

CAMPUS

Connections



Beaufort County Community College



JoLinda Cooper (seated) and Dell Enecks

The Developmental Education Program at BCCC has been named the best in the state

A college degree was not in JoLinda Cooper's plans when she was laid off from the textile industry after a 20-year career. After being out of school for so long, her return to the classroom was not an easy one – it was "like entering a foreign country," she said.

As part of the admissions process at Beaufort County Community College, Cooper took placement tests that are used to determine a student's starting point for college work. And like more than half of all students entering BCCC, Cooper learned from her test results that she needed some remedial work to ensure her success in college classes.

As a result, Cooper enrolled in College Study Skills, ACA 118, a course in study skills and student orientation, one of the core courses in BCCC's Developmental Education program.

"They really got me off to a good start and helped me in all my later courses," said Cooper, who will graduate in May with an associate's degree in Office Systems Technology.

In part, because of its success in helping students like Cooper, the Developmental Education Program at BCCC has been named the best in the state by the North Carolina Association for Developmental Education. The program will receive the award for Outstanding Program for 2006 in November at the association's conference in Wilmington. As a result of the state award, the BCCC program will vie for 2007 national honors from the National Association for Developmental Education.

"BCCC's developmental faculty and staff are excited to receive this award from their peers and deservedly so," said Dixon Boyles, chairman of BCCC's Arts and Sciences Division, which includes the developmental program. "They are a dedicated and passionate team who work hard to provide students the skills they need to achieve their educational and career goals."

NCADE is the professional organizational of developmental educators in post-secondary education in the state. Its members include instructors and professors at community colleges as well as four-year colleges and universities.

BCCC's Developmental Education Program was created in 1989 under a Title III grant. It was comprised of two English courses, two reading courses, a computer-assisted instruction laboratory and one computer-equipped classroom dedicated to teaching

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Pictured here are just a few of the award winning Developmental Education faculty at BCCC. From left to right on the back row are Patti Walker, Dell Enecks, Peggy Pilson, Donna Parker, and James Casey. Pictured on the front row are Emily Albera, and Jackie Keen.

developmental English courses.

Today, with a 14-member full- and part-time faculty, the program offers courses in reading, math and English as well as study skills, designed to prepare students for college work. The program's Academic Support Center offers specialized instructional help, computer access and other resources for students in developmental education. Reading tutors, another component of the program, provide one-to-one help for students enrolled in reading courses.

An innovative part of BCCC's Developmental Education Program is the orientation for new developmental students held each semester. As part of the orientation, former developmental students who have earned the designation of "Master Student" return to share their challenges and successes with new students.

"The developmental education courses are my stairway to graduation," said Barbara Woolard, a student who is pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Development at BCCC and one of the "Master Students" who shared her story.

Over 50 percent of the BCCC graduating class of 2005 had taken a developmental course and, of those, 80 percent had taken two or more developmental courses.

Statistics show that BCCC's developmental courses are effective in preparing students for their college classes. According to recent data, 93 percent of students

completing a developmental English class at BCCC earned an A, B or C in their first college expository writing course in the English curriculum. Ninety-four percent of students completing a developmental math class at BCCC earned an A, B or C in their first college math class.

"We have a really dedicated group of professional educators who work together as a dynamic team to prepare our students for academic success," said Dell Enecks, lead developmental education instructor at BCCC since the program's inception. "The hard work and creativity of the individuals within our department, along with support of the entire campus, have ensured that the dream of obtaining a college education is possible for many students who might otherwise not achieve their educational goals."

As part of its charge, the Developmental Education Program also works closely with other programs at the college.

"There continues to be a growing need for supplemental education for many students entering community colleges," said Kay Woolard, lead instructor in the Medical Office Administration and Office Systems Technology programs at BCCC. "It has certainly been rewarding to watch students who needed to review the 'basics of education' become capable, employable graduates."

Developmental education is also crucial to students who earn their General Educational Development, or GED, at the college and move on to enroll in degree programs.

"Last year, over 60 percent of the GED graduates who enrolled in degree programs here at BCCC took at least one developmental course after taking their college placement tests," said Tony Taylor, director of Basic Skills at BCCC. "The expertise and guidance provided by the Developmental Education Program is immeasurable to their success."

For more information about developmental education at BCCC, contact Dell Enecks at 940-6261.

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Local woman finds rewarding career in welding

As a young girl growing up in Chocowinity, Tawana Gorham enjoyed working on car and motorcycle engines with her brothers and the neighborhood boys. Today, Gorham, 27, is a welder helping assemble fire trucks, refrigerated beverage vehicles and other types of trucks for Hackney Division of SVC.

"I'm using my mind and my hands," Gorham said of her career. "Learning welding was a life changing experience for me. I love doing it. It's a wonderful job."

Welding is just one of the career paths that Beaufort County Community College staff and faculty hope more women like Gorham will consider. Gorham was one of the featured speakers at "Girls Night Out," an event encouraging girls and young women to consider careers in industrial trades and technology, held March 20 at BCCC.

Participants had the opportunity to explore technical careers for women in the areas of automobile repair, biotechnology, computer networking and programming, criminal justice, drafting and design, electrical and electronic engineering, law enforcement, mechanical engineering and welding, among others.

Sammy Deans, plant manager at Hackney, said jobs are available locally for skilled industrial workers, particularly welders. And because of that, these are jobs women should consider, he said.

"It's important that we train as many skilled welders in this area as possible," he said. "We hear all the time about the nursing shortage, but there is also a shortage of welders. In this area, skilled welders are essentially guaranteed to find a job."

Gorham, a former nurse's assistant, came to welding on the recommendation of a male cousin who was, at that time, studying welding. Once she entered BCCC, Gorham learned TIG, or Gas Tungsten Arc, and MIG, or Gas Metal Arc, welding under Instructor Ted Clayton. To reinforce her TIG skills, she entered the on-site training program at Flanders Filters Inc. operated under the auspices of BCCC. Gorham passed all the required tests early in her training. After that, a job was not open at Flanders, so Clayton suggested that Hackney would be an excellent place to work because of their good starting salary and good health benefits. Welding Supervisor Mike Craig was pleased with her MIG welding skills and gave her a job.

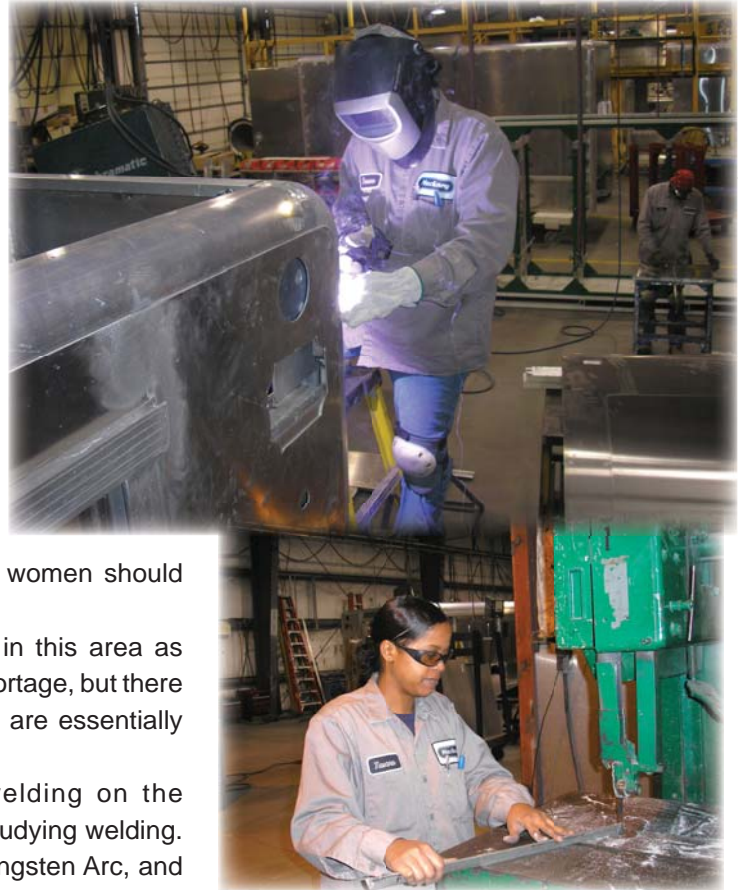
"I appreciate Craig and Hackney having the confidence in Tawana's training and for turning to the college for placing her and others with job skills," Clayton said. "It is a boost for the community,"

Gorham said her course of study was difficult at times, but she stuck with it – and credits her mother, her aunt and grandmother for helping her get through the tough times. She also credits her husband and four children for giving her the support she needed at home to complete the program.

There's an added benefit to working as a welder - Gorham's salary has doubled from what she received as a nurse's assistant.

"I am financially stable and able to do a better job of helping my family," she said. "This job has put me in a whole new tax bracket."

For more information about industrial trade and technical careers for women, contact Rhunell Boyd at 940-6353 or Sandria McFadden at 940-6314.



BCCC welding student, Tawana Gorham, hard at work at Hackney.

BCCC's HOPE Club elects officers, plans events

Beaufort County Community College's H.O.P.E. Club, an organization whose goal is to help people in need, recently elected officers for the 2006-07 academic year and began planning activities to recruit members, raise money and reach out to the community.

Susan Weathersbee Outlaw, a student in BCCC's Human Services Technology program, will serve as president of the H.O.P.E. Club. In addition to Outlaw, officers for the 2006-07 academic year are Beth Hodges, vice president; Jessica Ross, secretary; Sophia Hill, treasurer; and Peggy Edwards, historian.

The H.O.P.E., or Helping Other People Everywhere Everyday, Club was reorganized two years ago after being dormant on the BCCC campus for several years. Although initially aimed at students in BCCC's Human Services Technology program, the club welcomes all students who would like to make a difference in the community, Outlaw said.

"There are students all over the campus who are looking for ways to help people and this club is a good outlet for them," she said. "Membership is open to anyone who wants to make a difference."

At a recent meeting, club members discussed ways to raise the club's profile on campus, activities to raise money for charitable work and projects to help those in need in the community. Club members agreed to volunteer at this year's Special Olympics in Beaufort County and hold a fundraising 50/50 raffle. The club will hold regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month and is open to all interested BCCC students. For more information about the H.O.P.E. Club, contact Gregg Allinson, club advisor, at 940-6361 or Outlaw.



BCCC's H.O.P.E. Club recently elected officers for the 2006-2007 academic year. They are, left to right, Beth Hodges, vice president; Peggy Edwards, historian; Jessica Ross, secretary; and Susan Weathersbee Outlaw, president. Treasurer Sophia Hill is not pictured.

Spanish Club attends concert

The BCCC Spanish Club attended a concert of the renowned Spanish Harlem Orchestra during an April 6 visit to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. The club was the guest of the Spanish Club at UNC-W and, while in Wilmington, was invited to feast on authentic Mexican food at a private home. After dinner, club members attended the concert held at Keenan Auditorium in Wilmington.

"The audience couldn't stay in their seats," said Spanish Club Advisor Lori McNeil. "Students, professors, and parents erupted into lively dancing! It was a great experience for our club."

Registration set for College for Kids



Registration will be held May 22 to 25 for BCCC's annual College for Kids, set for July 10-13. The popular event is still in the planning stages but should include some familiar classes in sewing, babysitting, computers and cheerleading. Watch also for possible new courses such as Italian cooking for parents and children, quilting, soccer and beginning golf. Classes are small and will fill up quickly once registration begins. For more information about College for Kids, contact Barbara Francisco, director of Community Service, at 940-6238.

Phi Beta Lambda brings home honors

Five members of Beaufort County Community College's business fraternity, Phi Beta Lambda, garnered honors at the recent state convention and have qualified for competition at the national convention to be held this summer in Nashville, Tenn. The Institute for Leaders Training will be held June 23-24 in Nashville, Tenn., followed by the FBLA-BPL, Inc. National Leadership Conference June 24-27.

Crystal Coward, Rosa Edwards, Diane M. Jackson, Veronica Respass and Barbara Stanley won first place honors at PBL's State Leadership Conference held April 6 to 8 in Raleigh. Edwards, Jackson and Stanley also received second place honors.

"I keep thinking that BCCC's Tau Kappa Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda can't get any better from one year to the next," said PBL Advisor Debra Baker. "I am very proud, not only of those students earning first and second place but also the entire Tau Kappa Chapter."

Edwards, Respass and Stanley won first prize in Business Ethics. Coward and Jackson won first place in Multimedia Presentation with the topic of "identity theft." Stanley won first place in Word Processing. Edwards, Jackson and Stanley earned second place for their Community Service Project titled "Helping Hands Project." Those earning first and second place awards at state conventions qualify to represent the state in June.

In addition to first and second place honors, the group won several other awards: Edwards earned fifth place in Public Speaking; Jackson won seventh place in Word Processing; and Respass earned seventh place in Business Law.

Stanley also earned a \$650 NCPBL Scholarship at the meeting.

The group also earned several chapter awards: The Terry Lowrence Leadership Blue Ribbon, Gold Star Award, first place for the Largest Local Chapter Professional Division Membership for the Eastern Region, third place for Largest Local Chapter Professional Division Membership in the state.

The five team members completed four Leadership Development Series seminars with three officers completing the requirements to obtain their Leadership Career Membership Achievement Program Awards. Edwards earned President Level; Jackson, Executive Level; and Stanley, Director Level.

Phi Beta Lambda is a fraternal organization sponsored and supported by the Business Division at BCCC. The goal of the organization is to promote professionalism and integrity in business.

For more information on joining PBL, contact Debra Baker at 940-6229.



Members of PBL's winning team are, left to right, Crystal Coward, Diane M. Jackson, Veronica Respass, Rosa Edwards and Barbara Stanley.

United Way Campaign nets nearly \$3,000

Beaufort County Community College's 2005-2006 United Way Campaign netted \$2,834 with 25 campus-based contributors, campaign Chairman Jack Pyburn announced. This year's contributions represented an 18 percent increase over last year as well as a 16 percent increase in the number of contributors, Pyburn said. Door prize winners included Emily Albera, Tom Huguelet, Kimberly Mullis, Donna Parker, Tony Taylor, Judy Tice and Eunice Williams.

Summer Hours Announced

Beaufort County Community College has announced its operating hours for the summer. The official daytime operating hours for the college will be 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday beginning Monday, May 15 and ending Thursday, August 10. Evening classes will operate Monday through Thursday nights. The college will be closed on Fridays. BCCC President David McLawhorn said the scheduled will allow the college to "maximize the financial and human resources available to conduct the college's essential work during the summer term."



Oesterreich writes again!

BCCC's own Bryan Oesterreich has an article in the April issue of Our State on his recent voyage aboard the Elizabeth II and in the May issue on Roanoke Island Festival Park in Manteo. Congratulations Bryan!

Upcoming Events

May 5-10 – Exams.

May 11 - Beaufort County Elder Fair, 9 a.m. to noon at the Washington Civic Center. Admission is free to all seniors. For more information, contact Gregg Allinson at 940-6361.

May 11 – Service Awards Banquet.

May 11 – Graduation rehearsal, 7 p.m. Washington High School.

May 12 – Graduation, 8 p.m. Washington High School.

May 17 – Summer Session Late Registration.

May 18 – Summer Session Begins.

May 21 – Third Annual Cut-Throat Croquet Tournament to raise money for the BCCC Foundation. For more information, contact Judy Jennette at 940-6326 or Marcia Norwood at 940-6218.

May 22-25 – Registration for College for Kids. For more information, contact Barbara Francisco at 940-6238.

May 29 – Memorial Day Holiday.

July 3-7 – Student/Faculty Vacation.

July 4 - Holiday

July 10-13 – College for Kids.

July 18 – New Student Advising Day/ No classes.

August 3 – Exams.

Students, faculty and staff - publicize your campus-based fundraiser and or other event 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 edition of Campus Connections. Please email your announcements to Betty Gray.