

## MISSION

The mission of Rockingham Community College is to enhance individual and community success by fostering life-long learning and economic development through high-quality, accessible education and innovative partnerships.

## VISION

The vision of Rockingham Community College is to be the catalyst for educational innovation, economic growth, and enhanced quality of life in our community.

## **VALUES**

#### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

We assume and maintain accountability for all our actions at RCC. This accountability acknowledges that our students are the primary focus and that our actions should promote their success in every aspect of their RCC experience. As faculty and staff, we work together to maintain transparency while delivering excellent service.

#### **INTEGRITY**

We recognize that a commitment to integrity begins with honesty, trustworthiness, and teamwork. We strive to treat each individual with fairness and respect, aiming for consistency in our words and actions to reflect our moral and ethical principles.

#### COLLABORATION

We pledge to create a collaborative environment for students, faculty, and staff by working together outside of our immediate units or divisions and engaging in teamwork based on trust, empowerment, and respect.

#### INNOVATION

We create and foster a growth mindset within the college and the greater community, becoming a pioneer in education, training, and workforce development to meet emerging needs.

#### STUDENT SUCCESS

We commit to meeting students where they are and providing a supportive environment while helping students achieve their academic and career goals.

#### **EXCELLENCE**

We strive to practice, model and teach excellence by holding ourselves and our students to high standards and by pursuing continuous improvement.



Rockingham Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees, diplomas and certificates. Contact the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Rockingham Community College.

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Rockingham Community College ("RCC"), in compliance with and as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 and its implementing regulations ("Title IX") and other civil rights laws, as well as in furtherance of its own values as a higher education institution, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, disability, age, religion, veteran status, or any other characteristic or status protected by applicable local, state, or federal law in admission, treatment, or access to, or employment in, its programs and activities.

Discrimination and harassment are antithetical to the values and standards of the RCC community; are incompatible with the safe, healthy environment that the RCC community expects and deserves and will not be tolerated.

RCC is committed to providing programs, activities, and an education and work environment free from discrimination and harassment.

RCC is also committed to fostering a community that promotes prompt reporting and fair and timely resolution of those behaviors. Inquiries concerning discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex may be referred to RCC's Title IX Coordinator, Joy Chappell, chappelli@rockinghamcc.edu, (336) 342-4261, ext. 2265, Administration Building, Room 128.

# Difference

#### "Our work impacts people's lives through education, and we look forward to the challenges ahead and the successes of those we serve."



Dr. Mark O. Kinlaw President

Rockingham Community
College has a rich
history of serving
students as well as
business and industry
in Rockingham County
and the surrounding
region since 1966, when
the College opened
its doors. Without
the support of our
community, the College
certainly would not have
the rich history that it
has had.

The relationships and partnerships that have been created over the years have significantly impacted the College's success. Rockingham Community College is the community's college. We exist to serve our county and this region of the state. We are certainly accountable to the community, and we are charged with providing a quality education to our students and offering training to our business and industry partners. It is a responsibility that we take very seriously. In fact, it is one that we embrace. We believe very strongly in our college and its mission.

This Report to the Community highlights the accomplishments of our college for 2021-22. We hope that you find it informative and appealing.

#### **Center for Workforce Development**

On May 3, 2022, we had an official groundbreaking ceremony for our new Center for Workforce Development. Work at the site began in August with a completion date for sometime in late fall 2023. This new facility is the primary investment of the quarter-cent sales tax passed by county voters back in May 2018. The new facility will house the College's advanced manufacturing programs. Construction documents have also been signed for the renovation of the College's Industrial Technologies II building, which will house RCC's welding program. The

renovation will allow the College to expand its welding spaces from 17 to 40. The renovation should begin in late fall 2022 and is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2023. This project is being funded with ConnectNC bond funds and with quartercent sales tax revenue.

#### **High School Partnerships**

RCC and Rockingham County Schools (RCS) work closely together to enhance opportunities for high school students. Through a grant with the Reidsville Area Foundation, the College offers college courses on each high school campus. This initiative is called Rockingham Promise. Students are able to earn college credits and apply those to potential tuitionfree scholarships at our college. This initiative was put on pause during the pandemic, but we are now back on each high school campus teaching college courses. In addition, we continue to partner with RCS to offer RockATOP, which is an apprenticeship program focused on high school students. In August 2022, we held our first apprenticeship graduation, with 11 students graduating with a degree in Manufacturing Technology. As of August, there are 36 students enrolled in the apprenticeship program.

We also offer college courses to students at Bethany Community School, and we are working closely with private and home school associations in the county to reach out to high school students in these settings so that they too have the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school. It is important that we get more high school students enrolled in pathways that lead to jobs and careers.

#### **Celebrations and Academic Affairs**

The College celebrated with 350 graduates and their families at commencement ceremonies in May and July. For the combined ceremonies, RCC awarded 84 certificates, 37 diplomas, 104 Associate in Applied Science degrees, 86 Associate in Arts degrees, 3 Associate in Fine Arts in Visual Arts degrees, and 36 Associate in Science degrees.

Last year, I reported that the College had continued to sign agreements with universities in North Carolina to expand transfer opportunities for students and to make their transfer more seamless. During 2021-2022, the College added an agreement with Western Governors University, which expands higher education opportunities for both students and college employees.

Other highlights in Academic Affairs included the addition of a Center for Teaching and Learning to support continuous improvement for faculty and instructors. A dual enrollment workforce pathway in Nurse Aide was added, which expands opportunities for high school students to get their CNA while still in high school. The CNA certification is required for making application for the Nursing program. In addition, new workforce development programs in Medical Assisting, Dialysis Technology, Digital Marketing, and Construction Trades: Carpentry were added. The emphasis on workforce development programs is designed to offer more short-term programs in continuing education that lead to an industry-recognized credential that leads to employment.

#### **Securing Accreditation Reaffirmation**

RCC is in the midst of its 2024 Reaffirmation of Accreditation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the College's accreditation organization. As required for all colleges and universities, reaffirmation of accreditation must take place every 10 years. The College is in the process of making sure all policies, processes, student and administrative outcome measures, assessment strategies, and its strategic plan are in place in preparation for a 2023 SACSCOC visit. Reaffirmation of accreditation involves all elements of the College and all faculty and staff. A SACSCOC On-Site Team will be on campus in September 2023. A decision on the College's Accreditation Re-Affirmation will take place in June 2024.

#### **Athletic Successes**

RCC's women's volleyball team improved under the leadership of Head Coach Carrie Wilson. The team finished with an overall record of 6-12 and with a conference record of 3-5. Notable highlights include Skye Malasig making First Team All-Region 10 and Honorable Mention All-American. RCC's baseball team had an overall record of 15-24 and a conference record of 7-13. Notable highlights from baseball include Caeden Howell making First-Team All-Region 10 at the catcher position, and pitcher Jonathan Todd making First-Team All-Region. Our student-athletes performed admirably in the classroom. The volleyball team's GPA for fall was 3.2 and 3.0 for spring. The baseball team's GPA for fall was 2.99 and for spring was 2.97.

#### **College Giving**

The RCC Foundation, one of the largest community college foundations in North Carolina, had another successful year, raising \$391,726.46 in total gifts. The Foundation awarded \$177,536 in both endowed and general scholarships. In addition, the Foundation funded \$61,340 in campus grants that go toward improving the teaching and learning environment at the College. The Foundation also celebrated a record number of Talon Club members at 41, the largest number in the Foundation's history. Each Talon Club membership represents \$1,500 per donor. The Foundation announced a major gift of \$1,000,000 to the College over a five-year period with \$500,000 directed to a scholarship for students enrolled in programs of study taught in the new Center for Workforce Development.

RCC is fortunate to have a dedicated faculty and staff, a supportive Board of Trustees, and community members who work hard to support the College through the work of the RCC Foundation. We will continue to serve our students and our community. Our work impacts people's lives through education, and we look forward to the challenges ahead and the successes of those we serve.

With regards,

MMDO, Cirlaw Dr. Mark O. Kinlaw, Ed.D., President

# Trustees



Mr. R. Scott Barham, Chair Eden



Mrs. Myla H. Barnhardt Eden



Mr. James C. Burnette

Eden



Mr. E. Nelson Cole Reidsville



Mr. Hal R. Griffin Reidsville



Mrs. Randy D. Judkins Reidsville



Mrs. Elizabeth H. Maddrey *Eden* 



Mrs. Elaine V. McCollum Reidsville



Mr. Charles K. Rakestraw *Madison* 



Mr. Thomas R. Schoolfield Reidsville

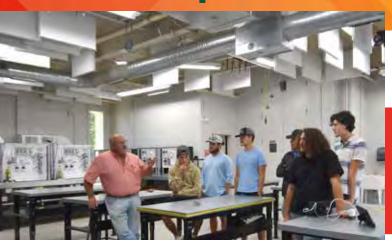


Mr. C. Grayson Whitt Eden



Mr. Michael W. Wilson Stoneville

## Capital Projects UPDATE CAMPUS



Growth is the key to the continued prosperity of Rockingham Community College, and with that growth comes maintenance and expansion of the institution's facilities. The College undertook a number of capital improvement projects during 2021-22, including:

■ Renovation of two classrooms in Industrial Technologies I to accommodate an HVAC program move from Industrial Technologies II. Renovations included new lighting, paint, and overhead doors; construction of two offices; increased electrical; and improved acoustical properties. ■ Design completion for renovation of the Industrial Technologies Il building, which will feature two new welding labs, a new faculty office suite, and student lounge area.

Design completion for the Center for **Workforce Development. Construction** bids were received in April and a groundbreaking ceremony was held in May. The 42,000-square-foot building will house workforce development and applied technology programs as well as the RCC Small Business Center, a corporate meeting space, and faculty offices.



**■** Construction of a 24' x 32' metal storage building in the Agribusiness area, designed to increase the storage capacity for the Agribusiness and Duke Energy TRAILS programs.

■ Renovation of the Center for Creative Woodworking to accommodate the construction trades program. Work included the construction of a new classroom at the front of the building, new flooring, lighting, and paint, deep cleaning of the building, new window glazing for the front entrance, and a new exterior sign to showcase the name change to the Center for Construction Trades & Woodworking.



■ Refinishing the Keys Gymnasium basketball and volleyball court. Work included new game lines and logos to update the floor with RCC's colors.

# A YEAR IN Numbers

CURRICULUM 1 890 FALL 2021

#### PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES

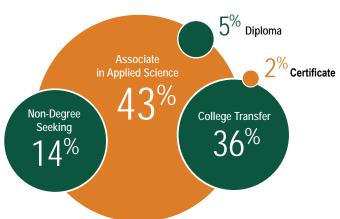
Arts and Sciences

Workforce Development 21%

Early College HS and Career and College Promise

Public Services 26%

Health and



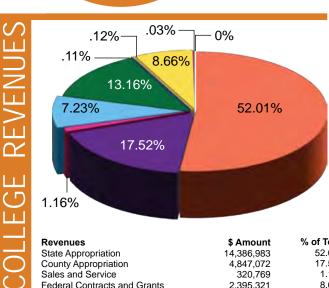
PERCENT OF ENROLLMENT BY DIVISION

AVERAGE AGE OF STUDENTS 22.52

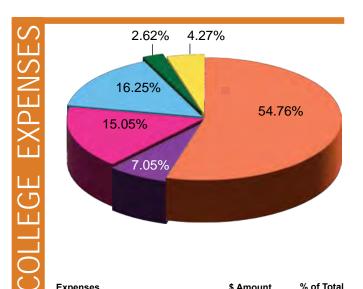
FULL-TIME 25.1% PART-TIME 74.9%

FEMALE 65.2%

MALE 34.8%



Revenues	\$ Amount	% of Total
State Appropriation	14,386,983	52.01
County Appropriation	4,847,072	17.52
Sales and Service	320,769	1.16
Federal Contracts and Grants	2,395,321	8.66
Federal Aid - COVID-19	3,641,070	13.16
Investment Income	8,985	.03
Capital Contributions	31,828	.12
Non-Capital Gifts, Contracts & Gran	1,999,956	7.23
Additions to Endowments	400	0.00
Other Revenues	30,958	0.11
Total Revenues	27,663,341	100.00



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Expenses	\$ Amount	% of Total
Salaries and Benefits	11,690,695	54.76
College Services	1,505,736	7.05
Supplies and Materials	3,469,010	16.25
Scholarships	3,213,301	15.05
Utilities	559,390	2.62
Depreciation	910,599	4.27
Total Expenses	21,348,731	100.00

# GRANTS \$5,739,029

Source	Benefit	Amount
Dee & Gerald James Endowment	Gifts	\$400
Duke Energy Foundation	Workforce Development Scholarships	\$7,250
NC Child Care Grant	Child care services for student-parents in community colleges	\$35,301
NC Community College Grant	Award for student financial aid	\$102,304
NC Education Lottery	Award for student financial aid	\$85,982
NC Office of State Budget and Management	State Capital Infrastructure Fund	\$2,000,000
NC Targeted Assistance Grant	Award for student financial aid	\$4,811
NCCCS	AEFLA Digital Literacy	\$25,000
	Apprenticeship Outreach	\$40,000
	English Literacy/Civics Education Projects	\$34,261
	Golden Leaf Scholars Program	\$31,955
	Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEERS) funds	\$58,136
	Longleaf Complete Student Aid	\$28,578
	Longleaf Student Support Services	\$61,270
	NC Career Coach	\$79,164
	Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program	\$20,940
	Summer Accelerator Grant	\$24,640
<b>→</b>	Vocational Education	\$98,663
Pepsi Bottling Ventures	Gift	\$10,500
Reidsville Area Foundation	Rockingham Promise	\$280,055
<b>—</b>	Together We Soar Grant	\$82,500
Rockingham County	Education Access Channel	\$25,975
SECU Foundation	Bridge to Career Scholarships	\$18,000
United Negro College Fund	Workforce Diversity Scholarships	\$5,000
US Department of Education	Pell	\$2,123,847
	TRIO Grant	\$261,888
	Federal Work Study	\$44,211
	Federal SEOG Grants	\$45,334
<b>+</b>	Federal Basic Skills Allocation	\$102,565
Wells Fargo	Wells Fargo Technical Scholarship	\$500

#### 2022 Rockingham Community College Performance Measure Summary

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		Basic Skills Progress	Credit English Success	Credit Math Success	First Year Progression	Curriculum Completion Rate	Licensure Pass Rate Index	Transfer Performance
	System Excellence Level	1.348	1.147	1.192	1.069	1.094	1.073	1.024
	System Baseline	0.283	0.747	0.662	0.872	0.853	0.800	0.922
	Average College Percentage	0.993	1.014	1.016	1.003	1.014	0.982	0.990
	Peer Group Average	0.933	1.040	1.020	1.020	1.000	0.930	0.980
	Rockingham CC 2022	0.800	0.930	0.970	0.910	0.950	1.010	0.990
	Performance Measures now us	se an index score	instead of a percent	tage score. Credit E	nglish Success is up	o 3% and College Tran	sfer Performance is u	ıp 1% from 2021.



Starting the official groundbreaking for Rockingham Community College's Center for Workforce Development are, from left, County Commissioner Chair Kevin Berger, N.C. Sen. Phil Berger, N.C. Community College System then-President Thomas Stith III, County Commissioner Charlie Hall, N.C. Rep. Reece Pyrtle, former County Commissioner Keith Duncan, RCC President Dr. Mark O. Kinlaw, County Commissioners Don Powell and Mark Richardson, RCC Foundation President Bobby Wharton, County Manager Lance Metzler, and RCC Trustees Chair Scott Barham.

# CENTER FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FUNDED BY QUARTER-CENT SALES TAX

Rockingham Community College broke ground on May 3, 2022 for its Center for Workforce Development. The state-of-the-art facility will house Advanced Manufacturing programs, including Computer-Integrated Machining, Electrical Systems Technologies, and Mechatronics, as well as the Small Business Center and Customized Training Services.

The 42,398-square-foot building will also include a 200-seat corporate meeting space, available for use by RCC's business and industry partners.

"This new facility will no doubt transform the look of this side of campus, but more importantly, it will transform how our college can train our graduates to enter the workforce in the advanced manufacturing field," said RCC President Dr. Mark O. Kinlaw, from the site across from the Administration Building.

"Rockingham County has seen over \$1 billion in new industry investment and current industry expansion in the last two years alone," he said. "While this is exciting, it places even more emphasis on the importance of the College being at the forefront of workforce preparedness."

Board of Trustees Chair Scott Barham noted that RCC has been training the citizens of Rockingham County for more than 56 years.

"The College has experienced significant growth in our workforce development in recent years, and the advanced manufacturing programs are currently housed in one of our original 1966 facilities. You can imagine with this increase in demand, space is something that is much needed," Barham said.

N.C. Community College System then-President Thomas Stith III said RCC's leadership and vision surpass that of any college in the state.

He cited a recent survey which showed that North Carolina's community colleges "provide the fuel to the job engine of the state. When we talk about community colleges, and particularly RCC, it's not just the higher education you provide – whether it's the newly minted high school student or someone that needs to be reskilled or retrained because of a displacement – we know that we serve a key economic role."

County Commissioner Chair Kevin Berger said the facility "is one of our greatest recruiting and retention tools for industry. Moving forward, you will notice RCC continuing to enhance and improve facilities and equipment in several areas across the campus, allowing employers to work with the College to adapt the workforce in many fields and expand programs as required."

County Manager Lance Metzler said workforce development "is the backbone to a strong local economy and lays the foundation for success not only for employees, but for local businesses and the entire community as well."

The Center for Workforce Development is the primary investment of a quarter-cent sales tax passed by voters in May 2018.

"We knew it was not going to be easy getting voter support," Kinlaw said. "A bipartisan committee called 'The Citizens for the One-Fourth Cent Sales Tax to Benefit RCC' was formed to educate the voters on the importance and intended use of the tax revenue if approved."

The committee was chaired by former County Commissioner Keith

Duncan, and current Commissioner Don Powell. Other members included Tom Schoolfield, Mike Dougherty, Jeff Garstka, Roxanne Griffin, Missy Matthews, Diane Parnell, Allen Purgason, Bonnie Purgason, Ron Tuttle, and Jamie Rorrer (ex officio member). They made presentations across the county and encouraged voters to approve the tax, and the RCC Foundation provided funds to market the referendum.

"Voters approved it, 55% to 45%. This was enormous win for the College and the County. We are very thankful for those who supported the tax and to those who worked so hard on behalf of the College and County to get it approved," Kinlaw said. "We also appreciate the support of current commissioners, who continue to provide for the tax. The College is now averaging about \$250,000 per month from the tax, well above the \$160,000 that was projected. Thus far, the College has been able to invest in numerous workforce development initiatives and will continue to do that going forward."

N.C. Rep. Reece Pyrtle said, "I was proud to be a county commissioner who voted to place the tax on the ballot. We celebrate today because in May 2018 the citizens of this county passed that referendum. This is a big game-changer for Rockingham County."

N.C. Sen. Phil Berger commended county leaders "for trying the tax again, and the leaders of RCC for knowing what is needed here for the future, and most of all... the people of Rockingham County for recognizing what needed to be done here. It is their vision, their understanding, and their willingness to do what needs to be done that is critically important to the future of Rockingham County and the future of North

RCC is breaking ground "for the future of education, the future of manufacturing... and truly the future of Rockingham County."

~Phil Berger
NC Senate Pro Tempore

Carolina, and really for the future of our country."

Powell said the tax has already paid huge dividends

Powell said the tax has already paid huge dividends to taxpayers through other renovation projects that have taken place, and will continue with the facility.

"The Center will be a resource for men and women who would like to retool or better themselves in the workforce and better provide for their families," he said. "It will allow single parents the opportunity to learn a skill or trade to better support their children and families. It will allow our high school graduates the opportunity to expand skills... and earn a certificate or diploma and enter the workforce at a livable wage to experience the American dream."

As a licensed general contractor, Duncan said people in his field "want somebody to come to work that's already trained, to roll their sleeves up and get their hands dirty and go to work." This new facility will make that happen.

RCC Foundation President Bobby Wharton announced a half-million-dollar gift from the Foundation for endowed scholarships for students learning in the Center for Workforce Development. In recognition of this gift, the main lobby will bear the Foundation's name.

"President George Bush said you may never live long enough to fully understand what effect your decisions today will have on future generations. I believe that history will judge this as being one of the greatest decisions ever made in this county," Powell said. "The motto for Rockingham County is, 'You're in a good place.' Today, I think you're in a great place."

A large crowd was on hand for the May 3 groundbreaking for the Center for Workforce Development. Classes are expected to be offered in the facility in Spring 2024.



Dr. Lindley Butler sits in his office at Rockingham Community College in 1976, a couple years after becoming historian-in-residence. Butler joined the College in 1968 and retired in 1996.

# Lindley's Legacy

## RCC MOURNS LOSS OF FORMER HISTORIAN-IN-RESIDENCE

Rockingham Community College lost one if its beloved former department chairs, when Dr. Lindley Butler died on April 12, 2022 after a period of declining health.

Butler was named RCC's historian-inresidence in 1974, six years after coming to the College to serve as chairman of the Humanities and Social Science Department. He retired in 1996.

Phil Conte remembers the start of his own 44-year RCC career in 1970 "as a young kid in the English Department," getting to know Butler.

"I would watch him very carefully and learn from him. Lindley was a good model, and young teachers like myself looked up to him. He was an academician, a solid teacher, an expert in North Carolina history, and he became an expert in Blackbeard," Conte said.

"Lindley led the way. He was one of the first teachers that became an emeritus professor. I



Lindley Butler
Professor Emeritus

remember going to the president when I was nominated to be an emeritus along with some others, and said we're not in the same class as Lindley. He's a PhD and is published. I had a problem with it." Conte said.

"He helped establish the reputation RCC had – he helped make the school what it was," he said.

Upon retirement, Butler pointed out some of the changes he witnessed during his tenure at RCC.

"The growth of the technical programs reflects the needs of the community, and one of our goals is to adapt to the

needs of the community," he said. "I feel that the best thing about RCC is the impact it has made on the community by offering people the chance to get a post-secondary education who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity. That's the most important thing we do."

Penne Prigge, who joined RCC not long before

Butler retired, was impressed by the scholar.

"His research and writing is comparable to professors at four-year institutions who have nowhere near the class load that he has," she said at that time. "I don't know of anyone at the community college level who has done what he has."

Prior to his arrival at RCC, Butler earned his Master of Arts in 1964 from UNC Chapel Hill, and his PhD in history in 1971 from there as well, after RCC hired him.

The community is fortunate that the Eden native returned to Rockingham County after college and jobs in High Point and Louisburg.

Over the years, Butler authored many books, including local ones such as "Rockingham County: A Brief History" and "Our Proud Heritage: A Pictorial History of Rockingham County, N.C."

Not only did he serve as director of the Wright Tavern Restoration in Wentworth, Butler wrote the book on it: "Wright Tavern: A Courthouse Inn and its Proprietors."

Butler's expertise went well beyond the college campus.

Historian of the Queen Anne's Revenge Shipwreck Project and the preeminent authority on piracy during the proprietary period, Butler concluded, based on a decade of research, that remains of the shipwreck found in 1996 in the Beaufort Inlet at the North Carolina coast must be the Queen Anne's Revenge.

Butler authored "Pirates, Privateers, and Rebel Raiders of the Carolina Coast," which led to his appearance in 2005 on the A&E Network TV show Biography. He also served as historical consultant for the 2006 movie, "Blackbeard: Terror at Sea."

His final book, "A History of North Carolina in the Proprietary Era, 1629-1729" was published just weeks before his death.





From left, (seated) Rockingham Community College President Dr. Mark Kinlaw and Western Governors University-North Carolina Chancellor Dr. Ben Coulter finish signing a student transfer agreement, and are joined by (standing) RCC English and Language Studies Department Chair Tim Parrish, Business Technologies Department Chair Sarah Evans, Information Technology Faculty Thomas Knight, Dean of Arts and Sciences Celeste Allis, Dean of Health Sciences and Public Service Technologies Vickie Chitwood, WGU Senior Strategic Partnerships Manager Tenita Philyaw-Rogers, and RCC Humanities and Social Sciences Department Chair Donata Worrell.

# Students can seamlessly transfer to online WGU North Carolina

Rockingham Community College has formed a partnership with WGU North Carolina, an affiliate of online nonprofit Western Governors University, enabling a seamless transfer of course credits for graduates to attend the online university.

WGU now provides to RCC graduates flexible, personalized learning pathways to earn bachelor's and master's degrees through WGU. Going a step further, the agreement also extends to RCC employees, in support of workforce development and employee development goals.

"We are thrilled to partner with RCC to support a shared mission of expanding educational opportunities and enabling career pathways which serve the workforce needs of our communities, especially in rural settings," WGU North Carolina Chancellor Dr. Ben Coulter said.

WGU offers more than 60 accredited online degree programs in business, information technology, K-12 teacher education, and health professions – including nursing. These programs align perfectly with associate degrees RCC offers, so graduates will be able to transfer right into WGU to earn their bachelor's and master's degrees.

"One unique feature of WGU is the ability for students to accelerate program completion in our undergraduate and graduate degree offerings. Our programs are intentionally designed to be flexible, especially for adults who may be working, supporting a family, or have other life obligations. And as we are competency-based, students who demonstrate mastery of course content and assessment criteria can progress at their own pace," Coulter said.

Tuition is approximately \$3,800 for a six-month term currently, during which a student can take as many courses as they want.

"That means that whether a student completes eight courses or 20 during a term, the tuition doesn't change – so the more courses a student finishes in a term, the quicker they finish, saving them money," Coulter said.

"WGU was an early innovator at the dawn of online learning 25 years ago. We have established best practices and effective teaching methods meeting the needs of different communities of learners that may be underserved, low-income, or currently working but looking to upskill or having a change in careers," Coulter said.



RockATOP's initial cohort of apprentices became the program's first graduating class in summer 2022. The graduates, by company with which they apprenticed, were: Erik Rivera-Yoc with ABCO Automation; Omar Rodriguez Mora with Amcor; Jordan Dawson and Levi Simons (not pictured), with Pine Hall Brick; and Jared Ellis, Gabe Johnson, Nicholas Johnson, Cody Mabry, Hunter Martin, Jacob Reynolds, and Logan Vincent, with Machine Specialties Inc. These graduates started in the program while high school students at McMichael, Morehead, Reidsville, and Rockingham.

## FIRST APPRENTICE COHORT GRADUATES

A partnership among the College, Rockingham County Schools, and area industries celebrated a milestone with its first-ever graduating class from the program's initial cohort.

The 11 graduates were celebrated in August, after four years of hard work and education as members of RockATOP - Rockingham Apprenticeship and Technical Opportunities Program.

The RockATOP program signed its first cohort in August 2018. The apprentices enrolled in at least 10 hours of college courses each semester at RCC, while working 30 to 35 hours per week at a partnering industry and earning a paycheck. They earned their Associate in Applied Science degrees from RCC with no debt, because all tuition, books, and fees were covered.

N.C. Rep. Reece Pyrtle spoke to the graduates at their ceremony.

"You have been diligent and persevered, working full-time and going to school part-time for the last four years. It hasn't always been easy, but you have demonstrated resilience and maturity. You should each be proud of the accomplishments

you have completed,"
Pyrtle said. "You completed
all the Department of Labor's
requirements, so you satisfied the
State; you're now eligible for your
Journey Worker credentials in
your registered occupation; you've
attained an associate degree;
and you're the first graduating
class of the entire apprenticeship
program."

He called them trailblazers who stepped up with a leap of faith.

"It's partnerships like these that

will push Rockingham County to the next level," County Manager Lance Metzler said, "Having trained professionals educated right here is key to keeping our residents employed as well as happy to stay in our county."

While RockATOP said goodbye to Career Counselor Lydia Craddock who retired, the program continues, offering career pathways in Robotics, CNC Machining, Mechanical, and Electrical.



RockATOP signed 17 apprenticeships for 2022. ABCO Automation signed Isaac Aguilar, Nathan Collins, Ty Horsley (not pictured), Damian Moton, Hayden Pinnix, Jackson Pollock, and Nathan Rickman. Bridgestone Aircraft Tire signed Antonio Domingo Rangel. Pine Hall Brick signed Lane Blankenship and Clayton Hart. Machine Specialties Inc. signed Oscar Blackwell, Brenden Harris, Garyn Kennon, Dylan Law, Logan McNeely, Michael Teal, and Joel Vaughn.



Julie Morton's home-school experience left her with not much more than a second-grade education. As she grew older, she earned her GED through RCC in July 2021, and enrolled as a college student that fall.

# Taking Control

# WITH NO FORMAL EDUCATION, JULIE MORTON IS NOW ENROLLED AT RCC

Like many students in their first year of college, Julie Morton was trying to decide what program she wanted to study.

As a freshman, she started out in Information Technology after speaking with her advisor, then changed to Medical Office Administration (MOA) after a conversation with the program director.

"I'm still exploring my options while I'm at RCC, and I'm not sure what path I'm going to take," she said.

But Morton is collecting some good experience for the MOA field – and work experience in general. She landed a job in RCC's Financial Aid office, hired the same day she applied for the campus Work Study position.

Morton's journey to this point was rather rocky. "I was taken out of school in the second grade to

be home-schooled, and due to circumstances beyond my control, my education was not kept up with. I really had no formal education after second grade," she said.

Eventually, she took her future into her own hands, and enrolled in RCC's College and Career Readiness program in December 2020, through which she earned her High School Equivalency Diploma (HiSET) in July 2021, and immediately enrolled as a college student that fall.

"I definitely spent a lot of time thinking that I wasn't smart enough or that I wasn't going to be able to do it," Morton said.

"I finally just told myself I had to do it. Once I came here for my HiSET, I thought, 'Yeah, I'm coming back here for college. This is where I want to be."

But it wasn't easy.

"All of my peers had all of these experiences that I didn't have, and I'm sure they know much more than I know, but I'm trying to stop comparing myself to everyone else because everyone's path in life is different," she said.

Morton received some advice from a couple of people to not mention to her college instructors that she had not been to school. But in another show of her own decision-making capabilities, she ignored their advice.

"Why should I put myself at a disadvantage, because they're going to look at me and say, 'Oh, you should know this,'" she reasoned.

"It's definitely a learning curve and something to get used to."

But Morton settled into her college classes, evidenced by a State Employees Credit Union "People

Helping People" Scholarship she received.

"I had no idea that I got the scholarship, until Malerie (Filiault in the Financial Aid office) called me to ask a question about it," she said.

Morton's favorite part about being at RCC is the community.

"I feel like everybody cares about everybody. I've loved everyone I've met, and I like how everyone is accepting of how different we all are," she said.

"I want to be creative, but I feel like everyone is kind of putting me into a box and saying this is what you should do. But at the end of the day, I need to evaluate what I want and pursue that," she said.

"My dad has always told me that if you find a job that you love, you'll never work a day in your life. It's just self-exploration, and what better place to do that than college?"



# Adult High School 2022 Class of 2022









## Center for Teaching and Learning

#### RESOURCE HELPS INSTRUCTORS IN THE CLASSROOM

The Center for Teaching and Learning is all about continuous improvement, helping faculty with best practices and new instructional methods, and collaborating across campus.

Back in 2015, RCC was awarded a Title III grant for the Distance Learning team. It covered the cost of transitioning 44 classes to online. Grant administrator Louis McIntyre trained faculty to teach online and let them know how his department could help them.

McIntyre recognized the interest of faculty Gabe Rumley-Smith, who found it fascinating to learn the hows, whys and whats of teaching. When he needed a new instructional designer, he asked her to apply. She took him up on the offer, leaving her full-time faculty role in 2018.

"When the grant was nearing its end, administration was talking about how to transition and how to absorb what was happening," she said. "I told them the grant was great for training, but I thought the biggest takeaway was the great infrastructure it gave us to get some equipment – like a Braille printer, a puff printer, and a 3D printer – that help the College, accessibility-wise."

The grant had also paid for stations where faculty do computer-based work, including the recording of teaching sessions, and a studio for filming in a larger format. "The vision post-grant was to keep this area as a place that supported faculty, so I started researching teaching and learning centers for higher education," Rumley-Smith said. And she had the support of College administrators.

The Center for Teaching and Learning became official in November 2021, with Rumley-Smith becoming director. In June 2022, Morgan Peterson was brought in as the instructional designer.

"She has a wealth of knowledge from her education and her background in K-12, so all of the cool educational things that I had to go and learn under the grant, she came in with all of that knowledge. Plus, she had been using that knowledge for seven years, so she had very fresh ideas to help support our faculty," Rumley-Smith said. Prior to joining RCC's staff, Peterson was assistant course leader for a charter school system in Texas.

Now, faculty is always welcome in the Center for Teaching and Learning, located in ADT 207.

"It's always an open door, but we are more than willing to meet them where they are, so if they only have 30 minutes between classes and they don't want to spend half of that time trekking across campus to us, we will be there whenever they get out of their class," Rumley-Smith said. "We do one-on-one and group consultations. If there's something

that a particular department is struggling with, we've offered chairs and program directors training."

She and Peterson want everyone to know they are available for more than helping with Moodle, RCC's course management system and learning platform.

"Nothing is too small to come ask. We don't want them sitting in their offices struggling when we're here to support them. We don't want them thinking they should already know something or that they have a dumb question," Rumley-Smith said.

"Instructors are subject matter experts, they're not teaching experts. To teach in higher ed you have to have your Master's degree in your discipline – so you don't have a degree in teaching or know those terms and language and approaches, so that's what we're here for," she said. "They can bring us their content and we'll help them build out and facilitate a course."

The help can be as simple as explaining how to use PowerPoint, or as complex as creating a more active engagement strategy for the classroom.

"We are able to meet them where they are right now and give them bite-size pieces of help, really supporting them with practical applications. Our goal is not to overwhelm them, it's to support them," Rumley-Smith said.

The Center offers workshops and training sessions throughout the year. Some are mandatory, like when the Department of Education updated rules and requirements regarding online learning. Others are optional, such as training on backwards planning and meaningful assessments, and classroom visits.

"We're starting something called 'knowledge networking.' It's providing the opportunity for peer-to-peer learning. Faculty members observe each other in their classrooms, and get takeaways so they can continuously improve," Rumley-Smith said. "It's helping to break those silos and learn from each other. We're trying to foster a culture of collaboration with everyone across the campus.

"We're doing a lot of face-to-face training this year but we're also building out a lot of online training and we've held virtual sessions because we don't want to forget our adjuncts and Continuing Education instructors that teach the 96-plus-hour programs. They use Moodle and have large enrollment too, so we want to make sure that we hit everybody," Rumley-Smith said. "There are awesome instructional practices being used across campus, and hopefully the Center can open the doors to everyone sharing those ideas."



Jasmine Johnson wanted to see a change in her life. "I was a trying to figure out who I was and where I wanted to go. Certain people had said things to me such as you are not smart, you can't amount to anything," she recollected. "I met wonderful individuals who God placed in my life to encourage me, who saw potential in me," Johnson said.

These particular friends were graduates of RCC, and told her about tutoring, financial aid, and other resources.

"I finally convinced myself that I could do it," Johnson said. "RCC was close by, and I knew it had a beautiful campus. What I heard about RCC was fantastic."

She enrolled in the Early Childhood Education with thoughts of a providing a better foundation to youngsters than she had growing up.

"I want to make a difference as a role model, an advocate, and a positive educator. I want to be a teacher who speaks life into my students," Johnson said. "Since words have power, what you say to a child decides their outcome and shapes their future."

Her favorite class was public speaking, because it gave her the confidence to speak to people professionally.

"As my writing abilities increased, I began to see my own potential. RCC professors are fantastic. They took the time to help me achieve my educational goals while also assisting me with my assignments," Johnson said.

Finishing her program in December 2021, Johnson participated in the May 2022 graduation ceremony, accepting her Associate in Applied Science degree in Early Child Education-Career Track – solid evidence of a changed life.

"For those who wish to attend RCC, please do so, because RCC makes you feel like part of a family and provides you with all you need, including tools and classes that help you develop your character. I am forever grateful to RCC for allowing me to be a student, and I cannot express my gratitude to RCC enough," Johnson said.

"Believe in yourself. Don't let anyone put a period at the end of your story, because there's more to it."

# Making HISTORY IN VOLLEYBALL



Skye Malasig's last-minute decision to attend Rockingham Community College led to making history. Graduating with the Dalton McMichael High School Class of 2021, she was unsure of where to enroll to further her education.

"Going into the medical field has always been in the works. My mom is a cardio technician, and my dad is a nurse," she said. "Keeping money in mind, I was planning to go to a four-year university and medical school. It was a lot of stress on me, knowing I was going to have my parents pay for all that, which they said was never a problem."

But North Carolina's Longleaf Commitment grant that guaranteed free community college tuition for two years for 2021 high school graduates was too good to pass up.

"I realized I could be going to college for free, getting my associate degree for free, with zero debt. So I was like, why not?" Malasig said.

She enrolled about two weeks before the fall 2021 registration deadline.

It didn't take long for RCC's head volleyball coach to reach out to Malasig, just prior to the start of the season. Malasig wasn't interested, but Coach Carrie Wilson stayed in contact. Malasig finally agreed to visit a couple of practices.

"I came, really loved the girls, and never stopped going to practices and I was just on the team," she said.

Malasig was no stranger to the sport. She started playing volleyball in fifth grade, on club, middle school and high school teams.

"I started playing because of my dad. He played volleyball in the military, and he always wanted me to play. I played soccer when I was younger, and then I got better at volleyball," she said, adding that she needed to choose which sport to pursue. "Part of the reason, looking back, was to make my dad proud; I played volleyball for him."

The RCC team didn't get a win until the middle of the season, "but once we got it, it programmed in everyone's head that we can do this. We took off. You could tell there was a different mentality. We wanted to win because we knew we could win," she said.

And it paid off for Malasig herself, when she was named to the 2021 National Junior College Athletic Association Division III All-American Volleyball Team as an honorable mention. She's the first RCC athlete in history to earn such an honor.

"I wasn't expecting it. I didn't know it was a thing," she said. "I had gotten All-Region first team at the championship. It's exciting."

During the Lady Eagles' 17 matches of the

During the Lady Eagles' 17 matches of the season, Malasig had 58 sets, 173 kills, and averaged nearly three kills per set. She also had 17 assists, 27 service aces, and 176 digs.

Academically, Malasig excels as well. She was named to the dean's list for the fall 2021 semester.

And although she just graduated from high school in May 2021, she earned her Associate in Science degree in May 2022.

"When we had the option to return to in-person classes at McMichael, I chose to stay at home. My senior year, I was in all classes at RCC because I was basically done with high school. I just stayed online. I was getting college credits in high school, so earned my associate degree a year early," Malasig said.

And she was able to stick with online classes, only coming to campus for volleyball.

"I love online classes; it gives me time to do



#### 11 HVAC STUDENTS PASS

## **EPA Certification**

Eleven HVAC students passed the Universal level of the EPA Certification Exam on their first try in summer 2021 - and immediately landed jobs.

The newly certified students are Heath Carter, David Dickens, Robert Dove, William Farlow, Zackery Glaeser, Luke Hazelwood, Timothy Jacobs, Brison Knowles, Zachery Meade, Christian Meeks, and Lawrence Wray.

Hazelwood and Knowles both enrolled in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) at RCC through the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. They earned college credits while they were students at Reidsville High School by entering the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Basics Pathway at RCC to gain entry-level skills in residential light commercial HVAC, and domestic refrigeration. Students learn to braze, test for leaks, recover refrigerant, charge a unit, use meters, and read wiring diagrams.

Upon successful completion, students earned their certificates, and the credits were applied toward their diplomas in Air Conditioning,

Heating & Refrigeration Technology. Dickens enrolled as a College High School. All three started the program at RCC in Fall 2020, graduated from high earned their college diplomas in Spring 2022. The Environmental Protection



Luke Hazelwood, above, and David Dickens, below left, were among 11 HVAC students to earn **EPA Universal Certifications.** 

Agency offers four certification types. Type I enables a technician to only work on small appliances with 5 pounds or less of refrigerant, such as refrigerators. Type II enables them to only work on medium-, high-, and very-high pressure appliances like air conditioning units. Level III is for those who only work on low-pressure appliances. And earning a Universal Certification – like the 11 RCC students – means the technician possesses all three certificates.

"This certification means we can get refrigerant," said Hazelwood, with Knowles finishing the thought with, "It means we can work with Freon safely and legally."

With a laugh, Hazelwood said he decided he wanted go into HVAC "when I saw the dudes with nice trucks."

But seriously, he said a man down the road from his house had a business, and Hazelwood enjoyed helpina him.

Knowles had a similar story. "I've always wanted to do it. People were doing it down the road, and I worked with them."

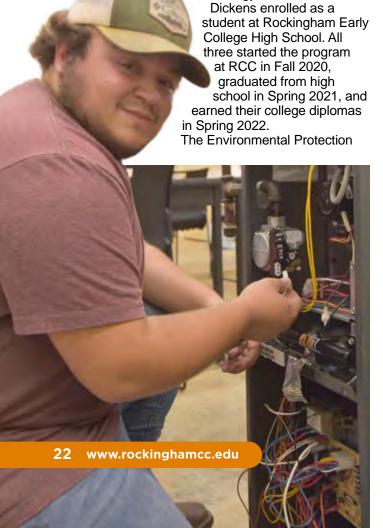
For Dickens, "I was doing work on my house, and realized (the career) pays good, and I got into it."

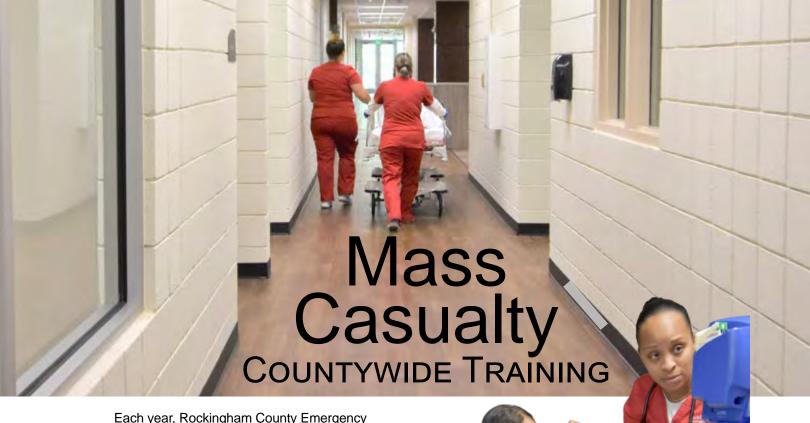
The three students like attending RCC.

"I like that the counselor works with you," said Knowles.

Hazelwood's favorite part about RCC is the learning environment. When Dickens said he really liked the teachers – especially Mike Bryant – the other two were quick to agree.

"You have a good time in this course, but you learn a lot," said Hazelwood.





Each year, Rockingham County Emergency Services conducts a mock disaster exercise. For 2022, it was held at RCC in late June. Health Sciences students acted as victims of a car crash, while others triaged patients at the simulated hospital in RCC's Jerry Owens Health Sciences Building. Additional patients were treated on scene or were transported to area hospitals.

"This event enabled us to train for a mass casualty incident involving hazardous materials, and allowed us to train with our partners and students, our fire departments, EMS, rescue squads, fire marshal's office, and our 911 Center," said County Emergency Services Director Rodney Cates. "The scene evolved like a real-case scenario. Responders evaluated the scene, found out what resources they had, figured out how to triage the patients and where to transport them, and how many patients there are."

Cates said exercises like this uncover shortfalls and errors that need to be fixed prior to a real-life incident.

"It was a very successful day, and a great way to train," he said. "This was outstanding training for RCC students. Some saw what happens on the scene from a patient standpoint, so in their future career, they can empathize with patients they are treating and what procedures took place to land them in the emergency department. It helps give them the full vision of the entire process."

RCC President Dr. Mark Kinlaw agreed.

"This has been a really good training experience for our students, and faculty as well, as they work with our students to make sure they can respond to these types of situations," Kinlaw said.

"This is the purpose of having a simulated hospital... we can do an event like this and make it an interdisciplinary approach with Nursing, Respiratory Therapy, Surgical Technology, and EMS, with all





departments working together to respond to a situation," he said.

"It's a good learning experience for our students, to intake patients and get them to the right place for treatment," Kinlaw said.

# THE GREAT 58 WITHIN THE

#### PHILLIP MEDEIROS HAS "IT" GOING ON

Phillip Medeiros, an Information Technology student, was named one of "The Great Within the 58" – an academic excellence award presented to one student at each of North Carolina's 58 community colleges.

Medeiros has come a long way, in many aspects. Looking back, he describes himself as "average and forgettable" at the small-town central New Jersey high school that churns out many lvy Leaguers. He graduated with the Class of 2014.

"I had a couple of jobs in Jersey, but wasn't happy with what I was doing. I was trying to figure out what I wanted to do," Medeiros said.

His parents suggested he live with them again while he sorted everything out, and urged him to go back to school.

Medeiros took them up on their offer and moved to Rockingham County. His parents had not been here long – they relocated here after his sister moved to Greensboro.

In fall 2020, he enrolled in Rockingham Community College's Information Technology program.

"What I wanted to do is digital forensics. If a company gets hacked, they hire someone to figure out how it happened," Medeiros explained. "Or law enforcement might have a warrant and needs someone to search a device to see if there's any illegal activity on it – that's more of what I want to do, and I would assume they

want someone with an IT background for doing that work. RCC was the first step in my journey to becoming that."

RCC is not the first community college Medeiros has attended. But this time, it was different. He was older, and was very interested in his program of study.

"I've always gone to classes and not done much else," he said. "But RCC was pretty good. The best part was the faculty, Thomas Knight and Lucien Pere. Thomas got me an internship, and Lucien understood what I wanted to do and gave me a lot of resources. I really hit the jackpot, especially with Lucien."

And Medeiros did so well, he held a 4.0 gradepoint average.

He also began an internship with Rockingham County Government in August 2021, and it didn't take long for them to offer him a permanent position.

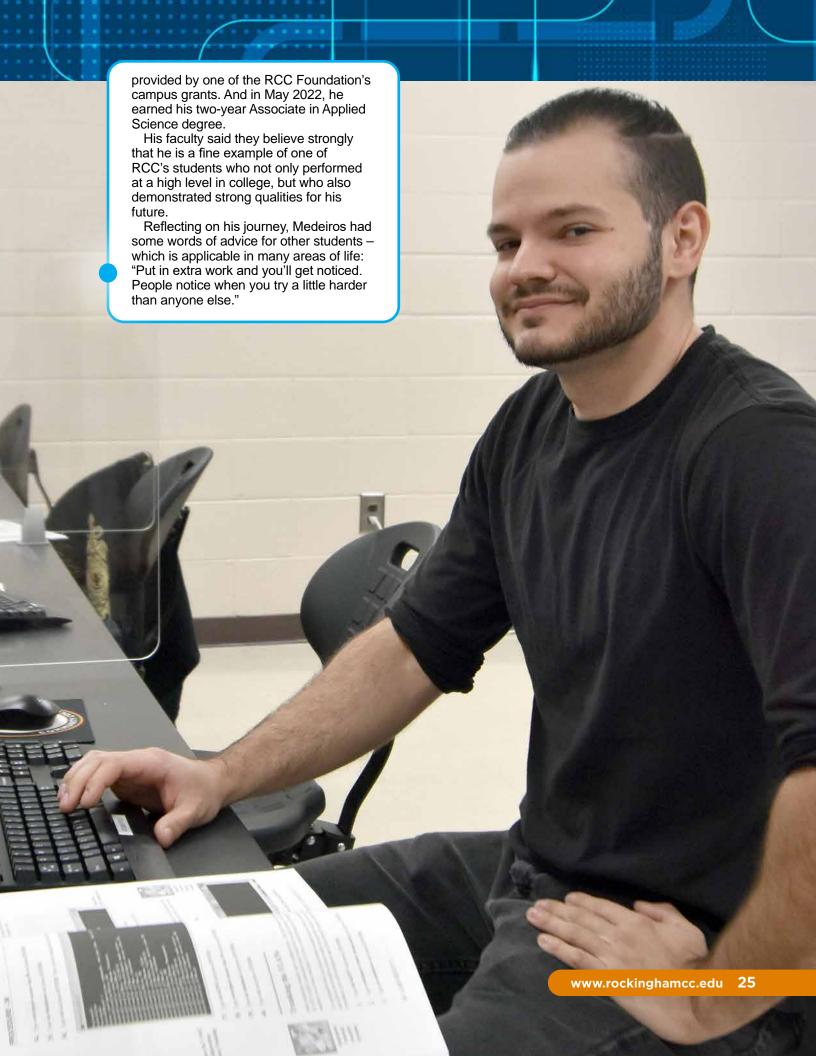
"At first I was putting operating systems onto computers. I told them I like to be hands-on, so now they give me broken printers to fix and have me setting up monitors – a bunch of stuff like that. And now I have my own little office."

In early January 2022, Medeiros took his CompTIA certification exam, using a free voucher

"RCC has been pretty good. The best part has been the professors... I really hit the jackpot."

~Phillip Medeiros Associate in Applied Science, Information Technology Class of 2022









# 

#### **RCC's Highest Student Award**

Dayahna Blatchley - Rockingham Community College Outstanding Student

#### **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

#### Division of Arts and Sciences

Hillary Elyse Seybert – Distinguished Student in Early Childhood Education
Ashland Pruitt – Outstanding Student in Early Childhood Education
Reina Chairez – Outstanding Associate in Arts Graduate
Katherine Mullins – Outstanding Associate in Fine Arts Student
Madison Thaxton – Outstanding Associate in Fine Arts Student
Jeremiah Langston – Outstanding Associate in Science Graduate
Hailey Aheron – Distinguished Student in Humanities
Cecilia Silva – Outstanding Student in Literature
Kennedi Ratcliffe – Outstanding Student in Mathematics
Su Song – Outstanding Student in Natural Sciences
Kayla G. Martin – Outstanding Student in Social Sciences

#### Division of Health Sciences and Public Service Technologies

Harley Gillispie – Associate Degree Nursing Student Caring Award
Tiffany Murphy – Associate Degree Nursing Student Caring Award
Janine Rawlins – Practical Nursing Student Caring Award
Taylor Foy – Outstanding Student in Respiratory Therapy
Samantha Wilkerson – Outstanding Student in Surgical Technology

#### Division of Workforce Development

Dayahna Blatchley – Outstanding Student in Agribusiness Cody Mabry – Outstanding Student in Manufacturing Technology Caleb Pryor – Outstanding Student in Computer-Integrated Machining

#### **ALL-USA / COCA-COLA ACADEMIC TEAM NOMINEES**

Leigh Duncan and Katelyn Warner – College Transfer Pathways Phillip Medeiros and Franklin White – Workforce Pathways

#### North Carolina Community College System 2022 Academic Excellence Award

Phillip Medeiros – Recipient of the 2022 Academic Excellence Award Other Nominees – Reina Chairez, Landon Chavarria, Jacob Helm, Sue Song, and James W. Watkins

#### Awards and Recognitions for Service, Co-Curricular Participation, and Representation of the College

Jonathan Todd – Male Intercollegiate Student-Athlete of the Year Skye Malasig – Female Intercollegiate Student-Athlete of the Year Skye Malasig – NCJAA Division III All-American Honorable Mention in Volleyball Dayahna Blatchley – Student Government Leadership Award Val Marsh – Student Government Association Commitment Award Miriah Dudley – Student Government Association Rookie of the Year Award Kylee Rieger – Student Government Association Rookie of the Year Award

#### **STUDENT ORGANIZATION AWARD**

Torri Parson – Outstanding Service Award, Art Club

## Outstanding STUDENT OF THE YEAR

# Dayahna Blatchley

During the May 2022 graduation ceremony, Dayahna Blatchley received the Outstanding Student Award – RCC's highest recognition each year.

Faculty nominate students for the award who have a grade point average of at least 3.25. The nominees are then interviewed by a faculty committee.

Blatchley has come a

long way in just a few short years. Relocating to North Carolina during middle school and eventually settling in Reidsville, she took a gap year after finishing high school, unsure of what to do next.

"I was trying so hard to figure out what I wanted to do. I went with a hobby, horticulture," she said. She wasn't sure if that was a sustainable future career, but she enrolled in the Agribusiness Technology program at Rockingham Community College in fall 2020. "I thought it could be really fun, learning business and growing plants – the best of both worlds."

After starting school, she applied for a position as a student ambassador. The day of her interview, before she left the Whitcomb Student Center, she was approached about joining the Student Government Association.

"I said yes before I even knew what the SGA was," Blatchley said with a chuckle. An hour later, she was hired as a student ambassador. It was a big day for her.

She was soon elected SGA vice president. A few months later the president resigned, launching Blatchley into that position – which also included serving as the student representative on the RCC Board of Trustees.

"It's been awesome. It feels so good to do stuff, and I wouldn't trade it for the world. It keeps me busy and I like the things I am doing."

Blatchley continued to excel in her classwork. The



first summer in the Ag program includes work-based learning, so she spent those months at Big Apple Farm Supply in Reidsville.

"I'm a hands-on learner, so it was cool to get out in the field and learn," she said

As she progressed in the program, she considered

transferring to NC A&T through an articulation agreement the university has with RCC, and pursuing landscape design. But a two-year scholarship from the State Employees Credit Union prompted her to stay at RCC after she received her Associate in Applied Science in Agriculture Technology in May 2022. She was the first-ever graduate of that program.

Blatchley's new course of study is Medical Office Administration.

"I already work on computers all day, and this is something I could easily do. I looked into careers, and you pretty much get your associate degree, graduate, and get a job in the field," she said. "That's my aim right now. I'm so thrilled to do it. It's a big weight off my chest, finding something I can make a career out of. Once I have the money and availability, I can go back for landscape design."

Blatchley said her first two years at RCC were amazing.

"It's so strange and surreal because so many opportunities have come knocking at my door. It's not anything that high school prepares you for. The instructors understand that you have a life outside of campus." Blatchley said. "Everybody at RCC is so personable. The professors, the staff ... you can sit down and have an actual conversation. I've gotten so much help from people I never thought I'd have a connection with."





had a great year in 2021-2022, both athletically and academically.

The baseball players finished the year with a team GPA of 2.97, and volleyball players had a team GPA of 3.06.

The gym floor was refinished, and marked for regulation basketball and volleyball, and includes two side courts for those sports and pickleball. New athletic accolades banners were hung in the gym, and new signage was installed on either side of the scoreboards.

At the baseball field, a new scoreboard was installed as well as new signage for the visitors' dugout.

#### **Baseball**

The Eagles Baseball team ended its regular season with a 15-24 overall record. The team came in second place for the Region 10 conference play with a 7-13 record, and third in the Region 10 tournament.

Reece Honeycutt nabbed his 150th win as head coach on May 1, a great ending to his coaching career at RCC. Starting a career at RCC

#### NJCAA ALL-AMERICAN ACADEMIC TEAM

Eight student-athletes made the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-American Academic team. These students must have accumulated at least 24 credit hours during the 2021-2022 academic year.

FIRST TEAM 4.0 GPA

SECOND TEAM 3.8-3.99 GPA



Caeden Howell Baseball



Blake McKinney Baseball



Cole Fuller Baseball



Alden Kollesar Baseball

THIRD TEAM 3.6-3.79 GPA



Harris Dowdy



Nolan Faulkenberry Baseball



Jordan Lipford



Mattie Purgason

was Daniel Huff as the new head coach.

Several players received All-Region honors for the 2022 season. All-Defensive Team selections were second baseman Cam Lowke and outfielder Gabe Duncan. Catcher Caeden Howell and pitcher Jonathan Todd made First Team. Infielder Cam Lowke and Designated Hitter Cole Fuller made Second Team.

All-Region Academic student athletes were Sam Bolling, Harris Dowdy, Gabe Duncan, Nolan Faulkenberry, Cole Fuller, Saul Gonzalez, Caeden Howell, Blake McKinney, Gage Smith, Jonathan Todd, Scott Williams, and Carson Wray.

Twelve baseball players graduated and transferred to four-year universities, including UNC, UNC-Wilmington, Pfeiffer University, ECU, Barton College, Carolina University, WCU, and Michigan State.

#### Volleyball

The Lady Eagles Volleyball team finished fourth in the region, qualifying for the Region 10 tournament. The team finished 6-13 overall, and 3-5 in the conference. Home matches averaged 40-60 spectators.

The team continued to be led by Head Coach Carrie Wilson and Assistant Coach Cassie Gover. Wilson earned her Associate Degree in Nursing in May, and Gover is an RCC volleyball alumnus.

The team raised more than \$1,000 to buy new jerseys for "dig pink" matches and \$75 for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

One volleyball player graduated and transferred to NC State.

#### **Cross Country**

With the baseball and volleyball teams providing a good foundation for moving forward in athletics, RCC officially initiated men's and women's Cross-Country teams. One of the reasons this sport was the first to be added was because RCC has 256 beautiful acres on campus, which makes for great courses to run.

Coach Morgan Burnette has served as a faculty member at RCC since August 2015. He teaches biology and human anatomy and physiology. Athletically, Burnette has been a competitive runner at local 5K, 10K, and half-marathon races for the past six years. He has trained for and successfully run three marathons and a 50-mile ultramarathon relay race (in which his team earned third place).

"I cherish this new role as head coach of the crosscountry teams, as I view it as an opportunity to grow both as an educator and as an athlete," Burnette said. "I'm very much looking forward to sharing what I have learned with our team, and I am eager to see what I will learn from them as we become better scholars and better athletes together."

In April, Burnette signed the first cross country runner, Ashlyn Earles, who ran all four years at Community Baptist before enrolling at RCC

"I've been really excited to help start this program. Ultimately what it's about is giving athletes a space and place to base their skills and hard work, not only on the field but in the classroom. I'm really proud to be contributing to building that space for our athletes and our college," said Burnette.



At left, members of Rockingham Community College's baseball and volleyball teams celebrate with mascot Rocky after Ashlyn Earles (standing left of Rocky) signed on as RCC's first-ever cross country student athlete.



#### STUDENT SERVICES

In an effort to provide information about everything RCC offers, a Student Services Fair was held in January. The event attracted 145 students, who learned about 16 campus service areas through packets, flyers, conversations, and games. Survey results about the event were very positive, and the Fair will be held every spring and fall.









#### JOB FAIR

RCC hosted a job fair in April, with 67 employers and service providers participating. It was cosponsored by NC Works Career Center, Piedmont Regional Council, Food Lion, Canteen Vending, Lowes Foods, Pepsi, and Sheetz. A total of 165 visitors attended, including students and members of the community.

# Employee Service Recognitions

#### 30 Years

Juanita Nunley, lab and clinical coordinator and Nursing professor

#### 25 Years

Kris Brooks, Workforce Development dean and CIM assistant professor Gina Byrd, administrative assistant to the vice president for Academic Affairs Lynne Dickerson, executive assistant to the president and trustees liaison

#### 20 Years

Vanessa Ingram, part-time fitness center coordinator

#### 15 Years

Katherine Leebrick, administrative assistant for Health and Public Services Bob Lowdermilk, vice president for Student Development Nancy Norwood, Campus Services manager Gary Shropshire, custodian

Crystal Talley, Surgical Technology program director and assistant professor Angelika Thomas, part-time test proctor and ADT computer lab assistant

#### 10 Years

Kenneth Baum, Chemistry assistant professor Chandra Caple, Education Partnerships director Terrica Williams, registrar/director of records

#### 5 Years

Shannon Blackwell, custodian Jason Collins, Emergency Medical Services program director Daniel Evans, maintenance/grounds Phillip Haralam, Fine Arts assistant professor Madonna Pendleton, RCC Foundation and Development assistant Todd Phipps, Chemistry faculty Sheila Regan, vice president for Academic Affairs Caleb Rorrer, capital projects manager Howie Stacy, educational technology specialist

#### Retirements

Jim Gunn, John Key, Jeff Knight

# Employees of the Year





#### **Caroline Baird FULL-TIME FACULTY**

Thirty years of experience have allowed Caroline Baird to change roles from bedside nurse to college professor, maintaining skills and influencing both patients and students of knowledge-based practice.

Baird holds an associate degree from RCC, a bachelor's degree from UNC-G, and a master's degree from University of Virginia, all in Nursing. She came to RCC in 2011 and became an assistant professor in 2015 and an associate professor in 2019. She has served as an academic advisor to Practical Nursing and Pre-Health Nursing students, a mentor to new employees and adjunct faculty, and provides remediation weekly to students in academic need.

She has worked diligently to make RCC a Nursing Assistant Certified Testing Site, which enables students to test in the same place where they train and learn. The pass-rate in Practical Nursing certification has grown from 69% to 90% in the last year.

#### Gina Byrd FULL-TIME STAFF

Gina Byrd, who holds an Associate in Applied Science degree from RCC, joined the staff in 1996, serving under four presidents, and at least five vice presidents of Academic Affairs as administrative assistant in that office. She is a steady force in the Administration Building, with a smile that can be heard

"Sometimes she is pulled in many directions with so many people relying on her, but in her usual fashion, Gina shows up and delivers, always," said one nominator. Others described her as kind, understanding, a great listener, supportive, always willing to help or find an answer with a smile on her face, a wealth of knowledge and patient.

"She truly shows dedication and commitment to RCC," the compliments continued. She works incredibly hard, and is someone RCC is fortunate to have on our team."

#### FACULTY RANK ADVANCEMENTS

**SARAH EVANS Assistant Professor Business Administration** 

JAYCE RUSSELL **Assistant Professor** English

**CRYSTAL TALLEY Assistant Professor** Surgical Technology





#### **Iris Carter** PART-TIME STAFF

Iris Carter demonstrates a high level of commitment to serving students through personal contacts, instruction and insights that she provides to persons seeking professional guidance regarding pursuit of a career and how best to prepare oneself for a career.

She faithfully guides students through career-related activities that include job search, resume writing, and interviewing skills. She broadens students' awareness of career fields and weekly information on career search in general and specific career areas. Her management of the College Central Network provides outreach both to RCC students and local employers who are seeking to fill positions in their companies.

Carter also contributes regularly as a specialist in the recently reorganized Career Development Services area, through various workshops, computer-based classes and other activities that extend her service for both continuing education and curriculum students.

## Lori Brame

#### PART-TIME FACULTY

Lori Brame began her journey to become a surgical technologist 20 years ago. After graduation, she worked at Alamance Regional Medical Center in Burlington.

She has worked with RCC's Surgical Technology students in a preceptor role for many years, and joined the faculty in 2019. When she stepped into the parttime position, she began her work in 14 clinical sites during her first year.

Her professional experience related to surgical technology clinical affiliate organizations has allowed her to function effectively and proficiently with discipline-related instruction.

According to students, Brame goes above and beyond to make sure they are prepared for class and clinicals, is available for extra lab practice, really seems to care whether they succeed in the program, and is a great instructor.

#### **RCC EMPLOYEES**

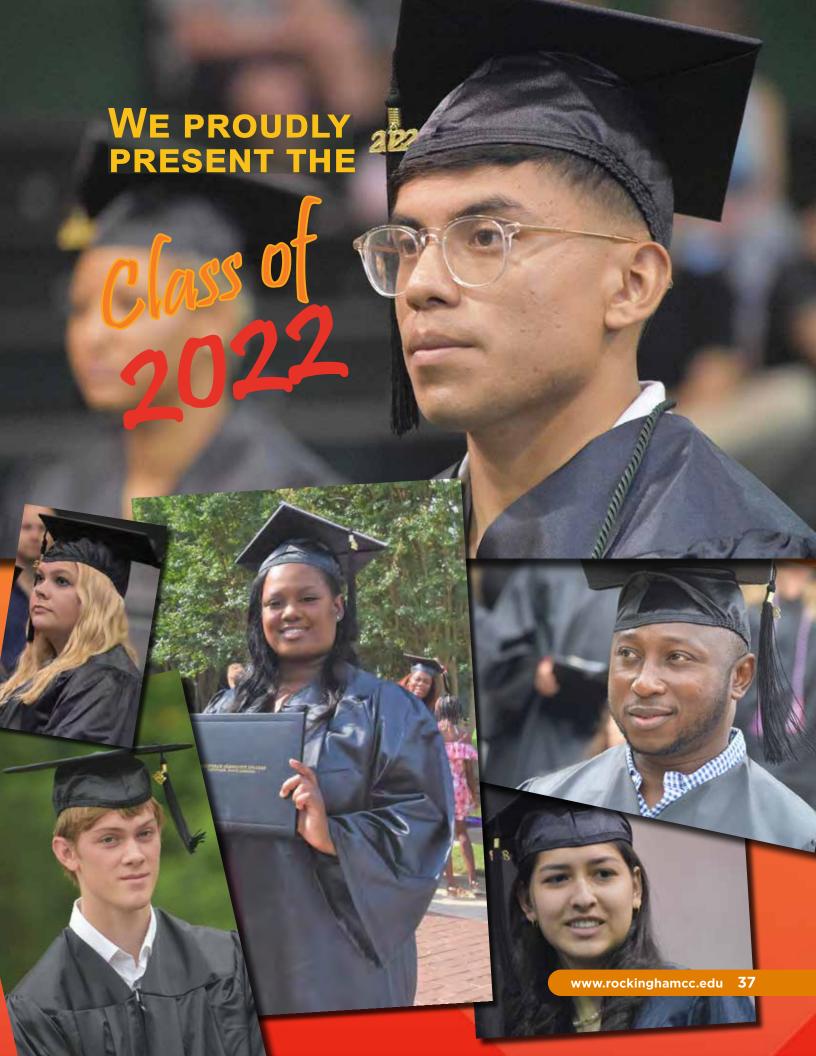
**FULL-TIME FACULTY** 

**FULL-TIME STAFF** 

PART-TIME FACULTY

PART-TIME STAFF





# Foundation President

Dear Friends.

This past year the Rockingham Community College Foundation celebrated its 52nd year of changing lives through education. The RCC Foundation was incorporated on January 7, 1970 by a group of community leaders who realized the need for an organization to further the goals of the College by supporting students in either obtaining a higher education or obtaining the skills to enter the workforce. Rockingham Community College and the Rockingham Community College Foundation have both received recognition from all over the state for what they have accomplished over the years.

Because of you, we received support this past year from individuals, businesses, industries, organizations, churches and civic clubs totaling \$391,726.50. These funds make it possible to provide quality programs, services and scholarships to our students as they attend our community college to further their education.

This year the Foundation awarded more than \$187,000 in scholarships so that students could continue their dream of pursuing their educational goals.

On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the many volunteers, donors, faculty and staff for their tireless efforts over the years. Thank you again for your support of our students, College and Foundation. We are improving the quality of life through education, one student at a time.



Sincerely, Bobby Wharton, RCC Foundation President

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Thankyour support! you

The Foundation Talon Club is a comprehensive sponsorship program designed to support activities in all areas of the College.

Just as the talons of the College's eagle mascot symbolizes strength, support provided by the Talon Club Members strengthens RCC.

Talon Club members contribute \$1,500 or more annually for campus projects and grants for which State funds are not available. Talon Club members receive:

- One sponsorship solicitation per year
- Presidential invitations to special campus events
- Sponsorship recognition in all RCC Foundation sponsored programs
- Recognition at annual appreciation event

For additional Talon information, please contact the RCC Development Office at 336-342-4161 ext. 2201

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# Foundation funds \$61,340 in campus grants

#### High School Equivalency Testing Vouchers \$3.040

This grant provides testing vouchers for any students enrolled in the College and Career Readiness Program at RCC from one of the two testing platforms: GED or HiSET. The CCR budget regulations specifically prohibit the use of state or federal funds for testing vouchers. Testing voucher price varies between testing platforms and between computer-based testing and paper-based testing. Students choose which test to take depending on their level in testing.

#### Ambassador Program \$10,000

Ambassadors are students who are selected to help to support various events and represent RCC throughout the year. They assist with college-sponsored events such as the Career Fair, the Counselor's Luncheon, and building dedications; assist in handing out water and snacks to students at the beginning of semesters; help with new student orientations, etc. They wear RCC shirts while on duty.

#### President's Fund \$13,300

Throughout the year, the College hosts various groups in an effort to keep them informed of College business. These functions are often held in conjunction with a meal or snacks. In addition, the College plans activities around meal functions for faculty and staff in order to enhance employee relations, such as planning meetings, recognition functions, etc. The College is prohibited from using State funds for these functions.

#### Full-Time Employee Tuition Reimbursement \$5.000

RCC employs competent faculty and staff who are committed to accomplishing the mission of the College and ensuring the quality and integrity of academic programs. This grant assists RCC in "growing our own" qualified faculty and staff resulting in retention, satisfaction, and positive student outcomes. Procedures have been established for awarding reimbursement. An official transcript verifying successful course completion is required for the tuition reimbursement. Priorities for funding are based on benefits to the College's programs and services to students.

## Wellness Committee

This grant helps promote good health for employees by providing individual and group wellness activities, as well as incentives, to motivate more individuals to follow the wellness program. Such pursuits include (a) activities that have been well-received in the past, such as yoga, self-defense, Zumba, Pilates, massages, circuit training, weight-lifting, dancing, and fitness walking and (b) new activities of interest to faculty and staff, such as aromatherapy, Tai Chi, pickleball, POUND, seminars on healthy eating, exercising and smoking cessation; (c) continued events and competitive contests, such as the RCC Health Fair, RCC History Hike, "Beach Trip," "Spring into Wellness," "Feathered Fitness," and "Fitness Football."

#### Employee Awards \$3,000

This grant funds a monetary award of \$1,000 to a full-time faculty member, \$500 to a part-time faculty member recognized for an Excellence in Teaching Award; and \$1,000 to a full-time staff (non-faculty) and \$500 to a part-time staff (non-faculty) recognized for Excellence in Staff Service Award.

## Intercollegiate Athletics \$25,000

RCC is observing 23 years of intercollegiate athletics as a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). NJCAA is the national governing body for two-year athletics programs. RCC competes in two sports in NJCAA Region 10: women's volleyball and men's baseball. RCC is a Division III college, which means that no scholarships are offered or provided for a student to play on an athletic team. The ultimate goal of this grant is to adequately fund the operation of the athletics program to accommodate student-athletes in a program of high quality. The two teams typically have 50 to 60 students-athletes, which is significant in terms of enrollment for the College. The teams may occasionally fund-raise, but this does not occur with regularity, therefore is not normally anticipated as a funding source. State funds cannot be used to support athletic programs. The funds will be used for team and equipment supplies, NJCAA annual membership, game officials, athletic trainer, other services and property insurance. The RCC Foundation is not the only funding source for athletics. Student activity fees are also used to help support the programs.







On the evening of June 21, 2022, the RCC Board of Trustees and the RCC Foundation Board gathered in the Gerald B. James Library for dinner. At top left are Janie Robertson and husband. Foundation Executive Board Member Arnold Robertson. Foundation Board Member Alan Isley and his wife, Rebecca. At top right are Trustee Mark Collins and his wife, Phyllis. At center left is RCC President Dr. Mark Kinlaw, Foundation President Bobby Wharton and his wife, Cindy. At center right is Foundation Board Member Kevin Berger with Trustee Charles Rakestraw and his wife, Susan. At bottom right is Rev. DaRon JeSie Morris and his wife, Foundation Board Member Dr. Tiffany Morris, Janet Silvers, and husband, Foundation Board Member Micky Silvers.



# Essay Winner 'RCC exceeds expectations quickly'

Rockingham Community College students are challenged each year to write an essay about why RCC was their best choice, for a chance to win a monetary prize from the RCC Foundation.

Kylee Rieger, an English Language/ Literature student from Greensboro, won the \$500 first-place prize with her essay about how RCC exceeded

her expectations in a short period of time.

Rieger said that when she enrolled in RCC, she could not have imagined the impact the college would have on her in just her first semester.

"I chose RCC because it had a beautiful campus and had classes that I knew I would be interested in taking," she said, adding that in the first 10 weeks, she "formed amazing relationships not only with fellow students, but with faculty as well. In my short time at RCC, it has provided me with incredible education ... and also offered me an outlet to create and do things that are important to me."

She said RCC provides tools to succeed both academically and personally.

"One of the most vital resources being the faculty, all of the teachers that I have had in my first semester made it clear that their number one goal is making sure their students succeed. Whether it be in class or in their office hours, every time I have asked one of my teachers a question they have always gone above and beyond to make sure that I understand the topic they are teaching," she said.

Rieger praised the library for its books, resources, and quiet atmosphere.

"The librarians are incredibly helpful and are always available to help students find a specific book, cite a resource, or order an important book that a student

"At first glance, I thought it would just be a pretty campus with great academic courses; however, I have found that it is really the people who make the school extraordinary. It is the faculty with their unwavering support and knowledge as well as my incredibly ambitious peers who have shown me that I have made the right choice."

~Kylee Rieger Associate in Arts

might need. These are just a few of the incredible resources that I have been given access to as a student at RCC."

Rieger has become involved in campus activities.

"I have recently joined the Student Government Association and have met some of the most supportive, passionate people. I am starting a book

club, which has provided me a creative outlet and the opportunity to create lasting relationships," she said.

"I am so grateful for the unending support that I am receiving from the director of Student Life, librarians, and the English department. These people have helped me learn, grow, and achieve things that I once thought were impossible," Rieger said. "Being given the opportunity to join and start clubs has led me to flourishing creatively and it has also taught me important leadership and group skills that I hope to keep with me for the rest of my life."

At first glance, "I thought it would just be a pretty campus with great academic courses," Rieger said. "However, I have found that it is really the people who make the school extraordinary. It is the faculty with their unwavering support and knowledge as well as my incredibly ambitious peers who have shown me that I have made the right choice."

#### **Second- and Third-Place Winners**

Jasmine Johnson of Reidsville placed second in the essay contest. A December graduate in the Early Childhood Education program, Jasmine touted "amazing teachers who saw and understood my full potential and encouraged me to develop as an individual."

Johnson said that she never believed in herself or



that she could accomplish anything.

"I was hearing wonderful things about RCC and knew it was close by, so I decided to convince myself that 'I can do this," she said. "I can't express how much RCC has transformed my life and how much becoming a student has changed me for the better. I've learned a lot at RCC, and it's helped me improve my verbal, writing, and interpersonal skills."

Brittany Griffin of Eden took third place in the essay contest.

Losing her mother to cancer just weeks after high school graduation, Griffin's mindset was not on RCC's Nursing program in which she enrolled that fall. She took off a semester and tried again, to no avail. But five years later, with a husband and two small children, she began striving to be a role model for them. Already working full-time as an accounting assistant, she

enrolled in RCC's Accounting and Finance program.

Griffin said taking online courses through RCC has been a wonderful experience, and the flexibility is beneficial because of her work schedule.

"I can go at my own pace completing my work for the most part. My advisor as well as all of my instructors have been amazing at answering any and all of my questions," she said.

"RCC is by far the best choice and chance that I have of completing my degree and showing my children that no matter what hand of cards life gives you, that it is never too late to get an education," Griffin said. "It may take me several years compared to fresh-out-of-high-school students, but that's the beauty about RCC. It doesn't matter how long it takes to complete your course of study, the RCC faculty will walk side by side with you every step of the way."

# Foundation Fund-Raising Employees, golf tournaments bring in \$63,000

The Rockingham Community College Foundation brought in more than \$63,000 in 2021-2022, thanks to golfers, sponsors, and RCC employee donors.



Assistant Professors John and Sandee Key, co-chairs of the campus fund drive, speak to employees during convocation in August 2021.

#### **Employee Support**

Each fall, the Foundation hosts a campus fund drive, through which faculty and staff can make donations, either directly or through payroll deduction. The drive, held for a few weeks starting in August, exceeded its \$19,000 goal by bringing in \$21,815 from 87% of RCC's employees.

"Many, many thanks to employees Sandee and John Key for co-chairing the campaign and to all the building representatives. I sincerely thank RCC employees on behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors and our students. Your donations go a long way in helping further the educational goals of our students," said Foundation Executive Director Kim Pryor.

Through the generosity of donors, the Foundation helps students achieve their educational goals by providing financial assistance in the form of scholarships, as well as campus grants that pay for costly licensure exams and short-term training in preparation for entering the workforce, among other projects.

"Donations to the Foundation matter, more now than ever before. With so many businesses that closed down due to Covid, generous donations to the Foundation create opportunities for the kids to fill some of the voids that they would otherwise be unable to participate in," said John Key. "Each year, campus grants assist students in making their experience at RCC better and more successful. These grants support programs that are not eligible for state and federal funds."

#### **Golf Tournament**

The Foundation's 31st annual Benefit Golf Tournament on Sept. 29, 2021 raised \$14,405. The 32nd annual tournament transitioned from fall to spring, and was held on May 19, 2022, bringing in \$26,890. Both events were held at Deep Springs Country Club in Stoneville. The Foundation thanks the following sponsors of the tournaments:

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Fall 2021: First Place – Sam Baber, Wayne Hamilton, Steve Morgan, and Gary Rogers; Second Place – Dustin Cain, Matt Johnson, Peyton Keesee, and Jeff Knight; Third Place – Barry Dodson, David Edwards, Jim Jenkins, and Dr. Mark Kinlaw

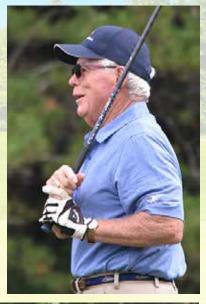


Spring 2022: First Place – Dr. Mark Kinlaw, Dr. Lafayette Judkins, Tom Schoolfield, and (not pictured) Kristen Schoolfield; Second Place – Robert Adkins, Jim Jenkins, Gary Steele, and Grayson Whitt; Third Place – Gerald Farley, Kelly Furstenburg, Burton Matherly, and Kevin Walker

# FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT











# RCC FOUNDATION: Thank You Donors!

The Rockingham Community College Foundation Board, the College Board of Trustees, students, faculty, and staff acknowledges the generous donations of alumni, friends, foundations, organizations, churches, businesses and estates. Without you, RCC would not flourish. Listed are names of the donors during the RCC Annual Giving Campaign July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022.

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Eden Kiwanis Club

Hickory Grove United Methodist Women

Hickory Grove United Methodist Men

Huntsville Volunteer Fire Department

Leaksville High Class of 1952

Leaksville Moravian Church

Men's Fellowship

Northwest Rockingham Fire

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Holmes Middle School Flower Fund

# FOUNDATION MESSAGE

Workplace dynamics are changing across North Carolina and Rockingham County is no exception.

The RCC Foundation is better positioned than ever to help Rockingham Community College address the changing needs of business, industry and students in our county.

# **PURPOSE**

Rockingham Community College Foundation, Inc. serves as a vehicle to receive private gifts and bequests and to account for, manage, and help appreciate monies or property donated to the Foundation for the purpose of benefiting Rockingham Community College.

# **FACTS**

- The RCC Foundation was incorporated on January 7, 1970.
- The RCC Foundation manages nearly 200 scholarships.
- RCC students received more than \$187,000 in scholarship awards for 2021-2022.
- The 2021-2022 Employee Fund Drive raised nearly \$22,000, with 87% participation.
- The RCC Foundation supports the RCC Campus Grant Program by awarding an average of \$100,000. The grant supports teaching and learning and are requested by RCC faculty and staff.

