

# The Open Door

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## Giving Back and Getting Ahead

By Audrey Bailey  
NC Community Colleges

Across North Carolina, community colleges provide excellent educational opportunities and superior workforce training, representing the major mission of the 58 community colleges. However, much of the activity extends beyond the campus walls and serves a two-fold purpose. The colleges provide services that support non-profits, enhance health and cultural resources; build low-cost housing, and much more. At the same time, the students who participate in these services receive educational opportunities that boost their skill-set and better prepare them to meet workforce challenges.

### Students Learn Skills While Helping Nonprofits

Students in **Rockingham Community College's** electrical/electronics program spent several days in April wiring a greenhouse for the Rockingham Opportunities Corporation (ROC) in Wentworth. ROC is a nonprofit corporation offering work and training opportunities to mentally and physically challenged adults. Growing greenhouse plants and selling them is

a profitable business for ROC. The wiring project gave the students an opportunity to participate in a community service while receiving hands-on education.

Web design students at both **Haywood** and **Beaufort County Community College** took the opportunity to help local nonprofits. Students at **Haywood Community College** recently designed websites for two area nonprofit organizations, Camp New Life and the Open Door Ministries. Students at **Beaufort County Community College** helped bring two local non-profits into the digital age. Ken Robol's Web 140 classes designed websites for the Literacy Council of Beaufort County and the Eastern Chapter for Autism Society. Services provided by these students gave the nonprofits a tool to enhance their services and visibility.



Rockingham Community College students provide electrical wiring to a greenhouse owned by a local non-profit.

### A Focus on Health

**Nash Community College** Associate Degree Nursing students have volunteered at the Tar River Mission Clinic, Life Care Hospital in Rocky Mount. The clinic is similar to a primary care or internal medicine practice and focuses on the management of chronic diseases. The nursing students had the opportunity to get hands-on experience with patients by taking vital signs, administering diagnostic tests, and conferring with physicians.

Respiratory Therapy students at **Durham Technical Community College** have raised money to pay for a student to go to Camp Challenge in Oxford for a week. The children benefit from being around children with asthma and enjoy activities supervised by camp counselors. The students who volunteer see first-hand how their education benefits individuals with respiratory challenges.

GIVING BACK, continues on page 3



In August, Governor Bev Perdue visited the Early College High School located on the Campus of Surry Community College. She met with Surry Community College President, Dr. Deborah Friedman and visited with early college high school students in the classroom. For more photos of state and local leaders visiting NC Community College Campuses go to page 5.

### Inside This Issue

Giving back and getting ahead.....	1,3,7,8
Dignitaries visit the colleges.....	1,5
Green Initiatives.....	2,7
Presenting at Oxford.....	2
Unprecedented enrollment.....	3,8
Budget recap.....	3
Conference News.....	4,6
Awards & Special Recognition...	4,6

# Green Construction and Initiatives

## Green Growth at Central Carolina

**Central Carolina** is nicknamed “Green Central” because of its leadership in sustainable, environmentally friendly programs. Three new buildings planned for the college are designed to be energy-efficient, meeting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

- The 17,000-square-foot Center for Sustainable Technologies will house the sustainable agriculture, alternative energy-biofuels, renewable energy, green building, and Natural Chef culinary arts programs. Construction is scheduled to be completed by July 2010. Chatham County is paying for construction and the college will lease the building for \$1.
- Construction of a 25,000 square-foot



Proposed Center for Sustainable Technologies

Chatham Community Library on the Chatham Campus is scheduled to begin in August. This will be a county-college joint-use facility.

- The 24,500 square-foot Siler City Center will greatly increase the space for industrial and adult education.

## City Installs Underground Detention Basin at Fayetteville Tech

The City of Fayetteville will soon complete an innovative “green” underground detention basin at **Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC)**, which will slow water in the drainage system that empties into Branson Creek. A parking lot will cover the basin. The project is the first phase of three segments scheduled for the campus.

The basin benefits the campus and the City of Fayetteville by:

- Reducing erosion
- Filtering contaminants
- Harvesting water for irrigation purposes on campus

*GREEN, continues on page 7*

# Nash Instructor Presents at Oxford Round Table

**Nash Community College** Humanities Instructor Marbeth Holmes has a passion for educational discourse. A particular interest of hers is the role education has played in the lives of women throughout history. This summer the Louisburg native had the opportunity to share her interest on the international scale when she presented at the Oxford Round Table at Harris Manchester College in Oxford, England. The focus of the 20th Annual Oxford Round Table was “The Idea of Education in Nineteenth-Century Women’s Writing.”

The Round Table promotes education, art, science, religion and charity through academic conferences and publications. Presenters are selected based on nominations, the courses they teach, their presentations, writings and their professional involvement in a relevant topic. Attendees represent various academic disciplines within public and private schools including community colleges, four-year colleges, graduate and research universities.

Holmes said she is not sure why she was invited to present at the July Round Table, but jokingly adds it may

have been the provocative title of her paper, “Circumcision of the Female Intellect: 19th Century American Women Who Opposed Scholarly Education.”

Holmes’ research examines religious objections to the education of 19th

to explore how women “used religion to stymie the intellectual growth of other women who desired to be more than domestic wives.”

Holmes had to finance the trip to England herself, but she was given academic leave by her college so she could attend. She says the experience was worth every penny. When asked what she gained from the experience she said it was, “How much I learned from other people and about myself. It was a reminder that community college instructors are scholars, too! We spend most of our time teaching, not researching.”

Holmes received a Master of Arts degree from Abilene Christian University, a Bachelor of Arts from Meredith College and an Associate of Arts degree from

Louisburg College, all with honors. In 2004, she received the Nash Community College J. Edgar and Peggie Moore Excellence in Teaching award. She is a member of the North Carolina Council of Teachers of English and the National Council of Teachers of English. She was inducted into Who’s Who of America in 2009.



Marbeth Holmes

Century American women and the subsequent negative impact on quality of life for those women who strayed from their true purpose in pursuit of education, the idea that character development was more rewarding than education and its impact on their intellectual growth. She says she wanted

## Enrollment Overload

It is no surprise that North Carolina's community colleges find themselves in the throes of record-breaking enrollment. While the numbers are not final, an unscientific survey of the colleges show the majority are scrambling to accommodate their burgeoning headcount. Some colleges predict double-digit growth.

The surge in enrollment is the result of two big factors: dislocated workers and high-school graduates who are turning to community colleges for an affordable beginning to their four-year educational plans. The results are mixed: more North Carolinians getting an education and training jump at community colleges, but at the same time there are longer lines, larger classes, students on waiting lists and packed parking lots.

Some colleges have added new sections of the more popular courses, either in the classroom or online, to accommodate more students. Financial Aid offices are working overtime helping students in need. Some, like **Catawba Valley Community College**, have either processed more FAFSA forms or awarded more assistance this semester than in the entire previous year. Due to the staggering numbers of students in need of financial aid processing, **Wayne Community College** extend registration.

Although final enrollment totals will not be available until late fall, early numbers at some colleges shine a spotlight on role community colleges play during an economic downturn.

### **GIVING BACK, continued from page 1**

#### **Bridging the Digital Divide**

Students at **Catawba Valley Community College** saved the neighboring community of Claremont several thousand dollars in increased security for their computer systems. As the class project for two of CVCC's cyber crime technology programs, four students worked with Claremont to determine risks to the city's information systems and how to better protect them.

**Southwestern Community College** helped bridge the digital divide in Western North Carolina by working with Drake Enterprises and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, forming



*Robeson Community College students line up outside financial aid office*

- **A-B Tech and Mitchell:** 15 percent growth for each college
- **Bladen:** 17 percent
- **Brunswick and South Piedmont:** 35 percent growth for each college
- **Central Piedmont:** The largest growth in the college's history at 35 percent
- **Cleveland:** Fall registration up 83 percent over the previous fall with an expected total increase of 15-20 percent
- **Edgecombe:** As of August 26, 43 percent increase in overall enrollment
- **Guilford Tech:** The 12th consecutive year of increased enrollment with 19.8 percent growth
- **Halifax:** 24 percent increase
- **Haywood:** 14 percent with a 77 percent increase in full-time students
- **Piedmont:** 26 percent
- **Pitt:** 12 to 13 percent increase.
- **Robeson:** Enrollment of more than 2,700, the largest fall enrollment in the college's history
- **Sampson:** 10 percent
- **Sandhills and Western Piedmont:** 13 percent increase for each college
- **Southeastern:** 23 percent
- **Wake Tech:** Record-breaking 16,000 students enrolled in curriculum classes

These growing pains are compounded by lingering concerns related to the state's economic climate. This uncertainty led Governor Bev Perdue to issue a recent Executive Order requiring an additional 5 percent budget reversion. The unsteady economy will likely send more students to the colleges in the spring. Without sufficient resources to support burgeoning growth, the "Open Door" is in greater jeopardy of closing.

Balsam West FiberNET to install a \$14 million, 300-mile ultra-speed fiber optic underground network that serves a six-county region. The students provided both research and legwork determining the need for a fiber optics network, the feasibility on how it would work and who would use it.

While this 24/7 technology access is used for education, it also serves the business and healthcare facilities in the region. Cecil Groves, president at **Southwestern Community College**, calls the accomplishment "an event of national significance for rural America. It serves as a model for what can be

achieved with advanced strategic planning, the use of local resources and talent, and an abundance of patience and perseverance by those involved."

#### **Sustaining the Environment**

In addition to the growing number of green courses taught at the colleges, several community colleges are involved in projects with sustainability connections that improve the environment or provide education resources for consumers.

Carpentry I students at **Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College** learn a variety of sustain-

*GIVING BACK, continues on page 7*

## From our Faculty and Students: Teamwork Reduces the Cost of Statewide Conferences

The North Carolina Community College Faculty Association has been a proud member of the community college system team for 11 years working to achieve "Excellence through Teamwork." One of our key components in promoting excellence is providing quality professional development opportunities for faculty. The country's ever-worsening economic crisis and the resulting state budget shortfalls have made planning this year's NCCCFA conference especially challenging.

The North Carolina Community College Faculty Association (NCCCFA) Board, after consultation with Dr. Scott Ralls and Mr. Kennon Briggs, has decided to shorten our bi-annual conference to a two-day function. The event will be held at Embassy Suites in Greensboro on October 11-12, during fall break for many colleges. Sessions begin on Sunday, October 11, at 2:00 p.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 12. Creating Success Through Innovation is not only the conference theme, it has been the driving force behind the preparations for the conference. The Keynote Speaker for the opening session on Sunday afternoon is Dr. Mark Milliron of Catalyze Learning International. The Luncheon Speaker for the NCCCFA 11th Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Monday is Dr. Scott Ralls, President of the North Carolina Community College System.

Many discipline-specific associations have cancelled their spring confer-

ences and meetings due to travel constraints. Therefore, NCCCFA has invited other organizations to participate in this conference, both to hold association meetings and to provide sessions relevant for their members (at no cost to the associations). Currently, we have plans to partner with nursing, mathematics, and foreign language associations. Planned workshops topics include new technology available for faculty, global education, legislative issues, SACS roundtable discussion, budget outlooks, NC's Learning Objects Repository, information on state retirement and health care, and discipline-specific sessions.

Cutting costs for participants has been a major goal of the NCCCFA conference committee. The spacious accommodations at Embassy Suites will allow for room sharing. The rate for each room is \$124 plus tax, which includes a cook-to-order breakfast on Monday. The NCCCFA Annual Meeting Luncheon on Monday is included in the registration fee of \$50 for NCCCFA members.

We recognize that the looming budget cuts will require colleges to make difficult choices. This shortened format and inter-association cooperative event will provide inexpensive, high-quality professional development for faculty across the state. We are working to ensure that all sessions are relevant to current community college needs and that attendees leave with valuable information to share on their individual campuses. The two-day Fall

Conference is a wonderful opportunity for instructors to gain information and skills they need as well as share their ideas and expertise with others.

Working as a team to provide needed professional development opportunities at lowered cost is a way of Creating Success Through Innovation.

For more information on the NCCCFA Fall Conference, go to [www.ncccfa.org/conference](http://www.ncccfa.org/conference).

### Student Government Association Conference and Meetings Set

The North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association (N4CSGA) Fall Division Meetings will be held Saturday, September 12, 2009 at the following colleges:

- a. **Eastern Division:** Craven Community College
- b. **Central Division:** Stanly Community College
- c. **Western Division:** Gaston College

The N4CSGA Fall Conference will be held at the Asheville Crowne Plaza Hotel and Resort on October 2-3, 2009. "Don't Call It a Comeback: We've Been Here for Years!" is this year's conference theme. The relevance of the theme is to continue to emphasize the critical need and role of community colleges during challenging economic times.

For more information about the N4CSGA, please visit our website at <http://www.n4csga.org>.

## Awards and Special Recognition

**CPCC Simulation and Game Development Team competes in Egypt** Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) Simulation and Game Development (SGD) student and two members of the College's faculty competed in the world finals of Microsoft's Imagine Cup, a global contest focused on developing gaming solutions to real world problems. Nick Klingensmith, a part-time instructor at CPCC and SGD graduate; Danny Helms, a CPCC student; and Farhad Javidi, chair of the CPCC Simulation and Game Development Department, comprise CPCC's team, "SGD Monkeys." Their game, "New World Africa," simulates the use

of modern technologies within a Third World country. CPCC's team was one of only six game development teams that advanced to the final round of competition, which took place in Cairo, Egypt July 3-7.

"The Imagine Cup is the Olympics of the game development industry," said Javidi. "It provides an opportunity for students who've always enjoyed playing games to create their own game and contribute to changing the global community in a new and innovative way. The competition is a great opportunity for students to advance their careers, as either game developers or entrepreneurs in the game business."



CPCC's Klingensmith, Javidi and Helms demonstrate their game, "New World Africa," which simulates the use of modern technologies within a third world country.

AWARDS, continues on page 6

## State and National Leaders Visit Community Colleges



U.S. Senator Richard Burr, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and N.C. Representative Larry Kissell participate in the White House Rural Tour forum at Richmond CC on August 12.



U.S. Representative David Price visited Wake Technical Community College on August 27 for a first-hand look at Wake Tech's Simulation and Game Development and Automotive Systems Technology programs.



President Ann Britt, Lt. Gov Walter Dalton, and Phyllis Broughton, Dean – Lt. Governor Walter Dalton visited Martin Community College on August 27 to tour the campus.



Pamlico Community College President, Dr. Cleve Cox talks with N.C. Representative Alice Underhill and U.S. Representative Walter Jones about challenges and opportunities ahead of Pamlico Community College.



A-B Tech Culinary team brings home the silver

**A-B Tech Culinary Team Brings Home the Silver**

It was a silver medal and third place nationwide finish in the American Culinary Federation Student Team Championship July 14 in Orlando for the **Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College** Culinary team. A team from the college has made it to nationals for three of the past four years after winning first place in state and regional competitions. Opponents this year were student chefs from the Pennsylvania Culinary Institute, Pittsburgh Chapter; Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Mich., and Kapi'olani Community College, Honolulu, Hawaii.

“The competition was tough. (Our team) did a fantastic job. As always, we all learn a great deal from these experiences and had a great time,” said Chef Charles deVries, one of the coaches.

Team members were Michael Aanonsen, Shannon Ginn, Steven Goff, Anna McClintock and Travis McCloud. Chefs John Hofland and Michelle Kelley joined deVries as coaches.

**NCACCP Selects Keys as President**

Dr. Robert Keys, president of **Rockingham Community College** is the new president of the North Carolina Association of Community College Presidents.

“The benefit of having an association such as ours is that it gives the Community College System a stronger voice,” said Keys. “We work together on issues which are then presented to legislative members.”

Keys said the main issues facing the group during his one-year presidency will be how to handle the fiscal situation community colleges find themselves in: i.e., keeping the institutions responsive to the needs of individuals, the communities and the state at a time when resources are at their lowest levels.



Dr. Robert Keys



Michael Preuss

**Prestigious NADE Digest Names Rockingham's Preuss as Co-Editor**

Michael Preuss, Title III activity director at **Rockingham Community College**, has been named as a volunteer co-editor for NADE Digest, the bi-annual, international publication of the National Association for Developmental Education.

According to Preuss, approximately 60 percent of students nationwide who submit applications to attend a community college need developmental (remedial) courses. Only a small portion of those students, however, continue their education and attain a degree. Articles submitted to NADE Digest focus on these concerns and others in a

variety of ways. According to submission guidelines, articles may emphasize innovative approaches, best practices, how meaningful research effects teaching and learning, or techniques to enhance student performance.

**Expanded Campus News Now on the Web**

There was simply too much of a good thing to only print it every few months so we've transformed "Campus Highlights" to the web-based "Campus Happenings." You'll find it on the System Office website as a permanent part of the news scroll on the left-hand side of the homepage. We've made room for updates on sports, foundations, alums, faculty and staff and more.

Check it out at:  
<http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/>

## GIVING BACK, continued from page 1

able building methods ranging from advanced framing techniques, to natural building techniques utilizing local, low-energy embodied materials such as straw, mud, and even waste products. They then employ what they've learned by, working with Vance Elementary on a cob structure in the school's community garden. Cob is a building material consisting of clay, sand, straw, water, and earth, similar to adobe. Elementary students get a crash course in a natural construction method that is possibly the world's oldest and most ubiquitous building practice while the carpentry students learn how to meld old and new ideas to create environmentally favorable structures.

Residential and commercial customers in northeast North Carolina can learn about energy efficiency using a device built by students in **College of The Albemarle's**

Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Technology (HVAC) program. Albemarle EMC partnered with the college on its consumer education project. The air filter demonstration device shows how air flow in heating

## GREEN, continued from page 2

- Preventing flooding along Skye Drive towards Morganton Road

This is the first time **Fayetteville** has undertaken an underground detention project of this kind. "FTCC's participation in this project is an example of what being a good neighbor is about," said Mary DePina of the City's Engineering & Infrastructure Department. "FTCC has a keen awareness about the importance of protecting our environment, and we are pleased to be a part of the City's efforts to utilize systems, such as the storm water detention basin, to prevent flooding in our area and promote safety for our surroundings," FTCC President Dr. Larry Keen said.

**Class Project Beautifies Campus** – A former campus eyesore is now one of Rockingham Community College's landscaping masterpieces. Thanks to the class project design of Ben Winslow, the less than lovely area

and cooling systems decreases when the filters become dirty. The devices were built with supplies purchased by instructors Michael Partyka and Perry Glass. Partyka says if he can continue receiving help in funding the project, he plans for students to build a new demonstration unit each semester.



*Cobb structure created by Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College Carpentry I students. The structure was built for Vance Elementary students to learn about natural building techniques.*

**Central Piedmont Community College** (CPCC) has been involved in a partnership that provides innovative solutions for improving service delivery, increasing volunteerism, and expanding the mission of Meck-

lenburg County's Division of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources without increasing costs. For the past two years, Reedy Creek Nature Preserve has teamed up with four **CPCC** departments on The Natural Enhancement Service-Learning Partnership. Built on the concept of exchanging work for work experience, the partnership has allowed students in Welding, Graphic Design, Flexography, and Horticulture Technology to get hands-on experience while enhancing the outreach, physical facilities and marketing of the Reedy Creek Nature Preserve.

**CPCC** students have provided more than 900 service learning hours and enhancements for the Natural Enhancements in Service-Learning Partnership. Students run their own projects, increasing their marketability in the workforce, develop an appreciation for the park system, and establish a life-long sense of civic engagement to their communities.

**Wayne Community College** offered a summer camp for rising 9th through 12th graders about conserving en-

*GIVING BACK, continues on page 8*

in front of the Industrial Technologies II building was transformed into a lush water garden complete with five water sources, rocks, bricks, and a variety of plants. Even goldfish, catfish and a musky skillpot turtle swim in the pools. Winslow, who graduated in July with a horticulture diploma, was part of a class challenged to redesign the area using water, earth and plants while blending color, texture, form and size. While Winslow's design was chosen for the project, everyone contributed. Students provided all the work and gained valuable experience in developing the increasingly popular water garden. RCC purchased the bricks and large stones, but Winslow contributed smaller one. Some students grew plants. Area nurseries donated others. The result: water, stone and plants working in harmony to create another living lab for RCC's horticultural students.



*These are three of the students who worked on the garden. Left to right they are Jimmy Hazelwood (seated on rock), Brent Rogers and Mike Lawrence.*

## GIVING BACK, continued from page 7

ergy. Camp Kill-A-Watt gave students the opportunity to explore green energy options with assistance from current students in program areas such as Industrial Systems, Electronics, Automotive, Forestry and Agriculture, led the camp.

**Building Experience, Volunteerism and Housing Opportunities**  
**Coastal Carolina Community College** construction students have built 10 low-cost homes in economically distressed parts of Jacksonville since 1997. Jacksonville uses HUD funds to provide the building materials and the college provides the tools and the labor. An area of the city is improved, first-time home buyers get a house, and the students get valuable on-the-job experience.

For the past several years, the Student Ambassadors at **Johnston Community College** have assisted in the construction of Habitat for Humanity homes in Johnston County. The projects have provided excellent community service opportunities for the students.

In Pitt County the flagging economy severely limits co-op experiences for Architectural Technology students. **Pitt Community College** instructors will ask Pitt County organizations, businesses, citizens, etc., to submit their ideas for small-scale architectural projects students can undertake. Students will then design projects for their co-op work experience while benefiting the local community.

**Meeting Emergency Needs**—Spring and summer mark the emergence of honey bee swarms. When insect and humans intersect, it can present a public safety hazard. **Robeson Community College** has provided Lumberton Rescue and Lumberton City Fire training related to bee identification and management. The classes covered identification, PPE, hive parts, healing from the hive, importance of the honey bee, pollination, and who to call for information or assistance. **Stanly Community College** created Operation "Thank you, Soldier!" to honor the men and women of our armed forces by shipping 75-care packages on September 11, 2009 to troops deployed in Iraq. SCC students, faculty and staff will work with community donors to let service men and women know citizens care and support them.

In spite of any limitations, the colleges complete projects that enhance the lives of many and boost the skill level of students at the same time. These projects represent a handful of the hundreds of ways our community colleges respond to health, safety and volunteer needs across North Carolina. The training is hands on. The life experience is real. The benefits are immeasurable to students, colleges and communities. It's hands-on help from the heart.



*Stanly Community College Criminal Justice students, as well as other students, faculty and staff, helped prepare over 75-care packages for the Service Learning project— Operation "Thank You, Soldier!" Packages were shipped on 9/11 for the service men and women deployed in Iraq.*

# Creating Success

## NC Community Colleges

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### Hope • Opportunity • Jobs