

Hampson Receives E.M. Dudley Employee Achievement Award

Margaret Patton Hampson, Vice President of Technical and College Transfer Programs at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, was recently named the recipient of the 2009 E.M. Dudley Employee Achievement Award.

The E.M. Dudley Employee Achievement Award is presented annually to a CCC&TI employee who has excelled in service to the college. Employees are nominated by other college staff, and nominees are then reviewed by a committee to document the quantity and quality of the achievement of nominees.

Hampson, a native and resident of Morganton, NC, earned her Bachelor of Art's Degree in English and German and her Master of Arts in Teaching-English at UNC-Chapel Hill. Hampson spent seven years as an English/Reading Instructor at Western Piedmont Community College and later moved to Charleston, SC where she served as English Instructor, Program Administrator and Assistant Director of the Center for Student Learning and Study Skills Lab Director, respectively, at the College of Charleston.

In 2001, Hampson and her family decided it was time for a move back to Western North Carolina. "After nine years, we realized our children had developed Charleston accents and it was past time to come home to the mountains we love," she says. The move landed Hampson at CCC&TI as Reading Coordinator and since that time, Hampson has served as the Department Chair for English, Reading and Communications, Director of the College's much-lauded Quality Enhancement Plan, and Assistant to the Executive Vice-President for Special Projects. In recent weeks, Hampson was named Vice-President of Technical and College Transfer Programs. During her time at CCC&TI, Hampson has been part of the SACS leadership team and has worked on a variety of administrative projects including program and institutional accreditation, institutional assessment, long-range planning, grant writing, and grants administration.

While Hampson's experiences are varied, she says that one motivating factor has remained throughout her career. "My professional experiences range from traditional classroom teaching to outdoor education to the administration of a comprehensive academic support center to working with students with learning disabilities at a liberal arts university," says Hampson, "but my main focus in each of these positions has always been to help students gain the skills they need to become successful college students."

Just as Hampson's professional experiences have varied, her extracurricular activities have, as well. Hampson has been very involved with international education and the American Field Service or AFS (AFS is an international, volunteer-led, non-profit organization that provides intercultural learning opportunities) for many years. She has lived in three

different countries (U.K., Germany and Austria), and over the last few years her family has hosted six different foreign exchange students from Brazil and Germany. Hampson's husband, Peter, is a British national and an outdoor educator working for the North Carolina Outward Bound School. They have two children, Chris, 21, a senior history/environmental studies major at UNC-Asheville and Ian, 19, who is studying design at North Carolina State University.

When asked if she was surprised to receive the award, Hampson is quick to answer. "Yes, it never occurred to me," she says, "but it's a huge honor because the recipient of this award is nominated by colleagues, those he/she works with on a daily basis. To receive this award means your colleagues respect your work and hold you in high regard. That is exceptional."