

ccc&ti

The Caldwell

# Chronicle

January 2023



*Finding the spark to chase her dreams...*

# Meet Meredith Wilson

# Calendar

## January

18/19

Watauga Campus Welcome Back Days

20

Home Basketball game vs. Cape Fear, 6 p.m.

23

Cobras Connecting Event: Cookies with Coordinators, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Caldwell Campus LRC

24

Watauga Campus Event: "Finding Happiness Series: A Mind and Meditation Event", Yoga with App State yoga instructor Ritesh Sheth, 1 to 2 p.m., W-46

25

Home Basketball game vs. Spartanburg Methodist, 7 p.m.

27

Home Basketball game vs. Richard Bland, 6 p.m.

31

Watauga Campus Resilience Academy: Student Services scavenger hunt, 12 to 12:30 p.m., W-460

## February

4

- Home Baseball DH vs. Wake Tech, 1 p.m.
- Home Basketball game vs. Gaston College, 2 p.m.

5

Home Baseball vs. Wake Tech, 12 p.m.

8

- Watauga Campus Employment Readiness and Resources with NCWorks, 1 p.m., W372-Room 102
- Home Baseball vs. Gaston College, 3 p.m.

9

Performing Artist Series, Diali Cissohoko, Caldwell Campus B-100

10

Financial Aid Check Disbursement

Events are subject to change.

For the latest information and a full calendar of events and activities, including both home and away athletic events, visit [www.cccti.edu](http://www.cccti.edu)

## CCC&TI Helps Lenoir Woman Find 'Dream Job'

By Tehan McMahan, Appalachian State University

What do massage therapy and welding have in common? For most people that question might be hard to answer but for one Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute alumna, they happen to both be stops along the way to her current success.

Meredith Wilson earned a degree in massage therapy at CCC&TI and worked for more than a decade in the field. When she was ready for a change, she did a complete 180 and returned to CCC&TI to enroll in the Welding Technologies Associate Degree program. The move was inspired by a meeting with Gary Hudson, CCC&TI's Welding Technologies Program Director. With training in a high-demand field and what she describes as her "dream job," Wilson now serves as an example to other adult learners who may be considering a career change or a return to the classroom.

"Meredith came into the welding program with the goal of making life better for herself," Hudson said. "As a student she worked hard and put in the extra time when she struggled. Now that she has graduated she is passing on the things that she learned to others. Through hard work and dedication Meredith achieved her goal, and as a part of the welding program here at CCC&TI we couldn't be happier to have helped her."

While the decision to enroll in welding may have been years in the making, Wilson always knew that CCC&TI would be the key to a successful transition. "I believe we have some of the best programs and instructors in the state," Wilson said of CCC&TI, adding that her education seemed more comprehensive than what her peers had experienced elsewhere.

In her quest for a hands-on education that would provide her with a range of career opportunities, Wilson also enrolled in CCC&TI's IMPACT program.

The IMPACT Institute provides the skills and certifications needed for an entry-level advanced manufacturing job, while making students eligible for scholarships to continue their education in one of several advanced manufacturing programs. It is free to students and was established to increase the number of qualified manufacturing workers in the area.



Meredith Wilson demonstrates some of the skills she learned in CCC&TI's Welding Technologies program while on the job at FleetGenius in Lenoir.

For Wilson, it was an opportunity to take her skills and employability further, but more importantly provided help paying for her education and provided certifications that would boost her resume and making professional connections.

Among those connections were Rick Shew, the Associate Dean of Business and Career Services at CCC&TI, and Tim Wallace, Instructor in Workforce Development, who encouraged Wilson to apply for a job at FleetGenius, a sustainable waste container company in Lenoir.

Wilson now works as the Talent Acquisition Liaison at FleetGenius, where she networks with local community colleges and high schools about the company's apprenticeship program, using her own experience to help guide students to success in their chosen fields.

"As someone who worked full time while completing my degree, I understand the fantastic opportunity our apprenticeship program presents to students," Wilson said. "Apprentices are offered flexible schedules, the ability to receive on-the-job training while being paid, and bonuses."

When she isn't promoting the apprenticeship program at FleetGenius, she's assisting new hires in their safety training and ensuring they follow company expectations.

Wilson says what she loves most about her job is connecting with people "who are looking to make positive changes in their lives ... I love being able to work with people and illuminate a path for them to achieve their goals."



Her hope is to continue to grow with FleetGenius and spread awareness of the benefits the company offers. And Meredith will continue giving back to IMPACT and CCC&TI as well by encouraging others to further their education and pursue careers in advanced manufacturing.

Wilson's advice for anyone who isn't sure about attending college or returning as an adult is to just do it. Taking even a few classes each semester will open doors to endless possibilities, she said.

## **CCC&TI Success Coach Wins TRIO Achiever Award**

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's TRIO/Educational Talent Search Success Coach Sarah Estes Cuthbert was recently named one of three prestigious NC TRIO Achiever Award winners. Cuthbert was nominated by CCC&TI TRIO Director Emily Garrison and was selected to receive the award by The NC TRIO Executive Board and 2022 NC TRIO Fall Conference Committee. Cuthbert was recognized at the recent TRIO Achievers Banquet held in early November in Charlotte. TRIO Achiever Awards are presented annually to individuals who are former TRIO students who have gone on to be successful in their chosen careers.

Cuthbert, a CCC&TI alumna, participated in TRIO/Educational Talent Search during Middle and High School and in TRIO/Student Support Services during her time as a student at CCC&TI. Cuthbert graduated from CCC&TI in 2018 with an Associate in Arts degree and transferred to Appalachian State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Social Work. Cuthbert joined the TRIO/ETS staff at CCC&TI in 2022 and is also currently working toward a master's degree in Higher Education, Community College and University Leadership also at ASU.

When asked about the impact of TRIO on her own journey, Cuthbert says "in one sentence, it changed my life." Cuthbert says that as a middle school student, she thought college was not a possibility for her or even a place where she thought she belonged. But, she says, her TRIO/ETS Success Coach helped her break down those

perceived barriers and see the possibilities for her future. “[She] handed me a chisel and piece by piece helped me break down the barriers that were keeping me from achieving my dreams. TRIO/ETS taught me how to believe in myself and my dreams,” said Cuthbert.

The impact of TRIO was something that stayed with Cuthbert as she began charting her career. When the opportunity to join the TRIO/ETS staff presented itself, she saw the position as one way she could give back to the program and the college that had such a positive impact on her life as a student. “I wanted to come back not only to the program that gave me so much, but also to the community college that gave me everything I could have needed and more,” she said. “I remembered the impact that [TRIO] programs had on my life, and I wanted to be able to come back and have the same impact on others. I wanted to be that support that not only the students needed but be there for their families as well.”

In her award nomination, Emily Garrison, Director of CCC&TI’s TRIO Programs, noted Cuthbert’s energy, enthusiasm, optimism and tenacious spirit as just a few of the drivers that helped Cuthbert earn high honors and academic success as a student. Garrison said those same qualities, along with her experience with the TRIO programs, make her a natural fit for the Success Coach position. “I have been nothing short of impressed with the work she has done since her start date with us. That same energy I saw as a student, is exhibited daily in her work as a Success Coach. Students gravitate to her and she truly has a heart to see her students succeed.”

Cuthbert says that earning this award is just one of the many things that has helped validate her choice to return to CCC&TI and to work with the TRIO programs. “I changed my mind about a million times on what I wanted to do with my life. I went through every helping profession in the book from teaching, nursing, and more. When I finally landed in TRIO, I knew without a shadow of a doubt I was home,” said Cuthbert. “And this award to me, just confirms I am where I am supposed to be. This award proves to my high school self who thought she would never be able to achieve her goals and dreams, that we made it after all.”

Cuthbert says that she hopes her story will help inspire other students who have doubts about what they can achieve or who believe that college is not a possibility for them. She says her first piece of advice for any student who wants to explore what’s possible for their future is to seek help. “I know so many times we think we can handle things on our own or that we shouldn’t ask for help. But trust me when I say there are people just waiting to help you achieve your goals and dreams of continuing your education,” she said. “Believe in yourself. When you go through a setback or face a trial, it is so easy to want to give up on yourself. But when you believe in yourself and your goals, you will see that setback or trial is just a bump in the journey to get you where you want to go.”

For more information on CCC&TI’s TRIO Programs, visit [www.cccti.edu/TRIO](http://www.cccti.edu/TRIO) or call 828-726-2726.



Pictured at the NC TRIO Achievers Banquet are CCC&TI TRIO/ETS Success Coach and NC TRIO Achiever Award winner Sarah Estes Cuthbert, left, with CCC&TI TRIO Programs Director and nominator Emily Garrison. Cuthbert was named one of three NC TRIO Achiever Award Winners at the annual banquet in November.

## Small Business Center Honored for Work with Local Business

When starting a new business, one of the greatest challenges is having the right recipe for success. For Happy Valley Filling Station, that recipe includes locally-sourced organic ingredients, a fun atmosphere and assistance from the Small Business Center (SBC) at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute.

The Happy Valley Filling Station, located a few minutes off U.S. 321 in Caldwell County's scenic Happy Valley, opened in September 2021. After its grand opening, the Small Business Center helped the owners, Jesse Plaster and Angela Postigo, navigate a bumpy start for the popular pizzeria and brewery.

The successful partnership was recently recognized at the state level with a Centers of Excellence Award during the Small Business Center Network's Professional Development Conference in Asheville on Nov. 17.

CCC&TI SBC Director Carmela Tomlinson won the "Business Success Story - Overcoming Challenges" award for her support of Happy Valley Filling Station through the SBC. The award recognizes a Small Business Center Director who overcame difficult challenges that resulted in a success story.



"I was thrilled when our name was called as the award recipient," Tomlinson said. "It was a proud moment to be recognized among all 58 Small Business Centers in the state."

According to the award nomination, the owners bought the property for the business to keep it from getting scooped up by a big box competitor and decided to open a gathering spot where neighbors could come together and enjoy good food and beverages. But the path to smooth operations got bumpy when one of the partners the owners brought in was unable to perform all the required duties and the owners had to step in to keep the business operating, while working through the partnership issues and legal details. Throughout it all, the Small Business Center was there to provide helpful guidance and support and will continue to assist the business to ensure operational improvements that will help it remain a community favorite and successful business.

The award is a good reminder of the wealth of resources available to the community through the college, CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch said. "We're so proud of the behind-the-scenes work that Carmela does in the communities we

serve," Poarch said. "Not only is she helping encourage entrepreneurship and economic growth through providing vital services to new businesses, but she's also helping with the retention and growth of jobs for our existing employers."

Serving both Caldwell and Watauga counties, CCC&TI's Small Business Center is part of a statewide network of 58 Small Business Centers that support the development of new businesses and the growth of existing businesses by being a community-based provider of training, counseling, and resource information. Its services are free of charge and are offered both online and in-person at the HUB Station, 143 Cedar Valley Rd., Hudson.

For more information about CCC&TI's Small Business Center, please visit <https://www.cccti.edu/SmallBusiness> or call 828-726-3065.

## Adult Learner, CCC&TI Graduate Headed to Ivy League

In January 2021, Adrienne Childres of Lenoir was returning to school as an adult learner at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. Two years later, Childres is packing her bags for New York City, where she will be working toward her bachelor's degree in the Ivy League.

"To think that, in my mid-40s, I am going to be attending an Ivy League university is astounding to me," Childres said. "I am enormously grateful for the opportunity."

Childres completed her Associate in Arts degree from CCC&TI in mid-December. Right after Christmas, she will move to New York City. She began classes on Jan. 17 at Columbia University, where she was accepted into the School of General Studies as a transfer student. Her plan is to complete her bachelor's degree, most likely studying history, with hopes of attending law school.

As an adult learner with a full-time job, Childres decided that CCC&TI and online courses were the best choice for completing her 2-year degree. The decision allowed her to work at her own pace and the support she received from CCC&TI faculty and staff were key achieving her goals.

"My experience at CCC&TI was very positive," Childres said. "Everyone that I have interacted with is genuinely invested in the success of students. ... I am proud of the work I have done to get to this point, but I have not been on this path alone."

The latest help comes from the Foundation of CCC&TI, which chose Childres as this year's recipient of the College Transfer Award. She won the \$1,000 prize based on her hard work and accomplishments at CCC&TI.

"She worked her butt off," said Matt Williams, an English Instructor who recommended her for the award and wrote a letter of support for her Columbia application. "She is embarking on a big journey, and I'm so excited for her."

Aside from moving from North Carolina's quiet foothills to the "City That Never Sleeps," Childres is anticipating several adjustments. She'll be without a car for the first time in her adult life and will instead have to depend on public transportation. She'll also be going without many of the things that area residents take for granted, but there's one thing she will not miss out on.

"I am packing a case of Duke's mayonnaise to take with us, because there are some things we don't compromise on," she said with a laugh. "In truth, there will be challenges ahead that I can't even anticipate at this time. But there will also be excitement, new discoveries and an adventure I never imagined having."

CCC&TI wishes Adrienne Childres the best of luck in her educational journey. She serves as an excellent example to learners of all ages that with hard work and determination there is no limit to what someone can achieve.



CCC&TI graduate Adrienne Childres, center, is presented the \$1,000 Foundation of CCC&TI College Transfer Award by Foundation of CCC&TI Executive Director Marla Christie, right, joined by CCC&TI English Instructor Matt Williams, left.

## CCC&TI Celebrates Latest Practical Nursing Graduates

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute hosted a pinning ceremony for the latest class of Practical Nursing graduates. The ceremony was on Thursday, Dec. 15 at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir. The Practical Nursing Class of 2022 includes: Jayme Baker, Haley Barlow, Audie Wayne Bartlett II, Jordan Boone, Genna Brewer, Lillian Cochran, Ekaterina Dacruz, Kelsey Dotson, Andrea Foster, Tami Goudy, Zoey Green, Cody Holman, Grace Jeter, Hannah Maher, Kayla McCloud, Macey Oxentine, Jordan Pagan, Amanda Peryea, Jackson Reid, Victoria Phillips Roark, J. Marissa Smith, Shannon Smith, Savannah Snyder, Tonia Snyder, Mercedes Triplett, Jacqueline Visingard, Autumn Ward, Cassie Warlick, Dana Williams and Kenna Williams. Graduates of the 1-year program, which begins each January, are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN), which is required for practice as a Licensed Practical Nurse. To apply for the Practical Nursing program, which is available on both the Caldwell and Watauga campuses, please call 828-726-2200.



## Basic Law Enforcement Training Graduates Honored

In a Dec. 13 ceremony at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute honored the 53rd graduating class of Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET). Ten cadets successfully completed more than 640 hours of training and a rigorous physical exam as well as the standardized state tests. The group achieved a 100-percent passage rate.



Graduates, pictured left to right, with BLET class awards in parenthesis, are: front row – Carson Bates of Lenoir, Zachary Pearson of Granite Falls, Kodey Penley of Granite Falls, Carson Carswell of Morganton and Michael Tackett of Hudson (Overall Fitness Award); back row – Michael Santos of Hudson (Class Leader and Firearms Award), Logan Barrett of Lenoir, Gavin Holden of Lenoir, Samuel Craig of Granite Falls (POPAT Award) and Jonathan Garrison of Hickory (Driving and Academic Awards).

## Foundation Hosts Holiday Gathering for Bernhardt Scholars

The Foundation of CCC&TI hosted a holiday drop-in event in December for CCC&TI's Bernhardt Scholars to help celebrate the end of the semester with staff and mentors. Anne and Alex Bernhardt dropped by the event and joined the group for snacks and cookie decorating.



## Partnerships Matter: Blue Ridge Donates Truck to Lineworker Program

This fall, Blue Ridge Energy donated a retired digger derrick truck to CCC&TI's Electrical Lineworker Program. The truck will help train future lineworkers for careers in the electrical field and beyond. Thank you to Blue Ridge Energy for their incredible support of our Electrical Lineworker program.



## Students Create One-of-a-Kind Ornaments for Trustees

Students in Laura Aultman's Ceramics classes on both campuses created these beautiful porcelain ornaments and presented them to the CCC&TI Board of Trustees. The ornaments showcase the use of texture and stains on porcelain. Students created the bell on casted plaster molds, which allowed them to make uniform shapes. Then, they designed the bells' surfaces through stamping, carving, sprigging, and slip work, and then fired them.



## Door Decorating Contest and Food Drive



The Caldwell Campus hosted a holiday door decorating contest in December allowing students and employees to vote for their favorite design by donating food items for the Cobra Closet. Congratulations to Financial Aid on collecting the most food donation votes and taking the trophy with their “A Christmas Story” themed door design. Overall, the contest brought in more than 1,600 food and hygiene items for the Cobra Closet.



Special thanks to all the departments and groups who participated in the contest and to everyone who voted and donated items to the closet.

## Culinary Arts Students Celebrate with Family Meal

To celebrate the holidays and the end of the Fall semester, Watauga Campus Culinary Arts students planned and prepared a dinner for family and friends in December. The menu included: Juniper and Beet Gravlax on Belini, Butternut Squash Bisque, Turducken Roulade garnished with Duck Confit and Crispy Skin, Braised Collard Greens with Swiss Chard and Tomato, Cornbread Stuffing with Bacon and Okra, Chocolate Cake Bomb with Espresso Ganache and Cinnamon Ice Cream and Steakhouse Dinner Roll with Honey Butter.



## Athletics Hosts Faculty/Staff Appreciation Night

CCC&TI Athletics Department hosted a Faculty and Staff Appreciation Night at the Men’s Basketball home game on Dec. 13. Attendees enjoyed a pre-game reception followed by a win for the Cobras over Moravian Prep.



# Holiday Happenings

Both the Caldwell and Watuga Campuses hosted a variety of student events throughout December, offering fun activities to help destress and celebrate the upcoming holidays, as well as opportunities to interact with fellow students and CCC&TI faculty and staff. Events included meet and greets with Success Coaches, gingerbread decorating, ugly sweater contests, movie screenings and much more. Below are photos showing some of the highlights from these events.



## Tributes from the Foundation of CCC&TI

Memorial gifts and Honoraria are meaningful ways to recognize someone on a special occasion or to express sympathy to a bereaved family. An individual's legacy will continue to live on through the educational opportunities made possible by these special gifts. The Foundation of CCC&TI gratefully acknowledges the following tributes received October 14, 2022 to January 9, 2023.

### Honoraria

*In honor of the CCC&TI Foundation Board and staff on the occasion of Christmas:*

Peg Broyhill

*In honor of Marc and Bennie Carpenter to the Boyd Wilson Family Scholarship:*

Boyd and Anita Wilson

*In honor of Hannah Clark on the occasion of Christmas:*

Kate Benoit

*In honor of Muggy Davenport on the occasion of his retirement to Athletics:*

Donna Church

Colleagues of Muggy Davenport

*In honor of Jimmy and Nancy Hemphill to the 2023 Annual Fund Drive:*

Brenda Hardison

*In honor of Jimmy and Nancy Hemphill to the 2022 Annual Fund Drive:*

Keith and Mary Kincaid

*In honor of Dr. Ronald L. Kiziah, former Dean of Business, on the occasion of his 80th birthday:*

Dr. Lorraine and Charles Minton

*In honor of Dr. Mark Poarch to the Dr. Mark Poarch Scholarship on the occasion of Christmas:*

Marla Christie

Lauren Saunders

Liz Silvers

*In honor of Sara Moore Putzell on the occasion of Christmas:*

Carol Senf

*In honor of Liz Silvers to the Dr. Mark Poarch Scholarship on the occasion of Christmas:*

Kate Benoit

*In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Wilson, Jr. to the Boyd Wilson, Sr. Scholarship:*

Marc and Bennie Carpenter

### Memorials

*In memory of Jon Bryant to the Electrical Lineworker Institute:*

Scott and Rita Triplett

*In memory of Barbara B. Culver to the 2023 Annual Fund Drive:*

Christine Sprinkle

*In memory of Joseph Czarnecki, III to the Watauga Campus Art Department:*

Elizabeth and Wayne Arnold

*In memory of Crissy Guzman to the Athletics Department:*

Jennifer Teague

*In memory of Helen and Ellis Hatley to the Helen J. Hatley Achievement Award:*

James Hatley

*In memory of Ester Hoyle to the 2023 Annual Fund Drive:*

Marc and Bennie Carpenter

*In memory of Phyllis Huffstetler to the 2023 Annual Fund Drive:*

Kay and Patrick Crouch

*In memory of Matt Malloy to the Matt Malloy Memorial Scholarship:*

Caitlyn Council

Jean Jamate

Ryan Renzi

*In memory of Samuel Orlando to the Samuel Orlando Scholarship:*

Andrew and Theresa Orlando

*In memory of Gilma Roberts to the Gilma Roberts Scholarship:*

Charles and Laurette LeProvost

*In memory of Cade and Frances Shaver to the Cade Shaver Scholarship:*

James and Imogene Shaver

*In memory of Dr. Daniel N. Stallings and Ila G. Stallings to the Dan and Ila Stallings Scholarship:*

Peggy Lynn Caudle

*In memory of Bob Styres to Scholarships:*

Jeffrey and Rita Joines

*In memory of Mason Thuss to the Mason Thuss Scholarship:*

Dr. and Mrs. John Thuss, Jr.

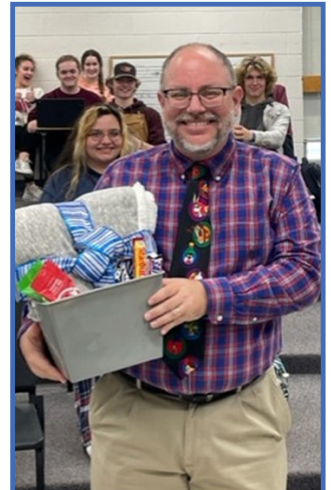
## Cobra Cares Award Winners

### November

The November Cobra Cares Award winners are **Lisa Rector** (Cosmetology Director/Instructor, Caldwell Campus) and **Matt Williams** (English Instructor, Caldwell Campus).

Lisa is committed to her program, her students, and to this institution. Her kindness and professionalism are wide-reaching. "Mrs. Rector goes above and beyond for her students. She makes sure students know exactly what they are supposed to do before leaving to go to state board. Every time I've had a question, she stops what she's doing to make sure my question gets answered and makes sure I understand. When I have questions about techniques, I know I can go to Mrs. Rector, and she will show me how to do it and then watch me to make sure I'm doing it right. She also helps the students who aren't in her class if they need assistance. She not only wants her students to succeed but all students in the department to succeed." The core value Lisa best portrays is student success.

Matt is amazing in every way, offering grace, kindness, and thoughtfulness to every situation. In his many nominations, Matt is commended for going the extra mile to help students. Here is one example: "At the end of May, I had an opportunity... I needed two letters of recommendation..., and one needed to be academic. I am 44 years old, and a student who has taken all online courses... I had received an out of office message a couple of weeks before when replying to an advising email, so I knew Matt was out of the office until the first week of August. I contacted his back up for the summer, with a brief explanation... By the following morning, I had an email from Matt saying he would be pleased to write the recommendation, and within an extremely tight turnaround time. I will be forever grateful that Matt Williams chose to take time out of his summer break to be there for me as my advisor and professor." The core value Matt best portrays is student success.



### December

Our December Cobra Cares Award winners are **Teresa Asherbraner** (Senior System Administrator, Caldwell Campus) and **Laura Wollpert** (Instructor, Academic Support Center, Watauga Campus).

Teresa is the go-to person for so many on campus. Always pleasant and helpful, her behind-the-scenes expertise keeps the institution running smoothly. One nominee said, "Teresa's job is critical and ever changing. I know that others don't fully understand the contributions she makes to the college. She's the one here until 8pm when the system goes down. She's here until 7 the night before Thanksgiving because a server is down. She loves this college and the students and employees she serves. She is vital to continued operations here." Another colleague said, "Teresa is very dedicated to making sure that Colleague runs as it should. She is willing to investigate and solve any problems that we may bring to her in a timely manner. She is always there to help us." The core value Teresa best portrays is innovation.

Laura's nomination really captures the person I see every day. "I personally observed the perfect example of The Caldwell Way while on the Watauga Campus. Laura Wollpert had just sat down for lunch in the student commons when a student who had just registered for a class came in to wait for the bookstore to re-open so she could get the items she needed for class. Laura walked away from her lunch to check on the student and try to find a way to get what she needed so she wouldn't have to wait. Though there was nothing Laura could do to help - and the student was OK with waiting - she still showed the care and personal attention that every student deserves. It was obvious that the student appreciated the attempt, and Laura didn't mind letting her lunch get cold if it meant that the student got what she needed." The core value Laura best portrays is student success.



Congratulations to these award winners!

## CCC&TI Presents: Spring 2023 Performing Artists Series

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Associate in Fine Arts - Music Program will host the Performing Artists Concert Series this spring with several featured events that are free and open to the public. Following is a schedule of upcoming events and additional details.

### ***On Thursday, Feb. 9 at 1 p.m. in the CCC&TI Recital Hall (B-100), the Caldwell Campus in Hudson will host Diali Cissokho.***

A renowned korista and percussionist from Senegal, Diali Cissokho moved to the United States after years of performing and teaching in Senegal and in Europe. Born into a rich ancestry of Manding griots (the musician caste), Diali has been playing traditional West African music for as long as he can remember. While his greatest love is the kora, a 21-stringed African harp that is at the heart and soul of much West African music, he is also a passionate singer, songwriter and percussionist. Crossing cultural boundaries with a wide range of sounds, from explosive dance rhythms to soothing hypnotic grooves, Diali brings an unparalleled virtuosity and unique personal style to this respected traditional art form.



### ***On Thursday, March 16 at 1 p.m. in the CCC&TI Recital Hall (B-100), the Caldwell Campus in Hudson will host Kay and Patrick Crouch.***

A Postcard from Ireland celebrates their Ireland experience over a brilliant 30-year collaboration with musicians on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Kay and Patrick have stories, tunes, and songs that are dear to their hearts. The instruments they use are guitar, five-string banjo, tenor banjo, flute, whistle, bouzouki, piano, fiddle, accordion and mandolin. Each instrument has a story of a musician or musicians who inspired them to play that particular instrument. Each tune has ancient origins from another place and time and all musicians are connected on that melodic family tree.

### ***On Wednesday, April 12 at 1 p.m. in the CCC&TI Recital Hall (B-100), the Caldwell Campus in Hudson will host Belleville Rendezvous.***

Belleville Rendezvous performs a blend of jazz, blues and bossa nova standards as well as original tunes. Kim France (bass, vocals) is a regular performer with the Aaron Burdett Trio, Molasses Creek and the Johnson City Orchestra. Andy Page (guitar) also performs with Swing Guitars, Todd Wright, and the Page Brothers. Andy and Lauren are music educators in the Boone area, and Lauren Hayworth (vocals, accordion, percussion) is also a yoga teacher and aerialist. Andy has been a featured performer at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, Japan's Muroran Jazz Cruise, Asheville's Django Reinhardt Celebration and the Dizzy Gillespie Jazz Fest. Kim is also a recording artist with Aaron Burdett and Molasses Creek. Lauren has recorded two albums: one of jazz standards and the other of original songs.



### ***On Wednesday, May 3 at 1 p.m. in the CCC&TI Recital Hall (B-100), the Caldwell Campus in Hudson will host the CCC&TI Chorus.***

The CCC&TI Chorus ensemble features students in the CCC&TI Associate of Fine Arts Music degree program as well as staff, faculty, and community members. The CCC&TI Chorus is directed by Professor Alexandria McNeely. Professor McNeely earned her master's degree in vocal performance from the renowned Eastman School of Music, and she most recently performed for the Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival as Diana in Orpheus and in Tosca with Opera Carolina. The CCC&TI Chorus serves as the only community chorus in the area that is open to all community members ages 16 and up. If you are interested in singing with the CCC&TI chorus please contact the AFA-Music Program Director Justin Butler at 828-726-2457 or [jbutler@cccti.edu](mailto:jbutler@cccti.edu).

All events are free and open to the public.

## BLET Students Make Donation to Local Children's Advocacy Center

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Fall 2022 Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) class participated in a "No Shave November" fundraiser and donated the proceeds to Robin's Nest in Lenoir. The class visited the child advocacy center in Lenoir to present the gift. CCC&TI's BLET cadets, pictured left to right, are: Kodey Penley of Hudson, Jonathan Garrison of Hickory, Samuel Craig of Granite Falls, Gavin Holden of Lenoir, Michael Tackett of Hudson, Michael Santos of Hudson, Logan Barrett of Lenoir, Carson Bates of Lenoir, Zachary Pearson of Granite Falls and Carson Carswell of Morganton. Accepting the donation on behalf of Robin's Nest is Finance Manager Rebecca Dellinger, center.



## Student Athletes Visit Local Elementary Schools

Student-athletes at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute volunteered more than 40 hours at Granite Falls Elementary and Hudson Elementary during the Fall Semester. Among their volunteer activities: reading to the class, greeting students in the hall, and opening doors at the car drop-off area. Plans for next year include expanding the volunteer efforts to more schools and additional activities such as eating lunch with students. "Being a student-athlete at CCC&TI is more than just playing a sport or going to class," Associate Athletic Director Maggie Murray said. "We encourage community service and giving back as part of our student-athlete experience at CCC&TI."



## Watauga Campus Director Celebrates Retirement

Watauga Campus Executive Director Steve Melton retired at the close of the fall semester after more than 26 years of service to CCC&TI. Colleagues hosted a gathering in December to celebrate.

Congratulations, Steve. Thank you for your years of service to CCC&TI.

# Faculty and Staff Celebrations

December offered several opportunities for CCC&TI faculty and staff to take a break from busy end-of-semester tasks, celebrate the holidays and gather with colleagues. Below are photos from gatherings throughout the month of December, including CCC&TI's annual Christmas Luncheon.





The Caldwell Chronicle is a publication of CCC&TI's Marketing & Communications Department.

Find us on the web at: [www.cccti.edu/chronicle](http://www.cccti.edu/chronicle)

Have news or information for the Chronicle?

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CCC&TI is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

## Upcoming Showcase of Stars Events at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center

### 25th Annual Caldwell Traditional Musicians Showcase Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m.

This year, the Caldwell Traditional Musicians Showcase will celebrate its Silver Anniversary and 25 years of promoting local music and talent. Hosted by local musicians Kay and Patrick Crouch the show will feature a line-up of local musicians who are helping to keep the community's rich history of traditional music alive today. Tickets for the show are \$11 for adults and \$5.50 for students/children.

### The Wailin' Jennys Friday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m.

The Wailin' Jennys are Nicky Mehta, Ruth Moody and Heather Masse – three distinct voices that together make an achingly perfect vocal sound. Starting as a happy accident of solo singer/songwriters getting together for a one-time-only performance at a tiny guitar shop in Winnipeg, Manitoba, The Wailin' Jennys have grown over the years into one of today's most beloved international folk acts. Founding members Moody and Mehta along with New York-based Masse continue to create some of the most exciting music on the folk-roots scene, stepping up their musical game with each critically lauded recording and thrilling audiences with their renowned live performances. Tickets are \$36.50 for adults and \$10 for students/children.



For more information on the 2022-2023 Showcase of Stars or for tickets, call the Civic Center Box Office at 828-726-2407 or visit [www.broyhill-center.com](http://www.broyhill-center.com).

# Branches

## volume twenty six

### Call for submissions

You are invited to submit your prose, poetry, and / or art work for possible publication in the twentysixth volume of *Branches*, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's literary arts magazine. All students of CCC&TI are eligible for entry, as well as any resident of Caldwell or Watauga counties.

Entry forms may be downloaded from the CCC&TI web page.  
The direct link is: <https://www.cccti.edu/Branches/Default.asp>  
For more information, contact Jessica Chapman at 828-726-2624 or Laura Aultman at 828-297-3811.

**Submission deadline is March 31, 2023. Good Luck.**