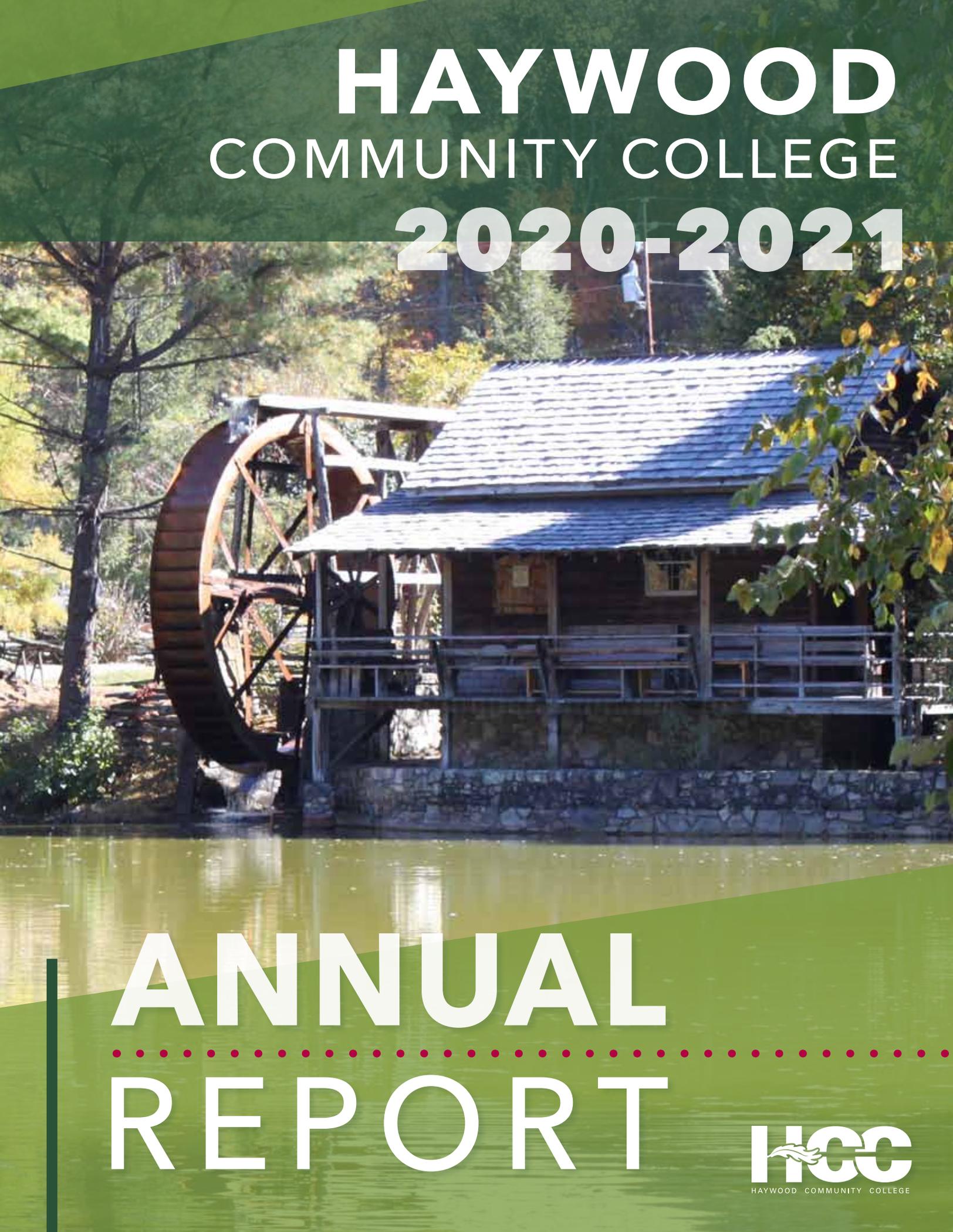


HAYWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2020-2021



ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. Shelley White

Reflecting on the academic year of 2020-2021 brings forward an array of emotions. This was the first full year impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, a year where we flipped our class schedules to meet primarily online, with our on-campus classes focused on those requiring hands-on lab activities. The pandemic influenced not only our campus schedules, but also our personal lives, with many students and employees shouldering significant health, family, and workplace concerns.

During this time, HCC focused on the health and safety of our campus community, including our social and emotional wellbeing. We significantly increased virtual support services, equipped students and employees with critical technology resources, and remained flexible while striving toward our vision of enriching everyone through education. We were stronger together – even when physically apart.

We celebrated with Success Coach and HCC alumna, Farrah Rodriguez, on her selection by the NC State Board of Community Colleges as the 2020 Staff Member of the Year. In addition to showcasing Farrah's outstanding work with students, this marked the first time Haywood Community College received top honors for this state-level award. We also reached an exciting milestone in the future of the healthcare workforce by breaking ground

on the new Health Sciences Education building in the spring of 2021.

The year was also marked by the development and completion of HCC's Strategic Plan for 2021-2026, a guiding document that will lead the College through the pandemic and into the future. An inclusive process involving employees, students, board members, and community stakeholders yielded an active framework for our work around five major areas, including enrollment, engagement, infrastructure, employees, and student success.

As we focus our work on the future of HCC, I am encouraged by the dedication and resilience of our employees and students – by the collaborative spirit that permeates across and through the culture of our campus – and by our collective commitment to improving and enriching the community we serve.



WE ARE **HCC** HAYWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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.

“**AT HAYWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE** we serve the educational needs and economic growth of our community, by promoting lifelong student learning and success.”



OUR BOARD OF



Jim Blyth



Gorham Bradley



Phillip Gibson



George Marshall - Chair



Tammy McDowell



Dr. Tom McNeel - Vice Chair



Dr. Morgan Plemmons



Dr. Deborah Porto



Kaleb Rathbone

TRUSTEES



Gina Kelly - SGA Representative



Lynn Milner



Rhonda Schandavel



Danny Wingate

HCC welcomed three new board members to the Board of Trustees for the 2020-2021 year. Phillip Gibson was appointed by the Haywood County Board of Education, Tammy McDowell was appointed by Governor Roy Cooper and Dr. Deborah Porto was appointed by the Haywood County Board of Commissioners.

This trustee appointment marked a milestone in HCC's rich history. The addition of Tammy McDowell marks the first time a person of color has served on the Board of Trustees in the history of the college. Tammy earned a Master's degree in Management & Leadership from Montreat College, a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Montreat College and an Associate's degree in Legal Assistant from Tarrant County Junior College. McDowell serves in multiple facets at her church in the choir, as church secretary and on the finance committee. She has served as the chair of the Haywood MLK Committee and is a member of the World Methodist Museum Board. Following a long history of service to Lake Junaluska Assembly, Mrs. McDowell is now a member of the team at Pactiv/Evergreen.



A STRATEGIC PLAN

FOR INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE

2021-2026

VISON

*To Enrich Everyone
Through Education.*

MISSION

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

GOALS

1

ENROLLMENT

Increase enrollment by 2% a year over a five-year period college-wide, with a 1% increase 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 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 by 10% over a five-year period, to ensure students are progressing on or meeting their goals and the college is providing skilled workers to the community.

VALUES

CREATIVITY

INTEGRITY

EXCELLENCE

COLLABORATION

SUPPORT

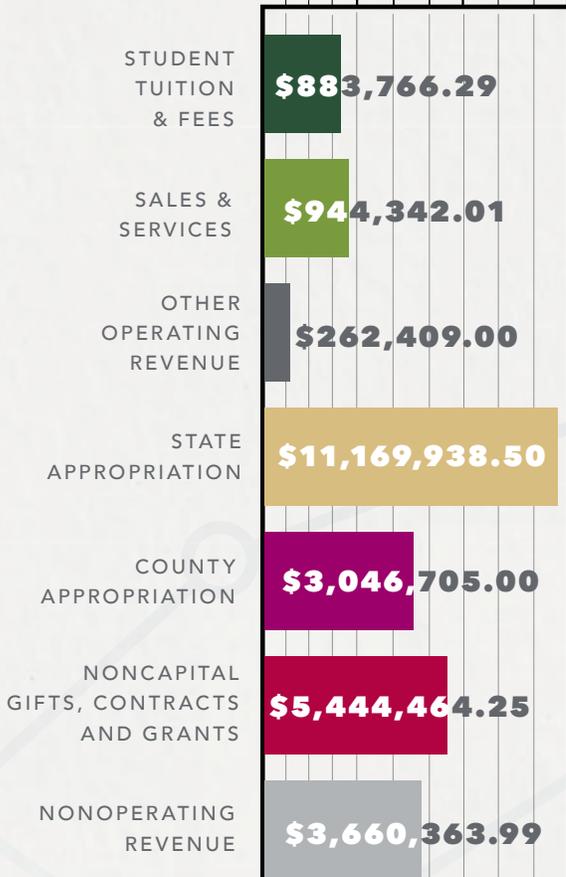
5

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

REVENUES

MILLION

1 6 12

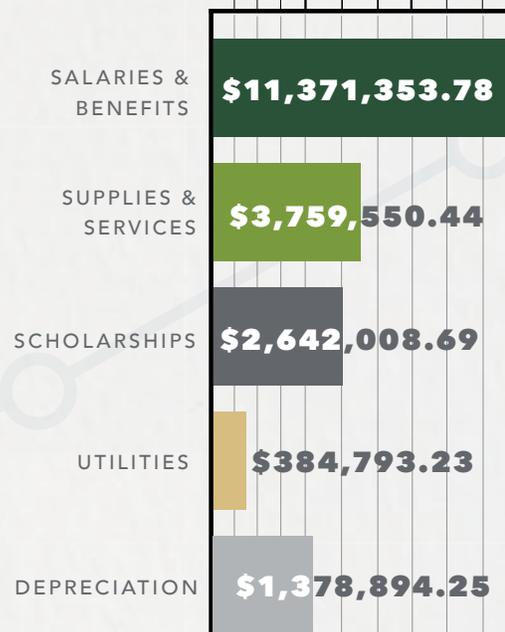


TOTAL: 25,411,989.04

EXPENDITURES

MILLION

1 6 12



TOTAL: \$19,536,600.39

AVERAGE AGE:

25.7

FEMALE STUDENTS:

1,264

CURRICULUM STUDENTS ENROLLED:

1,907

PART-TIME STUDENTS:

1,182

FULL-TIME STUDENTS:

725

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENROLLED:

256

COLLEGE TRANSFER ENROLLED:

174

MALE STUDENTS:

643

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY

PROFESSIONAL CRAFTS GRADUATE SHOW

In the Spring of 2021, our Professional Craft students were thrilled to again be a part of the Southern Highland Craft Guild's exhibit at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway throughout the summer in Asheville, NC. The graduating class of 2021 were able to put their best pieces on display for gallery visitors to experience. Each area of the program was featured including pieces such as wood furniture, jewelry, dresses, and bowls and cups.



APPLE FEST

The Haywood County Chamber of Commerce held the annual Apple Fest event in downtown Waynesville. Featuring numerous vendors and entertainment for the community, HCC took a spot downtown as part of the event to talk with community members about the potential of attending HCC.



LEADERSHIP HAYWOOD

The annual dinner for the Haywood County Chamber of Commerce was a wonderful way to get the business community together to recognize the hard work of dedicated volunteers and businesses that made an impact over the past year. In addition to the comradery, four of our own employees were recognized as graduates of Leadership Haywood, a year-long program showcasing the building blocks of our county.



REGIONAL CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CHILDREN

The employees of Regional Center of the Advancement of Children childcare center on campus at HCC were our own local heroes. Remaining open so community members could still count on the team was vital during the many ups and downs during the pandemic. Our staff remained committed to supporting the families they serve. We were excited to hold a drive-thru graduation for our Pre-k students. Thank you!



ACHIEVEMENTS



Marc Lehmann showcasing an example of the awards distributed

SERVICE AWARDS

Haywood Community College presented service awards to several employees virtually in 2020. Employees were recognized for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service with the State of North Carolina. Employees recognized for five years of service included Cody Ferguson, Darrell Frizzell, Pamela Hardin, Karen Lawrence, Sarah Mathis, Polly Amanda Mills, Heather Patterson, Randall Warren, and Scott Yager. HCC employees recognized for 10 years of service included Larry Davis, Wendy Davis, Mark Hicks, Susannah High, William Kinyon, Jeremy Phillips and Lisa Rhodarmer. Employees who received a 15-year service award included Tyler Beamer, Eliza Dean, and Wayne McCrary. Marc Lehmann and Patricia Smith were recognized for 20 years of service.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

The Excellence in Teaching awards are given to instructors nominated by their students and peers. We were excited to distribute eight awards to deserving instructors, including the Master Teacher Award presented to Sarah McAvoy.

THE WINNERS ARE:

- SARAH MCAVOY,
Master Teacher
- CHRISTOPHER BOND
- DAWN CUSICK
- ELIZA DEAN
- LUCY LOWE
- EMILY REASON
- GARY GUDAC
(Part-Time)
- JANET MEDFORD
(Part-Time)



FARRAH RODRIGUEZ

Farrah Rodriguez was named winner of the 2021 Staff of the Year Award by the State Board of Community Colleges. The award recognizes excellent performance and commitment to the community college mission by the non-teaching staff of the 58 institutions of the North Carolina Community College System and the System Office. Rodriguez advises over 800 students in 14 programs of study. Building strong relationships with students, she continuously displays selfless dedication and is able to uniquely identify and understand their problems to help solve them. One of the key areas she supported is student needs, which helped her earn this award. In collaboration with the Student Services department the admissions process was changed, making it easier for students to navigate. She also makes it a priority to connect students with resources such as tutoring and student wellness. Congratulations Farrah!



HAYWOOD
EARLY
COLLEGE
ONE PACK • ONE GOAL

HAYWOOD EARLY COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION

Haywood Early College Principal Lori Fox was named the North Carolina Secondary Principal of the Year. A native of Haywood County, Fox spent time as a teacher at Central Haywood High School and an assistant principal at Pisgah High School before accepting the principal position at Haywood Early College in 2017. Fox is Haywood Early College's third principal. The school is an academically rigorous, technologically-focused learning environment that enables students to earn a high school diploma and an associate degree in four or five years.



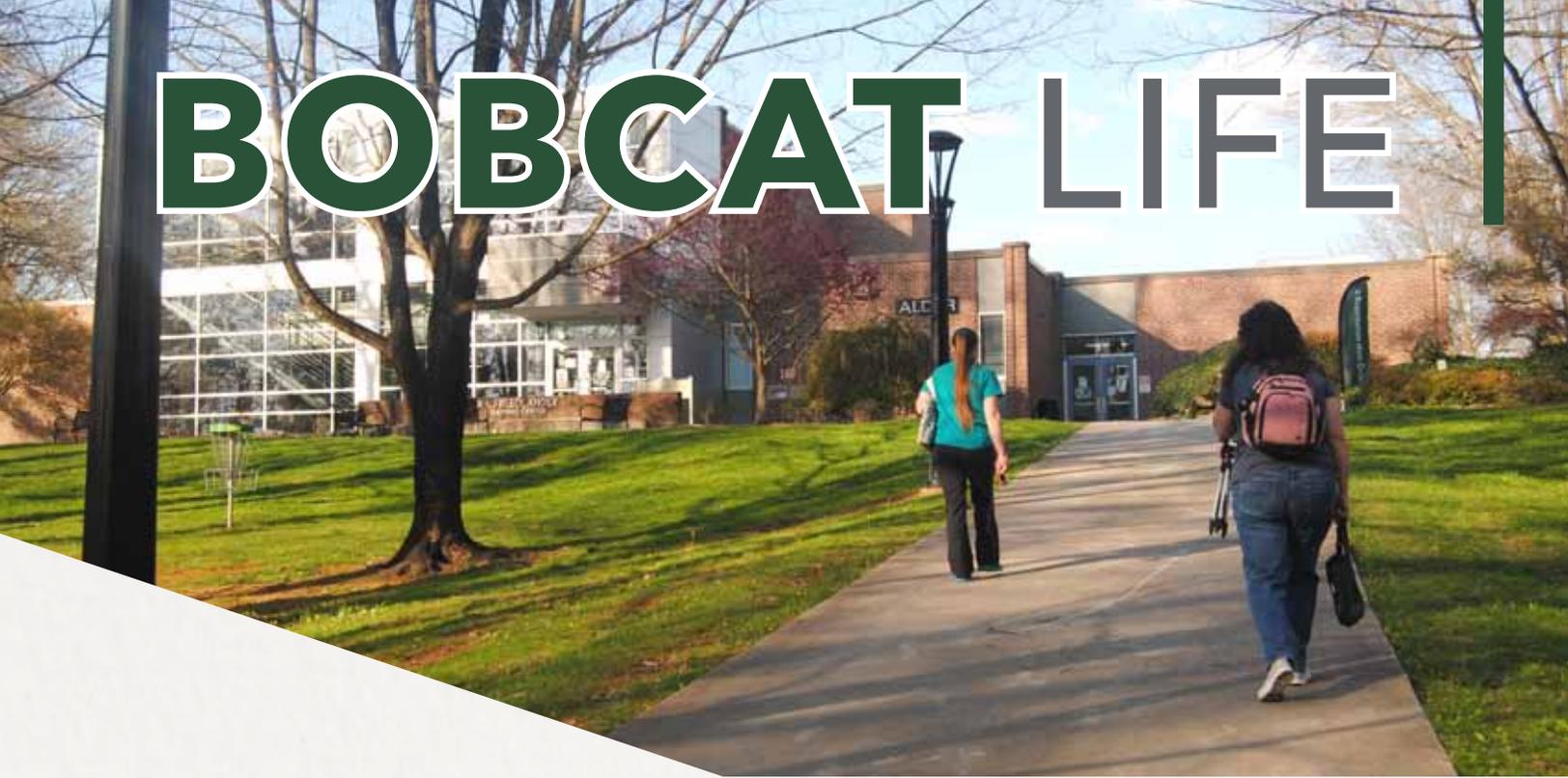
LORI FOX



28 HEC
GRADUATES



BOBCAT LIFE



SGA & AMBASSADORS

Continuing the tradition, members of the Student Government Association and ambassadors were able to attend lunch with our President Dr. Shelley White. Students were able to share their experiences from the prior year and have a candid conversation with college leadership. The SGA helped organize various events on campus during the 2020 academic year and kept students engaged virtually or in person.





TURKEY TROT

HCC VIRTUAL 5K, NOV. 2020

TURKEY TROT

Who doesn't love a good run? To support families in need, HCC partnered with local non-profits to support the purchase of turkeys for holiday meals during November and December. Even with a virtual race, participants were able to share their route and pace, engage with each other, receive a t-shirt, and most importantly support our community.

COVID DRIVE-THRU VOLUNTEERING

With numerous COVID-19 vaccination drive-thru events held in the community, our employees were able to support the cause and volunteer in a variety of capacities at the drive-thru events.





EARTH DAY

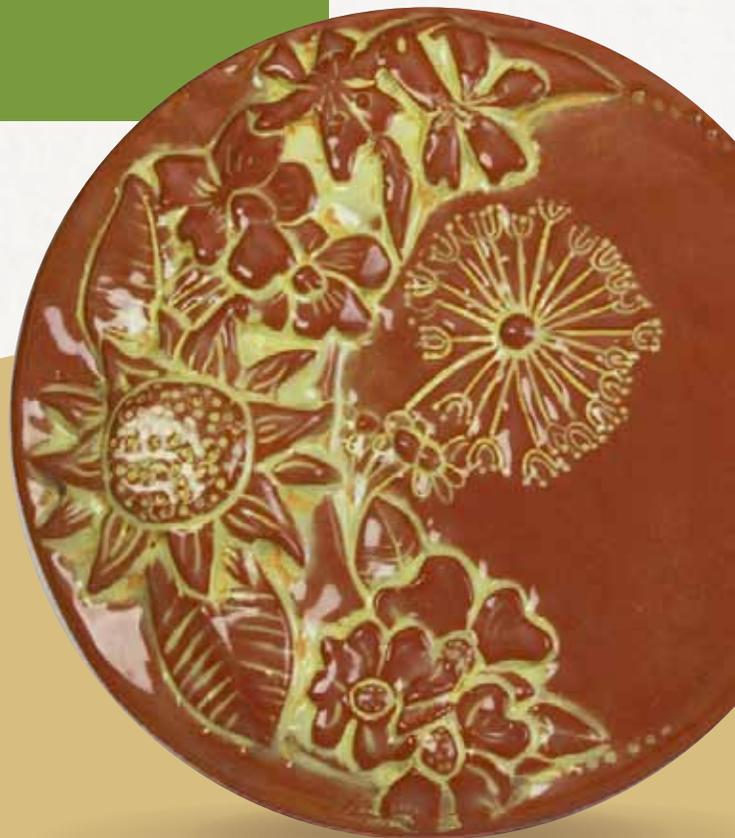
Celebrating Earth Day, our employees took to the streets of campus to help with beautification and cleanup projects. From mulching to raking and cleaning activities, everyone was eager to help keep our campus beautiful for students and visitors.





PROFESSIONAL CRAFTS SPRING ART SALE

Students in the Professional Crafts program held a craft sale in April 2021 featuring work in four mediums – fiber, metal, ceramics, and wood. Proceeds from the craft sale support participation in events throughout the year.





BOO-THRU

With the pandemic having an impact on the local festivities, we didn't want HCC students and employee family members to miss out on a Halloween tradition. Reversing the traditional trick-or-treat format to a drive-thru event, families from Haywood County enjoyed treats from our decorated stations created by employees and student groups.



COSMETOLOGY HALLOWEEN EVENT

Annually, students in our Cosmetology program showcase their amazing skills with a friendly competition that is also tied into their coursework. Students are challenged with taking a standard manikin head and transforming it into a spectacular showpiece for Halloween.



NEWS FROM

GROUNDBREAKING

HCC broke ground on the new Health Services Education Building in March 2021. Key community members and leaders provided insights into the importance of the new building and training future healthcare workers. With the latest technological equipment and how the features of this new building will enhance the learning experience for HCC students, bringing a highly educated workforce to Haywood County. This new 16,000 square-foot building will expand, enhance and modernize the student experience while supplying critical healthcare professionals for the region. It will include an 85-seat lecture hall, 40-seat biology lab, 60-seat classroom, 8-bed skills lab and 8-bed simulation lab.





CLYDE



CRAFT STUDENT FEATURED LOCALLY

Rebecca Duex, a Professional Crafts Wood student had one of her pieces featured in multiple competitions and in the Wharton Esherick Museum Juried Woodworking Exhibition. Rebecca was also a student finalist in the International Society of Furniture Designers 2021 Innovation competition.

BORROW TECHNOLOGY FROM THE HCC LIBRARY

- LAPTOPS**
- HOTSPOTS**
- HEADSETS**
- WEBCAMS**

SUPPORTING STUDENT TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS

In October of 2020, HCC was awarded a \$5,000 grant to help bridge the digital divide. This funding provided laptops and hotspots available for students to check out from the HCC library. Thanks to the generous support of the BAND-NC grant program, we were able to better support our students to ensure their success at HCC during an uncertain time.



Pictured here: Senator Kevin Corbin with Dr. Shelley White and Wendy Hines

GOVERNMENTAL VISITS

In Spring of 2021, we welcomed government officials to campus for a tour. We showcased recent progress with initiatives, reviewed programs we offer, and discussed why supporting HCC and our region is so important to expanding future offerings for the students we serve.



SMALL BUSINESS CENTER



SMALL BUSINESS CENTER

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

499.78

COUNSELING HOURS

8

BUSINESS STARTS

116

CLIENTS SERVED

52

JOB'S CREATED

97

EVENTS

91

JOB'S RETAINED

821

ATTENDEES

HIGHLIGHTS

- *The Reboot 2021 webinar series focused on rebuilding businesses after COVID-19.*
- *Held a Virtual Agribusiness Summit connecting new and existing agribusiness owners around the region.*
- *Increased collaboration among community partners/resource providers.*
- *Pivoted to online seminars and one-on-one counseling to meet business needs during COVID-19.*
- *Local work to support community partners helping small businesses in Haywood County #haywoodstrong.*
- *Established a partnership with Startup Haywood, an online resource with training, events, and local stories for budding entrepreneurs.*



EDUCATION CHANGES EVERYTHING



CONTINUING
EDUCATION

2,434

ENROLLED
STUDENTS

825

STUDENTS COMPLETED
EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES TRAINING

513

STUDENTS COMPLETED
FIRE RESCUE
SERVICES TRAINING

264

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN
CUSTOMIZED TRAINING SESSIONS
FOR OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



LEES-MCRAE

In November 2020, HCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Guaranteed Admission Program for HCC students. Students may also qualify for New Horizon Transfer scholarships. This valuable partnership opens more doors for HCC transfer students to continue their education in North Carolina.

Pictured: Dr. Shelley White, HCC President and Dr. H. Lee King, Lees-McRae President.

NEW DIESEL PROGRAM STARTED

HCC received a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission for Project DRIVE to purchase equipment for Diesel Mechanic training. Funding helped support the purchase of the most comprehensive new technology and will help students taking the course to measure, diagnose, and repair diesel engines.





MEDICAL ASSISTING REACCREDITATION

HCC's Medical Assisting program received the official reaccreditation certificate in April of 2021. This 10 year affirmation ensures the program meets all the necessary requirements to provide a high-quality educational program for our students.

Pictured above, left to right: Vickie Ansley, Dr. Shelley White, Larry Davis, Wendy Hines

MACHINING PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL CERTIFICATION

In April of 2021, the Computer-Integrated Machining program received its 5 year certification from NIMS for the programming provided to our students. This certification confirms that our team meets the curriculum requirements taught to our students and allows them the opportunity to work towards an industry-recognized achievement.



Pictured above, left to right: Wendy Hines, Dr. Shelley White, Doug Cabe, Dr. Regina Hartley



VACCINATION TRAINING PROGRAM LAUNCHED

HCC partnered with the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy to offer a Vaccination training program. This course offers the opportunity for students to become key personnel in our community, helping to administer vaccines to patients in a variety of health clinics.



Ready For A Change?

Degrees, Certificates, Job Skill Training
Online and in-person courses available.

Why HCC

FALL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Jennifer S.

REGISTERING STUDENTS

With the return to in-person classes, HCC worked with our student body to create a special campaign encouraging students to attend Haywood Community College, seeing their peers in the messaging. This effort helped potential students see the realism of what the college has to offer with the images and videos featuring our very own students.

Gina K.

Lucas E.

GRADUATES:

79 COLLEGE TRANSFER

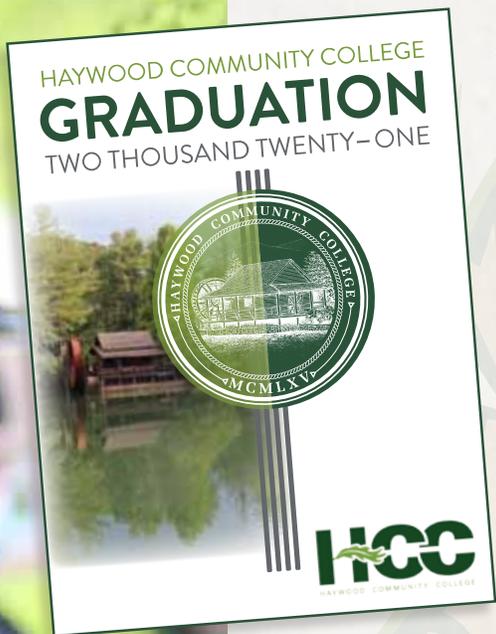
324 CAREER/TECHNICAL

48 CAREER & COLLEGE
READINESS

36 COLLEGE & CAREER
PROMISE



GRADUATION 2021



We were beyond excited to plan for graduation this year. Our team worked hard to create safe ceremonies for all of our students and their families. Holding 7 ceremonies over 2 days provided the opportunity to recognize students and their accomplishments.

TOP ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS PROGRAM AREAS:



NATURAL RESOURCES



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



BUSINESS & INDUSTRY



NURSING



GRAD DAY

We welcomed students to a special Grad Day event to pick up their credentials, a special gift from the Alumni association, and an ice cream treat. This event culminated the graduation events to celebrate and recognize the 2021 graduates of HCC.





HCC FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021:

BUTTERSCOTCH SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED AT HCC FOUNDATION

A gift from the Estate of Thomas E. Donovan established the Butterscotch Scholarship Endowment. Named for one of his beloved Golden Retrievers, Donovan originally started the scholarship in 2003. With the gift of more than \$300,000, it was his desire to establish this endowment after his passing. Student scholarship recipients must be a resident of Haywood County and be enrolled as a full-time student in any program of study.

Mr. Jon Overbay

Chair

Mr. Jack Bishop, III

Vice Chair

Mr. Bill Cannon

Dr. Elizabeth Ferguson

Mr. Jeff Haynes

Mr. Charles Henson

Mr. John Keith

Dr. Lucina Lampila

Ms. Susan Mahoney

Mr. Scott McLeod

Dr. Tom McNeel

Ms. Lynn Milner

Mr. Torry Pinter, II

Dr. Joseph Ramellini

Ms. Phyllis Vance

Mr. Gorham Bradley

Ms. Angie Leatherwood

Ms. Amy Boyd Sugg

Ms. Laura Tragesser

Mr. Walton Shepherd

Davis family in front of the family cabin.



LEADING THE WAY:

Love for nature spurred HCC's Black forestry grads to barrier-breaking lives

Ron Davis Sr. was just 17 years old when he arrived in the tiny town of Clyde, completely alone.

It was 1967, and Davis, a Black man from Knoxville, was there to start the new forestry program at Haywood Technical Institute, now known as Haywood Community College. He soon met Hilliard L. Gibbs Jr., while in class, the only other dark face in that room of 45 or so young men. Davis felt a cool relief wash over him at the sight.

"As an African American not knowing anybody there — had never been there before in that town — you can only imagine how I felt seeing another African American come into the classroom," said Davis.

From a young age, Davis knew that he was happiest when he was outdoors.

As scoutmaster for the local Boy Scouts troop, the elder Davis often took the boys out hunting, fishing and camping. Every fall and spring Davis would join his dad for a few days to open up the cabin in the spring and close it down in the fall. Those were some of the best times of Davis' boyhood.

When all of his answers to questions about his passions and interests led back to the outdoors, a school counselor steered him toward a job opening at the Tennessee Valley Authority.

That summer changed Davis' life.

"I loved the work so much if I had not gotten paid I would have been there every day, working," he said. "I was that passionate about it then and even now. I just loved it."

Those were the early days of integration and affirmative action, and

as an African American with an interest in natural resources, Davis was viewed as a "low-supply, high-demand" person, he said. By the time the summer was over, the TVA had offered not only to hire Davis on permanently but to pay for his education. That's how he ended up at HCC.

Growing up in Waynesville's Pigeon community, Gibbs too came to know that the best parts of life were found outside.

As Davis does his father, Gibbs remembers his grandfather as an environmentalist, even though the word itself wasn't invented until long after the men developed their respective environmental ethics. Later, after enrolling in the forestry program, Gibbs would discover that Moore had spent his younger years as a mule team

logger at the Sunburst logging camp in southeastern Haywood County.

As he neared high school graduation, he started pondering more seriously what his post-high school years might bring. Maybe he'd be a wildlife officer, he thought. But there were no educational opportunities available for that.

Then he heard about forestry school.

Despite the racially fraught climate of the 1960s, both Gibbs and Davis recall their years at HCC fondly and have little negative to say about their white classmates and professors.

Gibbs said his classmates were "really nice guys" hailing from a diversity of backgrounds. Even 50 years later, said Davis, he still maintains friendships with a good number of them.

When Gibbs and Davis graduated in 1969, they were two of a handful of African American forestry graduates nationwide. So, it's not surprising that Gibbs was the first Black technician to work for the U.S. Forest Service's Macon Fire Science Laboratory.

Throughout the rest of his career, Gibbs was active in his station's Civil Rights Committee, years later in Alabama serving as committee president and even going out as his station's representative to the National Civil Rights Committee.

Meanwhile, Davis was in Tennessee, working to carve out a career of his own. After finishing up at Haywood, he went to the University of Tennessee — still on the TVA's dime — to earn his four-year degree, all the time working for the TVA whenever he wasn't at school. Much of his work involved required him to travel to remote areas, measuring trees.

Both ultimately completed four-year degrees after leaving Haywood. While in Macon, Gibbs earned a bachelor's degree at Mercer University in math with concentration in natural science and a minor in computer science. After graduating in 1986, he was promoted to physical scientist and transferred halfway across the country to Missoula, Montana, where being Black was an oddity, but not a stigma.

Gibbs spent the rest of his career in physical science, working in so many different research areas that he never got bored. He started off with fire research, and then went into atmospheric science, looking at the chemical content of smoke plumes and later the hazardous effects of forest fire smoke and which worker protections are necessary to guard against it. He was in Montana when the devastating Yellowstone fires of 1988 ravaged the West, an opportune time given his research interests.

After two years out West, he transferred back to Auburn, Alabama, where he began working with Jerry Michael, Ph.D., to research water quality, work that he considers to be the best of his career.

Gibbs and his team had to test water quality during the first five significant rainstorms after the herbicide application, and it proved quite burdensome — not to mention dangerous — to get out and collect samples every time it stormed.

Gibbs retired in 2014 a decorated employee. In addition to recognition for his civil rights work, he received the USDA Superior Service Award



Hilliard Gibbs, Jr. in the 70's.

as a Physical Science Technician in 1982, the Southern Research Station Support Technician of the Year Award in 1985, several awards for Exceptional Performance as a Physical Science Technician between 1985 and 1987, the U.S. Forest Service Support Scientist of the Year Award in 1998, and the USFS Southern Research Station Director's Support Scientist of the Year Award in 1998 and 2010. In 2010, he was inducted into the Boy Scouts of America's National Hall of Leadership and selected as HCC Outstanding Alumni in 2011.

Davis graduated from UT in 1975, took a 10,000-mile road trip with his dad to visit as many national parks as possible in three weeks, and then started a 39-year upward journey through the TVA's ranks.

He became supervisor of the TVA's Upland Wildlife Section in the Land Management Division in the early 1980s, and then started work on a graduate degree in wildlife management. He never completed his thesis, but the unfinished degree didn't hurt his career.

Davis' department was responsible for supplying the large amounts of research, reporting and

LEADING THE WAY Continues On Next Page

DONOR IMPACT

Haywood Community College Foundation donor Camilla Webber McConnell was born into a family where education was at the forefront of their daily lives. When Camilla passed away at age 93 in December 2020, she is still making an impact on education.

After opening Babson College in Massachusetts, on the day of Camilla's birth, her grandparents opened a second college in Florida called Webber International University. Years later, Camilla would earn a degree first from Babson, then Webber International. At Webber, she worked for many years in multiple roles. She celebrated a long career there, eventually retiring from the college.

Her sister Judy Ross describes Camilla as following in her grandmother's footsteps where it was important for women to make an impact in a mostly male world. "I have a photo of Camilla dressed in a skirt, running across campus in Florida carrying a ladder, off to fix something that needed attention."

Meeting her future husband on that college campus brought Camilla to Haywood County where they would spend summers in Maggie Valley. Eventually, the couple bought a farm in Waynesville and made it their permanent home. Camilla began to support Haywood Community College by making donations to the Foundation.



"Coming from a philanthropic family, Camilla was always interested in improving education," explains her sister Marlene Graf. "She was a kind and loving person. She wanted to help everyone. She was very generous."

Upon her passing, Marlene thought it would be fitting to make a final donation to Haywood Community College. As the college embarks on a new Health Education Building, she decided the gift would be a virtual anatomy table.

The table features a life-sized display with the accuracy of the human anatomy including cardiovascular, nervous and muscular structures. The table provides an in-depth view of the major body structures including blood flow and heart motion simulation.

"Access to up-to-date facilities and equipment is essential for HCC students in health care and science programs," explains HCC President Dr. Shelley White. "This facility will significantly improve the learning environment for a new generation of students and prepare them for success in the workplace or further educational opportunities."

The new Health Education Building will expand, enhance and modernize the student experience while supplying critical healthcare professionals for the region. This will make a lasting impact on all residents of the area just as donors such as Camilla make their mark for the benefit of students and the community alike.

LEADING THE WAY *Continued*

recommendations required under the National Environmental Protection Act. At one point, he had more than 100 people under him, everything from biologists and water quality specialists to divers and archeologists.

In the 1980s, Davis helped found an organization called Minorities in Natural Resources Conservation that seeks to make minority students aware of

natural resources career opportunities and to work with agencies to increase employment opportunities for minority students — the organization is still active today. Together with his fellow 1969 HCC graduates, including Gibbs, he put together a scholarship aiming to help support natural resource students at the school.

Davis retired in 2004 after 39 years with the TVA and plenty of professional

accomplishments to boast of, but when asked what he's most proud of in the last four decades, his answer is simple.

"I am most proud," he said, "of protecting and enhancing the natural resources of the Tennessee Valley region and being a role model to others, especially African Americans in this career path."

This article was originally published in the Smoky Mountain News



HCC Fish & Wildlife Management Technology Graduate Receives Numerous Awards for Distinguished Service to the Military

Christopher "Shane" Smith, 1995 Haywood Community College Fish & Wildlife Management Technology graduate, returned from a four-month deployment overseas where he earned seven awards for distinguished assistance to the US military in Afghanistan. He used his expertise as a Wildlife Biologist with the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Wildlife Services to reduce aviation hazards on coalition airbases. This was his second tour overseas.

According to a press release from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the US Department of Agriculture, Smith was "recognized for his efforts by the US Air Force Central Command with the Civilian Employee of the Month, Civilian Employee of the Quarter, Civilian Achievement Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global

War on Terrorism Civilian Medal and the NATO medal given to service in the Joint Operations Area in Afghanistan. He also received the Civilian Exemplary Achievement Medal granted to Air Force civilian employees who served for at least one year, resulting in profound Air Force-wide documented impact."

In Afghanistan, Smith conducted hazard assessments and managed wildlife hazards by patrolling the airfields and dealing with multinational personnel to accomplish tasks. Previously, Smith helped assist in the recovery efforts from the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks.

Based out of Wake County, NC, Smith's typical day at work consists of meeting the public to deal with wildlife problems, responding to disease outbreaks, and instructing public classes. He works with the public to handle wildlife damage conflicts.

Smith is an advanced explosives specialist and assists civilian and military airport projects.

Before coming to HCC as a student, Smith served in the Army.

Being the first HCC graduate to work for the USDA, Smith has since helped hire numerous HCC graduates over his 25-year tenure. In addition, he serves on HCC's Fish & Wildlife Program Advisory Committee. "I want to ensure that the curriculum matches current work environment needs and climate. It means a lot to give back where I can," he explains.

Smith, a Hickory, NC native, came to HCC because it was affordable and had a reputable wildlife program. "Fish and wildlife have always been my passion. Little did I know that the hands-on nature of learning at HCC would serve me well," he explains. "not knowing one day I would be catching alligators by hand."

Silver Bluff Nursing Hero Endowment Established at Haywood Community College Foundation

"A nursing education has the power to change lives," explains Dr. Vallire Hooper, Associate Dean for Research & Scholarship and Director of the Ph.D. Program at East Tennessee State University. "Not only the lives of the many patients and families that we encounter and care for, but the life of the individual obtaining the degree."

As a second-generation nurse, Hooper knows this first hand in her own life but also in her daily work. Growing up with a divorced mom in the early 1960s, she knew that the majority of moms did not work outside of the home. "My firm belief is that we made it and I am where I am today because of the power of a nursing education," she explains.

As a tribute to her mom who recently passed away while at Silver Bluff Village, Hooper has joined with Lisa Leatherwood, Silver Bluff administrator, to establish the Silver Bluff Nursing Hero Endowment at Haywood Community College's Foundation. This endowment is set up specifically for students in HCC's nursing program who are employed at Silver Bluff.

Leatherwood has also witnessed firsthand the impact an education in



- Pictured is the first recipient of the Endowment Sydney Smith. She is pictured with her acceptance letter into HCC's nursing program.

nursing has. As the third generation in her family to operate Silver Bluff and as a nurse herself, she knows the vital role nurses play every day. Her grandparents bought Silver Bluff in 1962 when it was called Pigeon Valley. Once her grandparents retired, Leatherwood's parents took over the business. In 1998 when it was time for Leatherwood's parents to retire, she and her husband took the helm.

Leatherwood had toyed with the idea of starting a scholarship in the past. "When Vallire mentioned starting it, it was the right time,"

she explains. "We are so grateful to the Davis family for this scholarship opportunity for our staff. Long-term care nurses are so desperately needed and this will give our staff the opportunity to fill that need."

Hooper's idea is that the Silver Bluff Nursing Hero Endowment will make a nursing career attainable for all. "I am hopeful that this scholarship will be a lift for those trying so very hard to make it as a nurse in these difficult times."

The first recipient of the Silver Bluff Nursing Hero Endowment is Sydney Smith who has worked at Silver Bluff for four years. The Bethel native strives to meet the needs of the residents as a Certified Nurse Aide. "I am very dedicated to providing the best care I possibly can for every resident I come in contact with," she says. "I love helping those who need it most. Working at Silver Bluff and getting experience in the medical field made it very clear to me that nursing is the career for me."

Leatherwood hopes this scholarship will encourage Silver Bluff employees to further their education. "It's a hard leap to take financially. When employees decide to go back to school,

NURSING HERO Continues On Next Page

HCC Receives Support for Student Needs through the Pandemic



Through several grants, the college was able to provide much-needed student support during the pandemic. With the help of a \$19,000 grant from Dogwood Health Trust, devices such as computers and hotspots addressed the digital and technology divide faced by students for online learning. In addition, these funds were used to purchase subsidized monthly service provider fees that allowed students to access the internet.

Through the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) at NC State University, a grant called Building a New Digital Economy in NC (BAND-NC) was designed to assist communities with digital inclusion plans by increasing the number of people with the internet in their homes. The effort was in partnership with the NC Broadband Infrastructure Office (BIO), the John M. Belk Endowment, the Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation, Roanoke Electric Cooperative, the North Carolina Electric Cooperatives and the Duke Energy Foundation.

The HCC library used this grant to purchase and activate 10 hotspots for one year. These hotspots were loaned to HCC students who could not afford internet access required to complete their coursework. This grant provided students the option to borrow a hotspot which provided them a much safer and more convenient means to complete their course work at home.

A \$20,000 People in Need grant from The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina supplemented The HCC Cares/Lavender Fund to provide emergency assistance to HCC students.

This fund helps students overcome a crisis involving food, transportation, housing, utilities, or childcare. It provides grocery gift cards to students facing food insecurity, allowing them to purchase nutritious foods that keep them healthy and focused on their studies. In addition, it can pay for unexpected car repair bills or gas cards that mitigate travel to campus to attend classes. It can also help a student-parent place his/her child in childcare while attending classes.

The Lavender Fund at HCC was established with a \$5,000 challenge gift from an anonymous donor. During the last fiscal year, the Foundation received over 200 gifts to this fund from the community and college employees.



NURSING HERO *Continued*

we work with them on their schedules. If we can grow our own nurses, it would be great.”

For Hooper, she hopes this scholarship will provide opportunities and help the community. “My mom was a

living example of what a nursing education can do for an individual and a family.” Thanks to her generosity, others can benefit from this scholarship and start their educational journey to a career that will impact many others in the future.

For more information about the Silver Bluff Nursing Hero Endowment or to give to the fund, please call Hylah Birenbaum at 828-627-4544, email hebirenbaum@haywood.edu or visit haywood.edu/foundation.

SECOND CHANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

"When Nancy and I established these scholarships four years ago, we did so because we believed that it was important to give the single parent and non-traditional student a second chance to pursue a new career. HCC's mission fit our goal perfectly, then and now."

- Bob Bahnsen and Nancy Mazzarella



BLESSED & GRATEFUL

"Thank you kindly for awarding me with a scholarship in remembrance and honor of your loved one. It is such a wonderful act of generosity! I've come to HCC after spending two decades in the workforce and am finding it so fulfilling to be learning new skills and knowledge as an adult." -Kelly R.

"I cannot begin to express my thanks! This is not for me but for all the many lives I plan to change as a nurse!" -Dianna F.

"Thank you so much for the Tools and Technology Scholarship, I am proud to be an HCC student. I am so thankful to attend a school that cares so much about its students!" -Kayla R.

"I want to kindly state how extremely grateful I am on being the recipient of this generous scholarship. I am a very proud alumnus of HCC and recurring student. This college has given me the best years of my education, which motivates me into continuing it." -Maria C.

I am blessed and extremely grateful to have been chosen for this scholarship opportunity. It is because of your generosity that I am able to continue the journey of my dream and create a more stable environment for my children." -Brittany W.

"I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. You have helped lighten my financial load so that I can focus more on one of the most important aspects of school, learning. This shows me how much generosity can impact one student." -Joshua S.



ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021





HAYWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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CLYDE, NC 28721

