



# COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

## NEWSLETTER

### Broadband Access Reaches Rural Students



The spread of COVID-19 in the spring of 2020 heightened student need across North Carolina to remotely connect to providers and access course materials securely. Many rural communities operate on outdated infrastructure or lack systems that fully extended high-speed internet to the local population.

The **Rural College Broadband Access Project**, funded with federal coronavirus relief funds through the 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act was

completed in December 2020. The initiative marked a major step in extending rural broadband to North Carolinians at twenty community colleges. The \$12 million project enabled colleges to provide Wi-Fi to outdoor campus locations, install advanced cybersecurity protection, protect networks, conduct firewall checks, connect buildings and classrooms across campus, prepare infrastructure for disaster recovery, provide security training for updated software tools and migrate applications to public clouds to ensure continuity of operations.

To learn more about the work at each college, see this [interactive map](#)

## Greetings From the State Director

The System Office CCR Team wishes you all a Happy New Year! As some of us continue to work and learn virtually, we all are finding new ways to creatively serve students as was demonstrated in the end of the year video.

Our plan for 2021 is to gather some of your best practices and disseminate through this news-letter and other channels.

This edition features Brunswick Community College instructor Nikki Braune’s innovative instructional strategies, free resources to improve your online teaching, free marketing tools for you to customize, and information about the Rural College Broadband Access Project.

Please welcome our newest team members, Jazmine Hackett and Dalanda Bond.

Here’s to a successful 2021!

Gilda Rubio-Festa - Associate Vice President, College Career Readiness

# Research to Practice-Highlighting Brunswick CC

Submitted by Rhonda Royster, (TITLE)



Nikki Braune is a part-time HSE instructor at Brunswick Community College. She has been with Brunswick since September 2019. She is also a full-time assistant principal at an elementary school. Why does she do it? Because it's fun to teach math, of course! You guessed it – Ms. Nikki is a bit of a nerd. But she is a lovable nerd, to be sure. Students from all over the county request her class because she makes math fun and understandable.

COVID made for a rough transition, but Ms. Nikki has taken it all in stride! Google Classroom became her best friend. She utilizes several Google apps to help her students succeed. It also helps that she seems to have an endless supply of gadgets to play with – from Algebra to 3-D Geometric forms to the IPEVO mirror-cam.

In March, Ms. Nikki took her class strictly online. It was painful. Many students in the program do not live in an area where internet access is even possible. Others do not own a computer or have internet in their homes. In order to stay in class, students drove to parking lots where businesses had WiFi and used their phones to participate. Finally in June, the college was able to resume testing, and Ms. Nikki had two immediate graduates.

In June, Ms. Nikki increased her class time from two evenings per week to four. She determined her students working virtually needed more time to become accustomed to distance learning.

In July, Ms. Nikki had her first fully virtual graduate of the program year. In August, she was able to go back on campus two evenings per week, and students flooded her classroom! While the limit for in-person instruction is nine students, Ms. Nikki has managed to meet the needs of her students by also teaching students attending online at the same time. Needs are met for both those who need a human presence to grasp the difficult concepts, and for those who are wary of possible virus transmission.

Ms. Nikki uses a variety of instructional strategies to keep students engaged and provide access. She uses a web-cam pointed at the white board so everyone can see what she is doing. A magnetic graphing grid magically appears when needed. When she is off-campus, she uses a small dry erase board and the [IPEVO mirror-cam](#) to achieve the same result. Ms. Nikki uses Google Classroom to post assignments and practice test questions. She also uses Edmentum Test Packs to assign practice tests for GED and HiSET. Class time is a combination of conversations, demonstrations and practice, all wrapped up in an environment of light-hearted fun. Everyone talks. Everyone participates. Everyone feels included.

This model is working very well. Nine of the twenty-two graduates from BCC's GEAR program have come from Ms. Nikki's class. She expects over twenty graduates from her class alone! This is amazing for such a small program. Ms. Nikki's motto is, "Don't let 2020 be a bad thing for you. Graduate and tell a different story."

If you have an example from your institution of an instructor utilizing best practices to strengthen retention, contextual instruction, or integrate technology, please contact Matthew Brown at [brownm@nccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:brownm@nccommunitycolleges.edu).

## WIOA Considerations Spot Light- Consideration 7

Whether the eligible provider's activities effectively use technology, services, and delivery systems, including distance education in a manner sufficient to increase the amount and quality of learning and how such technology, services, and systems lead to improved performance.



COABE and NASDAE have joined forces to deploy a marketing campaign and toolkit for adult educators. You will be able to access state of the art out-

reach materials and language to help you be proactive in your communication efforts about the value of adult education and how your program is supporting adult learners during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information- <http://coabe.org/moveaheadwithadulted/>

## Open Educational Resource Platforms

The following two links are Open Educational Resource (OER) allow content submissions from instructors to share with other instructors. These platforms would be good places to post approved Alternative Learning Packets and detailed lesson plans to share with your colleagues across the state.

**openNCCC** - The North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS)

has launched an open educational resource (OER) platform to provide faculty and students with free digital content. openNCCC is a collaborative initiative that enables educational entities to create, share, and access openly licensed resources. OER digital materials can be used or modified to adjust to student and faculty needs. These materials are housed on a cloud-based platform (<https://opennccc.ncccommunitycolleges.edu>).



**OER Commons** - A public repository of open educational resources for instructors and students to use for free. The library promotes exploration, creative sharing, and collaboration on instructional materials to advance education worldwide. You are able to search by subject, grade level, and usage. (<https://www.oercommons.org/>)



## Please Welcome New System Office Team Members



**JAZMINE REAVES  
HACKETT**

Administrative Assistant for the College and Career Readiness Department

A US Air Force Veteran, previously the site assistant at Wake Tech CC's new RTP Campus in Morrisville. Jazmine is currently pursuing an Associates in Arts with plans to transfer to a 4-year institution to earn a bachelor's degree in Business Admin with a concentration in Management.



**DALANDA BOND**

Education Program Specialist for the College & Career Readiness Department

Formally a high school Social Studies teacher and a history instructor at two- and four year institutions. Dalanda has also served as an education coordinator for the federally funded WIA Youth@Work program, and most recently, Chief Examiner and LEIS Specialist for Edgecombe Community College.

# UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Webinar: Integrating Technology Into the Basic Skills Classroom

When: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 from 2:00 – 3:30 PM Eastern Time

Target Audience: All Basic Skills Instructors and Directors

Description: During this fourth webinar in the Instructional Support Series, participants will become familiar with methods for integrating technology into their adult ed classrooms. Come prepared to discuss strategies for integrating technology into your classroom in a meaningful way. Participants will be given the opportunity to collaborate on technology activities with their colleagues.

Register Here: [NCCCS CCR Professional Development Website](#)

When you receive the email confirmation of your registration, please be sure to add the Integrating Technology Into the Basic Skills Classroom to your calendar.

Attendees must register in advance. This webinar will be recorded and posted on the CCR Professional Development webpage within one week. You do not need to register in order to watch the recording.

## Program Profiles - Adult High School

**The Basics:** The Adult High School program is offered cooperatively with a local public school system and community college to offer adults and minors ages 16-17 an opportunity to earn an Adult High School diploma. Students must be able to master the course standards at the level and rigor at which they are presented. Course and graduation requirements are in alignment with the standards established by the State Board of Education, the local education agency, and the local community college. The AHS diploma is issued in cooperation between the local boards of education and community college trustees with appropriate signatures representing both educational systems.

**NCCCS Website Reference:** Interested college personal should visit the Adult High School webpage to learn more about the 2020 AHS Implementation Guide and to view a complete list of NC Community Colleges that offer the program.

**Target Audience:** Directors, Coordinators, and Instructors

**Target Student:** A prospective student who was very close to earning their traditional high school diploma may be a great fit for an AHS program. Students take only the courses they need left to complete their secondary diploma. This could be as little as one course, depending on the last time they were enrolled. An official transcript from the last school a student attended should be evaluated before enrollment into an AHS program.

Reach out to Michael Tilley at [tilleym@nccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:tilleym@nccommunitycolleges.edu) if your college is interested starting an Adult High School program, or those looking to revamp their current one.

## Diploma Sender

HSE Diplomas and Transcripts must be requested from Diploma Sender. They are not available from the System Office. Please update the information on your website to reflect this.