

February 2012

Beaufort County Community College

# CAMPUS Connections

BCCC is creating success!

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## BCCC alum reaches career goal

A little over three years ago, Brenda Bohn of Washington was in a classroom at Beaufort County Community College for orientation as she began her elementary education studies.

In December, Bohn, a teacher's assistant at John Cotten Tayloe Elementary School, achieved a long-time dream, earning her bachelor's degree and licensure in elementary education and reading.

"I had a goal that I wanted to achieve when I was younger," Bohn said. "And I always felt I gave up early."

In 2008, Bohn was one of 19 aspiring teachers enrolled in a program, now Wells Fargo Partnership East, a joint effort by the East Carolina University College of Education and community colleges throughout the university's service area to train more teachers.

The program is designed to make it easier for students like Bohn, particularly those living in rural areas, to become teachers by taking classes part-time and online to earn education degree and certification while continuing to work and, in many cases, care for families.

It offers students the chance to earn bachelor's degrees in elementary and special education with reading licensure and bachelor's degrees in middle grades education with two areas of concentration.

"It provides an opportunity for access to a degree that, otherwise, people can't do," said Laura Bilbro-Berry, assistant director of teacher education at ECU. As part of her duties at ECU, Bilbro-Berry oversees the Wells Fargo Partnership East program. "But is it easy? Is it quick? No."

Bohn, a native of Ohio, was inspired to be a teacher by a first grade teacher she described as "awesome." Bohn admired the way she handled the students in her class and "stood her ground."

But after attending college for almost three years, Bohn decided instead to earn an associate's degree and spent 16-years in corporate accounting.

Bohn and her husband, Allan, moved to eastern North Carolina when he accepted a position with Weyerhaeuser's plant in Plymouth and after working as a teacher's assistant, Bohn heard about the Wells Fargo Partnership East.

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Recent college graduate Brenda Bohn adjusts a bulletin board in a classroom at John Cotten Tayloe Elementary School. Bohn earned a bachelor's degree in education through the Wells Fargo Partnership East Program and began her education studies on the Beaufort County Community College Campus.

Hope • Opportunity • Jobs

# Staff Association aides Zion Shelter and Kitchen

The Staff Association at Beaufort County Community College led the effort to contribute canned goods and non-perishable food items to the Zion Shelter and Kitchen through a campus-wide competition dubbed "Building Relationships." BCCC students, faculty and staff were encouraged to donate items and arrange those items in a festive holiday display in each campus building. The displays were judged before the items were donated to the shelter prior to the college's Christmas and New Year's break. BCCC donated some 3,770 items to the shelter with Building #1 gathering over 2,100 items in a display titled "Mrs. Claus' Christmas Pantry," according to staff association President JoLinda Cooper. Building #1, named for Graham Elliott, one of those instrumental in the founding of the college, house's BCCC's



administrative and some faculty offices as well as classrooms. "This was truly a collaborative effort across the BCCC campus," Cooper said of the event. "The displays added to the holiday atmosphere on the campus and we were able to donate a record number of items to a worthy organization." Pictured above is the winning display as it appeared in the lobby of Building #1. Pictured at left is the display as it appeared in Building 8.



## Ambassador nominations sought

The BCCC Foundation is now seeking nominations for applicants to represent the college as Ambassadors for the 2012-2013 school year. Those selected as Ambassadors will receive a one-year tuition scholarship and will help the college market its programs and services. To be considered for the program, students must be nominated by a faculty member and meet the following minimum qualifications: A high level of commitment to BCCC; a neat appearance and outgoing personality; good verbal communication and presentation skills; poise and ability to make a positive first impression; scheduling flexibility, and have their own transportation. Ambassadors are expected to have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher at the time of nomination and maintain a GPA of 2.5 or better each semester they serve as Ambassadors. The deadline for faculty nominations for BCCC Ambassadors is March 2. For more information about the Ambassador program, interested persons can contact Marcia Norwood in the BCCC Foundation office at 940-6218 or by email at [marcian@beaufortccc.edu](mailto:marcian@beaufortccc.edu).

## Beaufort County Community College

is a public comprehensive community college committed to providing accessible and affordable quality education, effective teaching, relevant training, and lifelong learning opportunities for the people served by the college.

## Campus Connections

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Career, from Page 1

"When I heard about the . . . program, I said to myself, 'You need to do this now'," she said.

With the help of Bilbro-Berry, Bohn mapped out a plan that helped her to complete some general education requirements at BCCC in 2007 and enroll in the program in 2008.

Bohn said it was initially difficult to return to the classroom - especially an online classroom in which she had to learn to motivate and pace herself with her coursework. But with the help of her teachers and fellow students, she knew she could succeed.

"I had to teach myself how to learn all over again. . . but an option to fail or not complete my studies was not one of my options," she said.

Bohn is one of six former BCCC students who have graduated within the Wells Fargo Partnership East program with two more projected to graduate this summer and five, in the fall, according to program statistics.

Twelve students currently enrolled in the program have BCCC listed as their primary community college.

While budget cuts have led to teachers losing their jobs in many areas of the state, there is still a need for teachers in Northeastern North Carolina and Wells Fargo Partnership East has helped meet that need, Bilbro-Berry said.

Since the program began in 2002, Wells Fargo Partnership East has graduated 347 student. Of those graduates, 312 are licensed to teach in North Carolina with 261 currently employed in North Carolina and 254 teaching in eastern North Carolina.

In 2006, BCCC was designated as a hub site for the program. It was at this new hub site that Bohn began her studies.

For now, for the final six weeks of the semester, Bohn's dream of being a teacher came true.

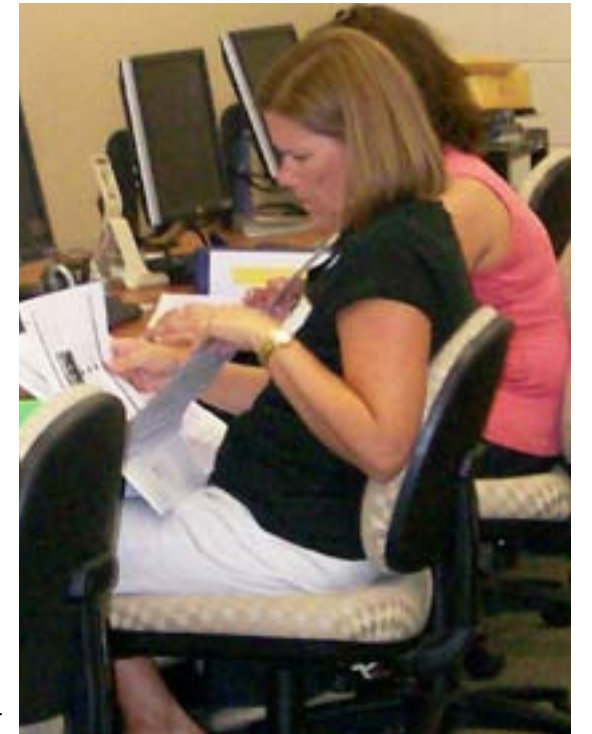
While she was completing her teaching internship at Northeast Elementary School, Bohn was tapped to serve as a third grade teacher at John Cotten Tayloe School to take over for a teacher who was out on maternity leave.

She said she enjoyed the experience, particularly the opportunity to learn first-hand what her students needed to be successful at their studies.

"Also, I've had to learn to be patient and not expect immediate results," she said.

When the teacher returned from maternity leave, Bohn returned to her job as a teacher assistant at the school. She is looking forward to standing in front of her own classroom, hopefully, when the new school year begins.

**For more information about the Wells Fargo Partnership East, interested persons can contact Karli Ruscoe, Northeast and Virtual Consortia Coordinator at 252-493-7659 or by email at [ruscoek@ecu.edu](mailto:ruscoek@ecu.edu). Ruscoe is available for consultation appointments two days per month at BCCC. She is also available via telephone and email for information about WPE. General information about the program can be found at [www.ecu.edu/wpe](http://www.ecu.edu/wpe).**

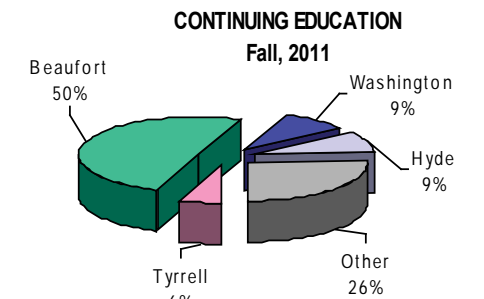
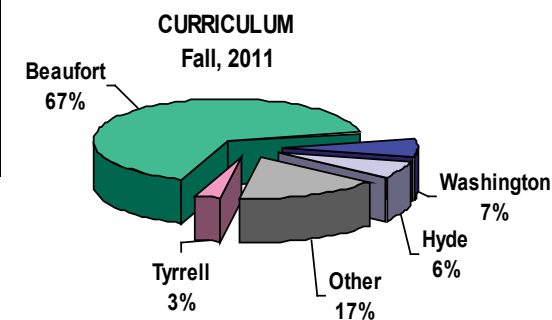


**Recent college graduate Brenda Bohn looks over her orientation package at orientation on the BCCC campus in 2008 as she began her education studies through Wachovia, now Wells Fargo, Partnership East.**

# From the Office of Institutional Effectiveness

## Did you know?

The charts below illustrate the home counties of the BCCC student body.



## Spring 2012 enrollment at BCCC sets record

Enrollment for the Spring 2012 semester at Beaufort County Community College is at record numbers for a spring semester, college officials announced this week.

Enrollment for the Spring 2012 semester is 1,872, 12 more students than in Spring 2011 and a record enrollment for the college for a Spring semester, according to Dean of Instruction Wesley Beddard.

The region's economy and relative cost savings associated with community colleges as compared to four-year colleges and universities were among the reasons cited by Beddard as contributing to the enrollment growth at BCCC.

Nursing programs continue to be among the most popular at the college with 104 students - the maximum enrollment - admitted to the programs.

BCCC's college transfer, business administration, criminal justice technology, early childhood education and medical office administration programs also continue to be popular, according to enrollment figures released this week.

As in previous semesters, women outnumber men on the BCCC campus with 1,264 women enrolled at the college as compared to 608 men and the college continues to draw most of its students from Beaufort County with 1,234 students listing the county as their home addresses. The next largest group of students, 194, listed Pitt County as their home address.

"With limited job opportunities available, many local residents are taking advantage of this time to upgrade skills for the jobs that are needed in our area," Beddard said. "And more students are recognizing the significant cost savings of completing the first two years of their four-year degrees with us before transferring to a four-year college or university."

As university and four-year college costs keep rising, Beddard predicts that more students seeking bachelor degrees will begin their studies at community colleges.

In addition to the economy, Beddard said there were other reasons contributing to the community college's enrollment growth.

Beddard also cited the college's commitment to distance learning and flexible scheduling that makes attending BCCC feasible for many working adults.

BCCC is offering some 70 online courses this semester over the Internet and over 90 so-called "hybrid" courses that combine online instruction over the Internet with traditional classroom instruction.

BCCC's smaller class size and the opportunity to work closely with instructors is attractive to many students from our service area and beyond, he said. And, he said the staff in BCCC's Financial Aid Office have done a great job of helping students find the funds to pay for college.

"Finally, our work with our high school partners through the Early College High Schools and Career and College Promise is providing college enrollment opportunities to more local high school students," he said.

BCCC's enrollment growth has come at a time of continued budget cuts with the state's legislators cutting appropriations to the college by 7.5 percent from the 2010-2011 fiscal year, according to Dean of Administrative Services Phillip Price.

In addition to these cuts, the college was recently required to return \$103,378 to the state because the community college system statewide has not met the tuition receipt projections that were anticipated in the state budget, Price said.

Beddard said responding to increased enrollment at the same time as funding has declined "has been one of our biggest challenges.

"Our faculty and division chairs have done an outstanding job of putting our resources in the areas that will serve the greatest number of students. That has limited some of our elective options, but allowed us to offer more sections of the high demand classes," he said.

Among the ways the college has coped is moving classes to larger rooms to accommodate more students in the most popular courses, working with faculty to provide more classes and asking part-time instructors to take on additional courses, he said.

"But, he said, the decreases in funding have begun to affect some students.

With all we have done, there are limits to the number of students we can serve with limited revenues," he said. "Some students were not able to get the classes they wanted this semester, which will lengthen the amount of time it takes to complete their degree."



## New Beaufort County chief deputy is BCCC grad

Like many young boys growing up in Beaufort County, Kit Campbell spent hours playing cops and robbers with his cousins. The youngster was also drawn to the exciting lives of the many policemen he saw on television.

But what ultimately drew Campbell to a career in law enforcement was the chance to serve the people of his community.

"I like helping people and making a difference in their community and making it a better place for my boys," Campbell said in a recent interview with the Daily News. "I wanted to be the one who makes a difference."

Earlier this month, Campbell was named Chief Deputy of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, succeeding Harry Meredith who retired after a 26-year career in law enforcement.

Campbell's promotion was announced by Sheriff Alan Jordan who also announced the promotion of Kenneth Watson to the rank of major in the criminal investigations division, Dysoaneik Spellman to the rank of captain in the patrol division and Charlie Rose to the rank of lieutenant in the patrol division.

As Chief Deputy, Campbell oversees the day-to-day operations of the sheriff's office and its 86 employees that include some 51 sworn officers. Campbell also serves as liaison between the sheriff's office and the Beaufort County Board of Commissioners.



**Kit Campbell, newly appointed chief deputy with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, looks over paperwork in his office. As chief deputy, Campbell oversees the day-to-day operations of the office and its 86 employees**

### Alumni Profile

He is second in rank only to Jordan.

"We'll always miss Chief Deputy Meredith. He put a lot of time helping develop up and coming leaders," Jordan said in a recent interview with the Daily News. "But Chief Deputy Campbell has prepared himself thoroughly for the job."

"He really has the heart of a servant," Jordan said. "He enjoys helping folks in and outside of the sheriff's department."

Campbell has served in the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office for over 15 years.

He is a graduate of Washington High School and after working in the construction industry for several years, he earned Basic Law Enforcement Training certification from Beaufort County Community College with the intention of serving as a reserve officer.

But while studying for his certification, his construction job ended and an opening developed for a full-time job in the sheriff's office.

"The way it worked out, it was almost like it was meant to be," he said.

While employed with the sheriff's office, Campbell continued his studies, earning an associate's degree in criminal justice from BCCC in 2002 and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Mount Olive College in 2004 and certifications in various weaponry from Wilson Technical Community College, among other certifications.

Campbell has also earned an Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate issued by the N.C. Sheriffs Education and Training Standards Commission.

Campbell has received numerous awards and citations during his career including the National Life Saving Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 2008 for his rescue of four people including a woman suffering from dementia who had wandered away from home and became disoriented in the woods - a rescue he vividly recalls today.

Campbell is a member of the National Criminal Justice Honor Society, a member of Haw Branch Church of Christ in Chocowinity and a former member of the Washington Jaycees. In previous years, he has headed the sheriff's office participation in teams for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, its Toys for Tots collections and participation in local walks to raise money for Alzheimer's Disease research.

He and his wife, Crystal, have two sons, Cameron and Tyler.

In his spare time, Campbell enjoys hunting and fishing and home improvement projects.

## BCCC to host FAFSA Financial Aid workshop

Beaufort County Community College financial aid officers and specialists will be available 9 a.m. to noon at BCCC Saturday, Feb. 18, as one of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, Day programs across North Carolina.

The purpose of the event is to help high school seniors and families complete and submit their FAFSA form, a requirement for students to be considered for all federal and most state financial aid for college, including grants and scholarships from the BCCC Foundation.

This year's statewide FAFSA Day is sponsored by College Foundation of North Carolina, the North Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and the State Employees' Credit Union.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged, according to Harold Smith, director of Financial Aid for BCCC.

In order to be fully prepared to complete the FAFSA on Feb. 19, event participants should bring the following items to FAFSA Day:

- both the student's and parents' federal 1040 tax forms for 2010 (or W-2 forms and other income and asset documents if completed tax forms are not available);
- the student's and one parent's Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) obtained in advance from the U.S. Department of Education website, [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov);
- a FAFSA on the Web Worksheet with as much information entered as possible. The online worksheet is available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

"It's important to complete the FAFSA early to take advantage of all of the financial aid opportunities available for North Carolinians," said Robbie Schultz, CFNC coordinator of FAFSA Day "Students and parents don't need to worry if they aren't sure how to answer all of the questions on the form. That's why we have arranged to have experienced financial aid specialists to help at the BCCC FAFSA Day."

Financial aid specialists and experts are also available to answer specific FAFSA questions on the CFNC toll-free number, 866-866-2362 and at [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org)

## Hope • Opportunity • Jobs

### Upcoming Events

**February 7—Gamma Beta Phi meeting, 12:15 p.m., Room 935, Building 9.**

**February 7— BCCC Board of Trustees, dinner, 6 p.m., meeting, 6:30 p.m. Board Room, Building 10.**

**February 14—Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day.**

**February 14—Faculty Senate meets.**

**February 21—BCANS meeting, noon, Room 127, Building 3.**

**February 23—Southern Culture Cuisine, noon, Student Lounge, Building 9**

**February 28—Student Government Association meeting, noon, Student Lounge, Building 9.**

**March 1-2—Student Faculty Vacation.**

**March 6—Gamma Beta Phi meeting, 12:15 p.m., Room 935, Building 9.**

**March 13—Blood Drive, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Student Lounge, Building 9.**

**March 13—Faculty Senate meets.**

**March 18-23—Spring Fling! Events, times and locations to be announced.**

**March 20—BCANS meeting, noon, Room 127, Building 3.**

**March 21—Last day to drop without grade penalty.**

**March 27— Student Government Association meeting, noon, Student Lounge, Building 9.**

*To publicize an event, contact the public relations staff no later than the 15th of the month in order to list your event in the next edition of Campus Connections. E-mail your announcements to Betty Gray at [bettyg@beaufortccc.edu](mailto:bettyg@beaufortccc.edu).*