

CAMPUS Connections



Beaufort County Community College

Pecheles establishes BCCC's first automotive technology scholarship

Automobile dealer Brian Pecheles, president of Pecheles Ford/Toyota in Washington, has established Beaufort County Community College's first automotive technology scholarship. The scholarship, to be awarded in the fall of 2005, will be given to a student pursuing studies in one of the three automotive technology programs at the college.

"This is a way of giving back to the community," Pecheles said in announcing the scholarship. "We have always been interested in supporting education and automobile mechanics is a field in which education is becoming extremely important."

Typically, the demand for trained automobile service technicians far outpaces the supply of workers in a field that traditionally offers an excellent salary and benefits. And today, with improvements in technology, it is increasingly important for automobile repairmen to be formally trained, Pecheles said.

Neil Alligood, lead instructor in BCCC's automotive systems technology program, said the scholarship will not only enable a student to complete the program, but also "is also a good way of keeping the doors open between the community and the community college."

The Automotive Systems Technology curriculum at BCCC prepares individuals for employment as automotive service technicians. At BCCC, the program emphasizes theory, servicing and operation of brakes, electrical/electronic systems, engine performance, steering/suspension, automatic transmission/ transaxles, engine repair, climate control, and manual drive trains. Upon completion of this curriculum, students should be prepared to take the ASE exam and be ready for full-time employment in dealerships and repair shops in the automotive service industry.

Joe Pecheles Inc. is a long-time fixture of the Greenville business community. Established in 1965, Joe Pecheles, Inc. opened as Greenville's authorized Volkswagen dealer in the heyday of Classic Beetle popularity. The company remains a family operation led by Brian Pecheles, son of the founder.

Campus United Way campaign is underway

The 2004 United Way Campaign is now underway on the BCCC campus. The United Way serves 20 agencies in Beaufort County including the Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs and Options to Domestic Violence, among others. As a donor, you can designate your gift to go to any agency or group of agencies that you wish. One-time gifts are welcome and payroll deduction is available. Jack Pyburn, coordinator of the BCCC campaign, can be contacted at extension 6311.



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Table 2.1. Aggregate Revenues

Sources	Revenues	Total	% of Total
Private Funding			
Tuition payments	\$1,090,962		7.7%
Other sources of revenues	\$1,542,229	\$2,633,191	10.9%
Public Funding			
Local taxes	\$1,536,263		10.9%
State aid	\$7,702,270		54.6%
Federal grants	\$2,237,965	\$11,476,498	15.9%
Total		\$14,109,689	100%

Source: Data supplied by BCCC.

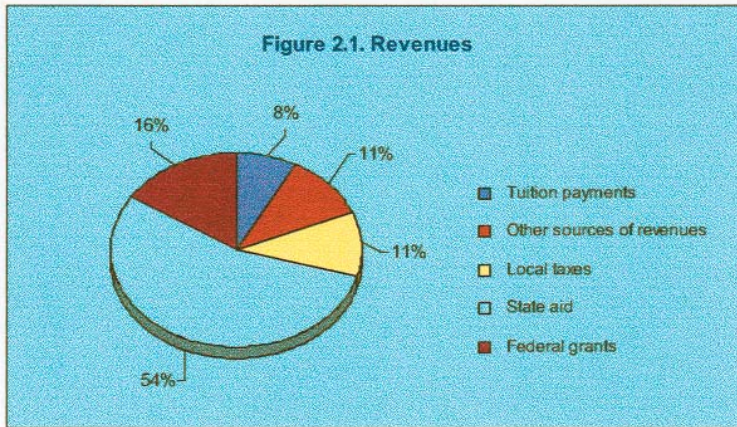


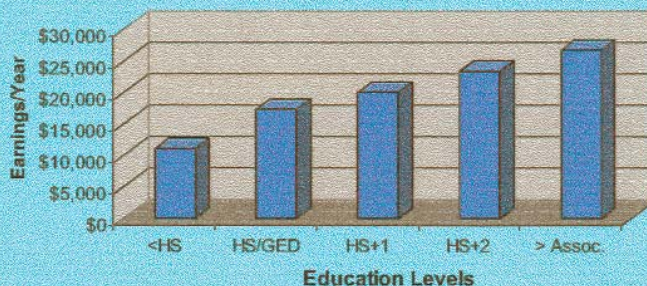
Table 2.5. Weighted Average Earnings

Entry Level	Average Earnings*	Difference
One year short of HS/GED	\$11,031	NA
HS/GED equivalent	\$17,328	\$6,297
One-year Certificate	\$20,013	\$2,685
Two-year Associate Degree	\$23,420	\$3,407
One year post Associate Degree	\$26,728	\$3,308

* Note: The data in this table reflect earnings at the midpoint of the individual's working career, not immediately upon exiting the college.

Source: Computed from data supplied by the U.S. Census Bureau, regionalized for the State of North Carolina, and weighted to reflect the specific gender and ethnicity profile of the BCCC student body.

Figure 2.5. Average Earnings by Education Levels



Report: BCCC a boon to regional economy

Beaufort County Community College is a boon to the region's economy – contributing a total of nearly \$200 million in business sales and employee earnings due to past and present operations, according to a report released recently by the college.

BCCC creates jobs in its four-county service area, brings investment opportunities to the region, increases local business revenues and eases the tax burden on area residents, according to the report.

The 123-page report, entitled "The Socioeconomic Benefits Generated by Beaufort County" is part of a statewide report on the social and economic benefits of the state's 58 community colleges. It was prepared by CCbenefits, Inc., of Moscow, Idaho and funded by the Association of Community College Trustees.

The report is intended to show both local taxpayers and state and local budget writers the value of BCCC as both an institution of higher learning and as an economic engine for the region's economy, BCCC President David McLawhorn said.

"This report substantiates what we have believed for a long time – that BCCC is a significant player in the economies of Beaufort, Hyde, Tyrrell

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Judy Jennette, Editor
 Betty Gray, Reporter/writer
 Tricia Woolard, Layout/ design
 Tracey Johnson, Printing

and Washington counties,” he said. “It also clearly shows that BCCC is a good investment of our tax dollars.”

The report, written by M. Henry Robison and Kjell A. Christophersen, found that BCCC stimulates the local economy, leverages taxpayer dollars, generates a return on government investment and increases the earnings potential of its graduates.

Among the report’s key findings:

- A student who earns an associate’s degree from BCCC can expect to earn, on average, \$6,092 a year more than a worker with a high school education and \$171,031 more over his or her working lifetime. A total of \$3.1 million in higher earnings each year can be attributed to BCCC.
- As many as 93 percent of the students who attend BCCC stay in the region initially after they leave the college and contribute to the region’s economy.
- Earnings in BCCC’s four-county service area are \$26.4 million larger than they would be otherwise because of the skills of past BCCC students embodied in the workforce.
- BCCC spent \$12.5 million, or about 82 percent of its \$15.2 million operating budget in fiscal 2003 in its four-county service area to pay for new construction, buy supplies and other services.
- BCCC accounts for 6.9 percent of total earnings in Beaufort County, 8.3 percent of total earnings in Hyde County, 5.9 percent of total earnings in Tyrrell County and 4.6 percent of total earnings in Washington County.
- BCCC employs 159 full-time and 198 part-time faculty and staff. BCCC paid faculty and staff wages, salaries and benefits of \$8 million in fiscal 2003.
- For every \$1 BCCC pays in earnings, there is an additional 51 cents in earnings generated off campus in the BCCC service area economy.
- Every dollar of tax money spend on BCCC education will generate \$8.76 worth of social savings – reduced incarceration, reduced spending on welfare, reduced health care costs.
- Accounting for increased tax receipts and avoided costs, state and local government will see a rate of return of 7.9 percent on money appropriated to BCCC in fiscal 2003.
- The benefits received by each of the four counties in BCCC’s service area - increased taxes and decreased social costs - exceed the state and local taxes spend on education of BCCC students with Hyde County enjoying the highest benefit to cost ratio.

An executive summary of the report can be found at BCCC’s website at www.beaufortccc.edu.

BCCC students test robotics skills

Students in Beaufort County Community College’s Trends in Technology Class tested their computer and robotics skills recently as part of the annual Robot Races. Scooby, a robot guided by Howard Mann, was the best-performing robot, completing its line-following and wall-hugging tasks ahead of the pack. Scooby was followed by I, Robot, guided by Juana Short, which finished second and Butterfly Effect,

guided by Kendra Gibbs, which finished third. The Trends in Technology course teaches the latest computer trends and concepts generally not covered in other coursework at the college. The students participate in a series of lectures and discussions of robotics and study various robotic devices currently on the market, according to Brown McFadden, lead instructor in information systems and networking administration and support at BCCC. The Robot Races traditionally mark the end of the course section on robotics, he said.

As preparation for the race, students build a wall-hugging, line-following “weasel robot” from a kit and put the robot through its paces using various technological tools learned in class. Students are judged on three criteria – creative team theme for their robot, customization and performance. The student-controlled robots race a stopwatch and participate in double elimination matches. Class members also set up a wireless network, use digital cameras, work with personal digital assistants and study various ergonomic devices as part of their technology studies. For more information on computer classes offered at BCCC, visit the college website at www.beaufortccc.edu or telephone 252-946-6194.



SECU creates community college scholarships

Students attending Beaufort County Community College will be among the recipients next fall of a new scholarship program established by the State Employees' Credit Union Foundation.

The foundation will provide 116 two-year scholarships – two for each of the 58 community college statewide - valued at up to \$5,000 each, Andrew D. Odom, vice president and city executive for the Washington office of the SECU announced recently.

Beaufort County Community College is designated to funding for two of the scholarships, he said.

The scholarships will begin in the fall of 2005 and will be distributed annually in two payments of \$1,250 per student in the fall and spring semesters bringing the SECU's financial commitment to the entire community college system of up to \$290,000 in the first year of the program.

The SECU Foundation is the charitable, non-profit arm of the State Employees' Credit Union established to identify and address community issues that are beyond the normal scope of SECU itself. Its mission is to promote local community development primarily through projects in the areas of education, health and human services.

Money to fund the scholarships comes from credit union members. The SECU has agreed to temporarily assign \$1.00 of the per month maintenance fee that all members pay on their checking accounts to the foundation.

To qualify as a candidate for these scholarships, an individual must meet the following criteria:

- A graduate of a North Carolina high school and an applicant or full-time student enrolled in an associate degree, diploma or certificate program at a North Carolina community college;
- A resident of North Carolina and eligible for in-state tuition;
- Demonstrates financial need using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and indicating an Expected Family Contribution between \$3,601 and \$5,000;
- Demonstrates scholastic achievement with a 2.5 or higher grade point average on a 4.0 scale;
- Uses the scholarship to pay for tuition, books, fees, course supplies and transportation;
- Continues at the college when enrolled at the time of the scholarship award and for the duration of the scholarship, and
- Is not a director, employee or family member of an employee or director of the State Employees' Credit Union or the SECU Foundation.

To learn more about this or the numerous other scholarships available at BCCC, interested persons can contact the Financial Aid office at 940-6219.



Groundbreaking held for Public Service Building

A cold, steady rain did not dampen spirits at Beaufort County Community College January 14 when officials broke ground for a new 24,225 square-foot building that will house BCCC's cosmetology, early childhood development and human services technology programs. "This is an exciting day," said Eunice Williams, lead instructor in BCCC's cosmetology program as she and some 20 cosmetology students huddled out of the weather. "We have been looking forward to this day for a long time." Scheduled to open in November 2005, the new building will upgrade the programs to be housed there and will free needed space in other buildings for some of BCCC's fastest-growing programs. With an estimated cost of \$3.1 million, the building is the last of three new construction projects on the BCCC campus financed by a voter-approved bond referendum for state-supported universities and community colleges. Dubbed the Public Service Building, it will be located at the eastern edge of the campus. "I am delighted to be here to begin construction of this new building, even in the bad weather," said BCCC President David McLawhorn. "This building will greatly improve the programs that will be housed there and will help us address expected growth in other programs." Along with McLawhorn, a crowd of about 40 people including students, faculty, members of BCCC's Board of Trustees and building architect John J.

Continued on page 5...

Groundbreaking continued from page 4

Farkas were on hand to help turn the first spade of rain-soaked ground at the ceremony. "This new building will help BCCC fulfill its mission of bringing education and opportunity to people who want education and opportunity," said board Chairman Robert Cayton during the abbreviated ceremony. The total cost of construction and renovations is set at \$3,828,737. Wimco Corp. of Washington was awarded the contract for construction of the new building and renovations to Building 2, which currently houses the cosmetology program, and Building 3, which houses the early childhood and human services technology programs. McLawhorn said he was pleased that a local firm submitted the lowest bid and was awarded the construction contract. "Construction of this building will not only improve education our students receive, but also will bring jobs and economic benefits to the community," he said.



Staff Association contributes to annual BCCC scholarship

Lorie Smith, treasurer of the BCCC Staff Association, recently presented a check for \$200 to Judy Meier Jennette, director of the BCCC Foundation, to fund the association's annual scholarship. Given each spring, the scholarship is awarded to a student with a minimum 2.5 grade point average who has completed 12 semester credit hours towards his or her degree or diploma requirements, among other criteria. The staff association has contributed nearly \$3,000 for scholarships for BCCC students.



Sawyer Resigns

BCCC faculty and staff members gathered January 14 to say "goodbye" to Rhonda Sawyer, who recently resigned her post as administrative services dean. In announcing her resignation, Sawyer said she was looking forward to spending more time with her nine-month-old daughter, Anna, and hopes one day to pursue a doctorate degree in accounting and teaching at East Carolina University. "On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank Rhonda for her service to BCCC," said board Chairman Robert Cayton. At the party, the staff of the business office presented Sawyer with a silver charm bracelet. Controller Phillip Price has been named as Sawyer's successor.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB!

You can now access Campus Connections on the Web. Just go to our web site at www.beaufortccc.edu and click on News & Events. You will need to download Adobe Acrobat if you do not already have it installed. Click on the current edition of Campus Connections and enjoy!

ACCESS
BCCC At Home

Scholarships available for NC public universities in fall 2005

Students at Beaufort County Community College who are interested in transferring to one of North Carolina's public universities in the fall of 2005 may be eligible to apply for one of the scholarships funded by the Golden LEAF Foundation. The non-renewable scholarships are each valued at \$3,000 for the 2005-06 academic year. The application deadline is March 15, 2005. To be considered, candidates must be from one of the state's tobacco-dependent and economically-distressed rural counties including Beaufort, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington counties. The foundation has reserved 150 scholarships for incoming freshmen and community college transfer students who will enroll in the fall 2005. The remaining scholarships are reserved for 125 of the current Golden LEAF scholars at public universities who will continue their studies next year. To be eligible for the scholarship, a community college transfer student must:

- Be currently enrolled at a North Carolina community college;
- Be a North Carolina resident for tuition purposes;
- Transfer to one of North Carolina's 16 public universities in the fall of 2005;
- Live in one of the 76 eligible North Carolina counties;
- Demonstrate financial need;
- Present a strong record of academic achievement and a community college grade point average of 3.0 or better to be competitive;
- Submit an application and transcripts.

Applications and full program details can be found at www.ncseaa.edu/gl.htm. The application deadline for community college transfer students is March 15, 2005.

Upcoming Events

January 20 – Phi Beta Lambda Tax Workshop. For more information, contact Debra Baker at 940-6229.

January 20 – Writers Reading, 7 p.m., George H. and Laura E. Brown Library. BCCC students whose works have appeared in Our State magazine will read from their articles. For more information, contact Bryan Oesterreich at 6296.

January 25 – Student Government Association meeting. For more information, contact Rebecca Spain at 940-6259.

January 27 – Gamma Beta Phi new member orientation. For more information, contact Mandy Jones at 940-6242.

February 1 – Gamma Beta Phi membership meeting. For more information, contact Mandy Jones at 940-6242.

February 14 – SGA Valentine's Day Balloon-a-Gram Sale. For more information, contact Rebecca Spain at 940-6259.

February 15 – Phi Beta Lambda membership meeting. For more information, contact Debra Baker at 940-6229.

February 22 - Student Government Association meeting. For more information, contact Rebecca Spain at 940-6259.

February 25 – Black History Month Diversity Dinner, noon, multi-purpose room, Building 10. For more information, contact Rebecca Spain at 940-6259.

March 1 – Gamma Beta Phi membership meeting. For more information, contact Mandy Jones at 940-6242.

March 14 – Conference for girls interested in entering technical fields. For more information, contact Rhunell Boyd at 940-6353 or Sandria McFadden at 940-6314.

Students, faculty and staff: Publicize your campus-based fundraiser and other events in this column monthly. Contact the public relations staff no later than the 15th of the month in order to list your event in the next month's edition of Campus Connections. Please email your announcements to Betty Gray.