



The Caldwell

# Chronicle

August 2023



**Another exciting year begins at CCC&TI!**



**Also in this issue: A look back at our 2023 Graduation Ceremonies!**

## On the cover:

*Top, our 2023/2024 Student Government Association officers met regularly this summer on the Caldwell Campus, planning and preparing for this semester's full calendar of student activities. Pictured from left to right are: Jupiter Slade, Isaiah Kirby, Evan Johnson and Katelynn Hollar. For more on this year's SGA officers, see pages 8-9.*

*Bottom, several of CCC&TI's adult learners are participating in focus group meetings and helping to plan events with our adult student population in mind. Pictured from left to right are students Joseph Brendle, TJ Sturgeon, Allison Waters and Paige South.*

*For information on all upcoming student events, keep an eye on your CCC&TI student email or visit the Cobra Calendar on the website. It's going to be a great year for all students!*

## CCC&TI Celebrates 2023 Graduates

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 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 of the Class of 2023's accomplishments.

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



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. 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.”

### **Third Generation CCC&TI Graduate Continues Family Tradition with Nursing Degree**

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’s an adjunct instructor for the ADN and LPN programs on the Watauga Campus, but it is where she 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 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 burn-out 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.”



## Lenoir Man First to Complete CCC&TI New Cybersecurity Associate Degree

Balancing a full-time job and being a full-time college student is never easy. But, as 27-year-old Austin Davis of Lenoir has demonstrated, it's possible.

In July, Davis completed the final course needed to earn his Associate in Applied Science degree in Information Technology - Cybersecurity. He is the first student to complete the new associate degree program which was added in Fall 2022 and gives students another Cybersecurity credential option in addition to the existing certificate. Davis says he's looking forward to the opportunities his new degree will provide.

If not for the ability to complete most of his coursework online, balancing work and school would have been difficult.

Davis currently works in the information technology department as a service desk analyst at Alex Lee, Inc., the parent company of MDI. Davis started his career at Alex Lee as a selector and truck loader at MDI before landing an information technology job.



“Austin spent countless hours outside of normal class time in the labs practicing hands-on skills and running experiments with switches, routers, servers and virtual machines – all this while preparing for and successfully passing his Security +, working full time and taking on a full schedule of classes,” CCC&TI Cybersecurity Instructor Robert Theisen said. “He’s an elite level talent that exemplifies the ‘Caldwell Way’ and an example to all students who are seeking to break into IT and cybersecurity.”

Davis hopes to follow in his father’s footsteps, earning certifications and a degree in one of information technology’s fastest growing sectors.

“The degree gives you a really good base, then you can jump into different individual certifications,” Davis said, adding that you have to be a life-long learner in information technology. “Mr. Theisen really gave me a passion for cybersecurity and that made a real difference in wanting to learn more.”

For more information about the Cybersecurity program and other Information Technology offerings at CCC&TI, visit: <http://www.cccti.edu/InfoTech>

CCC&TI is currently registering students for the Fall Semester, which begins Aug. 14. For more information or to get started, call 828-726-2200.

## 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.”



## Trustees Sworn In

In a ceremony at the July Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Board of Trustees meeting on the campus in Hudson, a new Trustee was sworn in as a first-time member and three long-time members were re-appointed. Donna Church, assistant to the Board of Trustees and the college president, administered the oath to (from left to right): Wongalee Thomas, William Winkler, III, Katelynn Hollar, and William (Bill) Stone. Thomas was reappointed for a 4-year term by the governor. Winkler was reappointed for 4-year term by the Watauga County Commissioners. Hollar becomes an ex-officio member as part of her duties as Student Government President for a one-year term. Stone was reappointed for a 4-year term by the Caldwell County Board of Education.



## Radiography Graduates Earn 100 Percent Pass Rate

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 passage 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.



Congratulations to our Radiography Class of 2023 on their accomplishments!

## Physical Therapist Assistant Graduates Earn 100 Percent Pass Rate

The 2023 graduates of Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute's Physical Therapist Assistant Program have 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. CCC&TI's program is ranked #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 and will repeat for 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 Lockee of Conley Springs, Madison Beauregard 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.



Congratulations to our Physical Therapist Assistant graduates on their accomplishments!

# Meet Your 2023/2024

## Student Government Association Representatives

### **Katelynn Hollar, President**

Katelynn Hollar is from the George Hildebrand community in Burke County. She came to CCC&TI for its variety of program offerings and is currently enrolled in the Biopharmaceutical Program. After completing her degree, she plans to seek employment in the region's growing Biopharmaceutical field. Katelynn says she decided to get involved with CCC&TI's Student Government Association because she wants to help her fellow students have a fun and memorable experience while also challenging herself. "I want to have as many students involved [in campus activities as possible] and [for them] to have the full fun experience of being in college," she said. "I also want to step out of my comfort zone and really challenge myself." Katelynn is also currently a work study student for the Biopharmaceutical program and in her spare time enjoys taking care of her pets which include 3 dogs and a pot-bellied pig. Katelynn says she's looking forward to serving her fellow students as part of SGA. "I enjoy helping people whenever I can. I also try to make [everything] fun and to always look on the bright side of things."



### **Evan Johnson, Vice-President**

Evan Johnson is a Wilkesboro native and decided to attend CCC&TI for several reasons including both the smaller class sizes and the college's athletic offerings. "I chose [CCC&TI] so I could attend a smaller college where I can have relationships with my professors and [also] have the opportunity to play baseball," he said. Evan is currently completing prerequisites for the Associate Degree – Nursing program as well as completing courses for an Associate in Arts Degree. After earning his degrees, he hopes to pursue a career in the medical field as a registered nurse. Evan says that he wanted to get involved with SGA so that he can encourage other students to volunteer and work together to make a positive impact on the community. "As fellow students at CCC&TI, we need to show our community the pride and respect we have for one another," he said while also sending an encouraging message out for his fellow students: "Don't just be ordinary, let's be extraordinary!" Evan is also involved with the JUCO 4 Jesus Club and serves as the group's Treasurer and is a member of the top-ranking Cobra Men's Baseball Team. In his spare time, Evan, who also holds a Certified Nursing Assistant license, enjoys being outdoors, participating in a variety of sports and pulling for the Boston Red Sox baseball team and the Las Vegas Raiders football team.



### **Jupiter Slade, Secretary**

Lenoir native and Hibriten High School graduate Jupiter Slade is serving as the Student Government Association Secretary. Jupiter says they decided to enroll at CCC&TI because it was close to home. Jupiter also said it was beneficial to continue building on the foundation started in high school, where they took several college courses through the Career and College Promise Program. Jupiter is currently working toward an Associate in Fine Arts-Music degree and plans to transfer to a music conservatory to further their music skills and training. Jupiter hopes to perform professionally one day in musical theater and eventually become a music educa



tor. Jupiter decided to get involved with SGA to promote student life, serve fellow students and the campus, and ultimately “tackle social bridges to create [more] diversity on campus.” While in office, Jupiter hopes to have a positive impact on the campus environment so that it is engaging and inclusive for all types of students. “I strive to inspire uniqueness and create a better sense of belonging for everyone. This is our school, and we all belong here!” Jupiter also hopes that promoting SGA events and campus involvement will help provide a voice for fellow students. In addition to involvement with SGA, Jupiter is also a member of the CCC&TI Choir and made sure to give it a plug while sharing their information. “We would love to have you sing with us,” they said. “If you enjoy singing or need a credit, contact your advisor!” As a self-taught pianist, composer and songwriter, Jupiter says their first love is music. Jupiter also enjoys cooking and trying new dishes, spending time with “friends and cats,” and binge-watching favorite shows.



## Isaiah Kirby, Senator

Isaiah Kirby is a native of Hudson and says that he decided to start his education journey at CCC&TI so that he could pursue a lifelong dream of playing collegiate baseball. The outfielder/pitcher is entering his third year as a student at CCC&TI and has already earned enough credits for an Associate in Arts degree and hopes to transfer to a four year university where he can continue both his education and his collegiate baseball career. Isaiah says that he decided to get involved with SGA because he loves to have fun and wants to make the CCC&TI experience more enjoyable for his fellow students. Through his service to SGA, he hopes to have a positive impact on those around him through conversation, activities, and events. “I love to help make places fun and enjoyable for everyone involved,” he said. “SGA allow me to do that.” In addition to being a Cobra Baseball Player and Student Government representative, Isaiah is also involved in the JUCO for Jesus Club.



## Interested in getting involved with CCC&TI Student Government?

**Contact CCC&TI's Student Life Director Maggie Murray (pictured at right) at [mmurray@cccti.edu](mailto:mmurray@cccti.edu) or 828-726-2301, see any of your student representatives or visit the Caldwell Campus SGA Office in E Building adjacent to the Student Lounge.**



## Want to check out upcoming student activities on either campus?

**Visit [www.cccti.edu](http://www.cccti.edu) and click on the Event Calendar, check your CCC&TI student email or scan the QR code at right. >>>**



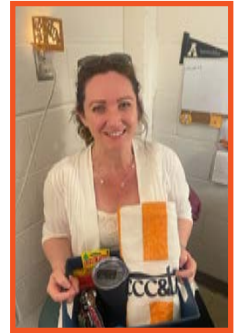
## Summer Cobra Cares Awards

The Cobra Cares award program is intended to show immediate appreciation for and recognition of CCC&TI employees for exceptional contributions and customer service inside or outside of their departments.

Two awards are given each month, and recipients can be full-time or part-time CCC&TI employees. Both employees and students are encouraged to nominate employees for the award each month.

### April

Always smiling and genuinely happy to be here, our April Cobra Cares Award winners were nominated for the joy they bring to campus and the high quality of work they do behind the scenes. Congratulations to **Alexis Shook** (Administrative Assistant, Student Development and Success, Caldwell Campus) and **Jackie Woodruff** (Director, Marketing and Branding, Caldwell Campus).



### May

Our May Cobra Cares Award winners are doing it all and making it look easy. Congratulations to **Amber Edwards** (Radiography Director, Caldwell Campus) and **Angie Ruppard** (Math Instructor, Caldwell Campus).

### June

Our June Cobra Cares Award winners do a lot of work behind the scenes to make CCC&TI function efficiently. Congratulations to **Robert "Lee" Parker** (Maintenance Technician, Caldwell Campus) and **Susan Wooten** (Vice President Technology/Chief Information Officer, Caldwell Campus).



### July

Our July Cobra Cares Award winners were nominated by students for the high level of care they show in each interaction. Congratulations to **Dustin Greene** (Instructor, English, Caldwell Campus) and **Brittney Lewis** (Counselor, Counseling and Disability Services, Caldwell Campus).

**Want to nominate a colleague, instructor or staff member for a Cobra Cares Award?  
Look for notifications regarding nominations in your CCC&TI student or employee email.**

## CCC&TI Speech Language Graduates Leverage Pathways to Advanced Degrees

Five students that began their post-secondary education at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute in the Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) program recently completed their four-year degrees at Appalachian State University and were accepted to master's programs. Thanks to an agreement between the two institutions, students who complete their first two years at CCC&TI in the SLPA program are eligible to transfer to App State for the remaining two years in pursuit of the Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) Bachelor's degree.

"Since 2016, App State has partnered with CCC&TI to offer a clear and efficient pathway for the SLPA program," said Nate Weigl, Appalachian's Senior Director of Transfer Admissions and Engagement. "The success of this recent group of graduates exemplifies the tremendous difference that a collaborative effort toward access and educational opportunity can make in the lives of college students."

Haley Eggers is one of those students. She shared, "It is because of the transfer agreement that I was able to attend App State with all my earned credits. This not only helped me financially, but also lightened my course load to focus on CSD requirements."

This transfer agreement, also known as the "2 + 2" articulation agreement, makes it possible to transfer with less student debt and safeguards course credits already earned at CCC&TI.

Jessica Raby, Director of CCC&TI's SLPA program, explained, "It's an awesome opportunity for students wanting a more affordable education to gain hands-on clinical experience while staying close to home for the first two years."

As a transfer student, Ryelee Stevens shared how attending CCC&TI was the best decision for her, "I never had to worry if I was going to have to retake a course or if I was taking the correct courses. I was also able to live at home while I attended Caldwell Community College."

CCC&TI provides 272 clinical hours toward requirements to earn the SLPA Associate in Applied Science degree and beyond. When Stevens transferred to App State's CSD program, she realized not many students outside of those in the CCC&TI transfer cohort already had the hands-on clinical experience in speech therapy that she'd obtained under Raby's mentorship. "I was already able to be a speech-language pathology assistant while others in my classes had not yet experienced speech-therapy. I felt more prepared and confident about what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," said Stevens.



*Pictured left to right are CCC&TI Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) program graduates Haley Eggers, Syleen Chan, Rylee Stevens, Taylor Schlossman and Mallory Williams in front of the Leon Levine Hall of Health Sciences on Appalachian State University's campus in Boone. All five students earned their associate degrees at CCC&TI and have utilized partnership pathways to pursue advanced degrees in the field of communication sciences.*

Syleen Chan of Charlotte appreciated the flexibility and inclusivity of the SLPA program at CCC&TI. “The availability of remote attendance by broadcasting live classes to other community colleges was a major perk of the program. I was a part of the Central Piedmont Community College cohort and this option truly demonstrated the program’s commitment to accommodating the diverse needs of its students.”

On the topic of career-readiness, Chan added, “The program was thoughtfully designed to provide practical, hands-on experiences that deepened my understanding of SLP Assistants, such as creating 3-D laryngeal and anatomical diagrams and exploring different areas of the brain.”

Students who perform well and meet other admission requirements are offered a competitive academic edge with automatic acceptance into the undergraduate CSD program at App State. CSD graduates aiming for a career as a Speech Language Pathologist then need to continue their education through a master’s program. Having gained the professional skills and qualifications developed through CCC&TI’s transfer curriculum, all five graduates of the recent 2 +2 cohort were accepted into a master’s program in either Speech or CSD.

In deciding to utilize the 2 + 2 articulation agreement, Stevens was most drawn to having guaranteed admission, credits that would transfer and a clear outline of which classes would be taken at each institution. “With guaranteed admission to Appalachian State University, the choice I made to attend Caldwell Community College was a decision that I believe was the most crucial in my education,” Stevens said.

Eggers shared a similar appreciation for the preparation offered by CCC&TI. “The clinical hours, hands-on projects, tests, and role-playing really helped me learn the field of SLP. If not for the solid foundation at CCC&TI, I never would have decided to continue my education.”

Whether seeking career advancement as a credentialed speech-language pathologist or aiding with skilled therapy interventions assessments as an assistant, Chan wants others to know that CCC&TI has something for everyone. “The SLPA program at CCC&TI provides several options for individuals at different stages of their academic journey and offers a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.”

According to the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), job opportunities in SLP are expected to grow by 20 percent through the year 2030.

CCC&TI’s Speech Language Pathology Assistant program is now enrolling for their upcoming Fall 2023 cohort. Classes begin August 14. For more information, contact Program Director Jessica Raby at 726-2370 or visit: <http://www.cccti.edu/SLPA>

**Fall 2023**  
**Watauga Campus**  
**Student Activities**

*August/September*

**Welcome Back Days**  
**Wednesday, Aug. 16**  
**Thursday, Aug. 17**  
**11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
*Giveaways, Snacks, Drinks and Fun!*

**The Blood Connection**  
**Blood Drive**  
**Wednesday, Aug. 30**  
**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Self-Care Series:**  
**Cooking Lesson**  
**Tuesday, Sept. 12**  
**12 to 1 p.m.**  
Stir Fry with Fresh Veggies  
from the Community Garden  
*First 24 students who arrive will  
receive a free wok and utensils!*

**All events are held in the**  
**Student Life Center (W-460, Room 135)**  
**and are open to all students.**

**For more info, see your student email or**  
**scan the code below for a look**  
**at the Cobra Calendar:**

## CCC&TI Athletic Teams and Student-Athletes Recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association for Academic Achievement

Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute had three athletic teams and twenty-one student athletes recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association for their academic performance during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Caldwell's baseball, softball, and volleyball teams were recognized for having a team grade point average above 3.00. Volleyball's GPA was 3.25, followed by baseball with a 3.08, and softball with a 3.00.

The NJCAA also honored student-athletes for achieving a GPA above 3.60. The criteria for the three All-Academic teams are as follows: All-Academic First Team 4.00 GPA, All-Academic Second Team 3.80-3.99 GPA, and All-Academic Third Team 3.60-3.79 GPA. To be eligible, student-athletes must complete at least 24 credit hours in the academic year (fall-spring) and have participated in one season at the varsity level.

Ten student-athletes from Caldwell were honored as members of the All-Academic First Team: Zoey Boston (softball), Andrew Bruss (baseball), Belle Curry (softball), William Griffin (baseball), Emma Grace Hiatt (volleyball), Isaiah Kirby (baseball), Luke Maicon (baseball), Jaden 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: Kenley Jackson (softball), Evan Johnson (baseball), and Dalton Stikeleather (baseball).

Eight student-athletes from Caldwell achieved All-American Third Team honors: Savannah Mooney (volleyball), Jacob Bebbler (baseball), Ben Elkins (baseball), Arin Gains (baseball), Blake Hollar (baseball), Breon Ishmael (baseball), Walker Pedante (baseball), and Samantha Huffman (volleyball).

Nationwide, 2,702 student-athletes garnered NJCAA All-Academic First Team honors after achieving a 4.0 GPA. 3,347 student-athletes were named to the NJCAA All-Academic Second Team while 4,117 student-athletes received third-team recognition.

Congratulations to these student athletes and our coaching staff on these academic achievements!

## 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 Tuesday evening, becoming the first player in CCC&TI baseball program history to sign a professional contract.

Davidson, a 6-foot, 2-inch outfielder from Charlotte, NC (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.

Congratulations, Bo. We're proud of you and can't wait to see all that you accomplish in your professional baseball career!



## *Upcoming Events and Activities*

### **August**

- 14 Fall Semester Begins
- 14-15 • Welcome Back Days, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Caldwell Campus Breezeway  
• Add/Drop Period
- 16-17 Welcome Back Days, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., W-460 Room 135, Watauga Campus
- 17 Volleyball Home Game vs. Guilford Tech, 6 p.m.
- 21-25 • Club Rush Week and Intramural Sign ups, Caldwell Campus Breezeway  
• Cobra Pride Day
- 24 Volleyball Home Game vs. Cleveland Community College, 6 p.m.
- 28 Basketball and Ping Pong Intramural Week begins
- 29 • Adult Learner Focus Group Luncheon, F-132  
• Cobras Connecting Student/Faculty Meet & Greet, 10 a.m to 12 p.m.; CC Breezeway  
• Volleyball Home Game vs. Johnson & Wales, 6 p.m.
- 30 • Cobras Connecting Student/Faculty Meet & Greet, 10 a.m to 12 p.m.; WC 372 Lobby  
• Blood Drive: The Blood Connection, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., W-460 Room 135, Watauga Campus

### **September**

- 2 Volleyball Home Game vs. SW Virginia, 11 a.m.
- 4 Labor Day, institution closed
- 5 No curriculum classes; Professional Development Day
- 6 Not Your Typical Book Club, Drop-in 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., LRC Multipurpose Rm.
- 7 Volleyball Home Game vs. USC-Union, 6 p.m.
- 11 • Money Monday: Potential Employers, Drop in 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., LRC Multipurpose Rm.  
• SGA General Assembly Meeting, 2 p.m. (Locations TBA)
- 12 • Let's Talk Tuesday Drop in 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., LRC Multipurpose Rm.  
• Self-Care Series: Cooking Lesson, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., W-460 Room 135, Watauga Campus
- 13 • Open Mic (Details TBA)  
• 2nd 12-week classes begin
- 14 Cobra Pride Day
- 15 Volleyball Home Game vs. Sandhills Community College, 5 p.m.
- 17 Caldwell Campus Spirit Week begins (Details TBA)
- 18 • Money Monday: CCC&TI Foundation, Drop in 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., LRC Multipurpose Rm.  
• Constitution Day
- 19 • Let's Talk Tuesday, Drop in 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., LRC Multipurpose Rm.  
• Student Resource fair, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Caldwell Campus Breezeway

**Events are subject to change.**

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

## Tributes from the Foundation of CCC&TI

Memorial gifts and Honoraria are meaningful ways to recognize someone on a special occasion or to express sympathy to a bereaved family. An individual's legacy will continue to live on through the educational opportunities made possible by these special gifts. The Foundation of CCC&TI gratefully acknowledges the following tributes received April 18, 2023 to July 26, 2023:

### Honoraria

*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

### Memorials:

*In memory of Nancy Hemphill to the 2023 Annual Fund Drive:*

Dr. Kenneth and Betty Boham

*In memory of Nancy Hemphill to the Dream Program:*

Camille Annas

Jim and Rita Bales

Eliza Bishop

Dr. Gene and Linda Carpenter

Caitlyn Council

Jimmy Council

Kay and Patrick Crouch

Melissa Darling

Dr. Tony and Jennie Deal

Dr. Ron and Shirley Kiziah

Laurette and Charles LeProvost

Becky Bales Shook

Scott Shook

Herb and Becky Stevens

Boyd and Anita Wilson, Jr.

Renae Winkler

*In memory of Nancy Hemphill, in honor of her years of dedication and service to the Foundation, to the Jimmy and Nancy Hemphill Scholarship:*

The CCC&TI Foundation Board

*In memory of Nancy Hemphill to the Jimmy and Nancy Hemphill Scholarship:*

Donna and Gary Church

*In memory of Mozelle R. Jones and Wilda P. Jones to the 2023 Annual Fund Drive:*

Ray Jones

*In memory of Carroll Kirby to music scholarships:*

Kay and Patrick Crouch

*In memory of Matt Malloy on the occasion of his birthday to the Matt Malloy Memorial Scholarship:*

Caitlyn Council

*In loving memory of Dr. Timothy McGee to the 2023 Annual Fund Drive:*

Sylvia Keyes

James McGee


Joan McGee

*In memory of Tommy Pritchard to Transitional Studies:*

Julie Couch

*In memory of Virginia and John Randall to General Scholarships:*

Steven Boike



**Sign up for Regroup, CCC&TI's instant campus alert service and receive message alerts about inclement weather or campus emergencies.**

**It only takes a minute to sign up!  
Go here: [www.cccti.edu/ regroup](http://www.cccti.edu/ regroup)**



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

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

Have news or information for the Chronicle?

Contact: Amy Bowman, Executive Director, Communications & Public Relations at 828.726.2209 or [abowman@ccti.edu](mailto:abowman@ccti.edu).

Follow CCC&TI on Social Media!



CCC&TI is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

# Check it out! CCC&TI Gaming Lab



Featuring VR gaming system, Nintendo, Xbox, Playstation, desktop gaming and more!

Open Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
F Building, Room 215

Open to all students and employees with a valid CCC&TI ID.

## LRC Events for Fall 2023



Mark your calendar and plan to drop in for these special student events in the Learning Resource Center!

Events run September-December in the Caldwell Campus LRC and are open to all students!



### Money Mondays

Drop in from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays for information and give-aways

- 1st Monday - 10/2, 11/6, 12/4 - Financial Aid
- 2nd Monday - 9/11, 11/13, 12/11 - Potential Employers
- 3rd Monday - 9/18, 10/16, 11/20 - CCC&TI Foundation
- 4th Monday - 9/25, 10/23, 11/27 - Potential Employers

### LET'S TALK TUESDAYS

These sessions will help students focus on mental health and overall well-being.

Sessions are held every Tuesday (9/12 - 12/12) • 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



### NYTBC Wednesdays (Not Your Typical Book Club)

Share with fellow readers: books you're reading now, books you loved, books you didn't love, all the books!

First Wednesday of each month (9/6 - 12/6)  
12 p.m. - 1 p.m. • Drop-In