



# ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



HAYWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE





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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for taking the opportunity to view the 2022-2023 Annual Report for Haywood Community College. Over the past year, our college community has demonstrated resilience, determination, and a shared commitment to academic excellence. I am grateful to present to you the many achievements and milestones that continue to shape our institution and our community.

Throughout the academic year, our dedicated faculty and staff have worked to provide a supportive environment for our students to overcome obstacles and thrive. Each contribution has played a pivotal role in promoting a culture of learning and growth. This year, we celebrated the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Phyllis Prevost Health Sciences Education Building, named in partnership with the Haywood Healthcare Foundation for Mrs. Prevost's lifetime of advocacy and philanthropy for the betterment of Haywood County citizens.

Our students continued to display remarkable dedication to their goals, in light of many community challenges, including the closure of the Canton mill. Our college community rallied in support of millworkers, their families, and others impacted by the closure. The HCC Foundation responded immediately with the announcement of the Haywood Strong Scholarship. It was all hands on deck, as HCC shifted to offer new programming, extended services, and increased support for former millworkers and their families who chose to seek new training opportunities.

Throughout all the changes and challenges, HCC continues to hold strong to our mission of serving the educational needs and economic growth of our community, by promoting lifelong student learning and success. Thank you for your ongoing support for Haywood Community College. You are an integral part of our future success for the benefit of our community.

— Dr. Shelley White, HCC President

## 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 beautiful gardens and a recently upgraded disc golf course and expanded hiking trail.

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

## 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.

### 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.

## 2022-2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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



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CHAIR



Kaleb Rathbone  
VICE CHAIR



Ezra Messer  
HCC SGA PRESIDENT



H. Lee Davis



Gorham Bradley



Dr. Elizabeth Ferguson



Tammy Hall McDowell



Thomas Olliff



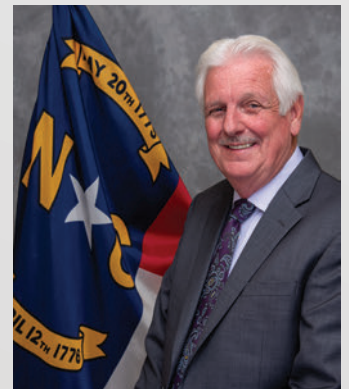
Dr. Deborah Porto



Rhonda Schandavel



Paul M. Turner



Danny Wingate

# ENROLLMENT

HAYWOOD COUNTY COLLEGE





## COMMUNITY SCIENCE NIGHT EVENT

Back by popular demand, Community Science Night offered the opportunity for elementary students and their families to come to campus and participate in a variety of science-related activities. From fizzy rockets to floating boats and more, participants were able to see how science can be fun and have the opportunity to explore campus and potential career paths.



## PEAK WEEK

The recruitment and admissions team at HCC rolled out the red carpet during Peak Week. This week is designed to help students apply and enroll at HCC from start to finish to be ready for the fall semester. With snacks and a checklist to ensure everything is ready for fall, students were successful at their registrations and are now official Bobcats!







## NATURAL RESOURCES OPEN HOUSE

The Natural Resources open house event offered the community an opportunity to learn about the programs and focus areas within the Natural Resources department. Program information was reviewed, and a Lumberjack Team demonstration was held to showcase what can be accomplished in and out of the classroom as part of the program.



## NEW PROGRAM: BUSINESS TOURISM

It is important to stay up to date on trends in any industry and the educational industry is no different. Seeing the growing need to further develop leaders in the tourism and hospitality industry in our region, our instructional team partnered with local business leaders to develop and implement a new Tourism concentration in the Business Administration degree program.





## PUBLIC SERVICES TRAINING FACILITY BLOCK PARTY

In recognition of Public Service Appreciation week, a Block Party event was held at the Public Services Training facility on campus. This event was held not only bring awareness of the Public Service programs offered at HCC but also as a way to thank those in this field. With a food truck, cake, and large Thank You poster to sign, attendees were able to thank, celebrate, and raise funds for our students and those in our community that serve each and every one of us on a regular basis.

## CCP OPEN HOUSE



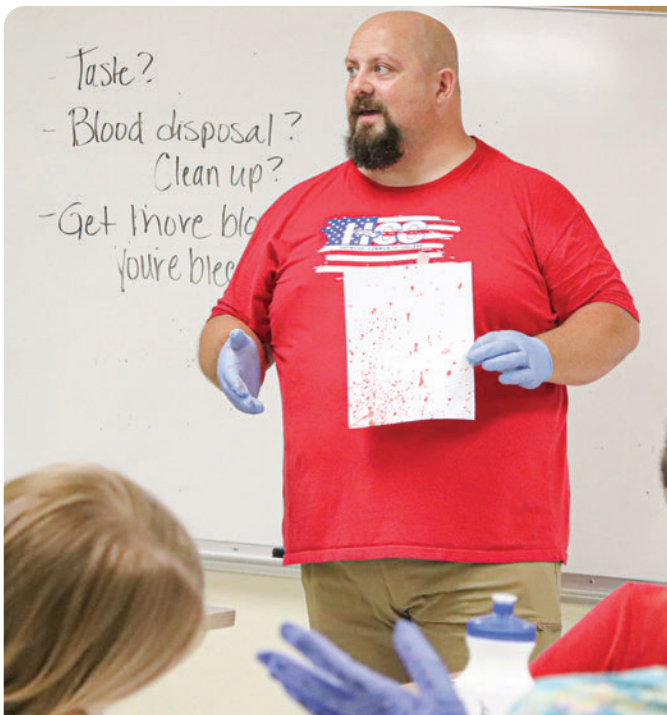
The Career and College Promise program at HCC offers the ability for High School students to take college-level courses during their time in high school.

These free classes allow students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. An open house event was held to educate students and the adults in their lives about the program and its benefits.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCREDITATION

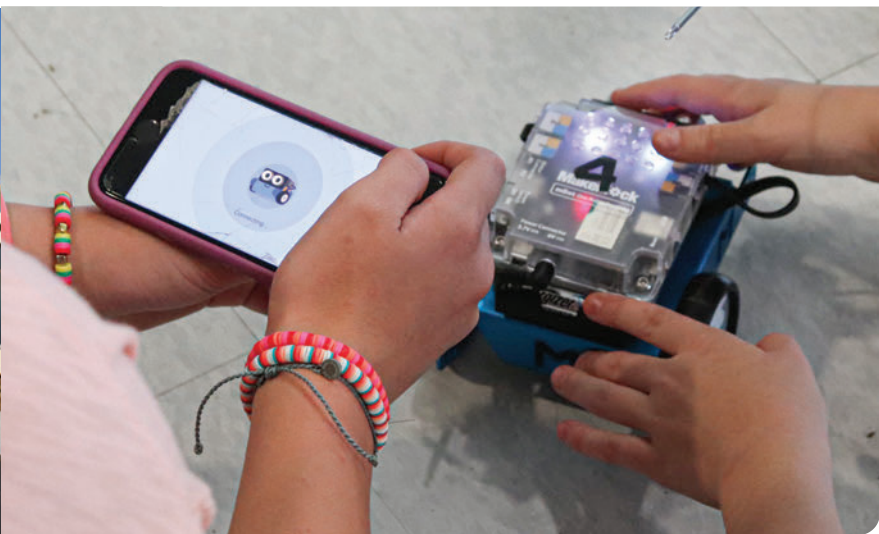
Ensuring programs meet accreditation standards is part of our everyday work at the college. This year, the Early Childhood Education program received a successful review and reaccreditation of the program for the 7-year cycle, ensuring that students in the program have what they need to be engaging and prepared employees in the community.





## BOBCAT COLLEGE

Starting college thoughts early – why not!?? Bobcat College is a week-long summer program offered to Middle School children in our area so they can have fun on campus while exploring potential career opportunities. Instructors from the community, HCC and Haywood County Schools led the way with a variety of activities to have fun and learn simultaneously.



# ENGAGEMENT





## WEEK OF WELCOME

Week of Welcome featured Spirit Week on campus! With a different theme each day, students and employees dressed and ate their way through the week with sports, music, decade themes, and school spirit! What a fun way to welcome Bobcats to campus!



## HIGH SCHOOL ART SHOW

Artists from Tuscola High School, Pisgah High School, and Haywood Early College were invited to showcase their artwork in the Mary Cornwell gallery on campus for two weeks. Selected by their instructors, this gallery show offers the opportunity for artists to receive recognition and exposure in the community and explore how HCC could be their next step in their artistic educational journey.



## TUBE WORLD

Another student-favorite event: Tube World! Student Life coordinated a family tubing event at Tube World, allowing HCC families the opportunity to have some fun in the winter! What an exciting time with fun and hot chocolate.



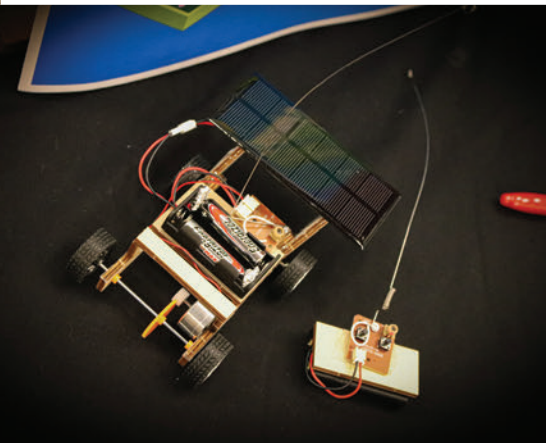
## GREEN LEAF INITIATIVE & PLANT SALE

Many strides have been made this past year to revitalize greenery programs and areas of campus. The opportunity for volunteering on campus was established, allowing interested community members to volunteer on campus. With the revitalization of the greenhouse and employees and volunteers to support it's maintenance and oversight, the facility can be used again for a variety of campus and community needs. Volunteers and employees worked to grow a variety of plants for HCC's plant sale which raises funds to keep these volunteer groups thriving and supports upkeep for plant-related maintenance.



# EARTH DAY

The community came out for Earth Day 2023! The hard work of the Earth Day committee and student Environmental Leadership club paid off with the amazing Earth Day event held on campus. Biology students from Mrs. Roberts class partnered with local organizations to learn about and create displays to educate the public about the mission of each organization. There were many hands-on displays such as a bike powered light bulb bank, black light area, and much more. Events like this help expose students and the community to the numerous sustainability efforts being conducted in our area while offering educational value to all who participate.





## FIELD DAY

Students took to the field to take a break from school for a little bit and enjoy some time together outside. With bubble soccer and free BBQ, this was a fun way to get together and experience the spring weather during a much-needed break from day-to-day tasks.

## VISITING AUTHOR: BRENDAN MCDONOUGH

Attendees had a very special presentation brought to campus – the amazing story of Brendan McDonough. Brendan shared his experience with a wildfire that took the lives of his fellow firefighters and how he overcame barriers to get where he is today. Brendan is the author of the novel *Granite Mountain* which was turned into a movie showing the events that took place in the wildfire and Brendan's background.





## CLYDE'S BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday Clyde! The entire campus was invited to celebrate Clyde's birthday and it was a party indeed. Clyde gave the birthday presents instead of receiving them and had traditional birthday games, pizza and cupcakes to help celebrate.



## SNACKS AND CRAFTS

Taking a break from work or classwork is an important way to find balance. Snacks and Crafts offered a guided crafting experience to students and employees during the semester. Each attendee was able to follow the instructor but put their own spin on their creation.





## CAR SHOW

The inaugural Car Show was held in April 2023. With over 80 cars on display, the community was invited to explore the vehicles and learn about HCC's Automotive and Collision & Repair programs. The event raised over \$1,000 for the student club and was a wonderful way to showcase the unique vehicles in our region.

## STEM SPEAKER SERIES

The STEM Speaker Series was new event at HCC which brought the community to campus to hear from a variety of professionals in the STEM and Environmental industries. Natives of Haywood County and HCC Alum shared their stories about where their careers took them in the field of STEM and environmental studies. Speakers included Baker Perry, Ph.D., Geology Professor at Appalachian State University; Tanya Poole, Regional Education Specialist for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission; and Tommy Cabe, First Tribal Forest Resource Specialist for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The series was open to HCC students and the community with special invitations extended to Haywood County School students.



## FALL IN THE FIELD

A campus favorite returned – kickball! Teams of students competed against teams of employees offering a chance for students to face their instructors and others in a fun-spirited kickball tournament. The students once again reigned as champions, but fun was definitely had by all!





## ART AFTER DARK

HCC was able to showcase some of the programs offered at the college during the monthly Downtown Waynesville event, Art after Dark. Brian Wurst, Professional Crafts: Wood instructor was able to demonstrate his talents with a historical spin in the

Haywood County Regional Arts Council lobby, and instructor Lani Hendrix was able to showcase the amazing work being done in HCC's quilting classes.

## APPLE FESTIVAL

Nothing says fall in Western North Carolina like a fall festival! HCC is excited to continue participating in this annual event in downtown Waynesville to support the local vendors and businesses while showcasing the educational opportunities the college has to offer.



# SMALL BUSINESS CENTER



TOTAL EVENTS:

**115**

TOTAL ATTENDEES:

**598**



The primary purpose of SBC counseling is to provide sufficient counseling to assist entrepreneurs and business owners in starting and managing successful businesses.



# COMMUNITY



## CANTON MILL CLOSURE

In March of 2023, Pactiv Evergreen made the surprising announcement that operations in our community would be stopping. The mill has been part of our community since 1908 and its history has shaped our land, community, and job market. As this closure news started to spread, the HCC team stepped in quickly to support the variety of needs that would soon be crucial to support those that would be impacted.

The HCC Rapid Response team assessed the needs and implemented a plan to support the workers and the community. Employees were hired, and partnerships put into place to establish Human Resource Development sessions at the Canton library and on campus. These sessions were developed to assist with resume writing, online job searching, and computer skills so displaced workers had what they needed to start a job search. The team continued to work closely with other local agencies such as NC Works to ensure information was shared on a regular basis.

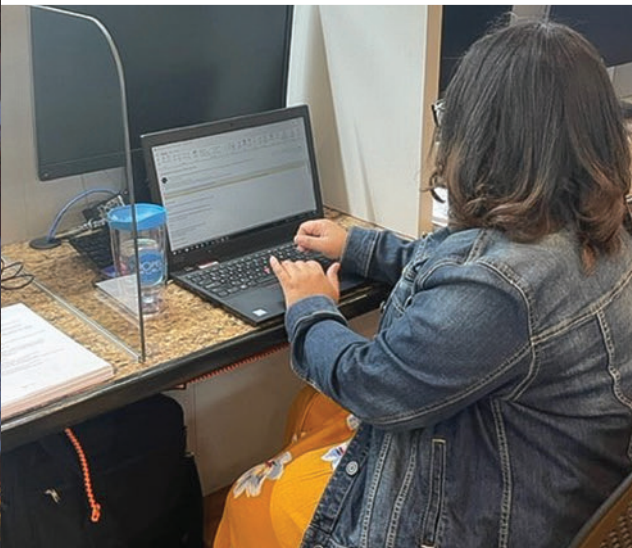
HCC also offered informational sessions which were created to spotlight specific program areas related to short-term and long-term training and educational opportunities. This allowed workers to not only obtain additional information about opportunities

but also ask one-on-one questions to our team to ensure they understood what would be needed for the direction they desire.

Multiple career fairs were held around the county and HCC was sure to have a presence at each event not only showcasing educational opportunities but also employment openings to work at the college. Employees volunteered their time at these events, answering questions about offerings and helping the displaced workers as much as possible.

The HCC Foundation quickly stepped in to create the Haywood Strong scholarship fund for displaced workers. Donations came in from not only our own community but also neighboring towns. Funds can be used to help offset the cost of tuition and fees.

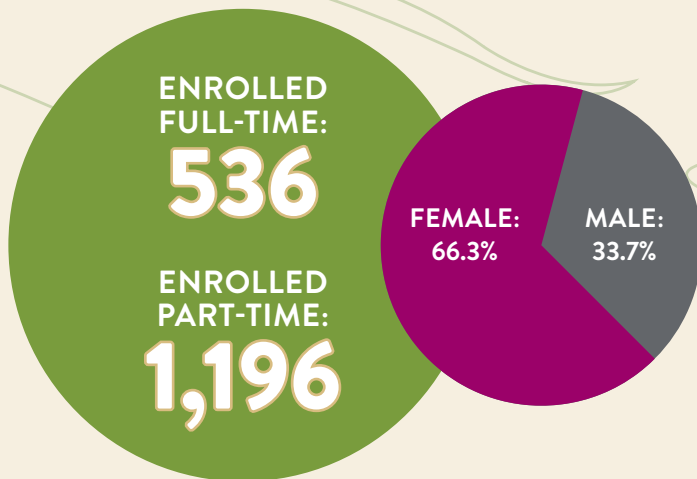
As more meetings occurred, HCC's team was able to collect contact information to follow-up on specific questions or areas of interest. The team was also able to collect information showcasing the types of training that might be of most interest to the workers. Based on feedback, and with an established partnership with Caldwell Community College, a CDL class started the week following the closure, helping workers transition quickly to a new opportunity.



# BY THE NUMBERS

## CURRICULUM STUDIES

- 37.6% Career & Technical Education
- 24.3% College Transfer
- 16.2% Career & College Promise
- 12.8% Special Credit/Other
- 10.2% Early College



### TOP 5 PROGRAMS OF STUDY

- Associate in Arts
- Associate in General Education, Nursing
- Associate in Science
- Business Administration
- Cosmetology

TOTAL ENROLLED STUDENTS:

**4,251**

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### TOP 5 COURSES

- Emergency Medical Services (576)
- Health Occupations (469)
- Criminal Justice (347)
- Fire & Rescue Services (324)
- Self-Supported Occupational (266)

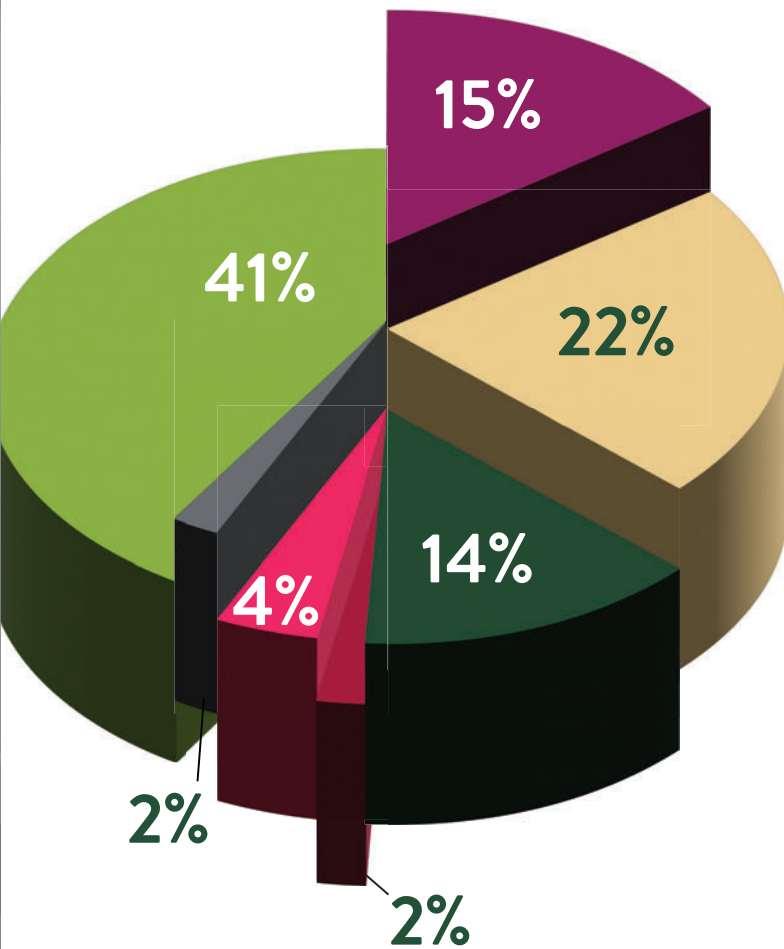
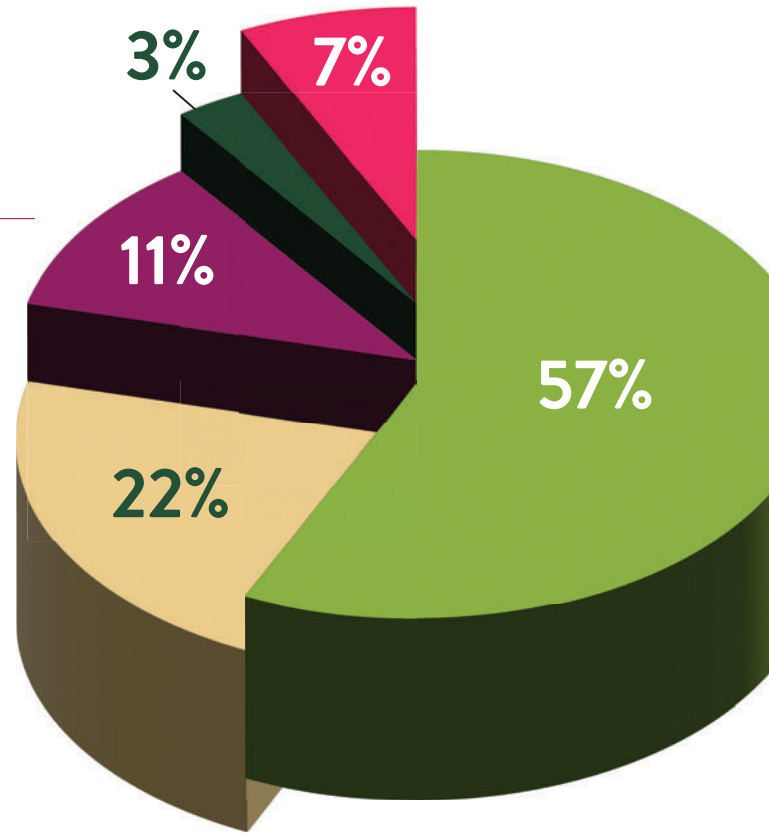
TOTAL ENROLLED: **2,519**



## EXPENDITURES

TOTAL: \$18,881,552.52

Salaries & Benefits.....	\$10,822,134.67
Supplies & Services.....	\$4,104,387.58
Scholarships.....	\$2,071,563.05
Depreciation.....	\$1,344,807.43
Utilities.....	\$538,659.79



## REVENUES

TOTAL: \$23,620,545.42

- State Appropriation
- Noncapital Gifts, Contracts & Grants
- County Appropriation
- Nonoperating Revenue
- Sales & Services
- Student Tuition & Fees
- Other Operating Revenue

# EMPLOYEES



## COSTUME CONTEST

Bring on the costumes! Employees and students came out to celebrate Halloween on campus. From scary to fun, there were a variety of costumes that the judges had to deliberate about, ultimately awarding winners for students and employees.





## SUPERIOR STAFF/MASTER TEACHER

**Congratulations to our Master Teacher and Superior Staff award recipients!**

Susan Roberts, Biology Instructor received the Master Teacher award (above, left) for her work in the classroom and with the Environmental Leadership Club. Susan worked hard this past year on the Earth Day event and brought a STEM Speaker Series to campus for students and the community to enjoy.

Diana Conard, Foundation Scholarship Coordinator, received the Superior Staff award (above, right) for going above and beyond her role here at the college. Diana helps others with their needs whether it is assisting at an event or working with others outside of her department to support the good of the college.

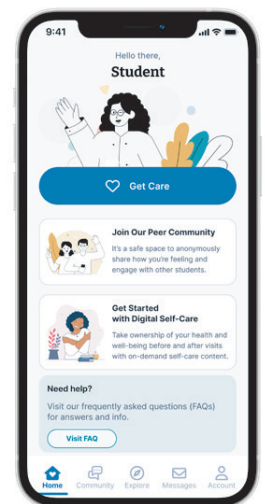


## CCOA – LIVING WELL

Co-Chairs of the Living Well employee wellness program had the opportunity to present at the Community Colleges of Appalachia conference in Asheville, NC. Attendees were able to learn about the program through an overview of the goals and participation levels. Listeners were also inspired about how they could implement a program like this at their college which not only supports wellness, but comradery between colleagues.

## TIMELY CARE

HCC was selected as a pilot school for a wellness initiative and support system – TimelyCare. This 24/7 health service is now offered for employees and students at no charge. With the simple download of the TimelyCare app, users can schedule or receive on-demand support for medical guidance, emotional support, basic needs support, and access a variety of self-care content. This service is a great supplement to the wellness support already offered to our students and employees through other resources.





## WCCLA

In partnership with other area community colleges, four HCC employees participated in the Western Community College Leadership Academy program. This 9-month program provides college leaders the opportunity to learn about their leadership style, closely examine their personal and professional goals, and network with peers at other colleges.



## BBBS BOWLING

Bowl for Kid's Sake is an annual event held by Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Our team enjoyed the lanes to benefit all the wonderful work this organization does to support youth in our community – and potential future HCC grads!



## POLAR PLUNGE

Employees took to the cold water again this year at the annual Freezin' for a Reason event! With fundraising efforts benefiting Haywood Waterways, our team supported this event through donations and making the BIG jump to freeze for a great cause.

# INFRASTRUCTURE



## ALL IN THE HALL

HCC's employee initiative, the Sustainability Committee, has been busy at work helping to implement programs and changes on campus that make a difference in the bigger picture of environmental impact. In addition to using more compostable materials around campus, working with Campus Development on ground maintenance initiatives, and creating fun experiences with employees and the community, the group also implemented All-in-the-Hall. This new recycling program features recycling and landfill bins around campus allowing students and employees the opportunity to recycle items more easily and support the environment. There was a lot of work put into this program, tracking the recyclable items from start to finish, to ensure items are following the correct path to get recycled.





## PHYLLIS PREVOST HEALTH SCIENCES EDUCATION BUILDING

The ribbon cutting for the new Health Sciences Education Building occurred in November. Community members, donors, and local government officials were all invited to take part in this celebration. Honoring Mrs. Prevost's lifetime of advocacy and philanthropy for the betterment of Haywood County citizens, the new facility features a 40-seat biology lab, 85-seat lecture hall and a simulation lab with manikins. This building is being used to teach biology and nursing students - the future healthcare employees for our community. Golden LEAF also supported this new facility with a generous grant allowing the team to purchase high-fidelity manikins which provide a life-like patient care experience to students.





## TRAIL OPENING

There were many outdoor activities, events, and happenings around campus with the new trail and work on the campus arboretum this past year. With a lot of hard work by many on and off campus, the Dahlia Ridge trail officially opened in the Spring of 2023 expanding the full trail system to just over 3 miles of gravel, packed dirt, and concrete trails. The project was made possible in part by funding from the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority.



# STUDENT SUCCESS

## JOHN G. PALMER INTERCOLLEGIATE WOODSMEN'S MEET

The HCC Lumberjack team hosted the 27th annual Intercollegiate Woodsmen's Meet at the Cradle of Forestry. With traditional competitions such as water boiling, pole climbing, and more, the team had a wonderful time competing against other colleges to showcase their physical and knowledge skills.







## STUDY ABROAD

In the Spring of 2023, students had the opportunity to participate in HCC's Study Abroad Trip to Mexico City. This trip allowed students to experience Mexican culture and visit landmarks they had learned about in class. This immersive

adventure allowed them to visit Zocalo, Chapultepec Park, San Cristobal de las Casas, the famous church of Chamula, Teotihuacan Pyramids and much more. The students and guides were able to enjoy authentic food, wonderful hospitality, and put their education into practice with culture and language experiences.



## MILLPOND MOSAIC

The Millpond Mosaic publication was launched in the Spring of 2023 offering an opportunity for students to showcase their creative talents through short essays, photographs, original artwork, and poetry. This 40-page publication was judged by HCC instructors with all submissions being included in the final product. The Millpond Mosaic offers a great element for student portfolios and an additional marketing piece as we showcase the college and the opportunities for students to participate in activities outside of the classroom.



## WNC ART EXHIBIT

Graduates from the Professional Crafts program were invited to showcase their artwork at the Folk Art Center located on the Blue Ridge Parkway. This facility provides a historical and artistic stop for visitors and locals alike. The show allows graduates to not only put their artistic skills into practice but their gallery and marketing skills as well to showcase their talents in a public setting.



## CRAFTS SALE

The Professional Arts students held their annual craft sale this past year. The sale allows them to have a goal to create pieces for, and to use their business skills to price items and work with community members using their customer service skills. These craft items showcase their talents and allows students to interact with buyers.



## GRADUATION

The most meaningful event we have on campus showcasing student success – graduation! This year each ceremony featured a speech prepared by a fellow student which provided peer-to-peer encouragement for the graduates in each ceremony. Over 500 credentials were conferred to 379 students.





## COSMETOLOGY

Cosmetology students had an active and productive year. They experienced work from Carmen Cutrona, a North American Hairstylist of the Year and Global Master of the Arts winner. Students used this opportunity to learn about working with clients and receive affirmation of the skills they are learning

in the classroom and how they translate to the real world. Students also used their skills in the fall semester to create masterpieces to celebrate Halloween. Each student had a manikin to take to the next level with hair and makeup work. This graded experience allows students showcase their talents in a unique way to create a masterpiece.

## GRAD DAY

Grad Day is a fun afternoon which not only celebrates grads but also allows them to complete some of the necessary tasks to prepare for the big day! With food, alumni swag, and the opportunity to officially sign up for graduation, this event is a fun way to get ready for the ceremonies and celebrations surrounding their program completion.





## BLET GRADUATION

A graduation event was held on campus for recent BLET graduates. These graduates are the future of our community and worked tirelessly physically and mentally to accomplish all that was needed to pass their tests to become future law enforcement officers.



## SKILLS USA

SkillsUSA is a state and national competition that involves over 395,000 career and technical students from colleges, high schools, and middle schools. This competition allows students to compete in technical and skilled trades in their field of study. Two students from the Automotive Systems and Collision Repair & Refinishing programs attended the event, selected based on their academic excellence and knowledge to perform well in their field. Peter Baldasaro, from the Collision Repair & refinishing program, competed with 25 other students and was judged in his abilities to make spot repairs, color tinting, priming and blocking, paint code identification, and masking tasks. In this very detail-oriented competition, Peter happily placed 4th in the State and represented HCC very well. Jody Mann was chosen to represent the Automotive Systems program, he competed against approximately 50 other students in his focus area at the competition and proudly represented HCC at the event.



## 2022-2023 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Ms. Angie Guy  
Leatherwood  
Ms. Amy Boyd Sugg  
Mr. Bill Cannon  
Mr. Chris Brown  
Ms. Danya Vanhook  
Mr. Dennis Weber  
Mr. Doug Hillman  
Dr. Ed Brown, III  
Dr. Elizabeth Ferguson  
Mr. Gorham Bradley  
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Ms. Susan Mahoney  
Mr. Thomas Olliff  
Mr. Torry Pinter, II  
Mr. Charles Henson,  
*Emeritus*



**Mr. Jon Overbay,**  
*Chair*



**Mr. Jack Bishop, III**  
*Vice-Chair*

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Dr. Shelley White, *President*  
Hylah Birenbaum, *Foundation Executive Director*  
Ms. Karen Denney, *VP of Operations*



## BOBCAT COLLEGE

Bobcat College welcomed 32 rising Haywood County middle school students to spend a week on campus. The interactive and hands-on sessions provided a fun opportunity for diving into science, nursing, virtual reality, coding and much more. From egg drops and rocket launches to crime scene blood splatters, these students were kept busy while being introduced to some of the programs offered at HCC. You're never too young to become a Bobcat!



## WNC BRIDGE FOUNDATION

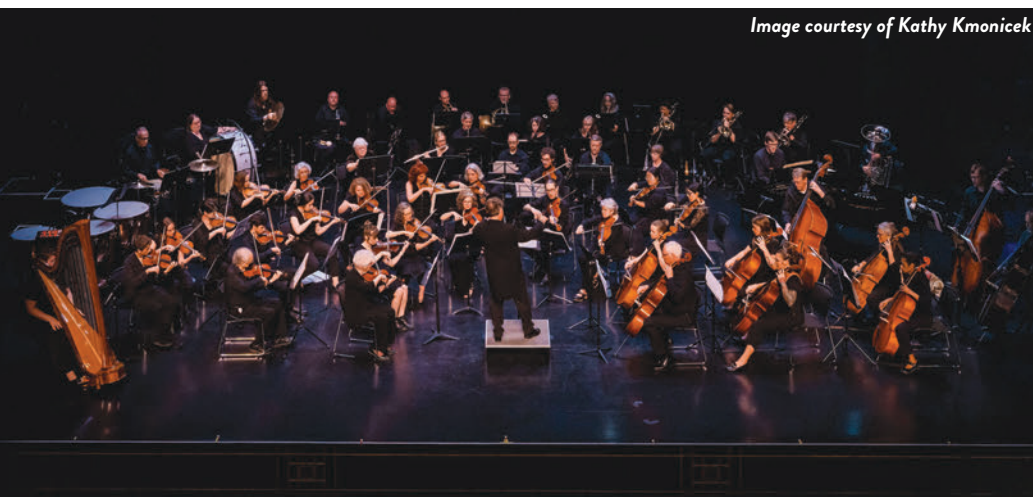
WNC Bridge Foundation awarded a NOW Grant to the HCC Foundation for the Lavender Fund for student emergency needs. The \$2,000 grant was used for gas cards for nursing students traveling to clinicals. As part of the Region A Nursing Consortium, these students travel throughout Western North Carolina for clinical experiences as part of their education.

## BLUE RIDGE ORCHESTRA PERFORMS AT HCC

One of the great aspects of living in Haywood County is enjoying all the special events that are offered close to home. Although Asheville is nearby, bringing engaging and cultural events directly to our community is beneficial in a number of ways.

Last March, the Blue Ridge Orchestra performed a benefit concert for Haywood Community College to support student needs. The Music Mènage concert featured Schubert’s Symphony No. 9 – “The Great” – plus original music by local artists Fancy and the Gentlemen (Fancy Marie, Katie Leigh, and Craig Kellberg). One of the unique elements to this concert is that the audience is transported from the mountains of 19th century Austria to the mountains of 21st century North Carolina with the two different performances. The concert uniquely brings together two very different styles of fine music not often paired in a single performance.

*Image courtesy of Kathy Kmonicek*



“I am filled with gratitude and beyond honored to have been awarded your scholarship. Your support means the world to me. Thank you for this life changing honor.”

*Elliot C., SECU People Helping People Scholarship*

“This scholarship helped me get closer to my dream of being a nurse. Thank you for donating and changing lives.”

*Megan R., Jordan Landt Webb Nursing Scholarship*

“Thank you for your generous gift and for believing in me. Because of your kindness, I have made a better life for myself.”

*Brandi A., Hilda Scroggs Vance Endowed Scholarship*



“I would like to send a thank you full of gratitude and appreciation for your aid in starting my new life and my career. My kids are proud of me for my choice to further my education and they too send their thanks and gratitude. Your family is my saving grace.”

*Amelia H., John M. West. Jr.  
Endowed Scholarship*

“I am most grateful for your belief and support. Receiving this scholarship will allow me to continue chasing my dreams. Your earnest investment in my future goals will not be forgotten.”

*Melissa C., John M. West. Jr.  
Endowed Scholarship*

“I would like to personally thank you for your generous gift that will allow me to pursue my dream of becoming a nurse. You have changed my life in such an amazing way.”

*Hannah B., Dorothy F. Wood  
Nursing Scholarship*



## SCHOLARS DAY

The Haywood Community College Foundation celebrated Scholar's Day in April with an event to bring together donors and student scholarship recipients. It was also a way to recognize state-level student award recipients.

Donor representative from the Haywood Healthcare Foundation, 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.



STUDENT RECIPIENTS:

**250**



AMOUNT AWARDED:

**\$296,800**



## MINI-GRANT IMPACT REPORT: HCC STEM SPEAKER SERIES

This semester three unique and diverse environmental science speakers came to our campus. Thank you to all who helped to bring students and support these events!

Thank you to those who helped go the extra mile: Dr. Shelley White, George Hahn, Amy Hill, Michelle Harris, Diana Conard, and Matt Heimburg. Also, a special shout-out to the HCC Foundation, Tim Scapin, Matt Hoyle, Dawn Cusick, and the Environmental Leadership club students who worked every event to make it a collegiate experience!

Each speaker presented an incredible talk on environmental topics. Students, employees, and community members benefited from a collegiate interactive learning experience.

Baker Perry's event had 150 Tuscola High School Students participate, some of which had never been to HCC's campus. They brought three buses and six faculty. There were 16 community members, 11 faculty and staff, and 25 HCC students who attended. Students and others were amazed at this National Geographic Explorer and his humility. His impact on our campus will be felt for many years to come. Susan Roberts, Environmental Science Instructor, significantly benefitted as she traveled with him to present at Junaluska Elementary School. She then attended a dinner with the Haywood Action Coalition to learn more about his travels and talk with him about his research and best approaches to teaching.

Tanya Poole also presented as part of this series. Students

loved how Tanya presented and connected their experiences as children to the people in their lives that taught them about science and their love for nature. Finally, over 30 students participated in Tommy Cabe's presentation, with ten faculty



and staff and five community members. This final presentation was very impactful in learning more about Cherokee culture and how they are addressing climate science, politics of land management, and asking for what they need regarding natural resource

management. The forestry students significantly benefited! It was also a favorite to the biology students who said this talk's impacts were their course highlights.

In reflection on this experience, Susan Roberts said, "this speaker series is the best professional development I can imagine. I gained more insight from speaking and working with these three speakers than a conference I might have attended."

## ROBERT BEATTY VISITS

The HCC Foundation brought together sixth graders from Haywood County Schools and local author Robert Beatty for an event on campus. Creator of the Serafina Series based at Biltmore Estate, Beatty introduced his new graphic novel *Serafina and the Black Cloak* at the event by reading excerpts to the more than 400 students who attended. Each student also received a free copy of the book.



"As a mother of two young children, this award makes not only a huge impact on me but on my whole family. For the past five years, I have wanted to pursue this degree but life always seemed to put it off another year. If it wasn't for this scholarship, I must say I would have had to walk away from it again. I can see my future clearly just in these past few weeks since receiving this scholarship."

Amanda V., WNC Fiber & Handweavers Guild  
Scholarship





## ALUMNI SUCCESS: DR. VERONICA DOOLY

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When Haywood Community College alumna Dr. Veronica Dooly was in high school, her dad encouraged her to pursue a career in computer technology. Little did she know how much impact computers would make as they were starting to be introduced to her small-town high school.

As a young mom, Dooly chose to go into the workforce instead of pursuing a college degree. Once the plant closed, where she worked in customer service, she took the opportunity to return to the classroom. As a non-traditional student, Dooly felt like HCC was a good fit. “I felt like the faculty cared for me,” she explains. “I felt like they cared about education. I got a good foundation before going on to a four-year school.”

At HCC, Dooly received an associate degree in Business Administration in 1998 and was HCC Business Student of the Year and Academic Excellence Award winner. She also received an associate degree in Information Systems in 1999 and was HCC Information Student of the Year in 1999. Finally, in 2000, she received an Associate in Arts degree.

At this point, Dooly fell in love with computer work. She continued her education at King University in Bristol, Tennessee, where she received a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Information. In 2005, she received a Master’s degree in Accounting and Information Technology from the University of Maryland. Most recently, Dooly completed a Doctorate of Information Technology from Walden University in 2021.

Although her father has passed away, Dooly knows she has far surpassed the plans he had for her. “I wanted to go back to school for him. I know I have exceeded what we talked about. It is especially meaningful since he never got to finish his own degree.”

With a passion for education, it is fitting that Dooly has taught at the community college level since 2001, working at Asheville-Buncombe Technology Community College for the last two decades.

Beginning this fall semester, Dooly has returned to HCC as the Information Systems instructor. She says a career in the computer field gives graduates so many options that almost all jobs have a computer component.

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