

Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute

AT A GLANCE



CCC&TI OFFERS

41 DEGREES **17** DIPLOMAS **29** CERTIFICATES

OVER 9,256

Students Served Annually

Student to Faculty
Ratio **14:1**

31 DEGREES, DIPLOMAS
AND CERTIFICATES

**OFFERED COMPLETELY
ONLINE**

CCC&TI is the 20th largest in enrollment among the 58 North Carolina community colleges and employs 313 full-time faculty and staff members, as well as 199 part-time faculty and staff.

In the 2022-2023 academic year:

- 1,022 degrees, diplomas and/or certificates were awarded.
- Students served ranged in age from 13 to 89.
- Fifty-one percent of students were age 24 and older.
- Twenty-nine percent were first-generation college students.



A Message from the President

With the COVID-19 Pandemic in the rear-view, we are getting back to a new normal at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. Our campuses are alive again with activities. Students are participating in in-person classes, taking advantage of extracurricular opportunities and, most importantly, working toward credentials and continuing to pursue their goals.

The last few years have taught us a great deal about how strong we are as an institution and perhaps more importantly, how vital our services are to our students and our region as “The Community’s College.”

During the 2022/2023 academic year, CCC&TI continued work with local partners and employers to offer new and innovative programs, improved facilities and added a few new faces to our executive leadership team. The college also launched several new initiatives that we are excited to share with you in this year’s report.

Among those initiatives was the 2022 launch of the “Better Skills, Better Jobs” outreach campaign. This collaborative effort with the John M. Belk Foundation and other local partners targets adult learners throughout the state with a goal of increasing post-secondary credentials to 2 million by 2030. Locally, this initiative allowed us to reach more than 800 students with programs to sharpen skills and get them on the path to better jobs and brighter futures.

In addition to our adult learner outreach, we also began working with several community partners to reach underserved and minority populations in our area with more educational resources. This has been a grassroots movement of getting out into the community, talking to people about our services and meeting prospective students where they are with information and opportunities that can get them where they want to be.

These efforts, along with a variety of accomplishments and highlights from across the institution, are included in this year’s report. They all share one common thread – they were all made possible through the support of individuals like you, who invest in our mission. Your continued partnership helps ensure that CCC&TI can continue to provide life-changing educational opportunities for everyone in our community for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support. Your investment in CCC&TI is an investment in brighter futures for everyone we serve and helps us continue to be “The Community’s College.”



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark J. Poarch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. To the right of the signature is a vertical line.

Mark J. Poarch
CCC&TI President



The Class of 2023 included:

- 356 first-generation college graduates
- Graduates ranging in age from 17 to 69, with the average age being 25
- 104 graduates who earned multiple credentials
- 24 Dream Scholars; and
- 32 TRIO/Student Support Services graduates



Celebrating Achievement

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute honored more than 900 graduates from its Caldwell Campus in Hudson and Watauga Campus in Boone during ceremonies held Friday, May 12, 2023 at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir.

CCC&TI Board of Trustees Members Dale Hamby and Joel Carroll opened the ceremony by welcoming special guests, congratulating the graduates and listing some accomplishments of the Class of 2023.

CCC&TI Trustee Ann Smith presented this year's Trustees' Student Awards of Merit to Kylee Walker and Jamilet Rou. The awards are selected based on faculty nominations for outstanding academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community service.

This year's commencement speaker was 2009 CCC&TI graduate Dana Boone (above right). She is an award-winning leader in the digital marketing space and has worked for a variety of national brands including Hendrick Motorsports, Visit North Carolina, Bojangles, the Transformers movie franchise, Lowe's Home Improvement and JCPenney.

Boone came to CCC&TI after graduating from West Caldwell High School. During her time at CCC&TI, she served as president of the Student Government Association in 2008 before graduating in 2009. She went on to UNC Charlotte where she served as

News Editor at the *Niner Times* before graduating cum laude in 2012. She currently serves as Senior Director of Brand, Social Media, and Influencer Strategy at JCPenney where she leads a team dedicated to building brand saliency and relevancy for this iconic American brand.

Boone shared with graduates her guiding principle over the years: "I don't know, but I'll figure it out." Boone reminded students that it's OK to not have all the answers, as long as you keep working to find answers, get out of your comfort zone and strive to be successful. "As you leave tonight and look ahead to whatever is next for you, whether it's continuing your education, applying for new jobs in your field or advancing at your current workplace, never let yourself be confined to your job description. Opportunities rarely come when you're just doing what you're told to do. To make magic for your own life, you have to say yes to things that are a stretch," said Boone. "You have to learn to say, 'I don't know, but I'll figure it out.' Congratulations!"

In his charge to graduates, CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch congratulated the Class of 2023 on a job well done. "Thank you and congratulations to each of you on your commitment, your dedication and most of all your success. You have so much to be proud of tonight. Today is your day," said Poarch. "My hope is that you leave with a great sense of pride in your accomplishments and in this amazing institution... as alumni you will forever be part of the Cobra Family."

Congratulations

Physical Therapist Assistant

The 2023 graduates of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Physical Therapist Assistant program earned a 100-percent ultimate National Physical Therapist Assistant Exam (NPTE) pass rate. This will mark the third year in a row that program graduates have achieved a 100-percent pass rate on the national certification exam. CCC&TI's program is ranked No. 1 out of 358 PTA schools nationwide for ultimate NPTE pass rates by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy for the 2021-2022 academic year and will repeat for the 2022-2023 academic year.



Pictured are this year's graduates. Front row, left to right: Carrie Bass of Morganton, Shannon Cox of Boone, Song Vang of Hickory, Sarah Grace Locke of Connelly Springs, Madison Beaugard of Hickory, Carrie Rooney of Vilas, and Alex Wells of Lenoir. Back row from left to right are Jared Turner of Hickory; Jamie Phelps of Lenoir; Jason Snyder of Newton, Alexis Blevins of Lansing, Samantha Cozart of Wilkesboro, Adam Cassada of Hickory and Austin Johnson of Hudson.

Radiography

The 2023 graduates of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Radiography Program have earned, on their first attempt, a 100-percent pass rate on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) exam. It's the seventh consecutive year that CCC&TI's Radiography graduates have achieved perfect pass rates.



Pictured, left to right, are: (front row) Alexander Castro of Lenoir, Samuel Maldonado of Connelly Springs and Justin Elder of Hiddenite; (back row) Program Director Amber Edwards, Andrea Keuchler of Morganton, Ceslie James of Morganton, Lauren Byrd of Valdese, Natalie Ellis of Hudson and Clinical Coordinator Brittanni Arrowood.

Also earning 100-percent pass rates were **Ophthalmic Medical Assistant** and **Emergency Medical Technician**. CCC&TI's **Speech Language Pathology Assistant Program** also earned an ultimate 100-percent pass rate on their certification exam in 2023.

Watauga Nursing Scholarship Awards Record Number

To answer the unprecedented demand for nurses in the High Country, the Watauga Nursing Scholarship Committee has distributed its highest number of awards ever in Summer of 2022. For more than 30 years, the Watauga Nursing Scholarship has provided annual scholarships to students pursuing a Nursing degree at the Watauga Campus of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. Chaired by Rose Bridgeman, R.N., the scholarship committee awarded a total of \$26,000 to eight students in 2022. The availability of additional scholarship funds was made possible by long-term supporters Juanita and Clayton Dean. Scholarship recipients are selected through an application process that includes personal and professional references, transcripts and a commitment to practice as a nurse in North Carolina's High Country area.

Shilling Wins CCC&TI Academic Excellence Award

Billie Shilling began working as a housekeeper at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Boone while in high school. Her manager saw tremendous potential and encouraged her to further her career by enrolling in Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Hospitality Management program on the Watauga Campus.

Shilling, a first-generation college student, enrolled at CCC&TI in Fall 2020. As she learned new skills, both on the job and in the classroom, she worked her way up to the Operational Supervisor position while attending school full-time. Her success in the classroom has not only helped her professionally, it also earned her the highest annual honor given to a CCC&TI student.

Shilling was recognized as the 2023 Academic Excellence Award winner at the May 17 Board of Trustees meeting on the Watauga Campus. CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch presented her with a medal, an award plaque and a letter of congratulations from N.C. Community College System Interim President Dr. William Carver. She is one of 58 students statewide to receive the award from each of North Carolina's community colleges.

"I owe a lot of my success to the support and encouragement of my family, and to the professors who have helped guide my learning experience at CCC&TI," Shilling said. "Within the first semester of starting my hospitality classes, I was learning things that I could apply to my career and had the opportunity to earn certifications through those courses."

Shilling was chosen for the award based on her 4.0 grade point average and an inspiring nomination from Tara Brossa, the manager who suggested Shilling go back to school and one of her CCC&TI instructors. In the nomination, Brossa praised her work ethic and servant heart.

"She is an excellent representative of our Hospitality Management program and an encouragement to those she works with to pursue their degree while working," Brossa said. "She proves with each passing semester that it can be done and done with excellence. Billie is also a first-generation college student and has set the example for her friends and family with her dedication to her career and education."



Billie Shilling (center) poses for a photo with CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch (left) and Board of Trustees Chairman Larry Taylor (right) during a recent Board of Trustees meeting on the Watauga Campus in Boone.

Shilling graduated with an Associate in Applied Science degree in Hospitality Management in December of 2023. She plans to continue working toward a bachelor's degree and advancing in her career.

Continuing a Tradition



The field of nursing calls those with a passion for caregiving and the desire to make a difference. This is especially true for **Chelsea Norris Kilgore**, the third generation in her family to graduate from the nursing program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute.

For Kilgore, nursing is not just a job. “It’s literally in my genes,” she said. “I feel in my heart that I was put here on this earth to care for people and that is what I plan to do for the rest of my life.” Since she was young, Kilgore was determined to make her dream a reality and looked forward to one day enrolling in nursing school at CCC&TI. Her mother, Karen Watson Norris, always told her CCC&TI has the best nursing school around – and not just because she was an adjunct instructor for the ADN and LPN programs on the Watauga Campus, but it is where she herself went to nursing school. It’s also where Kilgore’s grandmother, Geneva Greene Hennessee, earned her nursing degree. Kilgore recalled, “I had planned from high school that I wanted to go to CCC&TI, but I’ve known since I was a little girl that I wanted to be a nurse. My grandma and my mom both made an impact on me about the profession of nursing from as young as the age of four.” Having this inspiration and an innate desire to care for others, Kilgore would become a third-generation nurse as a 2023 graduate from CCC&TI’s Nursing program.

Kilgore grew up watching her mother and grandmother taking care of patients at Watauga Medical Center in the Medical Surgical Units and could always be found in the breakroom after school doing her homework. “I basically grew up on Two West,” she said. “My mom worked there as an LPN and RN for 29 years, and my grandma as an LPN on Two West and in the birthing center for more than 10 years.” Her mother then began to teach for CCC&TI in multiple roles including the ADN program for five years and the LPN clinical lab since it began on the Watauga Campus. Her grandmother transitioned to a local obstetrics office where she worked for 22 more years. With a drive and value for hard work, Kilgore always knew she would follow in their footsteps. In high school she took the Allied Health Sciences courses and became a Certified Nursing Assistant. She shared, “My teacher, Regina Alford, reiterated to me that the best thing I could do for my future career in nursing was to go to CCC&TI so I graduated from high school a semester early to get ahead.”

While pursuing her education, Kilgore got married and started her own family, raising a son while working as a CNA at Watauga Medical Center for the past 10 years. She took advantage of online courses at CCC&TI that would count toward her degree and was also applying year after year to the nursing program. “Needless to say, it’s a hard

“CCC&TI has a lot to offer adult students who are working and have families. The instructors are dedicated to helping you be successful, no matter what career path you choose.”

program to get into but I never gave up,” she said. With the onset of the pandemic in 2020, when being a frontline worker meant facing unprecedented challenges, Kilgore grew even more committed to providing nursing care and again applied to CCC&TI. As she and her husband welcomed their second child, she learned she was put on a waiting list for nursing school but soon after was invited to begin Fall 2021, which she immediately accepted.

“CCC&TI has a lot to offer adult students who are working and have families. The instructors are dedicated to helping you be successful, no matter what career path you choose,” Kilgore stated. “There is so much support for adult students within the campus community and especially the student-instructor relationships. Without that support, I couldn’t have made it this far.”

Referring to her academic and clinical experiences in nursing school, Kilgore shared, “The ADN and LPN programs at CCC&TI provide students with the ability to think like a nurse. They have the best instructors and uphold the principles needed to guide us in our practice.”

The guiding principles of nursing are aligned with personal character strengths that cannot be taught, including a genuine love of community and service. As the granddaughter of Merle Watson and great-granddaughter of Doc Watson, famed father and son musicians, Kilgore’s bond to the High Country region runs deep. She takes pride in her community and often volunteers to help promote public health both inside and outside of the workplace. While attending a clinical lab, Kilgore recognized an opportunity to support her colleagues. She recalled, “We were learning about burnout and nursing

shortages in class and I wanted to do something to show appreciation to my coworkers.” Relying on her part-time business as a Tupperware consultant, she organized the “Adopt a Healthcare Worker” fundraiser and asked customers to sponsor a healthcare worker by purchasing cups for them that she would fill with candy and personally deliver. “Tupperware was having a sale on Eco Togo cups with hearts on them and I thought it was a perfect way to show our local healthcare professionals some love.” She then matched the donations and delivered over 200 cups throughout Watauga, Avery, Ashe and Wilkes counties.



At the pinning ceremony on the evening of May 9, 2023, CCC&TI celebrated the largest nursing class to-date. Her mother and grandmother both attended and were recognized on stage by the president of the college, Dr. Mark Poarch. Elected by her peers to be president of the 2023 Associate Degree Nursing class, Kilgore addressed all those in attendance at the ceremony, stating, “Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute has provided us with the solid foundation we need to be successful professionals. The nurses that graduate from this program are an example of excellence.”

Upon licensure, Kilgore plans to continue yet another family tradition as a nurse on the Medical Surgical floor of Watauga Medical Center. “I’ve never had any second thoughts about what I wanted to do in my life. I’ve always felt I was meant to be a nurse; it just took me a while to get here.” To anyone deciding whether to go back to school for a degree or to explore a new career, Kilgore advises, “Never give up on your dreams. It doesn’t matter how old or young you are. Go back to school and make your dreams come true.”



Adult Learners Can Connect With CCC&TI For Better Skills, Better Jobs

By Dr. Mark Poarch and MC Belk Pilon

After two years of unprecedented challenges, we know that many North Carolinians are looking for new opportunities and a fresh start. Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute is a great place for them to begin their journey.

In just a matter of months at CCC&TI, adult learners can acquire the skills, credentials, and degrees they need for a better job, a bigger paycheck, and an even brighter future for themselves and their families.

Everyone knows most higher-wage jobs require more than a high school diploma, but unfortunately fewer than half of North Carolinians between the ages 25 and 44 have the education and training needed to fill these



jobs. Meanwhile, employers across the region are frantically looking for the skilled talent needed to fill current vacancies.

According to statistics provided by Carolina Demography and myFutureNC, 71 percent of Caldwell County residents ages 25 to 44 lack degrees beyond high school. Though Watauga County's percentage is much better with only 45 percent of adults 25 to 44

lacking a degree beyond high school, there's still much room for improvement.

That is why CCC&TI, the John M. Belk Endowment, myFutureNC, and several other state and local partners are working together to launch a "Better Skills. Better Jobs." outreach

BETTER SKILLS BETTER JOBS

campaign to attract even more adult learners back to college.

The goal is to connect and inform as many adults as possible about the variety of fast, flexible and affordable education and job training programs that CCC&TI offers.

CCC&TI offers affordable and convenient higher education and career training options for the residents of Caldwell and Watauga counties, and beyond. Since opening its doors in 1964, CCC&TI has served thousands of people by providing an affordable avenue to earn an associate degree, transfer to a four-year institution, or in updating or learning new job skills when exploring a new career pathway or personal interest.

From nursing and health services to biopharmaceutical technology, from electrical lineworker and construction trades to truck driving training, and many more, these

programs offer a direct pipeline to many of the region's top employers.

We are excited to be partnering on this important new initiative and are dedicated to ensuring that 2 million North Carolinians,

especially those between the ages of 25 and 44, have a high-quality credential or a postsecondary degree by the year 2030.

The "Better Skills. Better Jobs." campaign includes direct outreach to adults who previously earned some college credits but left without a degree or certification; special community events and assistance paying for

school; digital marketing and advertising, and customized materials designed to quickly help more adult learners reconnect and re-enroll.

Better skills can lead to better jobs – to greater personal and career opportunities – and an even stronger and more economically vibrant North Carolina for all of us.





CCC&TI Helps Lenoir Woman Find 'Dream Job'

By Tehan McMahon, 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.

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 make 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."

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.



Pictured L-R: Matt Williams, English Instructor, Adrienne Childres and Marla Christie, Executive Director, College Foundation

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 packed her bags for New York City, where she was accepted into an Ivy League bachelor's degree program at Columbia University. "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 of 2022. Right after Christmas, she moved to New York City and began classes in January at Columbia University, where she was accepted into the School of General Studies as a transfer student.

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 the 2022 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."

Congratulations to graduate Adrienne Childres. Thank you for being a great example to learners of all ages to what someone can achieve with hard work and determination.



Dr. Mark Poarch Wins NC Community College President of the Year Award

Caldwell County native Dr. Mark Poarch was recently announced as winner of the prestigious 2022-2023 North Carolina Community College System President of the Year award.

The President of the Year Award, sponsored by Wells Fargo, was established by the State Board of Community Colleges in 2001. The award encourages, identifies and rewards outstanding leadership and commitment to the community college mission among the presidents of the 58 institutions of the North Carolina Community College System.

"I am deeply honored and humbled by this award," Poarch said. "There are 58 community colleges with great leaders doing amazing work to serve students and communities across North Carolina. This award is a reflection of the great work happening in Caldwell and Watauga counties through strong collaboration with many community partners. Our faculty and staff, Board of Trustees, elected officials, public school and university partners, business and industry representatives, economic and workforce development partners, donors, and many others are all working together to make life better for the students and communities we have the privilege of serving."

A native of Caldwell County with more than 30 years of community college experience, Poarch has served as president of CCC&TI since 2016. Prior to his appointment as president, he served as Associate Vice President of Student Services, Vice President of Student Services and Executive Vice President at CCC&TI.

Poarch earned his Doctor of Education and Education Specialist degrees at Appalachian State University, and his Master of Arts in Education and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Western Carolina University. He is a graduate of West Caldwell High School.



Larry Taylor Honored for 30 Years of Service

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Board of Trustees Chairman Larry Taylor was honored Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022, for his 30 years as a board member, 23 of which he has served as chairman. The presentation took place at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir during the monthly Board of Trustees meeting. The event included a special meal and comments from fellow board members and CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch. Taylor was first appointed in July 1992 and was elected chairman of the board in 1999. He is the longest serving chairman in CCC&TI Board of Trustees history.

Men's Basketball Coach Notches 100th Career Win



Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute men's basketball coach Jamison McIver earned his 100th career victory on February 4, 2023, when the Cobras defeated Gaston College 93-87.

McIver, in his fifth season as head coach, has led Caldwell to a 21-3 record this season. With two regular season games remaining, the Cobras have clinched the 2023 Region 10 Division One regular season championship. Caldwell will be the top seed with a first-round bye in the Region 10 tournament, to be held March 9-11 in Wilmington, NC.

In 2022, McIver led Caldwell to the school's first Region 10 tournament championship and an appearance in the NJCAA Division One Men's

Caldwell men's basketball head coach Jamison McIver (left) receives a plaque commemorating his 100th coaching victory from director of athletics Jeff Link.

Basketball Championship Tournament. It was the program's second appearance in the national tournament and their first Region 10/Atlantic District title since moving to division one in 2016.

McIver's overall record at Caldwell is 103-35 (74.6 percent winning percentage). His Cobra squads have reached the championship round of the Region 10/Atlantic District tournament three

consecutive years. This season, the team has gone 13-0 at home, the first undefeated home record in program history. Prior to being named head coach at Caldwell in 2018, McIver served as an assistant coach with the Cobras for five seasons. He also had assistant coaching stops at Lenoir-Rhyne University, Brevard College, and Mars Hill University. The Taylorsville native and Alexander Central High School graduate played collegiately at Mars Hill.

Kay Crouch Awarded CCC&TI Emeritus Status

The Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Board of Trustees recently approved and presented the Music Programs Director Emerita Award to former CCC&TI Music Program Director Kay Crouch.



Emeritus status is the highest honor bestowed on former CCC&TI employees. Crouch was nominated by current CCC&TI Music Program Director Justin Butler.

"In Mrs. Crouch's 28-year tenure with CCC&TI she helped build a strong academic transfer program that not only helped students achieve their career goals, but also helped to foster an environment rich in the cultural heritage of Caldwell and Watauga counties," Butler said. "Kay's impact has been felt far and wide through her community service, the Caldwell Traditional Musicians Showcase, Happy Valley Fiddler's Convention, and as a cultural ambassador of CCC&TI. In addition to these incredible accomplishments, Kay is also responsible for the naming of MerleFest, which serves as one of the area's premier music and arts festivals."

Crouch served as director of the music program from 1985 to 2013. She's also responsible for organizing various cultural events and series on campus and in the

community, as well as a long list of community service and education advocacy activities over several decades.

While at CCC&TI, she received the following awards: Colleague of the Year, Great Teacher Award, EM Dudley Employee Achievement Award and the Dr. Donald W. Lackey Award for Excellence in Teaching. "She's taught thousands of students in her career and changed the lives of many people," CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch said. "We really appreciate everything she has done and can't thank her enough for her contributions to this community."



CCC&TI Success Coach Wins TRIO Achiever Award

Pictured L-R: Sarah Estes Cuthbert and Emily Garrison, TRIO Director

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's TRIO/Educational Talent Search Success Coach Sarah Estes Cuthbert was recently named one of three 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 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 App State.

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

"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."

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."

TRIO/SSS/ETS Highlights from the 2022-23 Academic Year

- Participated in Domestic Violence Awareness, Suicide Prevention, Teen Dating Violence, and Sexual Assault Awareness on campus.
- Participated in Trunk or Treat October 2022 – campus led and community-wide event.
- Celebrated National “I’m First” day on November 8, 2022 recognizing first-generation college students.
- Led a fundraiser to support an Angel Tree family at the Women’s Shelter in Lenoir.
- Throughout the year, SSS students visited ASU, UNC-Charlotte, WCU, GWU, and LRU as they prepare to transfer to a four-year university.
- 18 students and staff traveled to Nashville, TN in May 2023. The group toured the Grand Ole Opry and saw a show. They visited the Parthenon, replica of the original Parthenon in Athens, Greece, and learned some history and mythology related to the structure. Students toured Vanderbilt University and learned about the history of country music at the Country Music Hall of Fame and RCA Studio.
- Each year, TRIO hosts an annual awards program to recognize the work, success and achievements of our TRIO students during that academic year. We celebrated students in April 2023.
- 33 TRIO/SSS students graduated in May with an associate degree.
- 16 students were recognized for having Personal Growth – students who have come into their own in different ways as a student and professional.
- 9 students were recognized as TRIO Emerging Leaders – students who have demonstrated significant progress towards achieving their leadership potential through campus, community and TRIO involvement.
- 9 students were recognized as TRIO Volunteers – students who have made significant contributions and demonstrated extraordinary commitment to TRIO through participation and service.
- 5 students received the TRIO Peer Supporter award – this award recognized students who display values of encouragement and support to other students inside and outside the classroom, and promotes campus involvement among peers.
- 46 students were recognized for Academic Excellence – students with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- 8 students received the Campus Impact award – students who have been actively engaged in representing CCC&TI and exhibit commitment, respect, excellence, and diversity, and whose contributions of time, creativity, energy, and resources have enriched, sustained, and impacted the campus community.
- 17 students received the Outstanding Persistence award – students who have persisted through challenges in their life.
- 40 students and families participated in workshops hosted throughout the year including:
 - College Application
 - FAFSA & Financial Aid
 - Essay Writing
 - Transferring to a 4-year University
 - Resume Writing
- College Campuses Visited:
 - North Carolina Central University
 - Salem College



- North Carolina State University
- Western Carolina University
- Family Fall Fun Night – hosted families on campus for pumpkin carving, food, and outdoor movie. 48 students and their families participated.
- Snow-Tubing & Dinner Etiquette – 40 students and staff participated. The group went snow-tubing at Jonas Ridge followed by a lesson on dining etiquette and meal at Abele’s Restaurant in Morganton.
- I’m FIRST – guest speaker K.D. Wilson shared his personal story and motivation for first-generation students. 30 students and their parents participated at the event held Nov. 8 2022 at the Civic Center. Students were given I’M FIRST tees.
- CCC&TI Magic Show – TRIO co-sponsored this event, collaboration with SGA, Adult Learners, and Minority Male Mentor. 18 ETS students and their families attended. Students and families were treated to pizza prior to the magic show.
- Middle School Mini-College Experience – 40 students and staff travelled to Western Carolina University. Students toured the campus, participated in team-building experiences, and experienced campus life by eating in the cafeteria and staying overnight in a dorm.
- TRIO Youth Leadership League – TYLL is comprised of 12 high school students who applied and were selected for this unique experience. Students attended a student leadership conference at NC Central University participating in various workshops and college campus experiences.
- NASCAR Hall of Fame Museum – 30 students and staff travelled to Charlotte to learn about the history of the race car industry and enjoyed time at the NASCAR simulation experience.
- Barter Theatre – 20 students and staff travelled to the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Va. to watch a live performance of *Rapunzel*.
- Summer Fun – variety of opportunities were offered to students. These were all one-day events
- Kayaking – led by April Nelson. Approximately 40 students learned how to kayak along with other team-building and collaborative activities.
- Robotics and 3D Printing – led by Susan Deal. 15 students participated in a day of robotics and 3D printing. Students manipulated robots and printed their own creations on the 3D printer.
- Dissection Days – led by Amanda Williams. 35 students participated in dissecting frogs, shark, or pigs.
- Kennedy Space Center and Universal Studios – 26 students and staff travelled to Florida. The group first visited Kennedy Space Center followed by two days at Universal Studios. Students participated in two educational programs while at Universal Studios. 1. Mummy Dig-Site Detective – they learned about cultures and environments of the past as well as used scientific observation methods to evaluate the attraction, Revenge of the Mummy. 2. Special FX Program – gave students a closer look at several of the main rides and attractions, gaining a new understanding of the innovation and creativity that goes into developing a theme park.
- Senior Celebration – high school seniors and their families were invited to attend a dinner and celebration honoring high school graduates. Catered meal was provided and a program that included senior students pictures and recognizing students plans after graduation.





CCC&TI hosted the first ever **Cobra Family Fest** in July 2022 on the Caldwell Campus. The free event was open to the public and provided new, current and prospective students an opportunity to tour the Caldwell Campus with their families and learn about the programs offered. In addition to CCC&TI program and resources information, the event included music, food, prizes, games and kid-friendly activities. It was a fun evening of interacting with folks from the community and talking to prospective students and families about educational options offered at CCC&TI.

In April 2023, **Student Engagement** hosted a Spring installment of Cobra Fest for students and families in April. The event featured free food, Cobra tees, games, a photo booth, inflatables and more for all current students and their families.



CCC&TI hosted community **Trunk-or-Treat** events on both campuses in October 2022. Volunteers from across both campuses decorated trunks and provided free candy, entertainment, games and prizes for children and families in the community. CCC&TI students, faculty and staff came together to make it a great event for the college and the community.



Student-athletes at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute volunteered more than 40 hours in Fall 2022 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 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.”



In June 2023, CCC&TI donated approximately 170 desktop computers and other equipment to **Caldwell County Schools** on Tuesday. We're so thankful for our community partnerships and always happy to collaborate in supporting our local students and educators.

Throughout the Summer of 2023, the **Caldwell Campus LRC** hosted weekly themed book adventures and activities for kids. Themes ranged from camping and the beach to food and gardening and highlighted a variety of books available in the library, along with a free craft kit based on each week's theme.



CCC&TI students from both the Caldwell and Watauga campuses participated in a collaboration and volunteered their artwork to help support **Yokefellow's Empty Bowls** fundraising event in Fall 2022. Handmade bowls were thrown by instructor Laura Aultman and their clay surfaces were designed by the students in the Ceramics classes. Nineteen bowls were donated to the annual Yokefellow Empty Bowls fundraiser. The event is a collaboration between artists, who create and donate handmade bowls, and local chefs, who prepare meals, in an effort to raise proceeds to support local food pantries. Guests to the event make a donation and receive a hand-crafted bowl and a meal.



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 on Wednesday to present the gift.

CCC&TI students, faculty and staff were honored to be part of the November 2022 **Foothills Veterans Stand Down** at the JE Broyhill Civic Center. Along with providing information about programs of study and services available at CCC&TI, our students and faculty volunteered to provide a variety of free services to participating veterans, including haircuts, massages, eye checks and health screenings.





Pictured L-R:
SBC Director Carmela Tomlinson, Jesse Plaster and Angela Postigo, Happy Valley Filling Station

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 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, 2022.

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.”

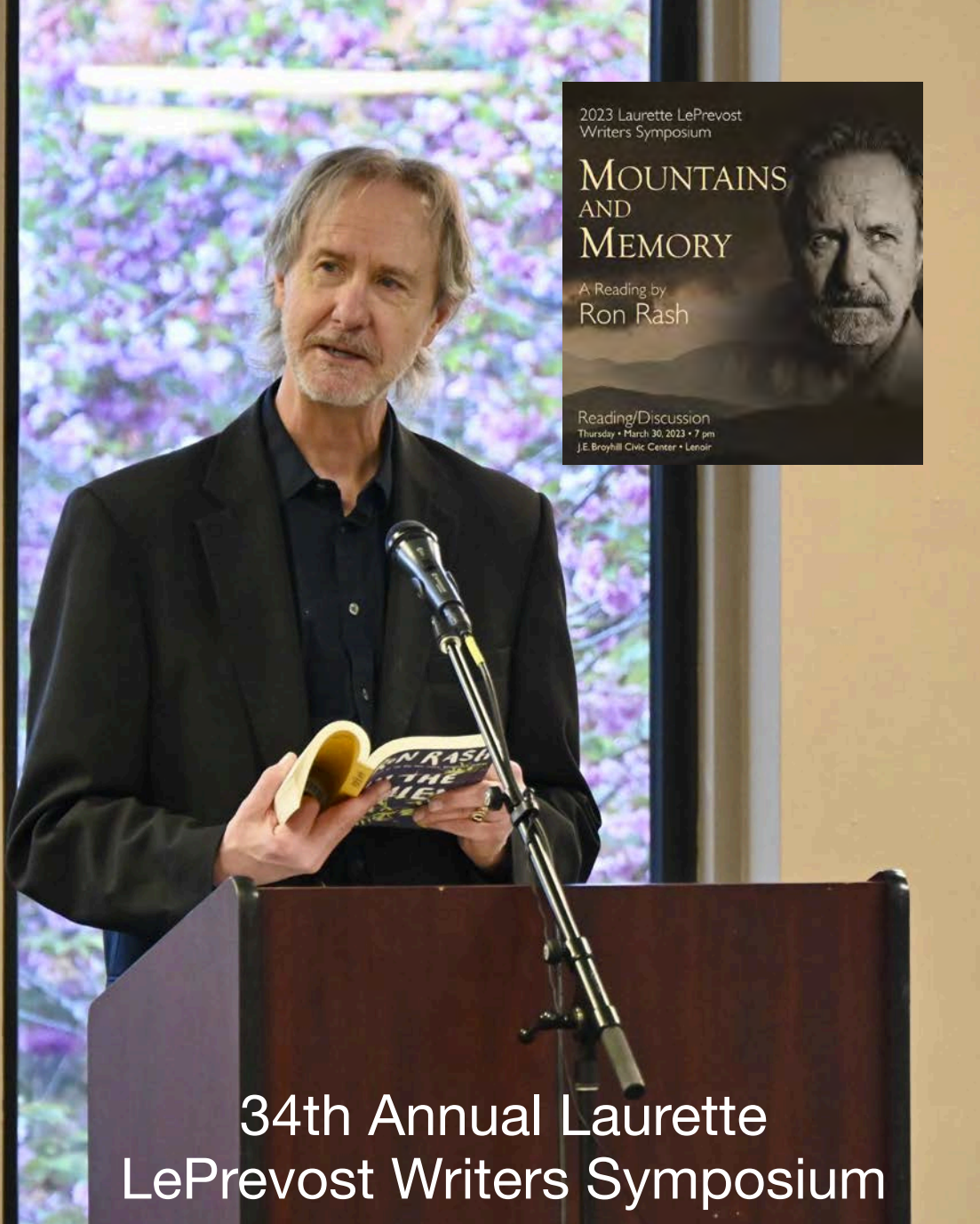
Serving both Caldwell and Watauga counties, CCC&TI's Small Business Center is part of a statewide network of 58 Small Business Centers that support the development of new businesses and the growth of existing businesses by being a community-based provider of training, counseling, and resource information.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

Open for Business



- ❖ Served 68 small businesses
- ❖ Provided 364 counseling hours
- ❖ Assisted 12 start-up businesses
- ❖ Offered 78 workshops/events
- ❖ 499 attendees for workshops/events





34th Annual Laurette LePrevost Writers Symposium

Author Ron Rash was the featured speaker at the 34th Annual Laurette LePrevost Writers Symposium at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir. Rash's presentation was titled *Mountains and Memory* and featured readings from a collection of his poetry, short stories and novels. Following the presentation, Rash answered audience questions. Support for the event is provided by the Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute.

Rash signed books and talked with guests after his presentation. Drawing inspiration from life in the Appalachian Mountains, both in the past and present, Rash has authored multiple prize-winning and best-selling novels including *Serena*, *Above the Waterfall*, *The Cove*, *One Foot in*

Eden, *Saints at the River* and *The World Made Straight*.

About the Writers Symposium

Laurette LePrevost, former Dean of Arts and Sciences for CCC&TI, was instrumental in building the Writers Symposium into an annual event that has brought in such renowned writers as Maya Angelou, Ernest Gaines, Nikki Giovanni, Robert Morgan and Clyde Edgerton. Under her leadership and guidance, CCC&TI's symposium has become the longest-running consecutively held Writers Symposium in western North Carolina and one of the longest in the Southeast. The Writers Symposium series was renamed in her honor when she retired in 2004.

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute hosted the first **Mike Bradshaw Middle School Math Competition** on the Caldwell Campus in Hudson. Seventh and eighth graders from Collettsville, Happy Valley, Gamewell, Granite Falls and Kings Creek flexed their math muscles in a formal competition, followed by get-to-know-you activities and free pizza in the CCC&TI gym.

The top performing team in both the seventh and eighth grade divisions was Granite Falls Middle School. Individual awards were given for first, second and third places for seventh and eighth grade divisions as well.

In its first year, the competition is named for former STEM Department Chair Mike Bradshaw, who retired from CCC&TI in 2015 after 37 years as an educator. He was present for the event and handed out trophies at its conclusion.



Both the Caldwell and the Watauga Campuses hosted receptions in March 2023 celebrating the release of **Branches Volume 25** - CCC&TI's literary and arts magazine. Student authors participated by reading excerpts from their featured works. Several original art pieces included in the publication were on display, as well.

After months of preparation, CCC&TI's **High Altitude Balloon team** launched their balloon from the Hudson campus in early April 2023. The two students present for the launch were team captain Daniel Ward and Cameron Williams.

Attached to the balloon was a payload containing communication equipment indicating that the balloon ascended to approximately 70,000 feet before the payload parachuted down near Drexel.





CCC&TI's Fine Arts Music Program Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Associate in Fine Arts – Music Program hosted their **Performing Artist Concert Series** in both Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 with several featured events for students and the general public.

Events held during the Fall 2022 Semester included Jonathan Scales Fourchestra, Alan Mearns, The Warren Wilson College Gamelan Ensemble and the CCC&TI Chorus.

Events held during the Spring 2023 Semester included Diali Cissokho, Kay and Patrick Crouch, Belleville Rendezvous and the CCC&TI Chorus.



The **Transitional Studies** department was awarded a \$25,000 Professional Development Network Grant from the NC Community College System and 11 Transitional Studies instructors and staff members were able to attend the 2023 COABE National conference in Atlanta, Ga.

Transitional Studies instructors **Jon White**, **Leta Hartley**, and **Rocky Brooks** earned the North Carolina Community College System Core Credential in Adult Education.

Transitional Studies started a new class at Bethel Colony of Mercy, Women's Campus in Patterson, NC.

Julie Couch and **Shari Brown** are on the Multi-Linguals and Caldwell County Schools Together (ML and CCS Together) committee to enhance outreach to non-native English speakers in our community.

Shari Brown was also appointed to the High-Country Workforce Development Board while **Julie Couch** was appointed to the Communities in Schools Board.



2022-2023 was another proud year for Cobra Nation as the athletic program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute continued their standard of excellence in athletic competition and academic achievement as a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association. Highlights from the year include the softball team winning the Region 10 tournament championship for the first time in program history, the successful return of volleyball, the first student-athlete in baseball program history to sign a Major League Baseball contract, three programs earning NJCAA All-Academic honors, and multiple student-athletes earning NJCAA Academic All-American and/or Region 10 All-Academic honors.

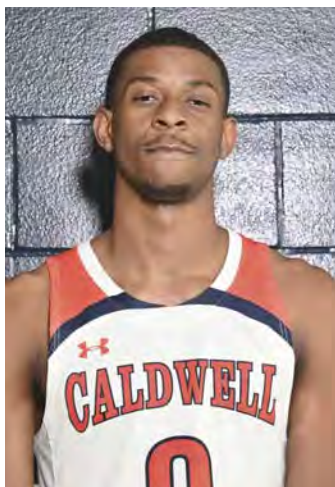


Bo Davidson

CCC&TI's Bo Davidson Signs Free Agent Contract with San Francisco Giants

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute student-athlete Bo Davidson agreed to terms on a free agent contract with the San Francisco Giants, becoming the first player in CCC&TI baseball program history to sign a professional contract.

Davidson, a 6-foot-2-inch outfielder from Charlotte, N.C. (South Mecklenburg High School) helped lead the Cobras to a 36-5 record during the 2023 season. He hit .412 on the season with 16 homeruns, 21 doubles, and 56 RBI to go along with 12 stolen bases. Davidson had a .508 on-base percentage, an .876 slugging percentage, and was named the 2023 Region 10 Division III Player of the Year.



Toyaz Solomon

All-American Recognition

Cobra Men's Basketball player Toyaz Solomon received an NJCAA Division One Men's Basketball Committee All-America honorable mention selection honors in April 2023. It's the first time in program history at the Division One level that a CCC&TI player has achieved All-American recognition. The sophomore from Enfield, N.C. averaged 14.9 points and 9.6 rebounds per game. He also blocked 43 shots and had 15 steals on the season. Solomon scored a season high 27 points in the first game of the season against Motlow State. He scored 20-plus points in seven games and recorded eight double-double on the season, despite missing seven games in December with an injury. In March, Solomon was named Region 10 Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, and first-team All-Region. He helped lead the Cobras to a 22-5 record, including a 10-2 mark and regular season first-place finish in Region 10 Division One. Solomon has signed a National Letter of Intent to attend UNC-Asheville.

Cobra Women's Volleyball Returned in Fall 2022

The Fall 2022 season for CCC&TI's Cobra Women's Volleyball marked its official return to Cobra Athletics for the first time in over a decade. The team competed as part of National Junior College Athletic Association Region 10 and had a solid first season.

Athletic Director Jeff Link says the addition of volleyball to CCC&TI's athletic offerings could not have come at a better time. "Volleyball has seen tremendous growth in Western North Carolina at both the club and high school level over the past few years and we look forward to using that growth to build our program," said Link. "The crowds and enthusiasm for volleyball have been tremendous so far and our team and coaches are working hard."

Coach Brian Harris echoed that sentiment regarding this year's team. While they've been hard at work improving their skills, Harris says they've also grown closer to each other. "Throughout the month of August, we have grown tighter and are truly becoming a family," said Harris. "Every player has worked hard to improve their skill set. That hard work and growth attitude is showing up on the court and gaining the respect of our opponents and officials."

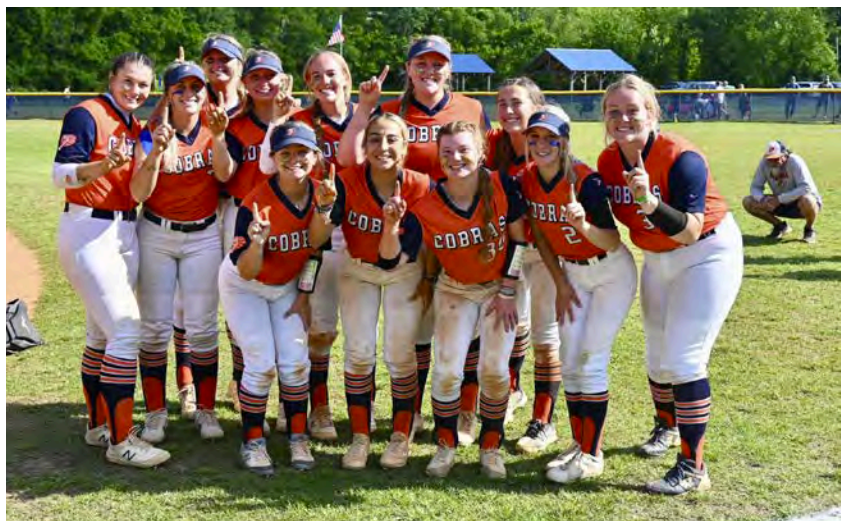




Baseball: 36-5 record, finished in first place in the regular season of Region 10 Division 3. Went 4-0 against rival CVCC, outscoring the Red Hawks 66-27. Finished as the fifth ranked team in NJCAA Baseball Division 3, spent five weeks during the season ranked as the number one team in NJCAA Division 3. Eight student-athletes named to the All-Region 10 team (seven were first team, one was second team). Bo Davidson was named Region 10 Player of the Year. Davidson became the first player in program history to sign a

professional contract, signing with the San Francisco Giants on July 14. Breon Ishmael was named NJCAA Division 3 Player of the Week for March 13-19.

Softball: 30-18 record, Region 10 Division 3 regular season and tournament champions (first championship in program history). Earned a trip to the NJCAA Great Lakes District Tournament. Seven student-athletes were named All-Region 10 (six first team, one second team). Scott Triplett was named Coach of the Year for Region 10. On April 24, the team earned its first NJCAA Division 3



number ranking. The Cobras would spend three weeks ranked number one. Ashley Antonio was named the NJCAA Division 3 Player of the Week for March 13-19.



Men's Basketball: 22-5 record, the team was Region 10 Division 1 regular season champions. Two student-athletes were named to the All-Region 10 team (Toyaz Solomon, right - first team, Jalen Miller, left - second team). Toyaz Solomon was named Region 10 Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year.



Academic Success

For the 2022-23 academic year, 50 of our student athletes were named to the Region 10 All-Academic team (3.0 and above GPA). Twenty-one students were named to one of the NJCAA Academic All-American teams.

Ten student-athletes from Caldwell were honored as members of the All-Academic First Team (perfect 4.0 GPA for the year): Zoey Boston (softball), Andrew Bruss (baseball), Belle Curry (softball), William Griffin (baseball), Emma Grace Hiatt (volleyball), Isaiah Kirby (baseball), Luke Maicon (baseball), Jalen Miller (men's basketball), Brandon Morgan (men's basketball), and Catherine Pate (volleyball).

Caldwell had three student-athletes honored as members of the All-American Second Team 3.80-3.99 GPA): Kenley Jackson (softball), Evan Johnson (baseball), and Dalton Stikeleather (baseball).



Zoey Boston



Andrew Bruss



Belle Curry



William Griffin



Emma Grace Hiatt



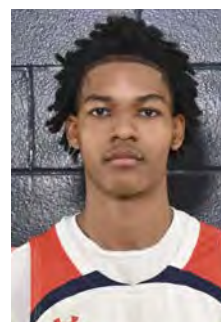
Isaiah Kirby



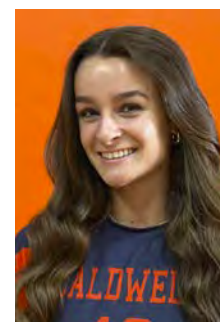
Luke Marcon



Jalen Miller



Brandon Morgan



Catherine Pate



Kenley Jackson



Evan Johnson



Dalton Stikeleather

20th Annual Cobra Classic Golf Tournament

CCC&TI hosted the 20th Annual Cobra Classic Golf Tournament on Friday, Oct. 14 at Cedar Rock Country Club in Lenoir. For the first time in the history of the event, a morning and afternoon flight was held, drawing a record 31 teams (124 golfers). The winning foursome was Nick Brown, Tyler Johnson, Jon Land, and Jack Taylor with a score of 54. Proceeds from the annual Cobra Classic help sustain operating cost within the CCC&TI athletic department, which receives zero state funding. All of the financial proceeds from the tournament goes directly to the athletic program to be used for travel, equipment, uniforms, officials, insurance and maintaining effective recruitment programs.



Take the next step in your education career.

Introducing:
The
**Teacher
Pipeline
Initiative**

A partnership between:



APPSTATE

CCC&TI Joins App State, Public Schools in Inaugural NC Educator Pipeline Collaborative Cohort

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute will participate along with seven other teacher preparation partnerships from across the state in the inaugural North Carolina Educator Pipeline Collaborative cohort. The initiative will identify innovative methods for recruiting and preparing educators for North Carolina's public schools.

The collaborative was launched by The Public School Forum of North Carolina in partnership with the NC Office of the Governor and The Belk Foundation and includes school districts, universities and community colleges working to strengthen the educator pipeline. Together, the cohort will share, develop and implement policies and practices that enhance and extend efforts to recruit, prepare, support and retain a diverse and highly effective educator workforce.

"The Public School Forum is thrilled to be working with the eight collaborative partnerships," said Dr. Mary Ann Wolf, President and Executive Director of the Public School Forum of NC. "Their dedication to growing and diversifying the educator pipeline to ensure that every child has access to a high-quality and well-prepared educator is inspiring. Their engagement and expertise will fuel efforts to develop programs and recommend policies to strengthen and expand recruitment and retention efforts across North Carolina."

CCC&TI will be joined by Appalachian State University and Caldwell County Schools in the partnership. CCC&TI is also working to add Watauga County Schools to the partnership.

"Good things happen when our K-12 schools and institutions of higher learning sit at the same table," said Dr. Mark Poarch, President of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. "Having robust, collaborative relationships are essential to the future of our communities and our state. CCC&TI is extremely excited to partner with Caldwell County Schools and Appalachian State University to find more effective ways to meet the teacher pipeline needs in our region."

The four main goals of the North Carolina Educator Pipeline Collaborative are to (1) Identify and understand the work of successful partnerships and programs; (2) Develop a framework for effective



teacher preparation partnerships across K-12, higher education, and workforce development that work to recruit, prepare, support and retain a diverse, high-quality educator pipeline; (3) Support a cohort of teacher preparation partnerships in their development of programs that meet their context and community needs; and (4) Share findings and recommendations with school districts, higher education, and state leaders to promote best practices and advocate for policies and programs that will have a lasting impact on the teacher pipeline.

“This project is a critical piece of our work and represents ongoing efforts to leverage partnerships to benefit our school system. Clearly, the need is dire for qualified teachers. This plan will help us build the talent pool in our county from within our county,” said Dr. Don Phipps, Superintendent of Caldwell County Schools. “The benefits of the pipeline are win-win-win. The student, prospective teacher, the school system, and the college/university all win. I would argue, hiring from within our county will ultimately lead to increased retention levels and more.”



From left to right: Dr. Bill Griffin, Caldwell County Schools (CCS) Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Ann Wright, CCC&TI Director of Financial Aid; Mandy White, CCC&TI Director of Teacher Preparation; Dr. Katrina McEllen, CCS Assistant Superintendent of Educational Program Services; Dr. Mark Poarch, CCC&TI President; Liz Silvers, CCC&TI Vice President of Instruction; Dr. Betsy Rosenbalm, Director of the Public School Partnership; and Dr. Terry McClannon, ASU Associate Dean, Reich College of Education.

CCC&TI, Lees-McRae College Announce Transfer Agreement

The long relationship between Lees-McRae College and Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute expanded on Tuesday, Feb. 28 when Lees-McRae Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs Kevin Phillips and CCC&TI President Mark Poarch signed the latest articulation agreements between the institutions.

Four new agreements will strengthen and build upon a previously established memorandums of understanding and will provide even more opportunities for CCC&TI students to continue their education through the pursuit of a bachelor's degree at Lees-McRae.

Three of the agreements outline direct transfer for graduates of CCC&TI's Emergency Management associate degree program into the Lees-McRae online bachelor's in Criminal Justice program. The agreements apply to students graduating across three different branches of the Emergency Management program: those who earn Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) credits, Public Safety certificates and Criminal Justice certificates. The fourth agreement outlines direct transfer for graduates of the CCC&TI's Human Services associate degree with a Mental Health Concentration to the Lees-McRae online bachelor's degree in Human Services.



Lees-McRae Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs Kevin Phillips (right) and CCC&TI President Mark Poarch sign the latest articulation agreements between the institutions.

“CCC&TI and Lees-McRae College have had a tremendous partnership for many years,” Poarch said. “We are proud to expand that partnership and once again work together to ensure that our students have opportunities to further their education after completing their studies at CCC&TI.”

In addition to the association with the Lees-McRae Guaranteed Admission Program established through the direct transfer agreements, Lees-McRae offers discounted rates for students transferring through the program. A discount of \$30 per credit hour is available for students entering an online degree completion program, and an additional \$20 per credit hour discount is offered to law enforcement personnel, sworn police officers, registered nurses, healthcare personnel and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society members. “By offering more pathways for students to continue their education into specific academic programs such as Criminal Justice and Human Services, Lees-McRae can help more and more students achieve academic and professional success,” Phillips said. “Our flexible course schedules and online offerings are ideal for CCC&TI students to earn their bachelor's degrees in a quick timeframe at a very affordable cost. We hope to continue providing more opportunities and pathways in the future.”

In 2020, CCC&TI and Lees-McRae announced a new Guaranteed Admissions Program to provide students affordable access to higher education and additional support services during their time at CCC&TI for a successful transition to Lees-McRae. Providing a pathway for students who plan to earn a bachelor's degree, the 2020 agreement also guarantees admission to Lees-McRae for CCC&TI students who complete certain two-year associate degrees.



CCC&TI Trustees Sworn In

In a ceremony at the July 2022 Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Board of Trustees meeting, a new board member and two long-time board members were sworn in. Donna Church, Assistant to the Board of Trustees and the College President, administered the oath to new board member Student Government Association President Emily Norwood as well as re-appointed board members Dale Hamby, left, and Jim Sponenberg III. Norwood became an ex-officio member as part of her duties as president of CCC&TI's Student Government Association. Sponenberg was appointed to another 4-year term by Gov. Roy Cooper and Hamby was appointed to another 4-year term by the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners.

In a ceremony at the August 2022 Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Board of Trustees meeting in Hudson, a re-appointed board member was sworn in. Donna Church, Assistant to the Board of Trustees and the College President, administered the oath to long-time board member Alvin Daughtridge, who was appointed to another 4-year term by the Caldwell County Board of Education. Daughtridge's new term will last through June 30, 2026.

CCC&TI Introduces New Leadership Team Members

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute has announced two leadership team hires and hosted receptions on both campuses to introduce them.

Dr. Jason Chaffin joined CCC&TI effective Oct. 1, 2022 in the role of Chief of Staff. Chaffin previously served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer at Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington. He had served in various roles at Cape Fear since 2005, including Assistant Vice President of Instructional Operations and as an instructor.



Chaffin has earned degrees from Elon University, UNC-Wilmington and East Carolina University. Chaffin said he is looking forward to being a part of the CCC&TI family and living in Western North Carolina.

"I am passionate about community colleges and their mission, having seen first-hand the difference they can make in the lives of the students and communities we serve," Chaffin said. "My wife, Patty, and I are excited about moving to Caldwell County and being a part of this dynamic community."



Though a familiar face at CCC&TI, Liz Silvers took on a new role as of Oct. 1, 2022 as the new Vice President of Instruction and Chief Academic Officer. Silvers joined the CCC&TI team in 2016 and most recently served as the Executive Director of Accountability and Strategic Initiatives.

Prior to coming to CCC&TI, Silvers spent 24 years at Mayland Community College in Spruce Pine in a variety of roles, including instructor,

Interim Vice President of Academics and Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences. Silvers has earned degrees from Lees-McRae University and Appalachian State University.

“CCC&TI is such a special place, and I’m glad to have the opportunity to make a difference for our students and the community,” Silvers said. “Preparing the community for tomorrow’s jobs and challenges is a huge task, but we have a great team and I’m excited to work with them.”

The decades of experience that Chaffin and Silvers bring to their new positions will be a huge asset to the college, CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch said.

“I am confident that Jason and Liz will position the college to continue our great work of supporting students, employees and our communities as we continue to make CCC&TI the best community college in North Carolina,” Poarch said.

Edmisten Joins Civic Center as Executive Director

In a milestone year for the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center, a familiar face has taken a newly created leadership role for the popular performing arts and conference center.

Kimberly Edmisten was named Executive Director of the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center at the start of 2023, the 30th anniversary of the facility’s opening. Edmisten is a Caldwell County native and has decades of local leadership experience.



“I’m excited to be a part of the Civic Center’s long tradition of being a focal point in the community,” Edmisten said. “The J.E. Broyhill Civic Center is known for being the local destination for quality entertainment and the place to celebrate life’s special moments.”

Owned and operated by Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, the facility opened in 1993 and was named in honor of Broyhill Furniture founder Ed Broyhill. It features a 1,000-seat auditorium, ballroom and multiple conference spaces, in addition to an annual Showcase of Stars lineup, on-site catering services and a variety of events throughout the year.

Edmisten’s background includes serving as General Manager of Foothills Radio Group and Public Relations-Marketing Director at Caldwell UNC Health Care. She also has served in several community leadership roles, including the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Lenoir City Council and the Shelter Home of Caldwell and Alexander Counties Board of Directors.

“There’s nowhere else in Caldwell County that connects the community like the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center,” CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch said. “Kim’s experience and local connections make her a great choice to lead and grow this vital facility.”



CCC&TI Announces New Watauga Campus Director



For the first time in more than 10 years, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Watauga Campus has a new executive director. For employees, students and the community, the new director is a familiar face with a desire for growth and to connect the campus to the community it serves. Ronald Holste began his new role on Jan. 3, 2023, following the retirement of the former director, Steve Melton. Prior to his new role, Holste taught psychology and political science at CCC&TI.

"I love teaching, but I miss being out in the community," he said. "When I heard Steve was retiring, I thought this would be a great opportunity to get back into the community, while still being on campus." Holste's career at CCC&TI began in 2011 as an instructor on the campus in Hudson, which included a long commute from Boone. Two years later, he jumped at the opportunity to teach on the Watauga Campus. Prior to his time at CCC&TI, Holste served as the Substance Abuse Prevention Director at Western Youth Network.

A native of Thomasville, N.C., Holste arrived in Boone in 2005 and promptly enrolled at Appalachian State to pursue his master's degree. He's since fallen in love with the community, and has been actively involved, including recently working as a part-time bus driver for Watauga County Schools and running for the Watauga County Board of Education.

Holste acknowledges that the transition from the classroom to an administrative role has a learning curve, but his first weeks have been busy getting up to speed and developing plans. His first goal is to be an advocate for Watauga Campus faculty, staff and students. He also wants the campus to grow and have more visibility in the community.

"We appreciate Ronny's willingness to lead the Watauga Campus and we're excited to have him in this position," CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch said. "Growth and expansion in the High Country are at the top of CCC&TI's priority list, and Ronny's new role is a key part of making that happen."

The **ccc&ti**
Community's
College
Foundation
2023 Annual Fund Drive





Foundation Campaign Features College Leaders

The Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute held its Annual Fund Campaign kickoff luncheon on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir.

Featuring community leaders, campaign volunteers, and college faculty and administrators, the event starts fundraising efforts for the Foundation's Annual Fund Drive. Peg Broyhill, Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors (above), offered opening remarks and welcomed the crowd of supporters. Broyhill also announced the goal for the year's campaign as \$405,000, the highest to date for the Annual Fund Drive.

Broyhill's remarks were followed by a video featuring community leaders who spoke on the impact that the college has on the community. The video included remarks from CCC&TI Trustee James Sponenberg, CCC&TI student and Outreach Navigator Jessica Teeters, CCC&TI Watauga Campus Executive Director Ronald Holste, and CCC&TI Student Government Association President Emily Norwood. Each expressed their gratitude for the impact that CCC&TI has on its students, their families and the greater community. "When a student comes to CCC&TI, they have this sense of community starting with the first person they encounter when they walk through our doors.



James Sponenberg



Jessica Teeters



Ronald Holste



Emily Norwood

Everyone is willing to help the student 100 percent from day one to the day of their graduation,” said Teeters. “That has not only an impact on the students, it even goes directly to their families and therefore the community.”

Foundation Vice-Chair Deborah Murray also spoke at the event. “In this room, I see experience, accomplishment, inspiration, resources and so much more. And I have a question for you to consider, do you remember a time in your life when your own possibilities gave you goosebumps?” she said. “We are providing that moment of hope for a lot of people at CCC&TI. We are removing barriers and allowing students to get goosebumps about their possibilities and their futures.”

CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch also gave brief remarks during the event, thanking those in attendance for the work they do through the Foundation to support students and help them reach their goals. Poarch also commented on increasing enrollment, future expansion projects on both campuses, and the many partnerships that help CCC&TI provide more opportunities for more students. “CCC&TI is thriving and in great shape and that’s a reflection of your support,” said Poarch. “The Foundation is a vital part of what we do. Thank you for your personal investment and for helping us tell our story.”

Another video featuring several scholarship recipients was also shown during the event. The video included comments from several students who received scholarships and were positively impacted by the support they received from the Foundation. “This scholarship means a lot to

me. I don’t think I would be here at this point in time without this scholarship,” automotive student Bryce Horton said. “The support takes a huge burden off and lets me focus on my school.” Another student featured in the video spoke about the impact of her scholarship award: “I’m very, very thankful because the scholarship is going to help me finish school so I’ll be able to provide for my daughter,” student Krystin Rogers said. “From the bottom of my heart, I’m just thankful.” Other students who appeared in the video included Alexis Farmer, Hailey Holsclaw, Jonathan Jordan, Lolita Shields, Sonya Plante and Anthony Szary.



Deborah Murray



Dr. Mark Poarch



Marla Christie

Broyhill introduced each of the team captains for this year’s campaign. They are Barbara Freiman, Doug Johnson, Joan McGee, Deborah Murray, Dr. Mark Poarch, Mary Frances Sullivan, Jeanne Whisnant, Peg Broyhill and Wade Wilmoth.

Foundation Executive Director Marla Christie recognized CCC&TI’s faculty and staff members, who kicked off their portion of the campaign in February. To date, the employee campaign has raised a record-high of more than \$42,000. Fundraising efforts among employees, as well as students, continued throughout the spring.

Board priorities for this year’s campaign include funding for scholarships, the Dream Award Program, student aid, athletics and academic support.

For more information on the Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, or to make a gift to the Annual Fund Drive, visit www.cccti.edu/donate or contact the Foundation Office at 828.726.2260.

DREAM AWARD PROGRAM

Honoring the Class of 2022 Dream Scholars

November 1, 2022



CCC&TI Foundation Celebrates New Dream Award Recipients

With dreams of careers in fields such as engineering, healthcare and education, a group of students began charting their course at the Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's annual Dream Award ceremony at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022.

The Dream Award, which ensures free tuition for local students to attend CCC&TI upon graduation from high school, was presented to 41 students from Caldwell and Watauga counties who were nominated and chosen while in sixth grade.

Participants must be future first-generation college students who have demonstrated academic achievement and civic involvement, and who have the potential to succeed. The program, which is funded through private donations to the Foundation, has presented awards to 1,405 students since its inception in 1989.

CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch opened the ceremony by welcoming the students, their families and guests.

"It's a special night when we get to hear about the hopes and dreams of these students," Poarch said. "Thanks to many of you in this room and so many others in our community, college is no

longer a question mark for these students. You have paved the way for these young people to have guaranteed access to a college education. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Peg Broyhill, Chairwoman of the CCC&TI Foundation, congratulated the group and recognized her fellow Foundation Board members and CCC&TI administrators as well as various county school officials, local organizations, civic groups, churches and clubs whose contributions help make the program possible.

She gave special thanks for endowments and grants made possible by the Broyhill Family Foundation, the Coffey Foundation, the Granite Falls High School Class of 1963, the Hogan Family Foundation and the Rose and Dwight Church Family. She also recognized Dr. Tony Deal, retired Executive Vice President and Vice President of Student Services at CCC&TI, who introduced the idea of the Dream Award more than 30 years ago.

"Each of you has gone above and beyond in demonstrating good character, leadership and achievement," Broyhill said to the students. "We look forward to seeing you shine and hearing about your many successes in the future."

Dena Holman, Vice President of Student Services at CCC&TI, provided a history of the program and encouraged recipients to make the most of the opportunity. "Regardless of your goals, we're here to support you along your journey to a college education," she said.

Holman then introduced guest speakers Tatiana Fernandez, a 2008 Dream Award recipient at Gamewell Middle School and CCC&TI graduate, and Dr. Amanda Stroud, one of the first recipients of the Dream Award in 1989 while she was a student at Happy Valley School.



Tatiana Fernandez

Dr. Amanda Stroud

Fernandez has earned Business Administration and Accounting associate degrees at CCC&TI, as well as a Cosmetology diploma earlier this year. She owns two local businesses and attributes part of her success to receiving the Dream Award years ago. "It's very important that

you take advantage of this award and the opportunity to further your education," she said.

Stroud is the Dental Director for AppHealthCare in Boone and serves as President of the NC Dental Society Foundation Board. She urged the

group to imagine their journey to college and a career and likened the Dream Award to a boarding pass. "Whatever your trip looks like, whatever your journey looks like, realize that all of us in this room have things in common with you," Stroud said. "All of us in this room are here to support you, encourage

you and congratulate you."

To conclude the ceremony, Dream recipients introduced themselves to the audience and shared their career goals, while Holman read comments from their Dream nominations completed by educators at their schools.

2022 Dream Award Recipients

Savannah Adkins, Happy Valley School
 Peyton Auton, Kings Creek School
 Braylon Baker, Gamewell Middle School
 Charlene Banegas, William Lenoir Middle School
 Yariah Bowen, Collettsville School
 Travis Buckner, William Lenoir Middle School
 Justin Byers, Mabel School
 Maddison Canter, Blowing Rock School
 Aden Chue, Hudson Middle School
 Declan Coffey, Collettsville School
 Austin Cooper, Granite Falls Middle School

Debbie Yount Dream Award Recipient

Elaina Curnutte, Granite Falls Middle School
 Copeland Dunaway, Blowing Rock School
 Carson Eggers, Mabel School
 Trinity Ellison, Collettsville School

Dr. Tony Deal Dream Award Recipient

Lily Faulkner, Cove Creek School
 Chandler Foust, Kings Creek School
 Natalie Fox, Valle Crucis School
 Gracie Hall, William Lenoir Middle School
 Zoey Hall, Collettsville School
 Titus Hamby, Green Valley School

Abigail Keller, Gamewell Middle School
 Xitlali Luna, Hardin Park School
 Dalton Martinez, Gamewell Middle School
 Emma McKibbin, Parkway School
 Madison Millsaps, Bethel School
 Caden Ornduff, Cove Creek School
 William Phillips, Bethel School

Optimist Club of Boone Dream Award Recipient

Rihanna Pope, Hardin Park School
 Amber Ramos, Valle Crucis School
 Lucas Ray, Green Valley School
 Braden Resor, Granite Falls Middle School
 Alexandra Reyes Montelongo, Hardin Park School
 Reagan Rotting, Kings Creek School
 Aaliyah Routh, Hudson Middle School
 Hailey Sawyer, Happy Valley School

Dwight and Rose Church Dream Award Recipient

Makari Stewart, Happy Valley School
 Daphne Strandquist, Valle Crucis School
 Alaina Tavernia, Hudson Middle School
 Clay Trivette, Parkway School
 Abigail Williams, Gamewell Middle School

CCC&TI Foundation Announces Scholarship Recipient

The Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute recently presented Lana McCall of Hudson with the Harold F. Coffey Scholarship for 2022-2023. McCall is working toward an Associate in Science degree as well as an Emergency Medical Technician certificate. McCall is a 2022 graduate of South Caldwell High School, where she participated in Beta Club, the Health Occupations Students of America Club, Citizens of the World Club, Student Ambassadors Club and varsity women's golf. She also has volunteered with Wheelhouse Sports Academy and North Catawba Optimist. McCall plans to transfer to Appalachian State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in biology and continue her education to become a Physician Assistant. Established by the Coffey Foundation in memory of Harold Coffey, the scholarship is merit-based and provides \$2,500 annually to a graduate of Caldwell County Schools or a graduate of a certified Caldwell County home school who does not qualify for a Pell Grant. The graduate must also have a minimum GPA of 3.5 and have demonstrated civic or community involvement. The scholarship provides funds to cover the cost of tuition, books and supplies for a student who enrolls in either an Associate in Science or Associate in Applied Science program of study at CCC&TI.



Lana McCall

Mini Grants: Major Impact CCC&TI Mini Grant Project Funds 12 Unique Faculty/Staff Initiatives

CCC&TI's Foundation continued its popular and innovative Mini-Grant Project during the 2022/2023 academic year. The project allocated \$22,000 from academic support dollars raised by the Foundation to fund innovative ideas pitched by faculty and staff.

Now in its fifth year, the mini-grant project has encouraged innovation and creativity among college employees who are tasked to come up with ideas that directly impact student learning and that correlate with the institution's strategic plan and overall mission.

In total, the following 12 projects were selected to receive funding:

“The Cobra Power & Passion for Play”

Submitted by Ethan Garner, Mandy White, Linda Albritton, Debbie Mitchell and Melissa McCarraher.

“The Cobra Power & Passion for Play” is a campus-wide initiative to promote pride and spirit among students and



employees and to foster positive relationships and overall wellbeing through the power of play. Through varied events and types of play, Early Childhood, Teacher Preparation, Biology, Psychology and Phi Theta Kappa students will explore the benefits and impacts of play in both physical and mental capacities.



“Physical Therapist Assistant Telepresence Robot”

Submitted by Heather Bowman

The Telepresence Robot is an innovative solution to a gap created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the PTA program will utilize a telepresence robot to provide students the ability to participate in class and clinicals via teleconferencing. The robot will allow students the freedom to move within the classroom, lab or clinical setting, and reduces the need for alternative learning methods. Additionally, the robot will be used to job shadow clinicians to allow students to gain better understanding of what each practice setting entails, decreasing the learning curve once they attend clinicals.

“COPS (Cameras Over Public Safety)”

Submitted by Norman Staines

The integration of drones into public safety training will allow instructors to enhance student learning during practical exercises, such as firearms training, driving, ventilation and search techniques, among others. Drones will allow the instructors to have additional views of the students during these exercises, and will allow students the capability to review videos following the completion of the exercises. These videos will aid students in seeing progress and areas in which to improve.

“CCC&TI Resilience Academy”

Submitted by Richie Covington and Shannon Brown

The Resilience Academy project seeks to increase student retention through the building of a resilience skillset and increasing student involvement on campus. The program will consist of eleven presentations on both the Caldwell and Watauga campuses, which aim to build students’ ability to navigate and persevere through hardships and unforeseen circumstances through their time at CCC&TI and beyond.



“Women Empowering Women”

Submitted by Becky Boone and Tuesday Sigmon

By creating a support group for women through CCC&TI’s TRIO program and Counseling & Disability services division, this project works to increase student resilience, self-esteem, and to create an inclusive network in which women can be themselves while learning leadership, commitment and connection. The project includes bi-monthly meetings, or twelve total sessions, to work through the “10 Days to Self-Esteem” workbook.



“Kayaking Cobras”

Submitted by April Nelson

An effort to remove financial barriers so that students of all economic backgrounds can participate in a physical education course on Lake Rhodhiss, which in turn has the potential to influence each student’s quality of life, reduce stress, improve physical health and heighten awareness and stewardship of natural resources. The purchase of kayaks will reduce the need for rentals, which then allows for students to participate in the course without additional fees.

“Support and Wellness”

Submitted by Tuesday Sigmon

Mental health challenges have increased over the past few years, but the outward visibility of Counseling and Disability Services has been limited. Through this grant, the Counseling and Disability Services department seeks to reduce mental health stigma and to increase knowledge of support and wellness, as well as the resources available to students campus wide, through the use of activities, workshops and wellness events.

“Establishment of Business Credentialing Program for Increased Workforce-Readiness”

Submitted by Martin Hubner

To better prepare business program students for entry into the workforce, the goal of this program is to pilot a credentialing program in which current students will be prepared to sit for the Meta Certified Digital Marketing Associate certification. The hope is that this credential will give students a more competitive edge when entering the workforce and better chance of success, as they will attain skills that will allow them to stand out against others.

“A Whole New World”

Submitted by Megan Norwood and Amanda McLean

By bringing the outside world into the classroom via virtual reality technology, students in Transitional Studies classes will experience career exploration and simulations, build background knowledge of historical events and geographical exploration, and learn to follow instructions through numerous virtual reality experiences. Utilizing virtual reality removes economic and physical limitations for travel, allowing students to gain access to places and cultures they may not experience otherwise.



“What time is it? Donut Time”

Submitted by Asia Hunt

Using a donut theme that correlates to each workshop, this project consists of five workshops designed to educate students on life after college, as well as career knowledge. Topics would include resume building and writing, etiquette for job interviews, basic budgeting and financial literacy,

MBTI personality assessments, and various career opportunities that are available for students.

“Cobra Self-Care and Wellness Event”

Submitted by Amy Swink

Massage therapy students will learn and utilize important marketing skills while reinforcing their units on self-care and trigger point massage by hosting a self-care and wellness event for CCC&TI students. This event will be mutually beneficial for massage therapy students, as they will be able to ‘do and teach’ what they have learned, while students participating in the event will learn methods to reduce stress, such as self-massage techniques and stretches.

“Women’s Shelter Christmas Dinner and Holiday Hams for Casting Bread”

Submitted by Keith Andreasen

On Christmas Day, current culinary students will engage in community service by preparing, cooking and delivering a hot meal to the Caldwell Women’s Shelter. Hams will be purchased to be distributed during the Holiday season at Casting Bread Food Bank in Watauga county.





Bernhardt Family Scholarship Assists Single Parents

Now in its 12th year, the Bernhardt Family Scholarship program continues to assist 15 single parents who are first generation college students. Each semester, Bernhardt Scholars are awarded \$1,000 to complete their programs and are assigned mentors to help provide educational and personal guidance through their educational journey at CCC&TI. The Foundation Office hosted various activities for the group to attend this year, such as Goal Getters Workshop; led by Dr. Tracy Crump and a Holiday Dropin, as well as providing exam survival kits. The Foundation is honored to be able to help assist with the unique challenges of this special student population where success truly impacts the whole family. This year's recipients are:



Amy Byrd	Sara Debrow	Kayla Hiveley	Sabrina Lindsey	Asha Salley
Tawanna Cook	Seanna Hampton	Tiffany Inch	Ashle Pressley	
Sherry Crane	Bethany Hardin	Haley Lail	Ayshya Rankins	

Once a Cobra, Always a Cobra

CCC&TI hosted an Alumni Trivia Night in November 2023 at Three Doors Down Beverage Co. at the HUB Station. Alumni enjoyed a night of pizza and networking, followed by an exciting game of trivia, hosted by Jeff Link. The Foundation also features various alumni throughout the year on its Facebook page, and is actively growing a LinkedIn community to help alumni stay connected. Alumni are invited to join the college's Alumni Association to stay up-to-date with college news and upcoming events. It is free to join at www.cccti.edu/Alumni.





Celebrating Success

The Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute announced that it successfully reached and exceeded its 2023 Annual Fund Drive Goal of \$405,000 at a festive Fund Drive celebration event in August 2023 at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center.

Foundation of CCC&TI Board Chair Peg Broyhill made the official announcement and thanked volunteers, Foundation supporters and college employees for their hard work on behalf of the campaign which raised \$632,252 for scholarships, Dream Award program, student aid, academic support and athletics.

Broyhill then called on Foundation of CCC&TI Vice Chair Deborah Murray for a toast to the campaign success. Murray echoed Broyhill's thanks and praised volunteers for their efforts in reaching their goal for student scholarships and institutional support. In her toast, Murray said "Part of the college's job these days is to continue their commitment to be relevant and to be part of today's world; not just to meet the status quo, which is easy for an institution to do. But, they are out there being innovative, being relevant, changing lives, and leading change for the future of our community. And they're one of the best in the entire state and we should all be very proud of them."

CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch also spoke briefly at the event, thanking volunteers and donors for their commitment to the college and its students. "I love this community. You never disappoint. You never under deliver. You always come through and support this institution like you believe in us and we know that you do," said Poarch. "Our commitment to you in return for your investment in us is a promise to do everything we can to be relevant and to make life better for the people that we have the privilege of serving each and every day."

Poarch also thanked CCC&TI employees and students for their support of the fund drive. Both groups raised record amounts for the 2023 Annual Fund Drive which provides funds for scholarships, student aid and emergency assistance, athletics, the Dream Award Program and academic support.

A Message to Our Donors

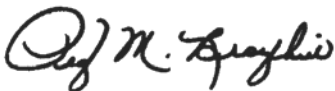
On behalf of the Foundation Board, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support of our 2023 Fund Drive. Because of you, we not only met but far exceeded our goal of \$405,000 with another record year on the books!

Your commitment to fostering education and empowering the next generation of leaders is invaluable. Please be assured that your contribution has a tremendous impact on the college's ability to provide quality education and opportunities for deserving students.

Thanks to your support, we have been able to expand our scholarship offerings and make higher education accessible to those who would not otherwise be able to attend CCC&TI. You are helping us change lives one student at a time. Our students and employees are continually inspired by your kindness, and we consider ourselves fortunate to have partners like you who are dedicated to advancing education and creating positive change.

Once again, thank you for your generous support and for making such a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and our college community. CCC&TI is the Community's College.

Warmest Appreciation,



Peg M. Broyhill
Foundation Board Chair



2023 Annual Fund Drive Priorities The Foundation of CCC&TI, Inc.

Scholarship Support	\$127,500
Dream Program Support	\$37,200
Student Aid Support	\$102,500
Academic Support	\$109,000
Athletics	\$23,800
Board Reserve/Contingency	\$5,000
2023 CAMPAIGN GOAL TOTAL	\$405,000

CCC&TI Financial Report

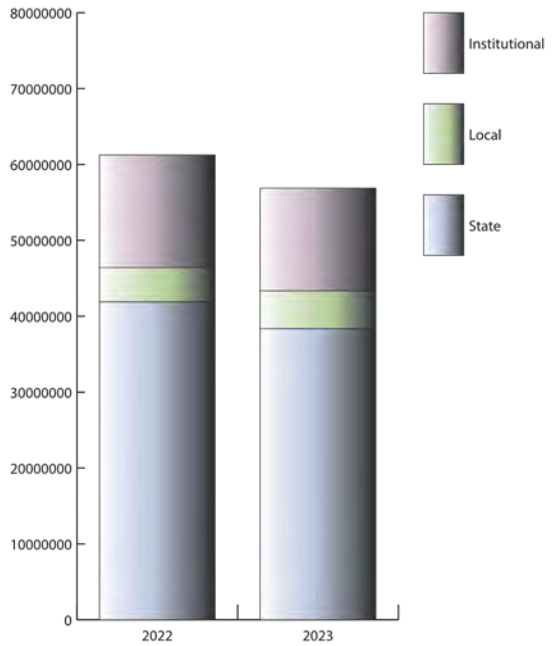
Revenue

Year	State	Local	Institutional	Total
2022	41,888,903.00	4,525,391.00	21,549,871.00	67,964,165.00
2023	38,347,353.67	4,995,096.49	13,547,879.95	56,890,330.11

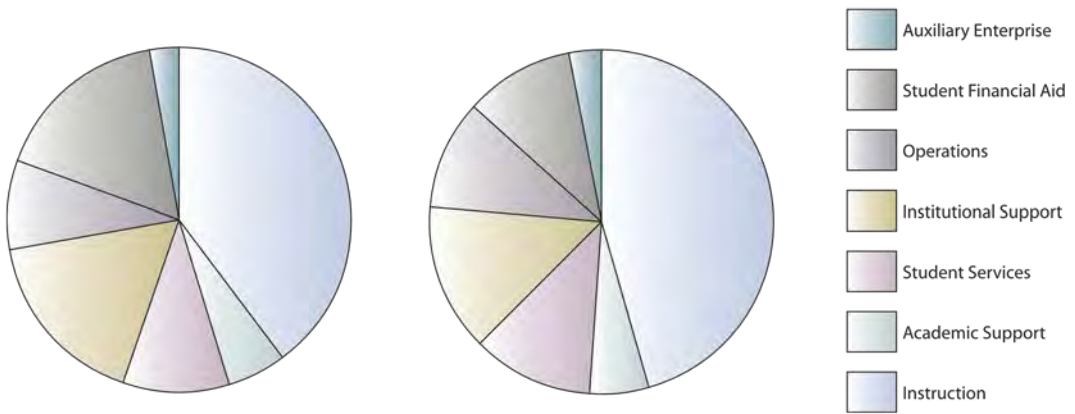
State funds - funds for current operating and plant fund expenses as provided in General Statutes 115D-31. The items of expense in this fund include salaries and other costs to carry out the functions of general administration, instructional services and support services.

Local funds - county funds for current operating and capital outlay expenses as provided in General Statute 115D-32.

Institutional funds - loan funds, scholarship funds, auxiliary enterprises, state, private, and federal grants and contracts, endowment funds and agency funds.



Expenditures



Auxiliary Enterprise.....	1,170,111.37
Student Financial Aid	7,385,436.76
Operations & Maintenance.....	3,641,036.95
Institutional Support	7,513,433.66
Student Services	4,406,786.76
Academic Support	2,380,689.00
Instruction	17,582,179.00
Total.....	44,079,673.50

Auxiliary Enterprise.....	1,184,922.42
Student Financial Aid	4,276,493.86
Operations & Maintenance.....	4,366,844.00
Institutional Support	4,914,525.86
Student Services	4,762,232.52
Academic Support	2,408,624.31
Instruction	18,998,611.36
Total.....	40,912,254.33

Tributes

Memorial gifts and honoraria are very meaningful ways to express sympathy to a bereaved family or to recognize someone on a special occasion. 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 July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Honoraria:

In honor of
Janice Malloy Bahash to the
Matt Malloy Memorial Scholarship:
Caitlyn Council

In honor of
Dr. Kenneth Boham to the
Dr. Kenneth and Betty Boham
Scholarship:
Donna Church

In honor of
Mike Bradshaw to the Mike Bradshaw
Middle School Math Competition:
Dale Joyner

In honor of
Spencer Bruining and his parents,
Bill and Tracy Bruining's August
birthdays to the Spencer Bruining
Memorial Scholarship:
Brenda Morse

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
Rose Church to the
Dwight and Rose Church
Dream Scholarship:
Jerry Church

In honor of
Patricia and Jerry Church to the
Dwight and Rose Church
Dream Scholarship:
Rose Church

In honor of Hannah Clark
on the occasion of Christmas:
Kate Benoit

In honor of
Bill and Ruth Crump
to the 2023 Annual Fund Drive:
Dr. Tracy Crump

In honor of
Muggy Davenport on the occasion of
his retirement to Athletics:
Donna Church
Colleagues of Muggy Davenport

In honor of
Dr. Tony Deal to Dream Award
for the 2023 Annual Fund Drive:
Debra Yount

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
Jimmy Hemphill and Fred Piercy to the
2023 Annual Fund Drive:
Charles and Davanna Downs, II

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
Robin Ledford on the occasion
of her retirement:
Marla Christie
Liz Silvers

In honor of
Myra Moore on the occasion
of her retirement to the
2023 Annual Fund Drive:
Susan Wooten

In honor of
Dr. Mark Poarch to Athletics:
Kay and Patrick Crouch

In honor of
Dr. Mark Poarch to the
Dr. Mark and Tracy Poarch Scholarship
on the occasion of Christmas:
Marla Christie
Lauren Saunders
Liz Silvers

In honor of
Dr. Mark Poarch, NC Community
College System President of the Year,
to the Dr. Mark and Tracy Poarch
Scholarship:

Anne-Lindsay Beall
Peg Broyhill
Broyhill Family Foundation
Joel and Kathy Carroll
Marla Christie
Jerry Church
Donna Church

Rick and Tamara Coffey
Alvin and Judy Daughtridge
Laurin Dula
Shaina Dyson
Karen Ford

Joe and Becky Gibbons
Candis Hagaman
Dale Hamby
Lynn Holder

Drs. Wayne and Jeannie Hollar
Doug Johnson
Chase Keller
Joan McGee

Deborah Murray
Lauren Saunders
Ann Smith
Jim Sponenberg

Bill Stone
Jim and Mary Frances Sullivan
Larry Taylor

Wongalee and Alvin Thomas
Carmela Tomlinson
Guy Walters, Jr.
Phillip and Jamie White
Lowell Younce

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 Marty Waters
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AS AN INSTITUTION, WE VALUE:

TEACHING & LEARNING

We embrace an educational climate that promotes lifelong learning, intellectual growth, and scholarship through excellence in teaching.

INNOVATION

We aspire to improve the college environment through critical and creative thinking.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

We commit to providing exemplary educational experiences.

STUDENT SUCCESS

We cultivate environments and opportunities that are conducive to student learning, development, and success.

INTEGRITY

We encourage an environment of fairness and honesty by upholding the highest ethical standards throughout the college.

COMMUNITY

We nurture partnerships and relationships that strengthen the local, regional, state, and global communities.

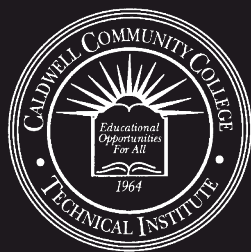
INCLUSION & DIVERSITY

We create respectful and equitable work and learning environments across differences where every person feels valued and has opportunities for growth and potential.

COMMUNICATION

We recognize that effective communication is essential to establishing a culture that fosters collaboration, strengthens relationships with others, and promotes the mission of the college.





Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute

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