CCC&TI Celebrates Class of 2015
**CCC&TI celebrates 2015 graduates**

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute honored 629 graduates from its College Transfer, Health Sciences and Technical programs in ceremonies held Friday, May 8 at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir.

CCC&TI Board of Trustees Chair Larry Taylor opened the ceremony by welcoming special guests and congratulating the Class of 2015.

“As a community, we are so proud of your accomplishments and dedication,” Taylor said. “Regardless of the path that brought you here, you have completed a tremendous task.”

The Class of 2015, Taylor noted, included:

- 629 total graduates
- 319 first-generation college students
- graduates ranging in age from 16 to 67, with the average age being 29
- 14 Dream Scholars
- 50 TRIO Student Support Services students

Ann Smith of the CCC&TI Board of Trustees presented this year’s Trustees’ Student Awards of Merit to Travis Huffman, an Associate in Arts student, and Trisha Stimpson, a Biomedical Equipment Technology major. The awards are selected based on faculty nominations for outstanding academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community service.

Presented by Vice President of Curriculum and Adult Education Margaret Hampson, the Dr. Donald Lackey Award for Excellence in Teaching was awarded to Caleb Marsh, a mathematics instructor on the Watauga Campus. The award honors a faculty member who characterizes personal dedication, concern for student welfare and academic excellence.

In his charge, CCC&TI President Dr. Kenneth A. Boham congratulated the graduates, and thanked the college’s faculty and staff for their hard work.

“Savor the feeling tonight,” Boham said. “It does truly show that you have been successful and accomplished a goal. But also remember that tonight is a celebration. It’s not an ending.”
away earlier this year. Boham said that Beam had addressed the Class of 2014 as part of last year's graduation, and assured the Class of 2015 that Beam was present for their ceremony as well.

“We experienced a great loss this year with the passing of Dr. Beam, but I know that he is here with us tonight and smiling down upon us,” Boham said.

Boham finished the ceremony by conferring to graduates all the rights and privileges of their respective degrees and having them turn their tassels signifying their status as graduates. “Job well done,” said Boham, “and, we wish you Godspeed.”

**CCC&TI Honors Adult High School and GED Graduates with Special Ceremony**

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute held its annual Adult High School and High School Equivalency graduation exercises on Thursday evening, May 7, at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center. Seventy graduates were honored during the evening event.

Larry Taylor, Chairman of CCC&TI's Board of Trustees, opened the ceremonies with a welcome and spoke briefly about the class of 2015 and its accomplishments. Taylor noted graduates hailed from communities across Caldwell and Watauga counties and ranged in age from 16 to 49. “I would like to congratulate each of you on your hard work. This is a major milestone in your lives and we’re very proud of your achievements,” said Taylor. “Getting here probably wasn’t easy, but you made it. And it’s worth all of the sacrifice as you all have accomplished something special by furthering your education.”

Margaret Hampson, Vice President, Curriculum and Adult Education, recognized the recipient of this year’s Distinguished Alumni Award, Kathy Church. The award recognizes an alumnus or alumnae of the GED/AHS program who epitomizes the philosophy that the AHS or High School Equivalency diploma is a new beginning and who has worked to achieve additional credentials, a career with life sustaining wages, and who is representative of what hard work, persistence and motivation can achieve. Church completed her high school diploma at CCC&TI and earned an Associate in Applied Science in Business Administration at CCC&TI in 1980. She had worked in Adult Education at CCC&TI for the last 26 years. “Kathy is a cheerleader for every student who enrolls. As an alumnae, Kathy embodies loyalty and commitment to wonderful customer service, a tremendous work ethic, and lifelong learning that this institution promotes,” said Hampson. “In addition to fulfilling her job description, she is an encourager, a recruiter, a listener, a team player and a valued colleague and friend.”

Kim Hinton, College and Career Readiness Department Chair, recognized several College and Career Readiness employees who have announced their retirement. Christie Arney, Director of Special Populations, Sharon McDowell, Special Populations Instructor in Caldwell County, and Cheryl Patteson, Special Populations Instructor in Watauga County, were recognized for their service to the college.

Hinton also recognized this year’s six honor graduates who were distinguished by their gold tassels. Honor graduates must either score above 3,000 on GED tests or maintain at least a 3.0 GPA in Adult High School courses.

Pictured are graduates who spoke at CCC&TI’s Adult High School and High School Equivalency Graduation Ceremony. From left to right are Marcus Brown, Jesse Coffey and James Allen, Jr.
Student speakers at the event included James E. Allen, Jr. Allen earned his High School Equivalency diploma. Allen dropped out of high school in 2002 but soon discovered that without a high school credential, his earning potential would be limited. “After working extremely hard for 12 years, I decided it was time for a change,” said Allen. “Now that I have my diploma, I plan to further my education by taking an upholstery class. I look forward to this new and exciting career and chapter in my life. My advice to anyone out there is that if you want something bad enough in life, you can get it. No matter how big it might seem, nothing is impossible.”

Marcus Brown also spoke at the graduation. Brown enlisted in the U.S. Navy just before finishing high school. After struggling to complete his final requirements for graduation, the Navy issued a waiver allowing Brown to enter the service without his high school credential. Brown completed his service and entered the workforce. After the company he worked for went out of business, Brown found it difficult to get work without his diploma and decided he would begin work on his High School Equivalency. “There are a few things that drove me to complete my journey. The first was that empty feeling knowing that I had not finished school. Second, I saw my wife working hard to complete all of her classes to fulfill her dream of becoming a nurse,” said Brown. “The third reason was to be able to support my wife and two children better.” While working toward his GED, Brown also began taking automotive classes and earning credits toward a college degree. Brown thanked his instructors and advisors for their help and support and says he plans to continue his education.

Jesse Coffey also spoke during the ceremony. “My story would have to begin with some really bad choices I made in my second year of high school,” said Coffey. “I got in with the wrong crowd and ended up in trouble with the law.” Coffey dropped out of high school in order to work full time to pay legal fees. After losing his job, he realized the need for his high school credential. “The entire staff was wonderful and always willing to go above and beyond to help out with anything I needed. I am now working and plan to continue my education,” said Coffey. “It’s a wonderful feeling to know that I am a graduate. It has also given me the opportunity of a lifetime to continue my education, so my next job can be a fulfilling career that I enjoy and a happier life all together.”

Presentation of diplomas was made by CCC&TI President Dr. Kenneth A. Boham, Superintendent of Caldwell County Schools, Dr. Steve Stone and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for Watauga County Schools, Dr. David Fonseca.

Boham closed the ceremonies, congratulating graduates for their achievements and bestowing upon them the official rights and privileges associated with their degrees. Amidst the cheers and applause of students and audience members, Boham had graduates ceremoniously turn their tassels to indicate their official graduate status.

A reception in honor of the Class of 2015 was held following the ceremony.

For more information on CCC&TI's Adult High School and High School Equivalency Programs, call 828-726-2230 (Caldwell) or 828-297-5253 (Watauga) or visit www.cccti.edu
**Deep Gap native wins CCC&TI Academic Excellence Award**

During her teen years, “school” was a word that struck fear in the heart of Elizabeth Bullock. She had difficulty with reading and writing due to dyslexia, and was told college might not be for her. The 23-year-old Deep Gap native has come a long way since then.

Bullock recently was honored as Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute’s 2015 Academic Excellence Award winner. She was presented a plaque and medal at the CCC&TI Board of Trustees meeting on May 20 on the Watauga campus, where she’s currently completing an Associate in Arts degree. The annual award is chosen based on faculty nominations and academic achievement.

“During the first few days of college, I was scared and unsure of what to expect, but soon realized ‘school’ was not as scary as I had once believed,” Bullock said. “I know that choosing Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute was one of the best decisions I have ever made.”

Bullock plans to transfer to Appalachian State or a university in Colorado, where she has family, to earn a bachelor’s degree.

“Attending CCC&TI has taught me that any life or academic challenge I face can be overcome and that achieving academic excellence is possible,” she said. “The teachers at CCC&TI have instilled in me a love for learning and helping others grow. I have no fear as I make plans for pursuing my bachelor’s degree.”

In addition to her studies, Bullock also has worked as a math tutor on CCC&TI’s Watauga Campus and serves in the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

**Foundation of CCC&TI Exceeds Record Fund Drive Goal**

The Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute held its annual Celebration Luncheon, May 19. Peg Broyhill, chair of CCC&TI’s Foundation Board, announced that the group surpassed its goal of $355,000, the highest yet for the Foundation.

The Foundation celebrated the efforts and success of volunteers, campaign leaders, board members and college officials at the luncheon. Those in attendance enjoyed lunch at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center, music by Kay and Patrick Crouch and remarks from several community leaders.

Deborah Murray, vice chair of the CCC&TI Foundation, offered a toast in honor of the successful campaign. “This is a mountain top moment. An all-time high standard was set with this campaign,” said Murray. “If you measure success by the commitment to the mission, then we are a success. If you measure success purely by the numbers, then this is an unqualified success. Here’s to you for getting us there.”

Broyhill recognized and thanked campaign captains, team members, college officials,
students and volunteers for their hard work during this year’s drive. Broyhill also recognized this year’s Campaign Chairs, Lenoir Mayor Joe Gibbons and retired educator Becky Gibbons. “We want to say thank you for all your hard work that was put into this campaign. We’re very honored and proud to serve the Community College. It’s an amazing asset to our community,” said Mayor Gibbons. “We knew we would make it and it’s been a lot of fun.”

In addition to community volunteers and leaders, CCC&TI’s faculty and staff have contributed more than $40,000 for the campaign this year and were recognized for their efforts.

CCC&TI President Dr. Ken Boham offered his gratitude on behalf of the college. “I call you all angels because you help people that you’ll never see and the people you help will never see you,” said Boham. “What you do helps us maintain our excellence as an institution. God bless you for what you do for our students.”

Broyhill announced several new scholarships or funds that were established this year:

- Additions to the Kay and Patrick Crouch Music Scholarship – which assists Fine Arts music students at CCC&TI with tuition, fees and supplies
- The Steve and Beverly Jaynes College and Career Readiness Assistance Fund – provides assistance to College and Career Readiness students
- The Diana E. Tye, BSN Memorial Scholarship – established by Dr. John Tye in memory of Diana Tye to provide need-based assistance for a CCC&TI nursing student
- The Dr. Alice B. Lentz TRIO Work Scholarship – established by Barbara Freiman for TRIO students in honor of Lentz’ retirement and 12 years of work with TRIO programs

For more information on the Foundation at CCC&TI, contact Foundation Director Marla Christie at 828.726.2203.

CCC&TI's TRIO/Educational Talent Search Program Host Breakfast in Honor of Graduating High School Seniors

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute’s TRIO/Educational Talent Search (TRIO/ETS) program recently hosted a breakfast in honor of the 13th group of graduating high school seniors to come through the program since its inception.

TRIO/ETS at CCC&TI is a federally funded program that works with middle and high school students, most of whom will be first-generation college students, to assist them with all aspects of college enrollment. Through the program, specialists employed by the college, make weekly visits to Caldwell County middle and high schools to serve students enrolled in the program. In addition, students are given the opportunity to visit colleges throughout the state, participate in various enrichment activities and receive assistance from TRIO/ETS specialists with college applications, financial aid applications and other college-related issues.

A group of students, CCC&TI staff members and public school administrators were on
hand for the breakfast at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir on Monday, May 11. Dr. Kenneth A. Boham, President of CCC&TI, welcomed the students. Caldwell County Schools Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone and TRIO Director Dr. Alice Lentz also spoke.

This year’s TRIO/ETS senior class includes 63 students representing each of Caldwell County’s five high schools.

Each student in attendance received a certificate of recognition and white TRIO cords to be worn with their caps and gowns during their high school graduation ceremonies. Students were also encouraged to keep their cords to wear at future college graduation exercises to represent their participation in TRIO programs.

Several scholarship and award-winners were also recognized at the event. The 2015 G. Lewis Bernhardt Scholar is Ashley Webb of West Caldwell High School, and the 2015 G. Lewis Bernhardt Fellow is Sydnee Sanders of South Caldwell High School. The G. Lewis Bernhardt Scholarship program, offering support for study at CCC&TI, is open only to TRIO/ETS seniors.

Loryn Rader of West Caldwell High School and Holly Quivera, of South Caldwell High School, received the TRIO/ETS Go Anywhere! Award. The award, now in its eighth year, provides scholarships for TRIO/ETS seniors who plan to go to colleges other than CCC&TI. Rader will be attending Appalachian State University and Quivera plans to attend Duke University.

For more information on CCC&TI’s TRIO programs, call at 726-2726.
Basic Law Enforcement Training Graduation

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute recently honored its latest academy of graduates from the Basic Law Enforcement Training program. Eleven graduates completed more than 660 hours of training over 16 weeks. Following the course, students had to successfully complete a rigorous physical exam as well as the standardized state test.

The class included several standouts, including the peer-elected Class Leader, Keith Reed; Top Academic, Amber Wilkins; Top Gun, Brandon Travis; Top Fitness Award Winner, Carson “Dean” Berry; and Top Police Officer Physical Ability Test Scorer, Avery Scronce. The Gary Clark Top Driver Award went to Carson “Dean” Berry and the G.R.I.T. Award went to Lara Orr.

Pictured from left to right are: front row - Brandon E. Travis, Amber N. Wilkins, Lara Renee Orr, Luis A. Sanchez, Keith E. Reed and Meng Lee; back row - Cole L. Angle, Dennis B. Singleton, Avery R. Scronce, Matthew C. Haas, Carson “Dean” Berry

CCC&TI to offer Culinary Arts Program on Watauga Campus

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute has announced that it will offer the Culinary Arts program on the college’s Watauga Campus in Boone starting with the 2015 Fall semester.

The program has been offered on CCC&TI’s Caldwell Campus in Hudson with much success and is now being added to the Watauga Campus in Boone. “With an ever-expanding tourism industry in the High Country, we’ve seen an increase in culinary related jobs in the Boone region,” said Jeff Link, CCC&TI’s Career and Technical Education Department Chair. “So we felt it was the perfect time to expand the program to the Watauga Campus.”

Renovations are taking place in the Occupational Training Facility on the Watauga Campus to house a professional, modern kitchen facility and classroom for the Culinary Arts program. Although renovations are expected to last into the Fall 2015 semester, students in Watauga will be able to take CUL 110 (Sanitation and Safety) and CUL 112 (Nutrition for Foodservice) starting in August.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the projected job growth for cooks through 2022 is 10 percent, which is on average with other occupations in the United States. The median annual wage for cooks in 2012 was $20,550 while chefs and head cooks had a median wage of $42,480.

Culinary Arts is an Associate in Applied Science degree program. The curriculum provides specific training required to prepare students to assume positions as trained culinary professionals in a variety of foodservice settings including full service restaurants, hotels, resorts, clubs, catering operations, contract foodservice and health care facilities. Students will be provided theoretical knowledge/practical applications that provide critical competencies to meet industry demands, including environmental stewardship, operational efficiencies and professionalism. Courses include sanitation/safety, baking, garde manger, culinary fundamentals/production skills, nutrition, customer service, purchasing/cost control, and human resource management.

Graduates from the Culinary Arts program qualify for entry-level opportunities including prep cook, line cook and station chef. The American Culinary Federation certification may be available to graduates. With experience, graduates may advance to positions including sous chef, pastry chef, executive chef or foodservice manager.

To apply for the program, students must fill out a CCC&TI application, provide high school and/or college transcripts and take CCC&TI placement tests. Registration is ongoing for the Culinary Arts program on both the Caldwell and Watauga Campuses. On the Caldwell Campus, registration is available for the summer and fall 2015 semesters. Registration for the fall 2015 semester is available at the Watauga Campus. For more information on applying to the Culinary Arts program, contact Program Director Chef Keith Andreasen at 828-726-2478, email kandreasen@cccti.edu, or contact CCC&TI Student Services on the Watauga Campus at 828-297-2815.
CCC&TI Club Inducts New Members

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute’s chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) recently had an induction ceremony for new members.

The event, held Friday, May 1 in CCC&TI’s Caldwell Campus gym, was the culmination of nearly a year of training and attending events for members. The society is open to students who maintain a specific grade point average and who are invited to join by the chapter’s advisor, however students do not become full-fledged members until completing a series of requirements. Requirements include an orientation session, attending a leadership training day, participating in at least three of the organization’s speaker broadcast events, and attending at least three Success Networking Team meetings. In total, 69 students were officially inducted into the club during the ceremony.

NSLS President Sarah Gregory opened the ceremony and welcomed students and their guests to the event. NSLS Vice President Dan Gilland outlined the steps to membership in the society which include maintaining a 3.0 grade point average, attending orientation sessions and leadership training, participation in a leadership networking team and attending national speaker broadcast events. Gilland also explained that several new members were being inducted into the society as National Engaged Leader Award recipients who signified that they had attended three additional speaker broadcasts, three additional networking meetings and completed 5 hours of service to the community. Twenty students received this designation.

Honorary memberships were conferred on several faculty and staff members following the induction of student members. Vice President of Curriculum Programs Margaret Hampson and Counselor Patty Warfield each received an honorary membership into the society.

The Society also presented several awards during the ceremony. Excellence in Teaching Awards were presented to CCC&TI Instructors Nancy Posey, Holly Hanley and Jeffrey Link. Excellence in Service to Students Awards were presented to Camille Annas, Department Chair Career and College Readiness, Diane Mazza, Coordinator of Student Activities and TRIO Support Specialist and David Freeman, Social Sciences Coordinator.

Keynote Speaker Enoch Moeller, Operations Manager at Google’s Lenoir facility, spoke to those in attendance about the milestones of success and maintaining the drive to achieve goals. Moeller also talked to students about the differences between managing and leading. “You’re already taking the steps to be successful and to be a leader. I hope that each of you have a list of goals you want to accomplish,” said Moeller. “When you cross one off, add another one. Always keep asking yourself ‘what’s next.’”

Each new student member in attendance was then recognized and received their membership packet, plaque and NSLS membership pin.

CCC&TI congratulates the newest members of the National Society of Leadership and Success.
Congressman Visits Caldwell Campus

U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows, of North Carolina’s 11th congressional district, visited the campus of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute in Hudson on May 5, during a stop in Caldwell County that also included a visit to West Caldwell High School. While on campus, Meadows toured the Caldwell Early College High School and CCC&TI’s health sciences classrooms, and also met with members of the college’s Board of Trustees.

Top Right

U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows met with members of the Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Board of Trustees during a visit to campus on Tuesday. From left to right, Trustee Bill Stone, Trustee Alvin Daughtridge, Trustee Marilyn Starnes, Meadows, Trustee Jerry Church, CCC&TI President Dr. Kenneth A. Boham and Trustee Tom Thuss.

Center Right

CCC&TI Health Sciences Department Chair Barbara Harris demonstrates the “Sim Man” technology to U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows. The electronic mannequin is a training tool used by the Nursing program at CCC&TI to simulate various scenarios and illness symptoms.

Bottom Right

CCC&TI President Dr. Kenneth A. Boham talks with U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows during a tour of the campus in Hudson. The tour included stops at the Caldwell Early College High School, CCC&TI health sciences classrooms and a meeting with members of the CCC&TI Board of Trustees.
**SLPA Students Earn 100% Pass Rate**

Students who recently completed Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Speech Language Pathology Assistant Program have achieved a 100-percent passage rate on the North Carolina Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Exam. All are now eligible to work in North Carolina as SLP-Assistants. Pictured are, front row, left to right: Jessica McKinney, Ashley Keener, Gerr Yang, Alyssa Holiway, Myranda Welborn. Back row, left to right: Jessica Raby (Instructor), Jessica Blas, Hope Ball, Mary Belcher, Dretha Creech, Bridgette Coffey, Audriana Hollar, Atina Keever and Holly Hanley (Instructor). SLP-Assistant graduates not pictured: Baty Hollar, Emily Hubbard.

**CCC&TI Compass Students Shine at CANAM Competition**

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Compass Students recently competed in the Cheer LTD Nationals at CANAM Competition in Myrtle Beach S.C. in both the cheer and dance categories.

CCC&TI's College Compass Program is designed for adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injuries. The program helps students acquire basic skills to become more independent and self-directed and to meet and manage community, social, work and personal adult responsibilities.

The Caldwell Cobras Cheerleading Squad performed a routine to “Beat It” by Michael Jackson and finished as 1st runner up.

The Caldwell Storm dance team performed a routine to “Sharp Dressed Man” by ZZ Top and was named grand champion.
CCC&TI 3M Activities

Students in Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute’s Minority Male Mentoring program were busy this spring with several activities and special events.

In early April, the group welcomed special speaker Renrick Predgion. Predgion is an Account Executive for the Charlotte Hornets and spoke with the group about personal priorities and accomplishing goals.

Students also attended the state Minority Male Mentoring Program Symposium held at Fayetteville Tech entitled “Empowering Students and Enhancing Collaboration.”

Pictured top right at the conference are, from left, CCC&TI student Donta Davis, CCC&TI 3M Coordinator Elaine Setzer-Maxwell, Associate Director Student Leadership and Development for the NC Community College System Office, Daniel Alvarado and CCC&TI students Desean Manuel and Michael Ratliff.

Several students in the program also volunteered at the Lenoir Soup Kitchen as part of their required community service work. Pictured at right from left to right are CCC&TI students Trey Gary, Jalin Alexander and Cordele Jackson.

CCC&TI/Early College Grad Receives Award

Caldwell Early College High School and CCC&TI graduate Grayson Walker was recently named the recipient of North Carolina State University’s Goodnight Award. According to NC State’s website, the award is “a prestigious honor awarded to the Goodnight Scholar who participated in the most Goodnight Scholars programming during the academic year and exemplified an unprecedented drive to grow personally and professionally as a future STEM advocate and leader.”

Walker, who was valedictorian of the CECHS Class of 2013, earned both his Associate in Arts and Associate in Science from CCC&TI. He went on to finish his bachelor’s degree at NC State in two years and will begin work toward a graduate degree at the Prestage Department of Poultry Science’s graduate program at NCSU. The official statement released by the Goodnight Scholars program had this to say about Walker: “Among his peers, Grayson quickly became a visible face and modeled the type of work ethic, professionalism, and civic activity the Goodnight Scholars Program expects of all its scholars.”

CCC&TI congratulates alumnus Grayson Walker on receiving this prestigious award.

Apply Now for Fall Semester!
Final registration for Fall Semester is Aug. 12.
Fall classes begin on Aug. 17.