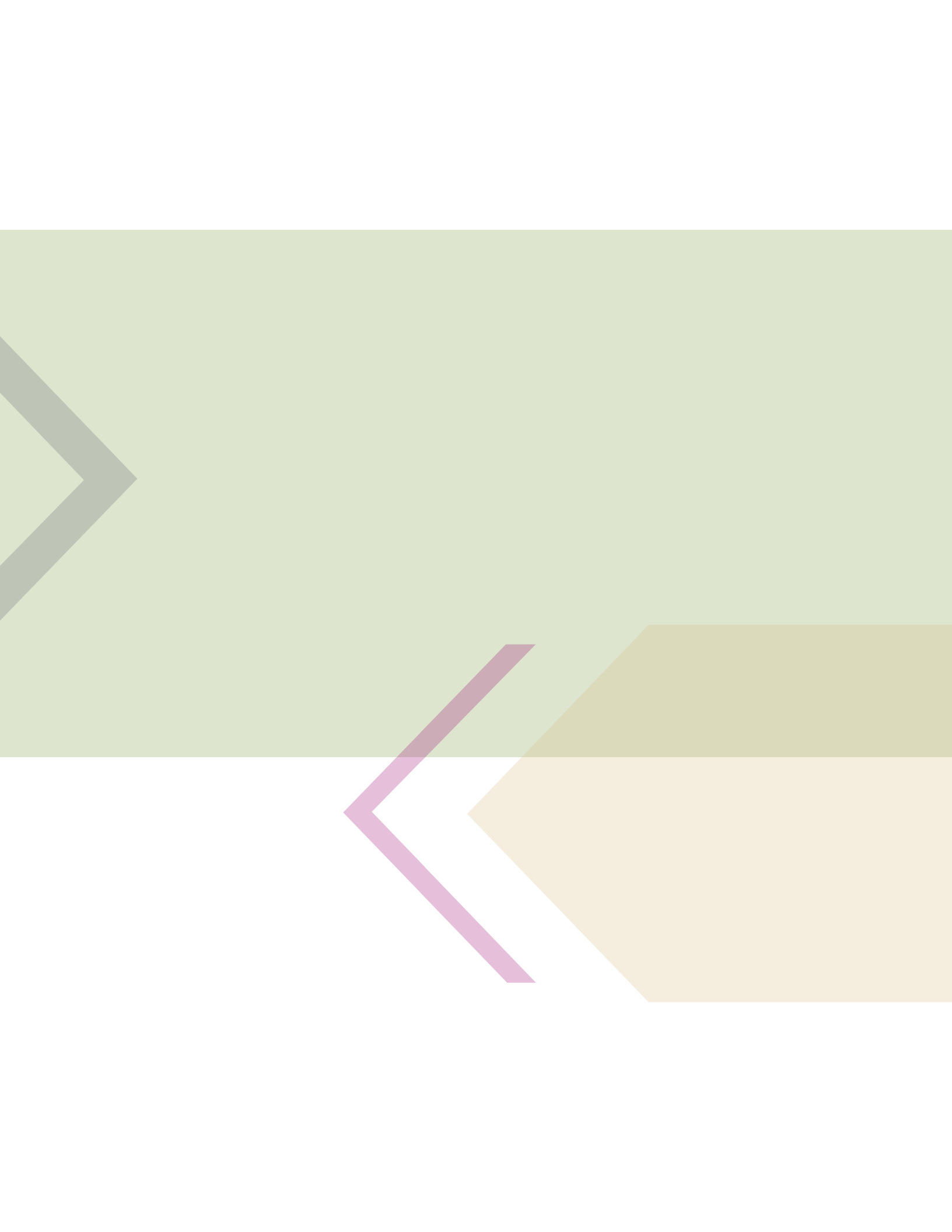
Emily – Linda Jane Wansker Hull Memorial Endowed Scholarship

« I chose Haywood Community College because they truly prioritize their students and the education. They provide for us. I have enjoyed every class I've been enrolled in, and I have discovered so much about my degree and about myself. »

Alexis – Linda Caldwell Scholarship

Without generous people like you, students like me would not have the fantastic opportunity to better myself and have the ability to one day give back to the community that raised me. Your generous gift will allow me to focus on my school studies that will eventually provide me with the opportunity to live out my purpose to protect and serve my community.

Joseph – Elizabeth Staiger Memorial Endowed Scholarship





Connect with us!



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