



Celebrating 60 years of educational opportunities for all!

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Begins Year of Celebration Commemorating 60th Anniversary.

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute has officially kicked off a year of celebration to commemorate its 60th Anniversary. CCC&TI held an event on the Caldwell Campus for employees, retirees and board members on March 7 to celebrate the college's birthday and its many years of service to the community.

CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch opened the event, by welcoming employees and guests, including college trustees, CCC&TI Foundation board members and retirees. "CCC&TI was officially approved on April 2, 1964. Our first building opening in 1967 and that year we served 1,765 students. Today we have five sites, two campuses, 190 acres of property, more than 30 buildings comprising over 560,000 square feet and we serve nearly 10,000 students annually. How about that? We've come a long way, baby," exclaimed Poarch. "Thank you to all of you for the role you've played in the history of this institution. We can all be proud of the small part we've played in making life better for our students and the communities we have the privilege of serving. I can't wait to watch the next 60 years unfold!"



Mr. Larry Taylor, Chair of the College's Board of Trustees, also offered brief remarks at the celebration. Taylor, who has served CCC&TI for more than 30 years, explained that "CCC&TI has touched nearly every family in Caldwell County at one time or another over these last six decades. Over our 60-year history, CCC&TI has awarded nearly 700,000 credentials and served more than 298,000 individual students across all programs."

Retiree Sheila Burns also spoke at the event and shared her lifelong connection to the college. Burns earned an associate degree in 1968 as part of the college's first graduating class. As a student, she was crowned the first Miss Caldwell Tech in 1967. After earning her degree, Burns joined the college staff and, after 30 years of service, retired as Director of College Stores in 1998. "I am truly honored to be here. I was the first one in my family to go to college. I came in the summer of 1966," said Burns. "I worked as a student employee and then in the fall, I enrolled in the Library Technology program and began working in the college library, which at the time was just a small little room at Dulatown Elementary School in the Gamewell area. We moved to this campus in 1968," she said. Burns shared about the college's yearbook, the *ADVOCAT* (an acronym for Adult Vocational and Technical) and the college newspaper, *The Communicator*. "There were so many here that year who were the first in their families to be able to go to college and it provided us with that opportunity. Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute is the best thing that's ever happened to this county! It provides so many opportunities for students to find a path to a worthwhile career. Support this college and keep it going!"





Following the welcome, attendees enjoyed lunch prepared by the J.E. Broyhill Catering Group and a slide show of photos and highlights from the past six decades.

Several events are planned throughout the year, including community events on CCC&TI's campuses in Caldwell and Watauga counties. A birthday bash for students in the spring and fall are also in the works.

The establishment of Caldwell Technical Institute was tentatively approved by the State Board of Education in January 1964. The people of Caldwell County approved the college on March 28, 1964, through a bond vote of \$600,000. The monies funded purchase of a site, construction of facilities, and up to five cents tax authorization for college operations. Final approval by the State Board of Education followed on April 2, 1964. The first president, Dr. H. Edwin Beam, was selected that fall and began work in November 1964.

Over the years, the college has experienced tremendous growth in all areas including program offerings, partnership agreements with universities across the state, resources for students and much more.

Today, CCC&TI offers hundreds of programs to meet the area's higher education and workforce development needs. These programs include college transfer and applied science degrees, short term career training, professional development, customized training, high school equivalency and personal enrichment courses, just to name a few.

Happy Birthday, CCC&TI!

Our Diamond Anniversary
YOUR TIME TO SHINE!
Registration for Summer and Fall is now open for all students.
APPLY NOW!



Summer Semester begins 5/20 • Fall Semester begins 8/15

CCC&TI announces new 911 Communications and Operations partner program with Richmond Community College

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute and Richmond Community College have announced a new partnership program for local students. The 911 Communications and Operations Program partnership will allow students in our area to complete their general education courses at CCC&TI and then complete their remaining program requirements completely through RCC. The partnership program is now available to local students who can complete their general education courses at CCC&TI and complete their program specific courses completely online through RCC. Students enrolling in the partnership program will also have opportunities to complete work-based learning experiences with local emergency services agencies.

Representatives from both CCC&TI and Richmond Community College, along with local emergency services personnel and community leaders gathered in February to celebrate the partnership.

"Our mantra over the last few years has been 'Partnerships Matter.' This agreement with Richmond Community College is just another example of leveraging our partnerships to provide essential training and qualified workers for our emergency services agencies," said CCC&TI President, Dr. Mark Poarch. "This new program provides critical training for those on the front lines during emergency situations and supports public safety services throughout our region."

Graduates from the partnership program earn their Associate in Applied Science in 911 Communications and Operations and are prepared for entrance or advancement in emergency communications. Graduates from the 911 Communications and Operations programs may have employment opportunities with local government emergency communications centers, county sheriffs' offices, local law enforcement, fire and EMS agencies, and emergency management and related emergency dispatch operations.

Enrollment for this new program is ongoing. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. For more information on program requirements and admissions or for help enrolling, contact Dr. Erin Cooper, CCC&TI's Emergency Management Director at ecooper@cccti.edu or call 828-726-2200.



Representatives from CCC&TI, Richmond Community College and several local emergency services personnel gathered at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center to commemorate the new 911 Communications and Operations program.

Pictured from left to right are CCC&TI Chief of Staff, Dr. Jason Chaffin; CCC&TI Vice President for Instruction/Chief Academic Officer, Liz Silvers, CCC&TI President, Dr. Mark Poarch, Richmond Community College President Dr. Dale McInnis, RCC's Vice President for Instruction/Chief Academic Officer Kevin Parsons and RCC's Dean of Business Technologies and Public Services, Dr. Miriam Huntley.

CCC&TI Partners with Local Eye Care Physicians to offer First Ophthalmic Apprenticeships in the State

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute and professionals with Morganton Eye Physicians, Graystone Eye and Western Carolina Eye Associates have recently partnered together to offer new pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs for students interested in entering the field of ophthalmology. These agreements are the first of their kind in the state and offer local students the opportunity to get hands-on experience and training in the clinical setting.

Representatives from Morganton Eye Physicians and Graystone Eye met with CCC&TI administrators, instructors, and student apprentices to commemorate the agreement, which offers students the opportunity to receive on-the-job training and classroom instruction while also earning a wage and gaining experience in their chosen career field. Apprenticeships are designed to help students earn nationally recognized credentials while providing local employers with trained, qualified candidates for available jobs.

Registered or full apprenticeships are for students who have selected their career pathway and want to train in all aspects of the occupation as they work full- or part-time. Registered apprenticeships also provide a wage scale that increases based on experience and skills learned.

Ophthalmic Pre-Apprenticeships focus on high school students interested in eye care and exploring work



Pictured above from left to right are CCC&TI OMP Program Director Faith Race, Instructor Allie Rivas, Clinical Coordinator Kristie Bailey, CCC&TI Apprentices Mariela Ayon-Limon, Jacey Braswell, Trista Fox, Emma Huldener, and Greystone Eye Chief Clinical Officer Mandy Cansler.

Pictured below from left to right are Morganton Eye Physicians Business Manager Dennis W. Lee, CCC&TI OMP Program Director Faith Race, CCC&TI Apprentices Bailey Hardin, Hailey Gurley, Ashley Lopez-Agustin, Morganton Eye Assistant Business Manager Amanda Berry and CCC&TI Instructor Allie Rivas.



with an eye physician. Pre-apprentices who start an apprenticeship during high school or within 120 days of graduation may qualify to continue their education at any NC community college tuition-free.

CCC&TI's Apprenticeship Program is an employer-based initiative that helps workers learn specialized skills needed in today's work environment, combining on-the-job learning with related classroom instruction. Students earn nationally recognized credentials, while employers develop a talented team and close the skills gap. While many people start apprenticeships immediately after graduating from high school, an apprenticeship program may also work well for veterans leaving active-duty military service, those looking to change careers, or people whose jobs are being replaced by technology. CCC&TI's goal is to help connect and support employers and apprentices.

CCC&TI has a variety of apprenticeship opportunities for students and workers, as well as partnerships for local employers interested in hiring apprentices. The state also offers incentives for businesses who sign an apprentice through CCC&TI. For more information on apprenticeship opportunities visit: www.cccti.edu/apprentice

CCC&TI Foundation Community Campaign Begins

The Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute held its Annual Fund Campaign kickoff luncheon on Tuesday, March 5 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 Campaign. Deborah Murray, Vice-Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors, offered opening remarks and welcomed the crowd of supporters. Murray also announced the goal for this year's campaign as \$460,000, a nod to the college's 60th Anniversary year and the highest to date for the Annual Fund Drive.

Murray also announced that the co-chairs for this year's Fund Drive are CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch and Foundation Board Chair Peg Broyhill. "A 60th Anniversary Year MUST have seasoned leadership. It is only fitting that this year's campaign will be led by two of our most valuable leaders, two people who have successfully devoted decades of their lives to growing the results and the support for this institution," said Murray.



Broyhill also spoke at the event about the importance of the fund drive and the support it

provides to students and the institution. "Let's challenge ourselves today to make this Annual Fund the best and most successful ever as a tribute to the college founders and early leaders and to ensure the promise of an education to so many worthy students," said Broyhill. "I am grateful for the folks in our community who looked to the future and saw a need for education and a well-trained workforce, which would make our community a better place to live. It is because of them that we celebrate our crown jewel, CCC&TI! Happy 60th Birthday CCC&TI!"

CCC&TI President and Campaign Co-Chair 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. "This is going to be an amazing year for CCC&TI, as we celebrate our 60th birthday, and our Diamond anniversary," said Poarch. "We're all familiar with the saying that diamonds are forever...but education is also forever. It is not an end. It is a catalyst to the future. Your hard work as part of this annual fund drive is not only investing in our students for the here and now, but investing in them for a lifetime. You are changing their lives now and forever. How awesome is that! This is transformational, life-changing work that we are doing together. Education is not only the great equalizer, it's the great multiplier. It is the gift that keeps on giving forever and ever. Your investment in education in making our students' lives better, paving the way for a future of prosperity and social mobility and a lifetime of opportunity."



Following Dr. Poarch's remarks, CCC&TI alumna Meredith Wilson also spoke about the impact that the college has had on her life. Wilson shared about how resources provided by the college helped her navigate the path from massage therapy to a new career. Wilson, who earned an Associate Degree in Welding Technologies, now works as a Safety Specialist and recruiter for FleetGenius. "I want to restate how crucial the community college is to our community. It literally changes lives. It changed my life," said Wilson. "I found a supportive community of students and staff invested in my success," said Wilson. "My associate degree in Welding Technologies has opened doors for me that I would have never imagined." Wilson is continuing her education and shared with the group her future goals and plans but says CCC&TI will always be a special place for her. "I love that my journey began at CCC&TI. We will always have challenges to overcome in life, but thanks to CCC&TI, earning a degree does not have to be one of them."

Following Wilson, CCC&TI Athletic Director Jeff Link shared information about the college's athletic offerings and how Foundation dollars support the college's student-athletes. "The Foundation helps support our student-athletes and makes it possible for them to have the total college experience," said Link. Link shared details about the championship success of the college's athletic teams and thanked supporters for helping provide opportunities that many of our student-athletes would not otherwise have access to. "Thank you for all you're doing! Go Cobras!"

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

close to \$30,000. Christie also shared that the student fundraising efforts reached an all-time high of over \$6,600 in 2023.

Maggie Murray, CCC&TI's Director of Student Life, shared that students are continuing their work to raise additional funds. "I am excited to beat last year's total of \$6,600, big time! Thank you for having me and for all you do for our students," said M. Murray.

Vice-Chair Murray recognized Foundation staff members, college leaders and the Fund Drive Team Captains for the 2024 Campaign, which are Peg Broyhill, Deborah Murray, Dr. Mark Poarch, Joan McGee, Barbara Freiman, Chase Keller and Jamie White, Linda Story and Jeanne Whisnant. A new alumni team is also being organized.



Board priorities for this year's campaign include funding for scholarships, the Dream Award Program, student aid, athletics and other academic support. Vice-Chair Murray closed out the event adding, "Your support in this year's fund drive improves the economic viability of college for every student who will come to Caldwell Community College – now and into the future."

Poetry is all around us...

April is National Poetry Month
Let's Celebrate!

Poetry Poster Panorama Contest
Open to all CCC&TI Students
Prizes will be awarded for best submissions in each category:
Best Poem and Best Poster
For more information and submission guidelines, see your student email.
Email submissions to sshaut@ccti.edu by 4/30.

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.ccti.edu/donate or contact the Foundation Office at 828-726-2260.

Celebrating 60 years of Educational Opportunities for All!



CCC&TI SBC Wraps Another Successful Year of Award-Winning Camp Enterprise Program with Student Presentations

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Small Business Center recently wrapped up another year of the award-winning "Camp Enterprise" program with presentations at the HUB Station in Hudson on March 21 from each of the four student teams.

In total, 16 high school students from across Caldwell County were chosen to participate in the program, which was developed through collaboration with Impact Rotary Club of the Foothills, CCC&TI's Small Business Center, the Town of Hudson and Caldwell County Schools. The three-day boot-camp experience is designed to encourage and inspire students to think like entrepreneurs and provide a solid foundational knowledge of ethical business practices to help guide them along the path to success.

During the three-day program, students work on their leadership skills, hear several keynote addresses from successful business leaders in the community, learn more about developing and writing successful business plans, how to pitch a business concept, networking, how to talk with financial advisors, and other essential skills for building success as a small business owner. The program received state-wide recognition in 2023 as recipient of the state-wide "Excellence in Innovation Award in Services/Collaboration" at the Small Business Center Annual Professional Development Conference.

Interested students must submit an application and an essay that details why they are interested in the program and learning more about entrepreneurship. Applicants are narrowed down to the top 20 students and then divided into four teams. Each team is assigned a community leader as a coach and a student mentor from those who participated in the program in a previous year.

Each team prepared detailed presentations that included business plans, marketing strategies, funding sources, and other details along with websites, social media profiles, and a number of other strategies to ensure their business plan's success. Students made their presentations live to a panel of judges made up of community business leaders.



Pictured is the winning Camp Enterprise Team who took home the top award with their "Caldwell Canine" project. Pictured, front row, left to right are HHS students Ana Melendez, HHS student Ava Deal, and Coach Lisa Kirkpatrick. Back row (from left to right) are WCHS student George Hacsak, student mentor Eric Meza and CASA student Lincoln Bollinger.

Team 1 was coached by Kathryn Woods of Heritage Valley Farm and was comprised of Hannah Tucker (South Caldwell High School junior), Emma Mikeal (West Caldwell High School sophomore), Saul Alvarado (WCHS senior) and Lawson Jenkins, (Hibriten High School sophomore). Ava Aldrich, a Caldwell Early College High School senior, was the team's student mentor. Team 1's project was called "Foothills Sportsplex." The team's idea centered around a community facility for a variety of sports and fitness activities, events and even included an ice rink for hockey and ice skating.



Team 2 was coached by Sam Morgan of State Farm Insurance and was comprised of Rachel Jetton (SCHS senior), Natalie Jones (HHS senior) and Logan Blackwelder (HHS sophomore). A fourth member was chosen for the team but had to leave the program early due to unforeseen circumstances. Team 2's project was titled "IMPACT Center" and proposed a gym facility for teens featuring space for a variety of fitness activities and services, a lounge, and a juice-bar.

Team 3 was coached by retired educator Lisa Kirkpatrick and was comprised of Lincoln Bollinger (Caldwell Applied Science Academy sophomore), George Hacsak (WCHS junior), Ava Deal (HHS sophomore) and Ana Melendez (HHS senior.) HHS junior Eric Meza served as the team's student mentor. Team 3's project, "Caldwell Canine" was focused on mobile grooming and training services for area dog owners. The team included a variety of marketing strategies including as subscription plan, flexible service hours, and a focus on "adaptability" that makes services less stressful for both dogs and their owners.

Team 4 was coached by SCHS Teacher Karen Isbell and was comprised of David Young (WCHS sophomore), Lauren Brittain (HHS sophomore), Mattie Walker (HHS sophomore) and Braedan Goudelock (HHS junior) with HHS Senior Victor Discua serving as their student mentor. Team 4's project, "Down Memory Lane Arcade," proposed a retro-themed arcade with vintage games made popular in the 80s and 90s and that featured an 'old-school' token system, a snack bar with nostalgic drinks and snacks, and a comfortable atmosphere for adults, children and families.

The judges for this year were HUB Station Director Addie Cardwell-Faber; City of Lenoir Utilities Director Jeff Church; Rotary District 7670 Representative Sean Gibson; Google Lenoir's Operations Manager Brad Hefner; Blue Ridge Energy Director of Community Relations Tasha Rountree; and First Citizens Bank Manager Mark Transou.

The judges ultimately awarded the win to Team 3 for "Caldwell Canine." Each student on the winning team received a \$500 CCC&TI Scholarship, as well as bragging rights for their hard work and detailed plan. All student participants received a Chrome Book, mouse, mouse pad and thumb drive sponsored by Google, and a copy of speaker Dr. Kenston Griffin's book, "Your Turning Point Starts Now."

For more information on CCC&TI's Small Business Center, visit www.cccti.edu/smallbusiness.

Foundation of CCC&TI Hosts Reception for Scholars and Donors

The Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute recently held a special reception in honor of the 2023-2024 Foundation Scholarship recipients and donors at the J.E. Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir. The event provided an opportunity for student recipients to meet and talk with the donors who made their scholarships possible through contributions to the Foundation.



Pictured above is Foundation Vice-Chair Deborah Murray.

Below are Jack and Shirley Robbins Nursing Scholarship recipient Jessica Bullock (left), who spoke at the event, with Foundation Chair Peg Broyhill.



CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch and Foundation Board Vice-Chair Deborah Murray opened the event and welcomed all those in attendance, thanking donors for their continued support of CCC&TI and local students.

Vice-Chair Murray summed up the overall spirit of the event with her comments: "Donors, you chose to spend this money on the hopes and dreams of others, people you didn't know when you set it aside, but those people are family now, part of our community, part of our college and part of your legacy," she said. "Thank you for your investments. Thank you for this moment and the lifetimes of success that will come from your generosity. We all thank you!"

The event also featured two student scholarship recipients who shared about their journey and how their Foundation scholarships have impacted their lives.

Jessica Bullock, a nursing student on CCC&TI's Watauga Campus in Boone, shared that her journey to becoming a student took a bit longer than she had anticipated due to a medical condition that caused seizures. Ultimately, the condition led to a total of eight brain surgeries and a lengthy recovery. Bullock, who had previously worked in the healthcare field prior to her diagnoses, was unable to continue work and even lost her driver's license at one point due to the severity of her condition. But, during her recovery, Bullock shared that she became more determined than ever to earn her nursing degree and to follow her passion and calling to the healthcare field. She started with online classes while recovering from her procedures, eventually earning two certifications that allowed her to get back to work as a medical assistant and phlebotomist. With that experience, Bullock shared that she decided she wanted to keep learning.

"I applied to CCC&TI and began taking the necessary courses to enroll in the nursing program and thanks to the wonderful teachers and staff, I am currently in my second semester of nursing school," she said. "And thanks to this scholarship, I have been able to commit a lot more time to my studies and I am confident that this will result in getting the most out of my education, good grades and most importantly more preparedness for

working in the nursing field. It is my sincere hope to pay it forward and use my education to make a difference in the lives of others," she said. "I want to offer many thanks to the donors who make these scholarships possible. Thank you."

CCC&TI student Brandon Townsend also expressed his appreciation for his scholarship and the opportunities it has provided for him to pursue a new career. "We are here to celebrate the generous people who help others to better their lives. As a recipient of this true act of kindness, I know how life changing this generosity can be," said Townsend. "I am a husband, a dad to five beautiful children. I also work full-time... and take college courses full-time online. If you had told me a year ago that I would be on this journey today, I would have looked at you and said 'who, me?' But here I am as a scholarship recipient," he shared. "I am almost done with two of five semesters required to get my degree in Human Services Technology with a concentration in Mental Health – two semesters that could not have been taken without this scholarship."

Townsend says once he completes his studies, he plans to use his degree to obtain work in a hospice or nursing home environment. In closing he expressed his thanks and spoke to the far-reaching impact of his scholarship. "Last but not least, I want to thank the donors. I would have never been able to afford college without a scholarship, so in my case, that generous donation not only changes my life, but the life of my family and everyone God allows me to help in the years to come. Thank you."

Foundation Board Chair Peg Broyhill closed the event by extending her gratitude to the donors and the students in attendance. "This has been such a special event. I want to add my congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients here this afternoon," she said. "It's been wonderful to meet and talk with these students. We wish you every success in meeting your goals!"

The Foundation of CCC&TI is currently conducting its 2024 Annual Fund Drive Campaign, which raises funds for scholarships, the Dream Award Program, student emergency assistance and other priorities. For more information or to make a donation to the Annual Fund Drive, visit www.cccti.edu/donate or call the Foundation at 828-726-2260.

Below are Jimmy and Nancy Hemphill Scholarship recipient Brandon Townsend (right), who spoke at the event, with donor and Foundation supporter, Jimmy Hemphill.



1 Application • 30 Minutes • 100+ Scholarships

Now is the time to apply for CCC&TI Foundation Scholarships!

100+ Scholarships from \$250 to \$2,500 are available to all students planning to attend CCC&TI this fall!

One easy, online application allows you to be considered for all Foundation Scholarships.

Apply online at www.cccti.edu

FINAL DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2024

CCC&TI Nursing Faculty Earns National Award

By CCC&TI Student Jose Euceda

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Nursing Faculty member David Everhart has been chosen as one of Assessment Technologies Institute's 2023 Nurse's Touch Award honorees. Assessment Technologies Institute (or ATI) provides online services to nursing schools across the United States to help nurses learn rigorous concepts, prepare for the workforce and successfully complete high-stakes tests.

ATI's Nurse's Touch Award was created to honor nurse educators who devote time to preparing well-rounded nursing students and training the next generation to develop their own professional touch and achieve success in the field.

Honorees are outstanding educators with advanced professional and interpersonal skills, as well as the exceptional ability to integrate these skills into their nursing practice and students' education. Only four honorees are chosen each year from a pool of nationwide nominations. These nominees span from community colleges, to nursing schools, to universities.



Each of the four recipients is honored at the annual National Nurse Educator Summit in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Summit is a four-day professional development conference featuring hundreds of nurse educators from across the country. As an award recipient, Everhart receives complimentary registration, hotel accommodations, airfare, and recognition in a variety of outlets including on stage at the Summit, recognition in ATI client communications, a blog announcement on the ATI website, and social media.

Everhart has garnered respect among his students, as well as his CCC&TI colleagues. In fact, two separate nominations for the award were submitted for Everhart, one from CCC&TI Nursing Program Director Dr. April Cline and one from colleague and fellow nursing instructor Pam Owens.

The nominations reflect Everhart's dedication to teaching and helping his students achieve success. "David is representative of the skill and dedication exhibited by all of our nursing faculty," said former CCC&TI Health Sciences Dean Melissa Smith. "The fact that his peers nominated him is a testament to the teamwork each program faculty displays. Truly a part of the Caldwell Way."

CCC&TI president, Dr. Mark Poarch, also recognized Everhart's contributions by saying, "Congratulations to David on this recognition and being an amazing nurse educator. I am thrilled that not only your peers, but others across the country recognize your tremendous contributions to the nursing field and to the lives of students," he said. "Thanks so much for all you do for CCC&TI, our students, and the communities we serve. We are so proud of you."

CCC&TI Student to Represent North Carolina in National Leadership Program

By CCC&TI Student Lilly Pearson

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Radiography student Cassie Devine has been chosen by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) as one of two North Carolina student representatives to participate in their Student Leadership Development Program.

This selective national program chooses just two students per state to participate in the program each year. The students awarded this opportunity are assigned a leadership mentor, participate in an online leadership program, and attend the ASRT Annual Governance Conference in Orlando, Fla. The three-year program offers additional educational opportunities and professional growth, an opportunity to be involved with the world's largest association for medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals and covers most of the associated cost for travel and accommodations while participating in program activities. Along with Devine, a student from UNC-Chapel Hill was chosen as the second student to represent North Carolina.

To be considered for the Student Leadership Development Program, students have to apply online with an essay detailing their leadership and future goals, and submit a letter of recommendation from their Program Director. Devine applied with an essay that demonstrated her passion and desire to "build up the radiography community in a positive way." Her essay highlighted her dedication, positivity, and persistent passion for Radiography and the health care field. Devine is the first CCC&TI student selected to participate in this national program.

CCC&TI Radiography Program Director Amber Edwards says that Devine's selection illustrates both the excellence of CCC&TI's program, as well as Devine's leadership potential as a student. Edwards said that Devine's selection "shows that CCC&TI Radiography is developing well-rounded, outstanding students in all aspects. Our students not only have the knowledge to pass the ASRT registry but also the work ethics and drive to be future leaders in the Radiography profession."

Devine's journey to becoming a radiography student was far from typical. She grew up in Newton, NC, and graduated from Bunker Hill High School in 2004. Initially, Devine believed that her calling was Sonography, and she applied for the corresponding program at CCC&TI. While waiting for official acceptance into the program, Devine took a job in a boarding kennel at an animal hospital.



Pictured above center is Radiography Student Cassie Devine with Program Director Amber Edwards, right, and Clinical Coordinator Brittanni Arrowood, left.



The Caldwell Chronicle
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Communications &
Public Relations Department.

Find us on the web at:
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.

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CCC&TI is an equal
opportunity educator
and employer.

In that role, Devine's dedication and passion for helping others helped her excel at her work. Over the next 13 years, Devine took on increasingly responsible roles with the organization as Human Resource Manager, Head Veterinary Technician, and ultimately Surgical Technician. It was during these years that Devine discovered her love for Radiology, orthopedic procedures, and the medical field in general. From that experience, she decided to pursue her interest in radiography and resume her education.

Devine said that her journey was met with immense support: "I have found so much love and support around me whether it be my educators, my children, the medical staff I have been trained under, and the patients themselves." After her many years of experience and many different positions, Devine said, "I am in exactly the field I am meant to be."

Throughout her journey, Devine says she has kept one goal in mind which will come to fruition in just a few weeks as she completes CCC&TI's rigorous Radiography program: "My goal is for my children to see me walking across that stage at graduation exactly twenty years after I graduated high school. I want them to see that no matter what age, what circumstance, or what your goal is, if you work hard and apply yourself you can always achieve it."

CCC&TI congratulates Cassie Devine on this honor!

For more information on CCC&TI's Radiography Program, visit www.ccti.edu or call 828-726-2200 (Caldwell) or 828-297-3811 (Watauga).

You're Invited...

CCC&TI Lineworker Rodeo

Join us for an exciting demonstration
of skills by our Level II Lineworker
students and instructors.

Wednesday, April 24
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
CCC&TI Lineworker Training Facility
155 Roy Coffey Drive, Hudson

*Music, food, live demonstration
and more! Free and open to all.*

