CCC&TI Receives Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute recently announced the reaffirmation of its accreditation status. The process, required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, is completed every ten years to ensure quality and guidelines in higher education. SACS is the 11-state regional accrediting agency of the national Commission on Colleges.

“This is a monumental reflection of effort on the part of our staff,” said CCC&TI President Ken Boham, noting the countless hours put into the institution’s evaluation process over the past few years. “It is wonderful news.”

As part of the requirement for reaffirmation, CCC&TI will continue work on its five-year Quality Enhancement Plan, “Write On.” The plan focuses on improving writing across the curriculum and enhancing professional development opportunities. As a result, the college’s Writing Center opened this past year as a free service to students, faculty and staff to assist with effective communication throughout the college and workplace.

CCC&TI has been accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to offer technical programs since 1969. Located in both Caldwell and Watauga counties, the college serves more than 14,000 students per year.

CCC&TI Adopts New Tobacco Use Policy

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute has adopted a new tobacco use policy for both its Caldwell and Watauga campuses which will take effect on August 1. The new policy calls for building interiors, building entrances, exterior areas surrounding all building entrances and covered walkways to become tobacco free areas.

In addition, the new policy states that tobacco products will not be promoted, sold or distributed on CCC&TI properties and that tobacco use cessation information will be offered by CCC&TI. The new policy was amended and adopted by the college’s Executive Council in June and was approved by the Board of Trustees in July.

The new policy comes on the heels of a two-year Tobacco Free College Initiative grant from the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund awarded in 2006. The grant funds resulted in the creation of a coalition led by Alice Whisnant, Vice President for Administrative Support and Facility Services. Funds from the grant helped CCC&TI address the issue of tobacco use on its campuses in Caldwell and Watauga Counties.

In working to address these issues, Coalition members worked with the college’s Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research to survey students, faculty and staff regarding tobacco use on campus. From the survey, the Coalition learned that 92% of faculty/staff members and 79% of students perceive second hand smoke as a health hazard. In addition, 92% of faculty and staff and 78% of students were in favor of a change in the college’s current tobacco policy.
Besides the new policy, members of CCC&TI’s Coalition have been working in a number of ways to promote tobacco use cessation on campus. The group promotes the QuitLine, a state-wide organization which provides support for those trying to stop their tobacco use. The Coalition has also sponsored several events on campus to educate students and employees about tobacco use including a Wise-Up Workshop on Heart Health Awareness featuring Darren Hart, Director of Cardiac Rehab at Caldwell Memorial Hospital. The workshop had over 80 attendees. QuitLine has also been promoted on campus through posters, flyers and at various events.

The Coalition plans to continue these activities throughout the coming academic year to help students and employees who are interested in quitting their tobacco use and to educate the CCC&TI community about the new tobacco use policy.

Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute
Tobacco Use Policy

Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute (CCC&TI) recognizes the serious and substantial public health risk and productivity problems caused by tobacco use. In an effort to create a healthy, comfortable and productive environment for all students, employees, and visitors, CCC&TI adopts this Tobacco Use Policy. This policy is in effect for all CCC&TI properties and applies to all students, employees, and visitors.

The following campus properties are tobacco free:
- building interiors
- building entrances
- exterior areas surrounding all building entrances
- covered walkways

Tobacco products will not be promoted, sold or distributed on CCC&TI properties. Tobacco use cessation information will be offered by CCC&TI.

Effective: August 1, 2007

Happy Melon Day!

Below, newly elected SGA officers Joanna Smith, Chastidy McNeely, Jesse Presnell and Caitlyn Council pause for a photo on the breezeway as they serve students during SGA’s annual Melon Day. At left, an eager student takes a slice of watermelon. Bottom, Maintenance Technician Larry Stewart shows off his melon!
Caldwell County Career Center High School Students Take First Place in National Competition

Four Caldwell County Career Center High School (CCCCHS) students took first place in the TeamWorks competition at the annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference recently held in Kansas City.

Students Max Barlowe of Lenoir, Marc Colvard of Lenoir, Lewis Foust of Boomer and Billy McElyea of Lenoir participated in the TeamWorks competition which requires teams of four to build a project in two days, demonstrating their preparation for employment in residential construction. In addition to using their skills in residential carpentry, plumbing, electricity and masonry, team members also had to analyze a project drawing, write an action plan and give a presentation. Participants were also judged on cleanliness and safety of the job site, timeliness, accuracy in completing the project and proper ordering and inventory of tools and equipment.

The team was the only one to earn a perfect score and finished first out of 45 participating teams. This is the second time that a team from Caldwell County has won first place in the event. The CCCCHS also took first place in 2005 on the national level and also boasts seven consecutive wins in the competition at the state level.

“We are extremely proud of these students and their win at the national level,” said Debbie Kincaid, Principal of Caldwell County Career Center High School. “This is the epitome of the type of graduate the Career Center hopes to produce - a ‘Gold Collar’ worker - one with high technical skills along with high academic achievement all applied in the workplace.” Kincaid also expressed appreciation for the hard work of instructors Jesse Fox and Mike Winn, residential construction, Mike Swanson, industrial piping and plumbing, and Stan Vines, electrical technology.

For more information on the Caldwell County Career Center High School call 759-4638.

Pictured at right, are Caldwell County Career Center High School students who recently took first place in the TeamWorks Competition at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. From left to right are Lewis Foust, Marc Colvard, Max Barlowe and Billy McElyea.

Job Opportunities at CCC&TI

Position: Accounting Technician - Accounts Receivable (contingent upon funding)
Job Summary: Maintain accounts receivable records; agree subsidiary ledger to general ledger; prepare monthly billing for third parties; perform analysis and prepare reports as necessary.
Experience: Two (2) years of increasingly responsible experience in accounts receivable, accounts payable or related administrative areas.
Training: Associates degree in accounting, business administration or related field.
Application Deadline: August 10, 2007
For more information call 726-2269 or visit www.cccti.edu.

********************************************
TRIO/ETS Service Day

Student participants from CCC&TI's TRIO/Educational Talent Search program participated in a day of service across the county on July 26. Students did service projects at Lenoir Soup Kitchen, Shelter Home, Family Resource Center, EvenStart Family Literacy, Baptist Children's Homes, Adult Life Programs and on the Caldwell Campus of CCC&TI. Pictured at right are students who worked on the Caldwell Campus. They are (from left to right) Kaleb Watson from Hudson Middle School, Jacob Sanders from Collettesville Elementary, Sarah Wiley from Granite Falls Middle School, Mark Spears from Hibriten High School, Kallie Robbins from Hibriten High School, Dedrick Long from Gamewell Middle School and Ashley Causby from South Caldwell High School.

CCC&TI Now Enrolling for Fall Massage Therapy Program

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute is now enrolling students for its Fall Massage Therapy Program. Classes on the college's Caldwell campus begin on August 27 and the Watauga Campus on August 21. Space is limited in both classes.

Massage Therapy at CCC&TI is a two semester series including up to 600 hours of instruction in anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, pain relief, stress management, oriental bodywork theory and more. In order to practice massage in NC, therapist must complete a minimum 500-hour certification course, pass the national certification exam in therapeutic massage and bodywork, and obtain a license.

The Massage Therapy Program got its start on the Caldwell Campus of CCC&TI in fall of 2006 and has already graduated its first crop of students. Ralph Aldridge, a 56-year-old retiree, was among those in the first class. “My wife encouraged me to sign up for the program,” says the former Lowe's Hardware employee. “Going back to school was a big transition for me at first, but it was a great experience.”

Aldridge says that his fellow students helped him succeed in the program. “After a few weeks, we really became like a big family,” he says. “One student even tutored several of us to get us through some of the tougher material like chemistry and anatomy. Everyone pulling together really made all the difference.”

At the end of the program, students voted Aldridge recipient of the Massage Therapy Program Peer Award. He says he was honored to be chosen. “You wouldn’t find a better group of instructors or students, anywhere,” he says.

Aldridge plans to take his National Certification Exam next month. Upon passing the exam, students become eligible for licensure in NC to practice massage therapy. He hopes to one day own his own massage therapy business. For now, he says he’s going back to work at Lowe's Hardware and will continue to practice on his wife. “She’s the one reaping the benefits from all my hard work,” says Aldridge.

For more information on Massage Therapy at CCC&TI or to enroll, call 828-726-2242 or contact Patrick Benson at 828-726-2261 or by e-mail at pbenson@cccti.edu.

New Student Orientation
Friday, August 17
8:30 am to 12 noon
Caldwell Campus Gym

Get all the info you need about college life, services for students, the CCC&TI campus, Google Mail for students and much more! Don’t miss it!
Fifth Annual CCC&TI Invitational Golf Tournament
Supporting Student Athletes
Cedar Rock Country Club
September 27, 2007

1 pm Shotgun start
Lunch provided beginning at noon
Format: Captain's Choice
Entry Fee: $240 per team ($60 per person)
Includes greens fees, cart rental, refreshments and lunch.
A putting contest will take place on the putting green starting at noon prior to tee-time.
Prizes awarded for Longest Drive, Closest-to-Hole on each Par 3 and Putting Contest.

Prizes: Gift Certificates at Vicki's Pro Shop:
1st Place: $400 team
2nd Place: $150 team
3rd Place: $125 team
4th Place: $100 team
5th Place: $75 team
6th Place: $50 team

CCC&TI Invitational Golf Tournament Team Entry Form

Player #1: ___________________________ Player #2: ___________________________
Player #3: ___________________________ Player #4: ___________________________
Contact Name and Phone #: __________________________________________________________
Yes, I'd like to be a hole/green sponsor! ☐ ($100 each, unlimited)
Business Sponsor Name(s) __________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Please submit entries no later than September 24. Forms should be mailed along with checks made payable to the CCC&TI Foundation, P.O. Box 600, Lenoir, NC 28645. Cost is $240 per team. For more information, contact Bill Payne at 728-2388.

Thanks for supporting CCC&TI athletics!
CCC&TI Basic Skills Instructor Goes Beyond the Basics to Win Great Teacher Award.

Mandy Williams may be an instructor in Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute’s Basic Skills Department, but her skills and finesse as an educator are anything but basic. Williams was recently named this year’s “Great Teacher Award” winner at CCC&TI.

The Great Teacher Award was named initially for a popular seminar held each summer at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Although the seminar is no longer held, CCC&TI has kept the award as a way to recognize excellent service among the college’s faculty. Each year, nominations are made by faculty members, current or former students for the award. The previous year’s Great Teacher chairs a committee that selects a new winner. Recipients of the award can then attend any of the Great Teachers’ Retreats or seminars that are held across the U.S. and Canada.

Williams, who took classes at CCC&TI while attending high school, is a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College where she earned her bachelor of arts degree in psychology and music. Currently, she is working toward her master’s degree in Educational Media/Instructional Technology: New Media and Global Education at Appalachian State University.

After graduating from Lenoir-Rhyne, Williams taught music for a year at Engelmann School of the Arts and Sciences in Hickory, NC. It was there that she discovered her love for teaching. “I discovered I had a passion for teaching and I loved helping students,” she says. Initially, Williams landed at CCC&TI through a part-time position in Human Resource Development teaching Pre-Job, computer literacy and other specialized courses. From there, Williams moved into her current position as Instructor/Coordinator/Recruiter in CCC&TI’s highly successful Basic Skills Department.

Williams spends about 20 hours per week in the GED lab where she provides instruction in reading, math, language, science and social studies. In addition, Williams also teaches a direct instruction math class. But her dedication doesn’t stop at the classroom. Williams says she has an open door policy and is available to work with students whenever they need help. “Sometimes this includes helping a student with issues that are not directly related to class,” says Williams, “but it’s important to establish a relationship with each student and understand what his or her needs are.”

Williams says she has been inspired by the teachers in her family. But, she says the person who inspired her the most was her step-father, Gerald Hackney, a retired CCC&TI instructor. “He always encouraged me with my own education and was a major influence in my career choice,” she says. “He showed me what a rewarding profession teaching can be and shared with me how much he enjoyed teaching [at CCC&TI].”

Williams, whose name often follows the heartfelt thank you’s expressed by student speakers at CCC&TI’s annual Adult High School and GED Graduation ceremonies, says she is also inspired by her students’ success. “I love to see students’ faces when they understand a new concept or idea. For our students, going back to school not only means getting a better education, but in many instances it signifies a huge change in their everyday lives,” she says.

Upon learning she was the recipient of this year’s Great Teacher Award, Williams says she was shocked. “I was extremely surprised and honored to be given such a prestigious award. I was honored in knowing that my students and co-workers nominated me for this award and think so highly of me.”

At left, Basic Skills Instructor Mandy Williams leads an outdoor lesson with a group of CCC&TI Basic Skills students.