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Job Fair Workshop
Learn how to impress
business recruiters at a
workshop sponsored by
the BCCC Career Center,
noon, Tuesday, March 31,
Student Lounge, Building 9.
For more information,
contact Sandria McFadden
at 940-6314 or
SandyMcF@beaufortccc.edu.

Beaufort County Community College

CAMPUS Connections

BCCC is creating success!

Enrollment grows; budget tightens

Beaufort County Community College is caught in a Catch-22, as Paul Dunn reported in a front page article in the Washington Daily News.

The good news is that the school just celebrated its largest-ever spring enrollment. Classes began Jan. 7.

According to school officials, 1,747 students are enrolled this semester. That nips the previous spring record of 1,716 students in 2003. Spring 2008 enrollment peaked at 1,512 students.

The bad news is that the lousy economy has forced BCCC to try and educate more students without additional funding to help pay related costs.

Faced with its own budget shortfall, North Carolina

whacked BCCC with two separate budget reversions in the current fiscal year — the first in September at 2 percent, the second an additional 1 percent in November.

Phillip Price, BCCC dean of administrative services, told the Daily News that the first reversion eliminated \$186,218 from the school's budget; the second, \$93,109.

Despite the reversions, BCCC President David McLawhorn told Dunn that the school hasn't eliminated any classes. "The classes would be the last things we would have to affect," he said.

The cuts are being felt in other ways, though, Dunn reported.

Price sited restrictions on such expenditures as out-of-state travel, supplies and equipment.

The college also is prohibited from filling vacant employee positions unless directly related to classroom instruction, Price added. There are currently no open positions in that category.

Price doesn't expect further reversions in the current fiscal year, though he won't bet against one or more in 2009-10.

"I expect there will be a reversion next year," said Price, who has experienced reversions in four of the five years he's worked at the college.

The cuts, so far, are painful, but not insurmountable, McLawhorn said. Further

SEE **ENROLLMENT**, PAGE 2



Lisa Boyd, BCCC anatomy and physiology instructor, displays the inner workings of a pig heart to students in her Anatomy/Physiology II class. (WDN Photo/Paul Dunn)

Job opportunity inspires Gurkins return to school

When 73-year-old student Juanita Gurkins was assigned late last year to write an essay about someone she'd like to spend the day with, she chose movie legend John Wayne.

She was a long-time fan. So much so, that whenever a John Wayne movie appeared on television, her children would tell her, "Mama, your fella's on television."

She said, "To know him personally would have been something extraordinary."

The essay, Gurkins' first as a high school student, was just one of the assignments she completed on the way to receiving her General Educational Development, or GED, a high school equivalency certificate she needed in order to continue working for Pinnacle, a Pitt County home health agency.

She completed her work and earned her diploma January 14.

Gurkins said her return to the classroom after more than 50 years was challenging but she was determined to finish.

"Whenever I start anything, I'm going to accomplish it to the best of my ability," she said. "I believe that if you can do it, I can do it too. I may not be able to do it as well as you can, but I can do it."

Laurie Weston, one of Gurkins instructors, said Gurkins was an inspiration to others in her class.

"Mrs. Gurkins inspired my students because they saw an older woman — though not old at heart by any means — put forth tremendous effort and commitment to reach her goal," Weston said. "As a result of her example, they knew they can do it, too. I wish I had classrooms full of students like Mrs. Gurkins."

A native of Washington, Gurkins attended Washington High School but dropped out in the 10th grade to get married.

She spent most of her life in manufacturing while her family grew to include four children, nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Gurkins began her career in Athens, Texas at a plant manufacturing Curtis Mathis television sets. After a few years in Texas, she returned home and worked at Washington Garment Co. and Singer Furniture Co. before joining the work force at Hamilton Beach. At Hamilton Beach, she quickly began moving up the ranks. After only one day

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Juanita Gurkins

ENROLLMENT, from Page 1

budget erosion, though, could affect the school's core product.

"If more cuts are made, it will get tougher and close to the point where we'll have to go into the classroom and cut classes," he said. "Given what I've seen right now and the scenarios I've heard of, I hope that won't happen."

According to BCCC Dean of Instruction Wesley Beddard, a variety of factors have contributed to the college's enrollment increase: Among them are the economic downturn and new BCCC initiatives that make it easier for people to attend college.

"It's not any one thing," Beddard said in a recent press release. "The economy is a big factor, but we are positioning ourselves to better meet people's needs — be it transportation needs or financial needs. We're doing a better job of providing access to the college for more people."

Beddard cited enrollment increases in most of the school's programs, but pinpointed several "recession-proof" categories to which new students have been attracted.

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.

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Lewis receives first stipend for GED graduates

A Blounts Creek student who hopes to turn his love of history into a new career is the first General Educational Development, or GED, graduate from Beaufort County Community College to receive a stipend to help him continue his studies.

Luther "Luke" Lewis, 31, who earned a GED from BCCC in November, is the first student to qualify for a program that enables him to take one curriculum course at the college free of tuition charges. The program is funded by the BCCC Foundation.

College officials hope it will encourage more GED graduates to pursue additional studies.

"It's a great opportunity for our students to transition to curriculum classes and continue their education," said Tony Taylor, director of BCCC's Basic Skills Program. "I want to thank the BCCC Foundation for making this possible."

Lewis, the son of Gary and Dorothy Lewis, attended Chocowinity High School but dropped out of school to work in the logging and construction industry. He entered the GED program at BCCC in 2007.

"I wanted to do something more with my life," he said.

Earning his GED helped develop good study habits, improve his computer skills and prepare him to begin college work, Lewis said.

He is enrolled in three courses at BCCC this spring.

"I'm just happy to be back in school," he said.

Under the new program, any student who successfully completes the GED course and obtains a high school equivalency diploma may ask to be considered for a scholarship from the BCCC Foundation to cover the cost of tuition for one curriculum or one developmental education course. Upon receiving the request, the GED coordinators complete a form verifying the student's graduation from the program and recommending the student for the scholarship for a particular class.

For more information about Basic Skills courses at BCCC or the new scholarship, interested persons can contact Nikki Klapp at 252-940-6322 or by email at nikkik@beaufortccc.edu.



Luther Lewis, first GED stipend recipient.

United Way Campus Campaign Underway

The 2009 United Way Campaign is underway on the BCCC campus through March..

The United Way serves some 20 agencies in Beaufort County including the Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, Literacy Volunteers, Options to Domestic Violence and the Salvation Army, 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.

GURKINS, from Page 2

at her first job – cleaning toothbrush cases — Gurkins' foreman saw her potential and assigned her other duties. Over the course of 36 years with the company, she attained the post of quality inspector for returns.

After retiring from Hamilton Beach, Gurkins began working part-time providing personal patient care. A recent rule change requiring all personal care providers to hold a high school diploma or equivalency prompted Gurkins to return to school.

She worked early mornings and afternoons and attended classes at BCCC from 8 a.m. to noon weekdays.

And she learned a valuable lesson that she hopes to pass on to others.

"Regardless of how old you are, you can always learn," she said. "If I can be an inspiration to others, I would like that."

The Basic Skills Program helps adults to improve their reading, writing, mathematics and communication skills through four major programs offered at BCCC: Adult Basic Education, General Educational Development, English as a Second Language and Compensatory Education.

Basic Skills classes are free of charge and are offered through BCCC at 30 on- and off-campus sites including work sites, churches, public schools, community centers, libraries, prisons and other locations in Beaufort, Hyde and Tyrrell Counties. Last fall, BCCC also started its first GED online class.

For the 2007-2008 Academic Year, 1,133 students were enrolled in Basic Skills classes at BCCC. Of those, 142 earned their GED, according to college statistics.

For more information about enrolling in Basic Skills classes at BCCC, contact Nikki Klapp, recruiter, at 252-940-6322 or by email at nikkik@beaufortccc.edu.

Important tax information for BCCC students

As a community college student, you may be eligible to receive education tax credits that can reduce the expense of your education. There are two education tax credits available, the **Hope Credit** and the **Lifetime Learning Credit**. The credits are based on education expenses paid for you, your spouse, or your dependents. The credits are allowed for qualified education expenses paid in 2008 for an academic period that begins in 2008 or during the first three months of 2009.

The Hope Credit

For the 2008 tax year, a family or student can claim up to \$1,800, for each eligible student for up to two tax years (100% of the first \$1,200 and 50% of the second \$1,200 paid for qualified expenses). The Hope credit is only available until each student's first two years of postsecondary education are complete.

The exact amount of the Hope credit also depends on a family's income, the amount of qualified tuition and fees paid, and the amount of certain scholarships and allowances subtracted from tuition. The total credit is also based on how many eligible students are in a family. This differs from the Lifetime Learning Credit which sets a maximum dollar amount for a family.

Qualified expenses do not include room and board, insurance, transportation, or other similar personal, living, or family expenses. Qualified expenses may include fees for books, supplies, and equipment only if the fees must be paid to the school for the student's enrollment or attendance. In addition, qualified expenses may include student activity fees if the fee must be paid to the school for the student's enrollment or attendance.

Who Qualifies?

The Taxpayer: An eligible taxpayer must file a federal tax return and owe taxes to claim the Hope credit. The taxpayer must also claim an eligible student as a dependent on the tax return, unless the credit is for the taxpayer or the taxpayer's spouse. (This means the eligible taxpayer may also be the eligible student.) In 2008, taxpayers cannot claim a Hope credit if their modified adjusted gross income (AGI) is \$58,000 or more for a single taxpayer (\$116,000 or more for those filing a joint return). The Hope credit amount is reduced gradually for families with incomes between \$48,000 and \$58,000 (\$96,000 and \$116,000 for joint returns).

The Student: An eligible student must be enrolled at least half-time for at least one academic period beginning in 2008 at an eligible program leading to a degree or certificate at an eligible school AND can not have completed the first two years of undergraduate study. You may claim the credit yourself if you are not claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer. (Once again, this means that the eligible student may also be the eligible taxpayer.) Students convicted of a federal or state drug felony before the end of 2008 are not eligible for the Hope credit.

A family may claim a Lifetime Learning credit, a Hope credit, and an exclusion from gross income for certain distributions from qualified state tuition programs or education IRAs as long as the same student isn't used as the basis for each credit or exclusion AND the family doesn't exceed the Lifetime Learning maximum per family.

The Lifetime Learning Credit

What Is It?

The Lifetime Learning Credit is a nonrefundable tax credit available to individuals who file a tax return and owe taxes. The amount of the credit is subtracted from the taxes owed, rather than reducing taxable income as with a tax deduction. Individuals who do not pay taxes are not eligible for a Lifetime Learning credit. If a taxpayer owes less in taxes than the amount of Lifetime Learning tax credit they are eligible for, they are only eligible for a credit equal to the amount of taxes they owe.

A family may claim a tax credit of up to \$2,000 per tax year for the taxpayer, taxpayer's spouse, or any eligible dependents for an unlimited number of tax years. The amount of the Lifetime Learning credit is 20% of the first \$10,000 of qualified educational expenses paid for all eligible students. Therefore, the maximum amount of a Lifetime Learning tax credit is \$2,000. The Lifetime Learning credit is available for all years of postsecondary education and for courses taken to acquire or improve job skills, unlike the Hope credit which is only available for two years.

The actual amount of the credit depends on a family's income, the amount of qualified tuition and fees paid, and the amount of certain scholarships and allowances subtracted from tuition. This credit is family-based (up to \$2,000 per tax return), unlike the Hope credit which is based on the number of eligible dependents in a family.

Who Qualifies?

The Taxpayer: An eligible taxpayer must file a tax return and owe taxes to claim the credit. The taxpayer must also claim the eligible student as a dependent unless the credit is for the taxpayer or the taxpayer's spouse. (This means the eligible taxpayer may also be the eligible student.) In 2008, those with a modified Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$58,000 or more (if single), or \$116,000 or more (for married taxpayers filing a joint return) cannot claim a Lifetime Learning Credit. AGI limits were increased by \$1,000 for single taxpayers and \$2,000 married taxpayers for the 2008 tax year. The Lifetime Learning Tax Credit amount is reduced gradually for families with incomes between \$48,000 and \$58,000 if single, or \$96,000 and \$116,000 if married and filing jointly. Taxpayers that claim the Hope credit or tuition and fees deduction for a student are not eligible to claim the Lifetime Learning credit for the same student.

The Student: An eligible student may be enrolled in an eligible program leading to an undergraduate or graduate degree at an eligible school during the calendar year OR may be enrolled in any course of instruction at an eligible school to acquire/improve the student's job skills during the calendar year. Students may claim the credit themselves if they are not claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer. (Once again, this means that the eligible student may also be the eligible taxpayer.)

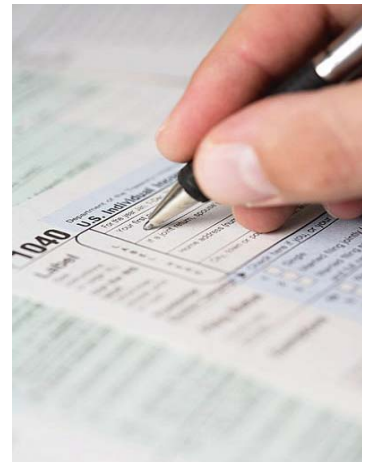
How Do You Get The Credits?

To apply for the credit, the taxpayer must report the amount of qualified tuition and fees paid as well as the amount of certain scholarships, grants, and untaxed income used to pay the tuition and fees. Schools must send this information to taxpayers and to the IRS by January 31, 2009, in the form of a 1098-T statement. Taxpayers will use this information and their own records about tuition and fees paid when they fill out the IRS Form 8863 to claim the tax credit. The statement sent by the school will also include contact information for someone at the school who can answer questions about the information on the form. A taxpayer may wish to talk to a tax advisor for help in calculating the amount of its credit.

When Is It Available?

Generally, the deduction is allowed for qualified tuition and expenses paid in 2008 in connection with enrollment at an institution of higher education during 2008 or for an academic period beginning in 2008 or in the first three months of 2009. For instance, if you paid \$1,500 in December 2008 for qualified tuition for a spring 2008 semester that begins in January 2009, that \$1,500 can be used to figure the 2008 deduction.

For answers to some frequently asked questions, refer to <http://www.irs.gov/faqs/faq-kw52.html> and for additional information on education credits, refer to Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education.



Gamma Beta Phi completes service project

The Beaufort County Community College chapter of Gamma Beta Phi recently conducted a fund raiser and donated goods to Carolina Pregnancy Center as part of its community service mission for the 2008-2009 Academic Year. The organization raised \$65 from the BCCC community for the purchase of an infant car seat that was given to the center. GBP members also collected baby items such as diapers, toiletries and wipes, among others, which were donated to the center. In picture at right, Vicky Kidwell, director of Carolina Pregnancy Center director and Angel Leggett, a center volunteer, accept donations from BCCC's Gamma Beta Phi chapter President Gideon Alexander, .



Standard operating procedure — How to make a PB&J

BCCC students in Basic Lab Techniques, or Biotechnology 181, recently got a lesson in writing standard operating procedures — an important skill for future workers in a biotechnology lab. Instructor Ana McClanahan told students to develop a procedure for making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. A fellow student had to follow the procedure, as written, to make the sandwich. This gave students insights in the importance of being precise when giving directions in a laboratory. The winning procedure, written by Shelley Midyette, follows. Try this at home!



Pictured above, Ana McClanahan, left, makes a peanut butter and jelly sandwich using standard operating procedures developed by student Shelley Midyette, pictured at left.



How to make a PB&J Sandwich

Materials Needed: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Two slices of bread, Knife, Plate.

1. Open jar of peanut butter.
2. Take knife and put in jar of peanut butter. Scoop some peanut butter onto knife.
3. Take one piece of bread and apply peanut butter, via knife from step two, to one side of bread. Take care to spread peanut butter over the entire side of bread slice.
4. Place the piece of bread with peanut butter on plate with peanut butter side up.
5. Scrape excess peanut butter on knife back into the original jar.
6. Open jar of jelly.
7. Take knife and place in jelly.
8. Take knife with the jelly and spread jelly on the second piece of bread, spread completely over the second piece of bread.
9. Take bread slice one and place on top of bread slice two so that both the jelly and the peanut butter are touching.
10. Wash/rinse off knife. Return materials to proper locations.
11. Eat sandwich.

Where the jobs are

Recruiters from Heritage Hospital in Tarboro recently visited Beaufort County Community College to talk about job opportunities at the hospital for Medical Laboratory Technology graduates. Among those talking to students was recent BCCC graduate Victoria Acer Squires, blood bank supervisor at the hospital. Pictured at left in photo, left to right, Squires, MLT Instructor Art Keehnle, and hospital recruiters talk with BCCC lab technician students about jobs at the Tarboro hospital.



BCCC endowment honors Floyd J. Lupton Sr.

A recent contribution from the Partnership for the Sounds has been added to donations from family and friends to create an endowment at Beaufort County Community College in memory of Floyd J. Lupton Sr. The endowment will be used to fund a scholarship for a student at Beaufort County Community College.

Mr. Lupton served the citizens of Northeastern North Carolina for 26 years. He was regarded as the “Go to Guy” if someone needed to work through a problem or an issue with the Federal government. He served from 1966 until 1991 as chief of staff to then-U.S. Rep. Walter B. Jones. Mr. Lupton died in 2005.

Because he did so much to help establish the Partnership for the Sounds - an organization dedicated to eco-economic development of the Pamlico - Albemarle Sounds region, the scholarship will be available to students enrolled in BCCC’s bio-technology program.

“Floyd Lupton was very supportive of anything that would help northeastern North Carolina, including the establishment of many of the venues now under the Partnership for the Sounds umbrella,” said J.D. Brickhouse, Partnership president, in presenting the check. “After Mr. Lupton returned to Beaufort County, he joined the Partnership board and lent his name to a fundraising roast for our organization. It is fitting that we help honor his contributions to northeastern North Carolina with a donation to this endowment,” Brickhouse said.

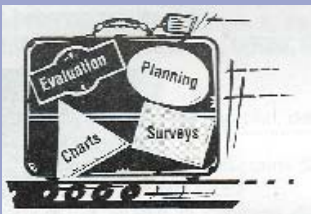
BCCC Foundation Director Judy Meier Jennette said, “The BCCC Foundation appreciates the generosity of the members of the Partnership for the Sounds board of directors in contributing the funds to complete this endowment. Mr. Lupton was a devoted friend of northeastern North Carolina and this endowment will help recognize his extraordinary service to the region for years to come.”

A native of Pantego, Mr. Lupton graduated from Pantego High School. Later he attended North Carolina State University, leaving there to join the Army. Mr. Lupton served in the 99th Infantry Division. He saw combat action at the Battle of the Bulge, Remagen Bridgehead, and within central Europe. He was decorated with the Bronze Star and honorably discharged as a First Lieutenant. Mr. Lupton’s career encompassed many avenues: From working on the family farm in Pantego, to years with Norfolk Western Railroad, the NC Wildlife Commission, the Beaufort County Sheriff’s Department, and the NC Board of Parole. During his tenure in Washington, D.C., Mr. Lupton earned the reputation as a dedicated, tireless, and invaluable representative of the people of the former 1st Congressional District.

Mr. Lupton received many honors and recognitions which always humbled him. Among those are the 1980 Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award from the Belhaven Chamber of Commerce; September 8, 1983 designated as Floyd Lupton Day in Beaufort County, and a Department of Transportation ferry bearing his name, among numerous other recognitions, resolutions, and honors of appreciation.



J.D. Brickhouse, president of Partnership for the Sounds, presents a check for the newly created Floyd Lupton Endowment to Judy Jennette, Director of the Beaufort County Community College Foundation.



From the Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Did you know?

The Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness recently completed the 2009 Employer Survey of the 2008 BCCC graduates. The results indicate that BCCC graduates are trained well to meet the needs of area employers. Ninety-eight percent of employers responding indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with specific job-related skills and 95% were satisfied or very satisfied with overall job preparation.



BCCC Fall 2008 Honor Roll Announced

The Registrar's Office at Beaufort County Community College has released the honor roll for the 2008 Fall Semester. Full-time students maintaining a grade point average (GPA) of 4.0 or better were placed on the all A's list. Students maintaining a 3.5 GPA were placed on the Dean's List.

All A's:

Beaufort County:

Aurora – Hannah Jo Taylor
 Bath – Tracey Edwards Barrow, Dustin K. Morgan
 Belhaven – Anthony Wade Cooper, Leslie Lee Jones, Ana Laura Medrano, Thomas Alan Vanderhave
 Blounts Creek – Elisha Ann McKeever
 Chocowinity – William Herbert Reagan, Karen E. Ward
 Pinetown – Valerie Danielle Coward, Melvin Gray Gibbs, Brandon Scott Keech, Stephanie Anne Labarge
 Washington – Timothy Wayne Alligood, Mindy Lou Ball, Samuel Alfred Brickhouse, Stephen Thomas Bryan, Chase Kimball Edwards, Amanda Kaye Failes, Jessica Brooks Hardison, Brinkley Alexandra Johnson, Mark Alexander Nano, Amanda L. Rivers, Michael Alan Roach, Susan Elaine Ussery, Anthony Dayne Winstead

Currituck County: Moyock – Joshua Thomas Gerg

Hyde County: Swan Quarter – Mombasa Charles Harrell, Michael Eugene Bradley, Alvin Lee Brown, Kenneth Ray Cardwell, Keith Flood, David Horne, Brian Hunt, Li-Teh Sun Marks, Nelson Alexander Martinez, Luis Antonio Olivera-Rodrigues, Kenneth Ervin Parker, Justin David Pope, Darryl Ray Selby, David Scott Shimp, David James Talton, Jeremy Wayne Underwood, David John Whaley, Rudolph Jerome Williams, Othello Isaiah York

Martin County:

Jamesville – Stephen Brooks McCombs
 Williamston – Forrest Angel Heath, Carli Rybolt Tice

Pitt County:

Ayden – Teresa Renee Wiggins
 Greenville – Kimberly Denise Mills, Amy Lavern Strong
 Grimesland – Cathy Ann Lengyel

Washington County:

Creswell – Yolanda Bryant Bird
 Plymouth – Lisa Marie Swain

Dean's List:

Beaufort County:

Bath – Colman Grover Boyd, Leslie Wilson Cahoon, Elijah Adam Tankard, Wayne Wright Woolard
 Belhaven – Celida Albino, Lindsey Michelle Duke
 Blounts Creek – Rachel Leanna Hollowell, Carolyn Ann McGowan, Natalie Jane Perez
 Chocowinity – Kenneth Richard Armstrong, Samantha Lynn Heath, Susan Buck Perkins
 Pantego – Kasey Elizabeth Allen, John Matthew Blackburn, Chelsey Elizabeth Colbert
 Pinetown – Jessica Jordan Adams, Angela Woodward Hatfield, Priscilla Webster Styons, Jennie Altimus Waters
 Washington – Melissa D. Alligood, Peter James Baker, Sarah E. Barmer, Christian Anderson Blackman, Bridget Amanda Boyd, Juanita Faye Copeland, Amanda Woolard Crockrell, Chad Michael Davenport, Doris Camille Godley, Ashley Lenay Hodges, Douglas Russell Jones, Jerry Paul Jones, Donnell Glisson Landen, Angela Faith Lewis, Crystal Ann McCollum, Abbie Elizabeth Mizelle, Jonathan David Nicholls, Holly Nichole Reed, Summerlee Danielle Rogers, Evelyn Melissa Spain, Alton Henry Tisdale, Walter Aaron Warner, Kenneth J. Worsley

Bertie County: Windsor – Amanda Paige Barnhill

Craven County: Vanceboro – Amy Renee Ketner

Hyde County:

Scranton – Jessica Rae Auer, Shelly S. Spencer
 Swan Quarter – Lester Omar Delson, William V. Ellegar, Deron Dewitt Blanks, Michael Darrell Crawford, David Lee Grantham, Roger Dale Hatcher, Stephen Howard Haysler, Larry Wayne Johnson, Samuel Uriah King, Lamoris Andrew White

Martin County: Jamesville – Jonathan Ray Coltrain

Williamston – Gideon Lee Alexander, Dana Leigh Leggett, Morgan Hope Roberson

Pitt County: Greenville – Sharon Diniece Floyd, Monique Nicole Petteway

Tyrrell County: Columbia – Kyle Allen Brickhouse

Washington County:

Plymouth – Linda Spruill Arnold, Brittany Dawn Clifton, Pamela Elizabeth Collier, Joshua Richard Davenport, Derek Reid Hall, Miranda Downing Harvey, Lakisha Marie Jackson, Kasean Rymell Jones, Emily Hawkins Smith
 Roper – Chanin Scott Davis

Creating success: One student at a time!

As a child in Northern Ireland in the mid-1960s, Marti Curtis grew up surrounded by the ravages of war in her Belfast neighborhood. She went to school, went to work, married and had a family – all while the war raged on. After Curtis and her husband parted, she decided it was time to make a big change and move to a place where there was no war in her back yard. Curtis moved her family to North Carolina for a new life – and she found it. She remarried and was happy, but still felt something was missing. She found a new educational focus as a student in Beaufort County Community College's Associate Degree Nursing Program – and she excelled at it. In May 2007, Curtis was one of 200 BCCC students who received degrees, diplomas, certificates and high-school equivalency degrees at BCCC's 40th commencement exercises. "When my children and I moved here in 2001, my goal was to give them a better life than we had in Ireland," she said. "I have been able to meet that goal through Beaufort County Community College." Today, Curtis works as a nurse at a Greenville hospital.



Pictured above, BCCC nursing student Marti Curtis, at right, with then-Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue.

Hope • Opportunity • Jobs

Upcoming Events

- March 3—SGA Alcohol Awareness Day, noon, Student Lounge Building 9.**
- March 3—Gamma Beta Phi meeting. For more information, contact Mandy Jones at 940-6242.**
- March 3—SSS College Transfer Workshop. For more information, contact Lucy Lawrence at 940-6289.**
- March 3—Onyx Club meets. For more information, contact Lucy Lawrence at 940-6289.**
- March 10—Game Day, 11 A.M. to 1 P.M., Student Lounge, Building 9.**
- March 16—BCANS meets. For more information, contact Sherry Glover at 940-6265.**
- March 17—Bloodmobile, 8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., Student Lounge, Building 9. To schedule an appointment, contact Theresa Edwards at 940-6217.**
- March 17—Onyx Club meets. For more information, contact Lucy Lawrence at 940-6289.**
- March 18—SSS Overcoming Test Anxiety Workshop.**
- March 20—Gamma Beta Phi Induction, 7 P.M., Auditorium, Building 8.**
- March 20—Letters of Intent due for Student Government Association officer candidates.**
- March 23-27—Spring Fling Week. For more information, contact Theresa Edwards at 940-6217.**
- March 24—Jam Fest. For more information, contact Theresa Edwards at 940-6217.**
- March 24—Last Day to Drop without grade penalty.**
- March 27—Second Chance Dance. For more information, contact Theresa Edwards at 940-6217.**
- March 31—Meet the SGA Candidates, noon, Student Lounge, Building 9.**
- April 1-2—SGA Elections, 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.