

*The*  
**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**  
**TO THE COMMUNITY**

*2019-2020*

**VANCE-GRANVILLE**



**COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

— Established 1969 —



Vance-Granville  
Community College

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# Looking to our **leaders**

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- Dr. Jerry Edmonds**, Vice President of Workforce and Community Engagement
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## Message from Chairman Wright



**O**n behalf of my fellow members of the Board of Trustees, I'm pleased to express our appreciation to the faculty, staff and students of Vance-Granville Community College on their performance during a year that included some extraordinary challenges.

In 2019, this institution celebrated 50 years of service to our region, as we welcomed a new president, Dr. Desmarais, to lead us into a new era while building upon a tradition of excellence in education. At that time, we could not have anticipated what exactly VGCC would face in 2020. During a time of a global pandemic, economic upheaval and a reckoning with racial injustice, the leaders, faculty, staff and students of our college have risen to the occasion by demonstrating innovation and perseverance. In fact, through this experience, we now see that the citizens and employers of our diverse communities need the services of VGCC more than ever. We are grateful for the support of the people of Vance, Granville, Franklin and Warren counties, and no matter what the future holds, we know that VGCC will continue to lead the way to economic recovery, progress and a better quality of life for all.

*Danny W. Wright*



# Message from President Desmarais



**A**s I reflect on my first two years serving as Vance-Granville Community College's seventh president, I am awed at what we have been able to accomplish together. Last year, we celebrated 50 years of service to Vance, Granville, Franklin, and Warren communities. During this time, we reflected on our past and the artifacts that symbolize our commitment to the region. One of those artifacts was our college seal which contains the words *lux lucet*, or "shining light". Building on a strong tradition of serving our community, we have deepened our commitment to being a light this past year.

Our Board of Trustees began that renewal by articulating a new vision for the college. While our mission remains constant, our vision of what our community can and should be and how we fit into that vision has expanded and strengthened: Vance-Granville Community College will be a catalyst in developing strong communities where everyone experiences a fulfilling quality of life. The equity of and opportunity for the success of all our community members is key.

Our College employees took on that vision and translated it into a new strategic plan: Vision 2020. We spent many hours gathering data, documenting experiences, and listening to students, faculty, staff, board members, and community members to outline a clear way forward into the future through four major elements:

- Teaching and learning – the core of our mission; our heart and soul
- Economic development and partnerships – because having a vibrant regional economy improves everyone's quality of life, and we cannot do this work alone
- Employee culture and innovation – because we do not exist without our employees; they are our lifeblood and we remain committed to being a fulfilling place to work while encouraging creative and innovative ways to fulfill

- our mission in a changing world
- Institutional commitment – our pledge to secure and communicate the resources necessary to accomplish this bold vision

Indeed, we have already begun this work. A few examples include: the partnership with KARTS enabling students with college transportation issues to ride to and from campuses at no cost to them (partnerships); expanded wrap-around services to assist students experiencing challenges such as food insecurity, health concerns, and childcare issues (institutional commitment); providing expanded faculty development for teaching through NISOD and ACUE (teaching and learning); and implementing a new student services approach and system with AVISO Retention (innovation). I encourage you to look for more examples of the good work already begun or accomplished in these four areas within the pages of this report.

Finally, we spent time this year reflecting on what it means to be a "student-ready college" and to truly live Dallas Herring's purpose statement for North Carolina Community Colleges to "take

people where they are and carry them as far as they can go". We responded by narrowing our college values to concentrate deeply on four behavioral qualities we believe critical to doing authentic work: valuing learning for all with a belief that everyone is capable of learning and brings skills and talents to the institution; insisting on a climate of respect where everyone feels accepted and meaningfully involved in a common cause; promoting a sense of community where we build positive and supportive relationships both inside VGCC and outside in our community; and communication which represents decision making through broad-based, respectful team work and effective, authentic dialog. We recognize that how we do our work is just as important as what we do.

I continue to consider it a privilege and honor to serve VGCC and our communities. Please enjoy looking through this report of only a handful of the wonderful news we have to share.

Yours in service,

*Rachel M. Desmarais*



# Celebrating 50 years on 4 campuses

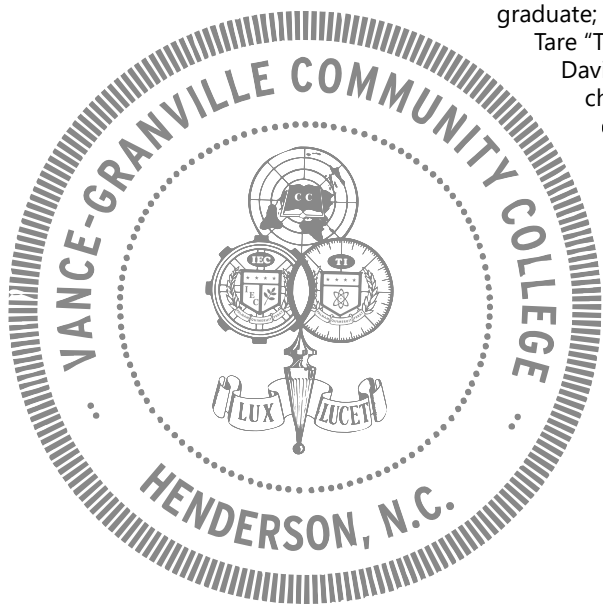
Vance-Granville Community College brought together students, faculty, staff and community members to mark the 50th anniversary of the college, with festivities on all four campuses. The original charter for the college, then known as Vance County Technical Institute, was issued on Sept. 4, 1969.

During the week of the actual anniversary, celebratory ceremonies were held on each campus: the Warren County Campus on Sept. 3, Main Campus on Sept. 4, South Campus on Sept. 5, and the Franklin County Campus on Sept. 6. In addition, Main Campus hosted an anniversary 'bash' on Sept. 4.

"We are grateful to everyone who attended our 50th anniversary events, and to the citizens and businesses who made contributions to support this celebration," said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, president of VGCC. "We have reflected on the educational opportunities that this college has provided to Vance, Granville, Franklin and Warren counties, while we have also looked forward to the next 50 years of shining the light of education in service to our communities."

Guest speakers at the anniversary events included Vance County Manager Jordan McMillen; Franklin County Manager Angela L. Harris; Devon Suitt, a VGCC alumnus and Granville Early College High School graduate; Zelodis Jay, chair of the Granville County Board of Commissioners; Gary Massenburg, a VGCC

alumnus and Warren Early College High School graduate; and Tare "T" Davis, chair of the



Warren County Board of Commissioners.

Two VGCC staff members who are also alumni of the college made remarks, as well. Amy O'Geary, director of student success, spoke at Main Campus. "As a graduate and longtime employee, Vance-Granville Community College has been a part of my life for over 30 years," O'Geary said. "This college guided me in my career path and has allowed me the opportunity to do what I truly love: help students reach their own potential." Julie Jones, the college's distance education coordinator, spoke at the Franklin Campus. That was where she first became a student, as a single mother who had recently lost her job due to company downsizing. At the time, Jones had been out of school for 17 years. "The counselor at the time saw that I was anxious about starting back to school," she recalled. "She was very encouraging and got me set up with my program of study and first classes. That is when I took my first computer course and knew I wanted a career working in I.T. My first computer instructor had enough confidence in my ability to do well that he asked me to apply for the part-time position of Open Computer Lab Technician. I started to believe in myself and gained the confidence that I could actually make it through college." Jones excelled in her academics and after graduation, became a full-time employee in the campus computer lab.



# Recognized as sixth-best community college in the nation

Vance-Granville Community College was recognized as one of the top ten community colleges and trade schools in the nation for 2020. VGCC came in



at number-six on the rankings published by "Best Colleges" ([www.bestcolleges.com](http://www.bestcolleges.com)), a leading provider of independent college rankings and higher education research. The college was also the third-highest-ranked school from North Carolina.

"We are pleased to see this national recognition for Vance-Granville, which we attribute to the dedication and innovation demonstrated by our faculty and staff every day," Dr. Rachel Desmarais, president of the college, said. "VGCC is committed to providing high-quality education and training that is affordable and accessible for the people of Vance, Granville, Franklin and Warren counties."

Best Colleges noted that the college has extended its reach by providing career-oriented programs that can be completed entirely online.

These programs include Supply Chain Management, Medical Office Administration, IT/Business Support, Early Childhood Education, Criminal Justice, Accounting, and Business Administration.

Students can also complete the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science programs online, which prepare them for transferring to a university to complete a bachelor's degree. The college has transfer agreements with numerous four-year universities.

"VGCC boasts strong graduation rates and small class sizes," the website also noted. "The school's 13-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio allows students to receive plenty of individualized attention."

Established in 1969, VGCC offers more than 40 credit programs, in which students work toward certificates, diplomas and degrees. Area residents and businesses can also take advantage of a variety of continuing education/job training opportunities, as well as the High School Equivalency and Adult High School Diploma programs.

***"VGCC is committed to providing high-quality education and training that is affordable and accessible for the people of Vance, Granville, Franklin and Warren counties."***

Dr. Rachel Desmarais



## Seventh president inaugurated

**V**GCC formally welcomed its new leader on Aug. 6, 2019, with an inauguration ceremony for Dr. Rachel M. Desmarais, the college's seventh president.

Performing the ceremonial investiture of the president, Danny Wright, chair of the VGCC Board of Trustees, said, "We take this opportunity to look back on the rich tradition we have of providing education and training to our community. At the same time, we mark the start of a new era, and consider all the possibilities of the future."

He then presented Desmarais with a medallion, featuring the college's seal, to represent the authority of the president's position.

Making her inaugural address, Dr. Desmarais remarked, "Vance-Granville Community College has been shining the light of education and opportunity in Vance, Granville, Franklin, and Warren counties for 50 years. I am proud of this legacy of learning and service. Indeed, I am honored to have been called to this college — to serve these communities. My life's goal is to 'make a difference' in whatever I do. Likewise, I believe this institution has made a difference and will continue to make a difference in people's lives. As we embark upon the next 50 years of learning and service, we have an opportunity to renew our commitment to being a community educator, convener, and partner."





## Enrollment continues to grow

The 2019-2020 year brought good news to VGCC in the form of enrollment growth. The fall 2019 semester saw increased enrollment, along with an 11% increase in course hours completed in both credit (curriculum) and non-credit programs. As of the beginning of the spring semester in January 2020, VGCC had 2,939 students enrolled in curriculum programs. That represented an 8% increase compared to the beginning of the spring 2019 semester.

The trend continued in the summer of 2020, even amid the COVID-19 pandemic. As of the beginning of the summer semester in late May, VGCC had 1,228 students enrolled in credit programs. That represented an estimated 11% increase compared to the beginning of the summer 2019 semester, when enrollment stood at 1,101.



A significant source of the increase this year was enrollment by high school students in the Career & College Promise program.

"We are excited about the increasing number of students who have chosen VGCC to pursue their higher education and prepare for

a successful career," said Dr. Levy Brown, the college's vice president of learning, student engagement and success. "Student access, retention and career preparation are embedded in our daily work, and it is showing!"



# Online Pinning Ceremonies: Signs of the Times



The global pandemic disrupted all sorts of plans in 2020, but the VGCC Nursing program still found a way to use technology to salute new graduates. The faculty, staff and students put together virtual pinning ceremonies (via Zoom) in May for the Associate Degree Nursing Class of 2020, and in July for the Practical Nursing Class of 2020.

In May, Dr. Anna Seaman, VGCC Associate Degree Nursing Program Head, noted that 2020 is the 'Year of the Nurse,' and no one could have imagined what this year would actually mean for Nursing. She said that these graduates would soon put on their 'superhero costumes' and enter into the workforce.

Even though the ceremonies could not be held on campus, as traditionally done, the graduates remarked that it was still a meaningful and memorable way to mark the end of their nursing school journey at VGCC.

## Student receives **top academic honor**

VGCC student Jacob A. Comer of Rougemont was named the recipient of the North Carolina Community College System's Academic Excellence Award for 2020. One student from each of the 58 colleges in the state system is honored with the award each year.

Comer, a home-schooled high school student, took college transfer classes at VGCC through the "Career & College Promise" program from 2018-2020. He took classes not only in the fall and spring semesters but also in the summer, thus reducing the time it would take him to complete an Associate in Arts degree. Twice, he made the VGCC President's List.

Now, Comer is both a high school graduate and a graduate of the community college. During his last semester, he continued to excel even while taking on extra responsibilities at home to help his family as his mother recovered from a major medical operation. While at VGCC, Comer was not only focused and determined to reach his own academic goals, but he also helped other students with science, math and writing, as a peer tutor for the college's Academic Success Center.



Jacob Comer of Rougemont is the VGCC recipient of the North Carolina Community College System Academic Excellence Award for 2020. (VGCC Photo)

Upon graduation, Comer planned to continue his education at Concordia University Wisconsin. He intends to complete a bachelor's degree, double-majoring in Applied Theology and Theological Languages.

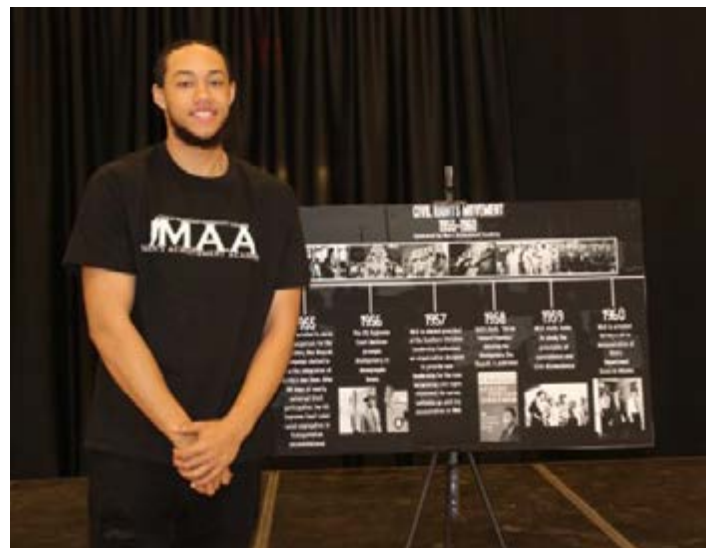
"We are proud that Jacob has been recognized among North Carolina's outstanding community college students, and we congratulate him on his success," said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, the president of VGCC. "At a young age, Jacob is off to a strong start in his educational journey, and with his perseverance and dedication to academics, we are sure he will continue to excel."

# Students find new support system through men's academy



**A** unique, new program at Vance-Granville Community College is providing support, as well as new leadership opportunities, to male students. The "Men's Achievement Academy" began with an induction ceremony in October of 2019. Its stated mission is "to provide intentional support to male students that will empower them to accomplish their academic and career goals." Any male student can join the academy, which boasts about 30 members currently. At the core of the program is mentoring, according to Jeffrey Allen, the college's Dean of Student Retention & Success and an advisor for the program (alongside Marque Debnam, who heads the Paralegal Technology at VGCC's Franklin Campus). "Our students' mentors are members of our faculty and staff who volunteer their time," Allen explained. "We provide training to the mentors, and we expect each mentor and

'mentee' to meet at least once a month face-to-face. Some choose to meet more often. In between, they communicate regularly via email or text." The academy also meets as a group monthly. "We base the topics for the meetings on what these students are interested in," Allen said. Some meetings have discussed networking, careers, and health. Recently, the academy was in the spotlight after Allen and other staff talked to mentees about the college's annual celebration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. "We explained to them that traditionally, this had often been more of a community event than a student activity," Allen recalled. "We said, if we want our students to come, then we should have the students plan it." That's exactly what the Men's Achievement Academy did. Two students in the program co-chaired the committee for the Martin Luther King event: Osvaldo Martinez of Granville County, a student in the Radiography program;



and Nicholas Adesso of Franklin County, a student in the Associate in Arts (College Transfer) program. "What they came up with blew my mind," said Allen. "They took a whole different direction than I imagined. They wanted to teach people about the life and legacy of Dr. King themselves." The mentees developed posters about Dr. King and used those posters as teaching tools, which

were presented to visitors during a floating event on VGCC's Main Campus. Lunch was served to students who listened to the presentation and answered questions about what they had learned. The lunch was provided by the VGCC Endowment Office with support from several community sponsors: Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity, Inc.; Judge Randolph and Sarah Baskerville; Judge Henry and Mamie Banks;





and Duke Energy. Allen said the Men's Achievement Academy is meeting a widespread need for male students, and for minority males in particular. "My research for my dissertation at North Carolina State University has been about student success for African American males," he said. "Research shows that these students want to know they are supported by their college. So I hope this program helps to encourage more males to feel welcome attending Vance-Granville, because they know there is a support system in place. And over time, we hope to see an impact on these students' retention and completion rates."

In addition to the strong role of mentoring by faculty and staff, Allen said one of the main pillars of the program is brotherhood. "We want the group to lean on each other and build relationships with each other, to provide support to one another and foster a sense of belonging," he added.



## Two VGCC deans recognized by N.C. State University

A pair of leaders at Vance-Granville Community College were recently recognized by North Carolina State University, where they are doctoral students in the College of Education.

Jeffrey Allen, VGCC's Dean of Student Retention & Success, was named a Belk Center Fellow, while Angela M. Thomas, the Dean of Health Sciences, received the Edgar J. & Ethel B. Boone Adult & Community College Leadership Fellowship award.



"I am excited about the opportunity to be a Belk Center Fellow," Allen said. "I look forward to the opportunity to learn more about student success strategies from community colleges across the nation as the American Association of Community Colleges celebrates 100 years."

Thomas was presented with her award by Associate Professor Dr. Tuere Bowles during a ceremony at the university in December conducted by the Belk Center for Community College Leadership & Research. Bowles described the leadership award, given to only one student per year, as "highly competitive." Thomas said she was honored and would "do her best to make the Boones proud." The fellowship is named in part for Dr. Edgar Boone, the founding head of the Department of Adult and Community College Education at NCSU.



Allen, an Oxford resident, has been a member of the VGCC staff in various roles since 2012. In his current position, Allen provides leadership and oversight to the areas of advising, counseling, male success initiative, student activities and athletics, testing and tutoring. He earned a bachelor's degree in Mathematics at North Carolina Central University and a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Western Governors University. Allen had a 14-year career in education at the K-12 level prior to joining VGCC. He is also the recipient of the 2016 Laura Thomas Award from the North Carolina Association on Higher Education and Disability (NC AHEAD). Earlier this year, Allen was named one of eight DREAM Fellows by NCSU.

A resident of Hillsborough, Thomas started her association with VGCC in 1997 as a part-time Radiography instructor, later becoming the program's full-time clinical coordinator and then head of the program. Thomas was named VGCC's Faculty Member of the Year in 2011. As dean of health sciences since 2013, she leads a division that includes the Histotechnology, Nursing, Human Services Technology, Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Technology and Radiography programs. Thomas earned an Associate in Applied Science degree in Radiologic Technology from Pitt Community College, a bachelor of arts in Forensic Science from Guilford College and a Master of Science degree in Health Care Management from Ashworth College. Thomas is a graduate of the North Carolina Community College Leadership Program and completed the Executive Leadership Program through the College of Education at N.C. State University. She is also a recipient of the VGCC President's Leadership Award.

# Expanding partnerships with four-year universities



Ethan Cole (behind podium) introduces North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Board Chair Robert A. Ingram during a ceremony in Raleigh.

**F**or decades, VGCC has helped students prepare to transfer to four-year universities, but recent developments have provided even more opportunities. New or expanded partnerships between the community college and three universities make pathways to bachelor's degrees more accessible for Vanguard.

## **NCSU**

In 2019, Kittrell native Ethan Cole graduated from VGCC and made history by transferring to N.C. State University through the new Community College Collaboration (C3) program, which guarantees N.C. State admission to qualified transfer students from several community colleges, including Vance-Granville. Once he was an N.C. State engineering student, Cole received a \$5,000 North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation STEM Scholarship. The foundation also helped N.C. State expand the program to more students.

"The C3 program helps students to transfer and to have a guaranteed spot at N.C. State," Cole said. "I would recommend it to people who want to get a four-year degree, especially if they are still searching for what they want to major in, because it gives you some security and another option."

C3 students receive increased academic support, advising and planning as well as access to online planning tools and specialized activities while they

complete their associate's degree at a community college.

## **NCCU**

North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and VGCC leaders signed an agreement Jan. 28, 2020, opening the doors for more graduates of Vance-Granville's two-year Bioprocess Technology degree to earn the Bachelor of Science in pharmaceutical sciences. The "Pathways to Success" program sets up a streamlined process for Vanguard to transfer their credit hours to NCCU's baccalaureate program, entering as juniors.

"Training scientists for the pharmaceutical industry is vitally important for the region's economy and a strong priority at the university's Biomanufacturing Research and Technology Enterprise (BRITE)," said NCCU Chancellor Johnson O. Akinleye. "By partnering with Vance-Granville Community College, we have increased the pipeline of top students entering NCCU who will complete their Bachelor of Science degree in pharmaceutical sciences. We hope that many stay on, as well, to earn a master's or a doctorate in integrated biosciences."

## **ECU**

The 2019-2020 year also brought with it a pair of agreements between Vance-Granville and East





President Rachel Desmarais of VGCC and Dr. Art Rouse, Acting Dean for the College of Education at ECU, sign the "Partnership Teach" agreement.

Carolina University – one a new partnership and the other an update to a longstanding program.

First, the new "Pirate Promise" agreement guarantees admission into East Carolina University for all VGCC students who fulfill certain criteria. They must be enrolled in, or preparing to enroll in, their first year at the community college in an approved associate degree program, and meet certain academic standards.

Meanwhile, ECU is continuing to partner with Vance-Granville and other colleges to train teachers. Earlier this academic year, East Carolina University celebrated decades of eastern North Carolina partnerships and a program rebrand at an annual College of Education (COE) advisory board meeting.

"Partnership Teach" was officially unveiled as the new name for the COE's online degree completion model. In the program, formerly known as Partnership East, students take courses at a North Carolina community college, like VGCC, and then transfer to ECU to complete a teaching degree.

"All the public school systems in VGCC's service area are interested in recruiting and developing qualified, dedicated teachers for our communities' students," said VGCC President Dr. Rachel Desmarais. "VGCC is pleased to help strengthen the pipeline for local residents to become our region's future teachers."

# Recognized by Vance County Schools with partnership award

Vance County Schools recognized VGCC with the 2019-2020 "Partnership of the Year" award for collaborating with Vance County Early College High School (VCECHS).

"We are pleased to be able to partner with Vance County Early College and the entire school system," VGCC President Dr. Rachel Desmarais said, in accepting the award on behalf of the college faculty and staff. "An important part of our student body, Early College students enrich our campus community, and we have the privilege of helping them achieve their goals."

VGCC worked closely with the school system in 2008 to start the Early College High School, and it has been housed on the community college's Main Campus near Henderson ever since.

VCECHS is a five-year high school experience that offers students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma along with an Associate in Arts and/or Associate in Science degree, or at least some college transfer credits, tuition-free. In addition, VGCC offers other "Career and College Promise" (CCP) pathways to students at traditional high schools - allowing them to earn college credits, as well.



Vance Granville Community College President Rachel Desmarais and North Carolina Central University Chancellor Johnson O. Akinleye sign pharmaceutical sciences agreement.





Students (from left) Tony Williams, Enrique Rodriguez-Jimenez and Denise Marrow practice skills in the biotech lab at VGCC's Franklin Campus.

## Connecting students to careers in Biotech

With the biotechnology industry booming in North Carolina, VGCC offers a number of training program options, while focusing on helping students land jobs and, if they choose, transfer to partnering universities.

"According to NC BIO and the N.C. Biotechnology Center, thousands of new jobs in biotech and life sciences are coming to central North Carolina in the next few years," said Stewart Lyon, who heads VGCC's Biotech programs, based at the college's Franklin County Campus. "Vance-Granville can help you enter a rewarding career in biotech or pharmaceutical manufacturing or a science lab position in as little as six months."

In Bioprocess Technology, the college offers a certificate, which can be completed in six months; a diploma program, which takes about one year, and the two-year Associate in Applied Science degree. All these options are eligible for federal financial aid to qualified students. In addition, there is a BioWork Process Technician continuing education course offered periodically, in a format that takes less than one semester to complete.

Lyon, who has experience in the biotechnology industry and was VGCC's Faculty Member of the Year for 2018-19, provides students not only with education but also resources and connections to obtain employment. In 2020, VGCC helped students develop their resumes and prepare for a virtual career fair organized by the BioNetwork, part of the N.C. Community College System. Representatives of several North Carolina biopharmaceutical companies talked with the students. Several participants confirmed that they received invitations to formal job interviews from the event.

# Scholarships awarded to 349 students

VGCC honored 349 students receiving scholarships, as well as the donors and partnering organizations who established those scholarships, at a dinner on Oct. 10, 2019. In the fourth annual event of its kind, students were given the opportunity to meet and have dinner with community leaders and supporters of the college's Endowment Fund.

Sponsors for the scholarship awards dinner were Kilian Engineering, CertainTeed and Duke Energy.

Tanya Evans, district manager for Duke Energy, offered remarks on behalf of the many businesses, groups and individuals who have donated to support scholarships. Evans also serves on the VGCC Endowment Fund board of directors.

Speaking on behalf of the scholars being recognized were Ashley Ayscue of Henderson and Spencer Boyd of Oxford.

Scholarships of various levels, including the Presidential Excellence Award (the highest level, being awarded for the first time), Presidential Scholar Awards, Presidential Merit Awards, Academic Achievement scholarships and annual (non-endowed) scholarships were awarded to students this academic year, representing a total of more than \$255,000 and bringing the total to more than 9,700 awarded by the college to date.





# Faculty and staff members of the year honored



Tammy Ball (left) accepts the Faculty Member of the Year award from Dr. Rachel Desmarais, president of VGCC.

At VGCC's fall 2019 convocation, college President Dr. Rachel Desmarais announced awards to a pair of outstanding employees for the 2019-20 year. Tammy Ball, an instructor for Office Administration and Medical Office Administration and Online Retention Specialist, was named Faculty Member of the Year, while Jennifer "Jenny" Luffman, Accounts Receivable and Third Party Billing Coordinator for the VGCC Business Office, was selected as the Staff Member of the Year.

The honors are two of VGCC's three Glen Raven Excellence in Teaching and Leadership Awards. Glen Raven, Inc., the custom fabrics manufacturer with a facility in Warren County, is a longtime partner and supporter of the college.

## Tammy Ball

A Youngsville resident, Ball has been teaching at VGCC for the more than six years but first developed a great passion for the college over 20 years ago, when she was a student. "I came to VGCC to study in the college transfer program," Ball recalled. "After graduation, I looked to the college for classes to support my career in healthcare, and when I finally did decide to transfer, returned to VGCC once again to take business and accounting classes to take with me to the university."

After working as a medical records manager and clinical secretary at a retirement community, Ball completed a bachelor's degree in business administration at N.C. State University. She then worked full-time at the university for several years. Since joining VGCC, Ball has taught not only curriculum but continuing education courses, many of which she also developed, and has advised many on-campus and online students. "I've seen first-hand how the college can help our community through workforce training and transferable courses," Ball said. "I love each day at VGCC where I can give back and help my own community learn and grow!"

Dr. Rachel Desmarais (left), president of VGCC, presents the Staff member of the Year award to Jennifer Luffman.

## Jennifer Luffman

Luffman, a resident of Bullock, said that she set a goal of one day working at VGCC while she was a student at the college, earning associate degrees in Accounting and Business Administration. "The staff and faculty were always energetic and helpful, and I could tell they loved their jobs," Luffman recalled.

She first went to work in the medical billing field for a neurologist, but two years after graduating from the community college, she was hired as a cashier at VGCC's Main Campus. That was 15 years ago.

"I held the cashier position for a couple of years, and then I became a Lead Accounting Technician," Luffman said. "Currently, I am the Accounts Receivable and Third Party Billing Coordinator. VGCC has helped me to grow professionally." She has also served as chair of the VGCC Scholarship Committee, on various N.C. Community College System task forces, and as president of the Vance County Association of Educational Office Professionals.

Luffman added, "I love VGCC and I love working with the staff and faculty, but most importantly, I love helping our students."





VGCC student actor Miranda Brown is seen here in the large image taken from a screen-shot of a "Zoom" rehearsal for the college's production of "26 Pebbles."

## In age of social distancing, VGCC experiments with drama by video-conference

**G**oing out to see a play became impossible due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, so the Drama program at VGCC tried out an innovative approach to bring the theatre to the community.

VGCC, like all community colleges across North Carolina, temporarily shifted all classes online in March 2020. Betsy Henderson, the college's Department Chair/Instructor of Humanities and Fine Arts, and her Drama students decided they wanted to somehow put on a play online, as well. After consulting with VGCC's Information Technology department, plans were made to use the online video-conferencing service, Zoom, to both rehearse and present the production. The college presented two performances of the play "26 Pebbles" by Eric

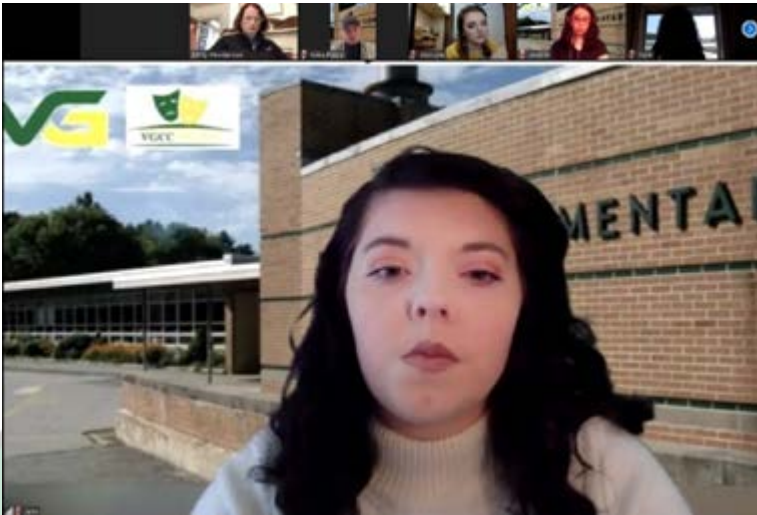
Ulloa, in May.

This documentary-style drama is set at a town hall meeting in Newtown, Connecticut, six months after December 14, 2012, when a gunman walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School and killed 26 people (including 20 children) before taking his own life.

The playwright conducted interviews with members of the community in Newtown and crafted them into an exploration of gun violence and a small town shaken by a horrific event.

Ulloa actually appeared on-screen at the beginning of the VGCC performances, saying he wanted to thank the college for staging this unique production and that the words of





VGCC student actor Kathleen Zoldos is seen here in the large image taken from a screen-shot of a "Zoom" rehearsal for the college's production of "26 Pebbles."

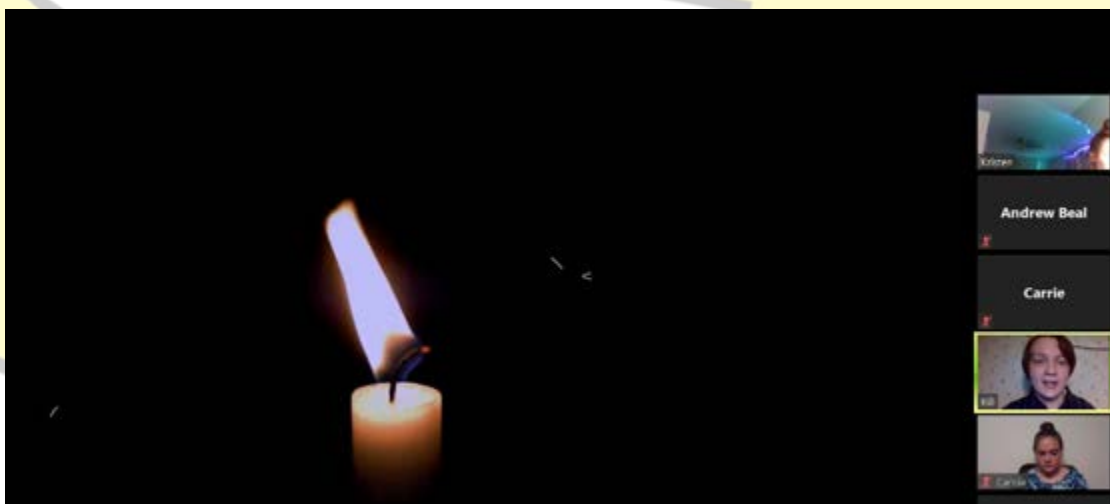
*"This way will allow the students to tell the story and keep everyone safe. It will also provide the community a much-needed outlet during this time of quarantine."*  
 Betsy Henderson

the people from Newtown were relevant to what we are going through today. He said that by talking to the people in Newtown, he learned about the power of community and that, with togetherness, we can overcome anything.

All the VGCC students performed from their own homes on their own computers during the performance. Henderson thinks that giving students this opportunity to present the play to the community was important. "I think we need the arts and artists at a time like this," she said. "Entertainment, happiness and joy are important. The arts touch you in ways you may not realize at first. The Arts, and theatre especially, have a way to elevate the everyday and bring light to our world. In times like this, we need connection. We need meaning, and we need artists to help us all feel."



The playwright himself, Eric Ulloa, appeared before the play began.



# Glen Raven Excellence in Leadership awards recognize faculty and staff

As a faithful corporate supporter of VGCC, Glen Raven, Inc. has endowed scholarships for students as well as awards that recognize faculty and staff excellence. The premier honor sponsored by Glen Raven, the President's Excellence in Leadership award, is given annually to the college employee who best demonstrates exceptional leadership. The recipients are leaders who possess talents, skills, attributes, and approaches that are worth emulating.

Kenneth Wilson, J.D., was the recipient of the 2019 Glen Raven Excellence in Leadership Award. Wilson first joined the VGCC team in 2014 as manager for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant - the single largest competitive grant award received in Vance-Granville's history at that time.

He currently serves as the college's grant administrator for all grant awards to VGCC. He exemplifies "out of the box" thinking, a true spirit of collaboration both internally and externally, and a driving dedication to connecting students with careers. Wilson has successfully led two federal grants awarded to the college and is currently administering a third. He is a graduate of Howard University and the Widener University School of Law.

Cecilia Wheeler is the recipient of the 2020 Glen Raven Excellence in Leadership Award. Dean Wheeler currently leads the School of Arts and Sciences, the largest division within credit instruction at VGCC. She brings a flexible strength to her leadership position. She is known as a



"problem-solver" to students and a project leader to her colleagues. Dean Wheeler exemplifies bridge-building, truth-telling, dedication to the College mission, and true humility.

Wheeler joined the college as assistant coordinator for VGCC's South Campus in Granville County in 1989. In later years, she served as leader for that campus. In 2018, Wheeler assumed her current role, in which she leads more than 40 full-time and adjunct faculty members in eight curriculum programs. For many years, she was an adjunct instructor herself, teaching courses such as American History and Southern Culture. Wheeler is a graduate of Mars Hill College and Appalachian State University.



## Other 2020 excellence award winners in this program include:

- Mercedes Kamoru, Mission Possible Award – for increasing enrollment, completion, and successful certification in the Medical Assisting program
- Dr. Dan Settles, Game Changer Award – for taking one of the college's most challenging courses, Anatomy and Physiology, completely online during the pandemic without sacrificing quality
- Matt Tatum, Star Service Award – for offering excellent technical service with a "can-do" attitude in his role as a computer technician



# VGCC brings together partners for summit on talent pipeline

Employers, economic developers and workforce development experts from across the region met at the VGCC Civic Center to learn more about how to meet the critical need to recruit and train workers, during the first-of-its kind “Business & Industry Connect” Summit on Nov. 1, 2019.

The keynote speaker was Gene Lunger, Executive Vice President of Retail Operations for Ashley Furniture Industries, which is the world’s largest furniture manufacturer. Lunger argued that businesses must be proactive in focusing on their future workforce. “You have to find solutions to find good people for your organization, because it’s not up to anyone else,” he said. “We must help move more students from backpacks to briefcases - by talking to them about the real world, giving them the language they need to use in the professional world and giving them good career information to make up for the bad information they’re getting.”



Gene Lunger addresses attendees at the VGCC Business & Industry Connect summit in the college’s Civic Center.

After Lunger’s presentation, a panel discussion focused on the topic of apprenticeships, with Kathryn Castellones, director of ApprenticeshipNC at the N.C. Community College System, moderating. Panelists included Tony Marshall of Innovative Systems Group (ISG), Theresa Zook of Mars Petcare, Michael Kendrick of Newcomb & Company and Todd Wemyss of Glen Raven/Sunbrella.

Zook noted that her company works with the community college on apprenticeships. “VGCC has made it so easy for us,” she said.

“It’s very exciting to see the interest in Registered Apprenticeship and the employers that are coming forward to utilize the benefits that it brings,” Castellones said. “We at ApprenticeshipNC are here to help employers find and train the workers that they need, so that they can grow as a company and the state can grow economically.”



Ken Wilson of VGCC (right) introduces a panel discussion on apprenticeship opportunities. Seated, from left, on stage are Theresa Zook of Mars Petcare, Todd Wemyss of Glen Raven/Sunbrella, Michael Kendrick of Newcomb & Company, Tony Marshall of Innovative Systems Group (ISG) and Kathryn Castellones of ApprenticeshipNC.

# Small Business Center recognized for innovation

**T**he Vance-Granville Community College Small Business Center and its director, Sheri Jones, received the 2020 Innovation Award for Programs/ Seminars from the North Carolina Small Business Center Network (SBCN). The award specifically recognized VGCC for creating and offering an eight-part, on-line webinar series entitled “Doing Business Remotely – Tools for the New Normal,” to help local small businesses respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Small Business Center collaborated with the Warren County Economic Development Commission and a local small business, Tabletop Media Group, LLC, on the series, which educated small businesses and individuals on technological tools that were mostly new to them, empowering them to communicate effectively with customers as well as employees.

“The Small Business Center of Vance-Granville Community College is fortunate to have wonderful community partners in our four county Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Offices, Downtown Development Organizations and Libraries,” Jones said. “They relay community training needs that we then try to address, and they get the word out about our programs and counseling opportunities.”

In this case, Jones recalled, the community need was first brought up by Warren County EDC Director Stacy Woodhouse. “Stacy called and asked if Kristen Baughman Taber [founder of Tabletop Media Group and a Warren County resident] and I could meet with him to talk about what we could do to help small businesses in the early days of the pandemic shutdown,” Jones said. “This webinar series was born from that conversation.”

The partners moved quickly to help businesses in Vance, Granville, Franklin and Warren counties adjust to a rapidly changing situation. The state’s stay-at-home order went into effect on March 30, and the webinar series began on April 7, 2020.

Baughman Taber took the lead on creating content

and then teaching the interactive class. The eight parts of the series included: Zoom Video Communications; Google Suite; Basecamp & Other Project Management Systems; Dropbox & Other Storage and File-sharing Tools; Scheduling Tools; Mailchimp, Constant Contact & Other Contact Management Tools; Slack & Other Collaboration Tools; and Virtual Team Building.

“Teaching the ‘Doing Business Remotely’ series brought me so much joy as an instructor during such an uncertain time in our world,” Baughman Taber said. “I was able to help so many small business owners learn how to use virtual tools to make them more effective in a world that had suddenly gone almost 100% online due to COVID-19. I believe these skills - like how to use Zoom for video conferencing, Google Drive for organizing and collaborating on documents and files, and Basecamp for project management, to name a few - will be helpful well into the future for these small business owners who attended.”

“I am appreciative of Sheri Jones and VGCC for partnering with Warren County EDC to make this timely series possible,” said EDC Director Stacy Woodhouse. “Doing Business Remotely’ provided critical information in the midst of so much uncertainty and gave businesses the tools to move forward. We were able to utilize Warren County’s own Kristen Baughman of Tabletop Media as the instructor which gave attendees another valuable resource to follow up with post-class.”

“We congratulate and applaud Sheri for this award and for all her hard work to support the small businesses in our service area,” said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, president of VGCC. “This year, our Small Business Center and other college departments have partnered with the community to solve practical problems and meet the unique demands of the pandemic. We will continue to be here as a resource for our communities to promote economic recovery.”

The VGCC Small Business Center, part of a network of centers found at all 58 North Carolina Community Colleges, was created to provide the small businesses of the community with a focal point for training, education, counseling and referral. Jones has served as director since 2019.







# Truck Driver Training Program on the move at VGCC



***“VGCC’s Truck Driver Training Program gave me the opportunity to fulfill one of my lifetime goals of being my own boss. Completing the program and owning my own truck has changed me and my family’s life.”***

Gregory Kelly

In early 2020, VGCC, in partnership with Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, began the first class of a new Truck Driver Training program that gives students the training required to operate tractor-trailer rigs, obtain a Class A commercial driver’s license (CDL) and become professional truck drivers. Local employers enthusiastically supported the new workforce offering, which would address a critical shortage of qualified drivers. The class quickly filled up, with demand even greater than the college could accommodate.

As with many activities, COVID-19 forced the temporary suspension of the program, but even a global pandemic could not stop Truck Driver Training from a successful launch. The class eventually resumed, before finally concluding in June 2020. Through all the ups and downs, the students in this first class showed great perseverance and determination.

Jeff Bullock of Henderson was just one of many examples of the dedicated students in this class. Bullock, who works as a third shift engineer, earned a 4.0 grade point average and had perfect attendance. “Our highly experienced instructors provided excellent training and information inside and outside the classroom,” said Bullock. “Instructors stressed the importance of how to safely operate tractor trailers and pay attention to detail during on the road training. We had access to recruiters from numerous trucking companies giving us potential job options as well as insight into the trucking industry.”

The program includes a combination of classroom instruction, range driving and road driving.

“Our Truck Driver Training program is an excellent example of how North Carolina community colleges connect students to fulfilling careers and provide a pipeline of qualified talent to employers,” said Jerry Edmonds, VGCC’s vice president of workforce and community engagement. “We’re responding to the region’s economic needs and providing easy access to low-cost, high-quality job training.”

# New opportunity with KARTS makes education more accessible

In January 2020, VGCC launched a new partnership with KARTS, the public, rural transportation system, to help students travel to and from any of the college's four campuses at no cost. Through the partnership, the college will use grant funds and donations to the VGCC Endowment Fund to pay for students to use KARTS, which is a service of the Kerr Area Transportation Authority.

"Transportation is just one non-academic barrier that can make it difficult for rural citizens to make use of their community college," said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, president of VGCC. "We are thankful for KARTS' willingness to partner with us to reduce this barrier. We also appreciate our

generous donors and grantors who are making this opportunity possible. VGCC is committed to student access and success!"

Locations for pickup and drop-off were established on each of the college's four campuses.

"We, as a college, are thrilled to provide transportation, at no cost, to current and future students," said Dawn Michelle Tucker, VGCC's Dean of Continuing Education and College & Career Readiness. "We know transportation is a major challenge that many students face and are pleased to be able to partner with KARTS to offer this solution."



"Excessive absences are often a leading contributor to non-completion of community college education," said VGCC Vice President of Workforce and Community Engagement Jerry Edmonds. "Therefore, VGCC is delighted to partner with KARTS in providing transportation to our growing population of students."

**KARTS**  
Kerr Area Transportation Authority



Vance-Granville Community College

# Charles Boyd partnership grows

VGCC and Henderson-based Charles Boyd Chevrolet Buick GMC announced an initiative in 2019 to try to meet the demand for more skilled workers in the automotive service field.

According to Tony Crabtree, the service manager for the dealership, VGCC and Charles Boyd have worked together for many years, particularly through the college's Automotive Systems Technology program. Now, however, the dealership is working for an enhanced partnership, because of the urgent need to build a pipeline of future employees.

"Technicians are getting scarce," Crabtree said. "Automotive is a good field to go into, because the demand is there, so technicians are making great money. VGCC is stepping up to help us get more students interested in this career."

The strategy being developed now is a formal paid apprenticeship program, in which VGCC Automotive Systems Technology students will work alongside Charles Boyd employees for an extended period of time (perhaps as long as two years) while continuing their studies.

"Technicians are respected now," Crabtree said. "With technology now, you can't fix a car as a mechanic under the



Above: A group of VGCC Automotive Systems Technology students toured the Charles Boyd facility earlier this year.

shade tree. And everybody wants their car to run, so there's always a need."

Eddie Ellington, the Director of Business Development & Public Relations at Charles Boyd Chevrolet, said that the dealership is fortunate to have Crabtree's knowledge, experience and professionalism to help collaborate with VGCC. "GM Technicians are held to a higher standard and training," Ellington said. "When you enter into an apprenticeship, you are learning what we strive for and our goal is that when you're done, you'll move right into full-time employment within our company."



# From High School Dropout to First-Generation College Graduate

"I was 16, and I was done." That is how Samantha Huffman recalls thinking back in 2004. She was "done" with education, in her mind. Feeling depressed and awkward at her high school, Huffman dropped out. "I had nothing to look forward to when it came to school, so what was the point?" she said. "It's not like I was going to go to college. I couldn't afford it. No one in my family had made it through high school, much less gone further."

Sixteen years later, Huffman actually has gone further, with a pair of college degrees to her name, thanks to her experience at Vance-Granville Community College.

The story of how she went from high school dropout to college graduate essentially starts with a tragedy, Huffman said. "In 2011, my world was turned upside down," she reflected. "I lost my best friend, who was also my cousin and my confidant, in a car accident where she was hit head-on and killed instantly. She believed in me and pushed me to do better. At that moment, I made a promise in her memory to change."

The sort of change she intended to make required education in order to obtain more than what she called "dead-end" jobs. One day in 2012, Huffman heard that Vance-Granville Community College offered night and online class options to prepare for the GED High School Equivalency diploma. "I went, signed up, and took the pre-test," she said. "I passed the pre-test, and the teacher looked me dead in my eyes and asked me what in the world I was doing there. I did not test like a person with only a 10th-grade education."

With a level of natural ability that surprised her, Huffman quickly completed her studies and obtained her high school diploma by passing the required test. "My first thought was, 'Well, that was easy,'" she recalled. "I almost immediately signed up for



college classes at VGCC."

She took her time because she was working two jobs and raising a child while going to school. Finally, in 2016, she graduated from VGCC with an Associate in Arts degree, as a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and a senator in the Student Government Association.

Soon, Huffman transferred her community college credits into Meredith College, with approximately half her tuition covered by scholarships. In December of 2018, she graduated from

the four-year college with a bachelor's degree in English. Now, she works full-time in a job in which she uses her communication skills to create marketing and promotional materials to increase her company's client base.

"For anyone who thinks school is too hard, or takes too much of a commitment, I urge you to walk into any VGCC campus and talk to an advisor," Huffman said. "They will coach you, mentor you, comfort you, and guide you through schooling that anyone can do and help you achieve any goal you set your mind to completing."



BLET Coordinator Glen Boyd operates the driving simulator during a demonstration of the new practical simulation training rooms.

# New Construction

## Additions to VGCC building will enhance public safety training

In 2019, VGCC marked the completion of the second phase of renovation and construction work on Main Campus Building 10, providing additional instructional capacity for the Law Enforcement Training, Fire/Rescue and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) programs. That represents the culmination of a complete overhaul of the 16,000-square-foot building, a former commercial structure that the college purchased in 2010.

Building 10 is located on Poplar Creek Road in Vance County, across the street from the rest of the college's Main Campus. The first phase of its renovation was completed in 2016, providing new space to train public safety professionals and other students. Now, the newly completed area of the building allows participants to benefit from cutting-edge practical simulation training.

A new EMS lab will allow VGCC to provide training that was not previously available, using state-of-the-

art equipment that gives students opportunities to participate in real-life scenarios. The lab will be used for EMT-Basic through EMT-Paramedic students, to include continuing education classes. Enhanced manikins in the lab provide immediate feedback to EMS personnel, so they can improve their skills.

In addition, the completion of Phase II includes a driving simulator that helps prepare police, fire and EMS students for safe emergency vehicle operations in a controlled environment. Finally, a firearms simulator provides 21st-century scenarios for officers to practice all forms of de-escalation techniques and all levels of the use of force. Both simulators help current officers improve their driving and firearms skills.

A grant from the Cannon Foundation and funds from the statewide Connect NC bond (approved by North Carolina voters in 2016) supported the project.



# Student engages in cutting-edge COVID-19 research

**V**GCC student Emiliano Dunton of Oxford has faced challenges in his life, and in 2020, he became involved in research related to what is perhaps the world's biggest challenge: the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

Dunton, a VGCC Bioprocess Technology student, is participating in a research externship program at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) through a partnership between the community college and the university. Through the externship, he gets practical experience related to his studies. Specifically, Dunton works with a team using computer programming to identify drugs that may be effective in attacking COVID-19.

"I am currently learning a new computer language called Python, which is the most used computer coding language of 2020," Dunton explained. "Our plan is to use the computer language to search for articles pertaining to biopharma research and information regarding COVID-19."

Currently, due to that same global pandemic, Dunton is working and learning remotely with the professors at NCCU, but he looks forward to making an on-site visit to the Durham campus in November.

Stewart Lyon, head of the Bioprocess Technology program at VGCC, said Dunton is perfect for this research opportunity because of his interest in not just biotechnology but computers. "Emiliano has found a niche in science in the growing field of bioinformatics," Lyon said. "Bioinformatics essentially uses computer programming languages to analyze large biological data sets."

Dunton recalled, "I enrolled at VGCC because I did some research on good biotechnology programs and found out VGCC had one of the best around." He said that the Bioprocess program appealed to him "because I've always been intrigued with technology, and the ever-growing science/information-driven era we live in calls for that type of background."

Dunton said his excitement about

learning a new computer language led him to participate in the NCCU externship program. "I also want to inspire more minority youth in my community to strive for excellence and let them know that no matter where you're from, or what type of background you came up from, you can accomplish whatever you set your mind to," he added.

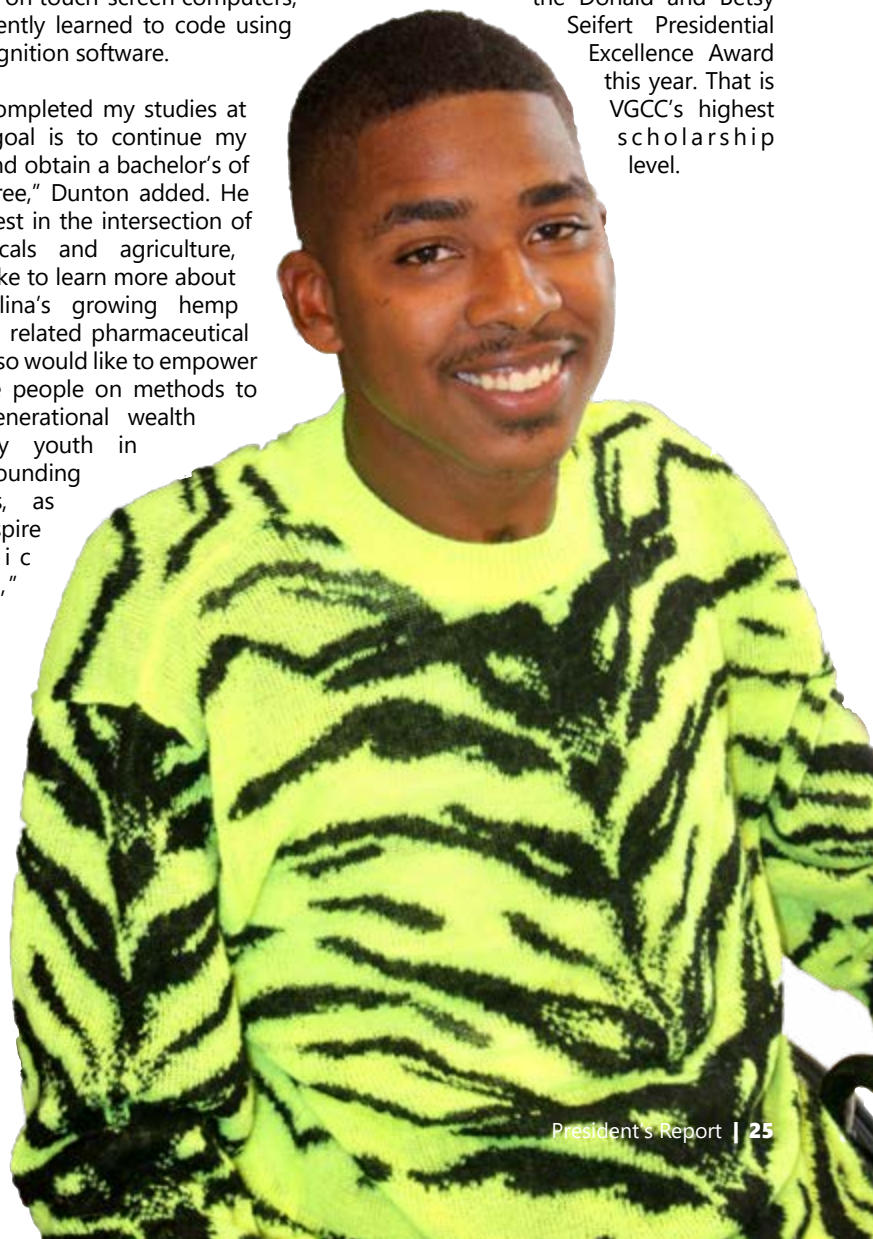
Lyon said that Dunton is an inspiration to his instructors and classmates because of his determination to overcome obstacles in order to achieve success. Due to injuries sustained from a gunshot wound years ago, Dunton uses a wheelchair. Though he has use of his arms, Dunton also relies largely on touch-screen computers, and has recently learned to code using speech-recognition software.

"After I've completed my studies at VGCC, my goal is to continue my education and obtain a bachelor's of science degree," Dunton added. He has an interest in the intersection of pharmaceuticals and agriculture, and would like to learn more about North Carolina's growing hemp industry and related pharmaceutical extracts. "I also would like to empower and educate people on methods to generate generational wealth for minority youth in the surrounding communities, as well as inspire academic excellence," Dunton said.

According to Lyon, Dunton "serves as an example of resilience and that great

opportunities in life are available." He recalled seeing how excited the student was "to find out that he was going to be actively contributing to a research team with the goal of helping to resolve a global health crisis....I think his time with VGCC and Bioprocess Technology, and now linking back to the UNC system, has been transformative for him. Emiliano also balances his obligations as an outstanding student with his familial and community responsibilities. He is a father as well as a student, and seeks to be a role model both at home and in the classroom."

Dunton is the recipient of the Donald and Betsy Seifert Presidential Excellence Award this year. That is VGCC's highest scholarship level.



# Endowment

## One of VGCC's earliest graduates establishes scholarships

Almost half a century after he enrolled at the school that is now VGCC, Steve McRavin established a pair of scholarships for today's students in 2019 - while the college was celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Along with his wife, Patti, McRavin created annual scholarships through the VGCC Endowment Fund in memory of several of his family members. The Allen and Margaret Jones/Lucy Jones Allen Scholarship in Nursing is named for his grandparents and his eldest aunt, Lucy, who was a nurse. Meanwhile, the Howard and Thelma "Kitty" McRavin Memorial Scholarship in Automotive honors the memory of his parents.

Steve McRavin grew up on a small farm in Williamsboro, and took automotive classes at Vance County High School. Upon graduating from high school in 1970, young Steve wanted to continue learning, and was excited to learn that the new Vance County Technical Institute would soon start offering automotive mechanics as one of its

very first curriculum programs.

Taking classes on that original campus - the former Maria Parham Hospital building - McRavin studied under the head of the new automotive program, the late Thomas Welch, whom he describes as "a great man." McRavin graduated with his vocational diploma in Automotive Mechanics on Aug. 22, 1971, in the school's first graduating class for curriculum programs. He then worked at the local Firestone until he was drafted in 1972 into the United States Army. He served in military intelligence for the next two decades, much of that time stationed in West Germany.

He retired at the rank of First Sergeant in 1992 and started working at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia, Washington. Even after all those years, McRavin credited the inspiration for his new career to Mr. Welch. Starting as a lab technician for the SPSCC automotive department, McRavin served in a variety of roles:

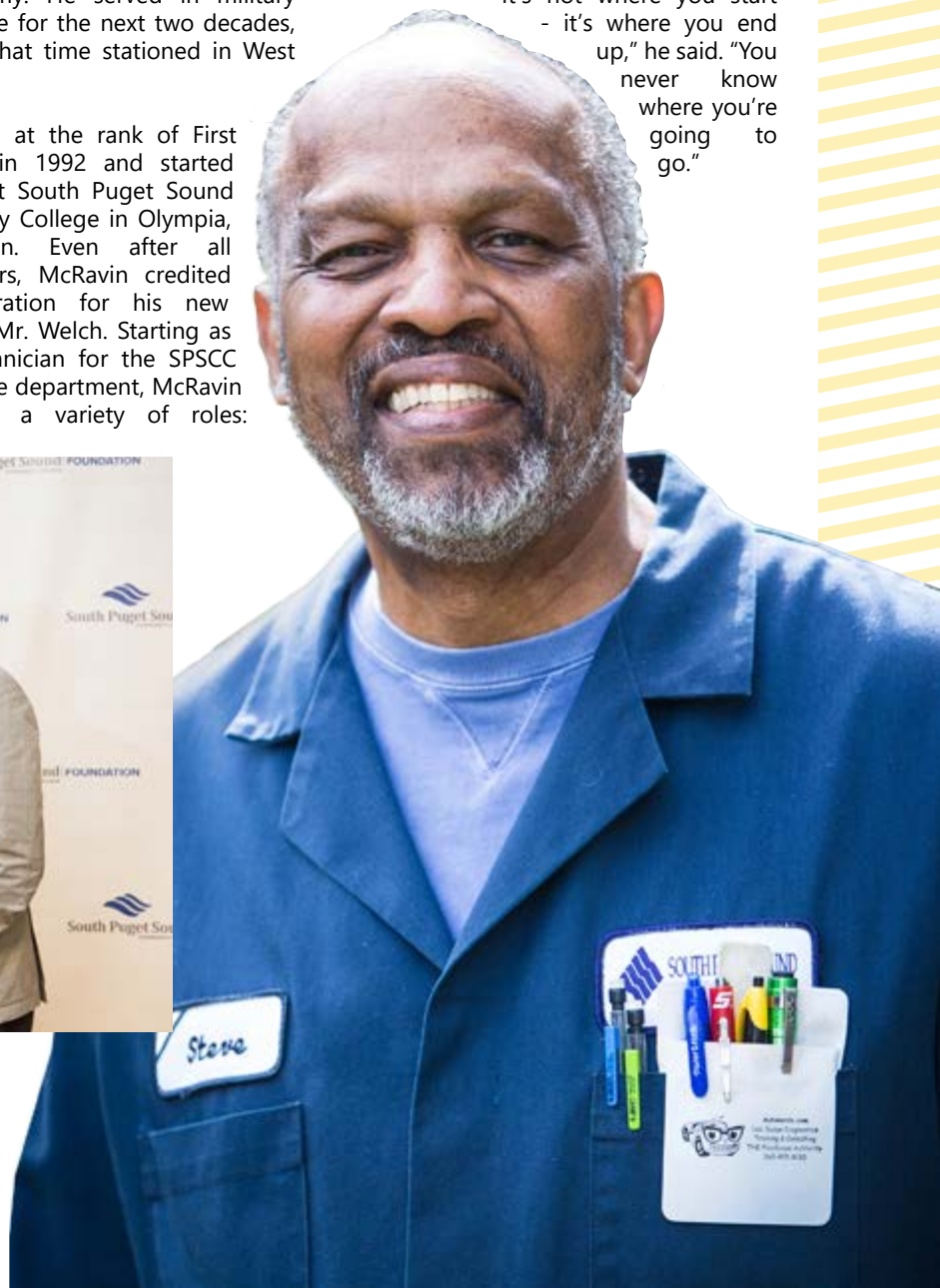
teaching automotive classes, advising students, and overseeing recruiting. He retired from the college as a full-time administrator, but continues to teach there part-time.

McRavin said the new VGCC scholarships are his way of giving back to a school and a community that had helped him. Describing himself as a "country boy from Vance County," McRavin also wants to inspire today's youth to take advantages of educational opportunities, as he did.

"It's not where you start - it's where you end up," he said. "You never know where you're going to go."



President Timothy Stokes of South Puget Sound Community College presents Steven McRavin and his wife Patti Gora-McRavin with a certificate for being inducted into the President's Club Lifetime Circle.





# VGCC receives \$125,000 grant from The Cannon Foundation

The Cannon Foundation, based in Concord, North Carolina, awarded a \$125,000 grant to the Vance-Granville Community College Endowment Fund. The funds will support VGCC's Nursing Simulation Lab and Heavy Equipment Operator program simulators.

"With this grant, Vance-Granville Community College will continue to enhance our Nursing and Heavy Equipment Operator training programs, so that students can receive state-of-the-art preparation for their careers," said VGCC President Dr. Rachel Desmarais. "We appreciate the Cannon Foundation's commitment to workforce development and education."

Part of the grant will provide needed equipment for the new, 4,000-square-foot Simulation Lab on VGCC's Main Campus in Vance County. This lab has recently been relocated from its previous space on the campus of Maria Parham Health in Henderson. Much like it did at the previous location, the lab will provide students in Associate Degree Nursing and Practical Nursing with opportunities to train for a variety of real-life situations, using high-tech manikins. The life-like "patients" can be programmed to replicate a variety of medical diagnoses and conditions.

The other, larger portion of the grant funds will provide simulators of a different



sort. The Heavy Equipment Operator program, based on VGCC's Warren County Campus in Warrenton, will benefit from new, improved training simulators, on which students can practice in a safe, controlled way. The trainers simulate equipment such as bulldozers and excavators. The college's HEO program is now a registered apprenticeship and per-apprenticeship program, and the updated simulation equipment will help align the training with current workforce needs.

"Our current Heavy Equipment Operator program has been in place since 2015 with the simulators we currently have through an agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation

and the Federal Highway Administration," explained Kyle Burwell, VGCC's director of Occupational Extension & Human Resources Development. "I am thrilled at the opportunity offered to us by the Cannon Foundation to purchase additional simulation equipment to enhance our HEO program, so that students can practice and learn on updated equipment as they prepare to work in the field of Heavy Equipment Operation."

The Cannon Foundation was formed in 1943 by Charles A. Cannon, chairman and president of the Cannon Mills Company. The Cannon Foundation continues his philanthropic legacy by funding primarily capital and infrastructure projects

for organizations across the state of North Carolina. To date, the Cannon foundation has awarded grants totaling more than \$305 million.

"This new grant from the Cannon Foundation is good news for our community, for the students who will use this equipment to learn, and for their future employers," said Eddie Ferguson, VGCC endowment fund director. "VGCC continues to partner with a variety of funders to provide high-quality training for good jobs in fields like health care and construction."

The Cannon Foundation has supported VGCC in the past, including a grant of \$150,000 to help complete the renovation of Building 10 on the college's Main Campus.



In front, from left: Guild Gift Gallery volunteers Claire Catherwood, Tricia Kleczek, Gean Bobbitt, Charlotte Ayscue and Beverly Parrish. In back, from left: VGCC Endowment director Eddie Ferguson with volunteers Fern Ellington, Stephanie Stringer, Pat Ayscue, Shaaron Reynolds, Betty Abbott, Jean Hutchins and Ralph Hutchins. Not pictured: volunteers Shannon Clark, Carol Pegram, Margie Moss, Gail Malone, Jean Norwood, Debra Smiley, Cathy Nowell, Judy Campbell, Sylvia Anderson, Linda Washburn and Anne Bunch.

## New VGCC scholarship honors Maria Parham Guild Gift Gallery volunteer

Volunteers from the Guild Gift Gallery at Maria Parham Health presented \$25,000 to the Vance-Granville Community College Endowment Fund to create a new scholarship. This scholarship — the 14th established by the Guild Gift Gallery in recent years — honors the memory of one of the volunteers, the late Vernelle Champion of Henderson. Champion passed away in November of 2018 at age 76.

“Vernelle was one special lady,” her fellow gift shop volunteer, Cathy Robertson, remembered. “Vernelle was a valuable asset to the Guild Gift Gallery for more than eight years. She was a loyal volunteer, always ready to lend a helping hand anytime, and she was a special friend to all who knew her. She was an active member of Victory Baptist Church and also of

South Henderson Pentecostal Church.”

The new gift continues a tradition of the organization’s generous support for education. The volunteer-operated Guild Gift Gallery offers convenience items and gifts as a service to both patients and visitors at the hospital. Profits from sales are used to provide scholarships to people preparing to enter the health care professions. The new VGCC scholarship will assist deserving students in programs such as Nursing, Radiography, Medical Assisting and Pharmacy Technology.

“Vance-Granville continues to be grateful for our ongoing partnership with the Guild Gift Gallery,” said Eddie Ferguson, VGCC’s endowment fund director. “We’re honored that we get the opportunity to

celebrate the life of Mrs. Champion in this way, by helping students achieve their educational goals for years to come.”

Because the scholarship, the “Vernelle Champion/Guild Gift Gallery at Maria Parham Presidential Scholar Award,” is endowed, it will be awarded in perpetuity.

“Mrs. Champion’s legacy of volunteer service will be an inspirational example to students who receive a scholarship in her name, as they prepare to serve in the health care field,” said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, the president of VGCC. “Thanks to volunteers like Mrs. Champion, the Guild Gift Gallery makes a significant difference in our community by supporting students in their pursuit of rewarding careers.”



## New scholarship endowed in memory of George Ronald “Ronnie” Daniel



Faye Daniel Chappell and her brother, R. T. “Tom” Daniel, both of Oxford, established a new scholarship at Vance-Granville Community College in memory of their brother, George R. “Ronnie” Daniel.

VGCC will award the Ronnie Daniel Memorial Academic Achievement Scholarship to a student from Granville County. Preference will be given to students in programs of study related to information technology or medical fields. VGCC Health

Sciences programs include Radiography, Nursing, Histotechnology, Medical Assisting and Pharmacy Technology.

“Ronnie would be pleased that from this memorial scholarship, many others will join the ranks of Healthcare professionals,” Faye Daniel Chappell said.

Ronnie Daniel was born and raised in Oxford and remained there until his death in 2019. He graduated from J.F. Webb High School in 1967 and attended Hardbarger Business College in Raleigh. Daniel was employed by Food Lion for the last 15 years before he retired. While there, he was a faithful employee, never missing a day of work. He received several awards and recognitions while employed.

“Ronnie had a very outgoing personality and never met a stranger. His ability to interact with people enabled him to form many lifelong friendships. He enjoyed traveling. He particularly loved Disney World and had been there six times throughout the years. He also loved history, especially that which pertained to Granville County. He enjoyed getting out to use his Metal Detector, collecting coins and geodes,” his siblings, R.T. “Tom” Daniel and Faye Daniel Chappell, recalled.

“Thanks to this family’s generosity, the Ronnie Daniel Scholarship will support hard-working students for years to come by allowing them to complete training for rewarding careers,” said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, VGCC’s president.

“We are honored that Faye and Tom would choose to celebrate the life of their brother, Ronnie, by helping VGCC students achieve their educational goals,” added VGCC Endowment Director Eddie Ferguson.

## New scholarship honors Pete Burgess



The Vance County chapter of the North Carolina Farm Bureau presented a gift to the Vance-Granville Community College Endowment Fund to create a new scholarship in honor of Talmadge “Pete” Burgess.

Now retired and living with his wife, Sylvia, in Durham, Pete Burgess was for decades a Vance County farmer and community leader. He was instrumental in establishing the Vance County Regional Farmers Market, which opened in 2014.

After growing up on a Vance County farm, Burgess went to N.C. State University to study agricultural engineering on an ROTC scholarship, and then served in the United States Army. He worked as a safety engineer in the insurance industry for several years, but returned to Vance County in 1968 to run a farm that had been in his wife’s family. At “Burgess Farms,” he grew tobacco, grain, hay and sweet corn, among other crops.

An active community volunteer, Burgess served as a board member of the county and state Farm Bureau organizations, president and board member of the Epsom Lions Club, board member of the Epsom Volunteer Fire Department, member of the Vance County Planning Board and board member for the Henderson-Vance Chamber of Commerce. For his contributions to the county and, in particular, for his leading role in securing the land and funding for the regional farmers market, Burgess was honored by the Vance County Commissioners with the “Community Hero” award.

The new gift continues a tradition of the organization’s generous support for education. Years ago, the Vance County Farm Bureau endowed an academic achievement scholarship at VGCC, which supports a student each year.

“Throughout his life, Pete Burgess has demonstrated an interest not only in agriculture but in giving back and supporting his community, so this scholarship is a fitting way to honor his service,” said Eddie Ferguson, VGCC’s endowment fund director. “We are grateful to the Vance County Farm Bureau for continuing to support Vance-Granville students through this new scholarship.”

“At Vance-Granville, our students are the Vanguard, which means they are ‘leaders,’ and Pete Burgess is the definition of a leader,” said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, the president of VGCC. “Thanks to the Vance County Farm Bureau, we can look forward to awarding the Pete Burgess scholarship to future leaders who can follow in his footsteps.”

# Annual Endowment Fund Golf

## Tournament raises more than \$110,000

Vance-Granville Community College held its annual Endowment Fund Golf Tournament at the Henderson Country Club, raising more than \$110,000. Proceeds will help fund scholarships for deserving students and support the mission of the college.

Delayed from its traditional spring date due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 36th annual tournament was presented by Gupton Services, Inc., of Henderson. This year's fundraiser brought the total amount generated by all VGCC golf tournaments since 1985 to more than \$1.2 million.

"We are extremely grateful for the community's continuing support of VGCC, as expressed through yet another successful tournament," said VGCC President Dr. Rachel Desmarais. "Our region's civic and business leaders know that our community college is a key driver of workforce and economic development."

"Thanks to the contributions of numerous golfers and sponsors, our Endowment Fund will have more resources to help students continue their education, so that they can prepare for careers and enjoy a brighter future,"



added VGCC Endowment Director Eddie Ferguson.

A total of 128 golfers played this year, with 64 competing on Monday, Sept. 14, and the other 64 playing in a separate round on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020.

In the Monday round, the MR Williams team of Chris Cheever, Dennis Lambert, Daniel Faulkner and Tyler Beauchamp took home the "first net" trophy. The Golden Skillet team of David Fairey, Steven Wright, Steve Wright and Steve Wright won "second net." The "first gross" trophy went to the Novozymes team of







Fred Reikowsky, James Massey, Vinny Veruto and Mark Lasher. The Mast Drug team of Andrew Flye, Jan Fletcher, Rusty Crocker and Kirt Meadows took home "second gross."

In the Tuesday round, the Salvation Army team (sponsored by Gup-ton Services) of Derrick Smith, Chad Langley, Wes MacLawhorn and Danny Wilkerson finished with the "first net" score. The Carolina Commonwealth team of Kenny Abbott, David Farrie, Mike Faulkner and Tommy Ross won "second net." The "first gross" trophy went to the Institutional Interiors team of Tim Hill, Mike Baskett, Billy Stanton and Macy Foster. The Carolina Sunrock team of Blake Montgomery, Zach Satterwhite, Greg Johnson and Eric Royster took home "second gross." P.J. Schleiger took the longest-drive prize on Hole 1 on Monday, and Trey Watkins won the closest-to-the-pin prize on Hole 11.

Danny Wilkerson had the longest drive on Tuesday, while Greg Johnson won the closest-to-the pin prize. Numerous companies and individuals supported the VGCC tournament as sponsors, along with presenting sponsor Gupton Services, Inc.

Each year, the golf tournament is the major fundraising event for the VGCC Endowment Fund, through which more than 9,700 scholarships have been awarded to students since 1982. Scholarships have been established by individuals, industries, businesses, civic groups, churches and the college's faculty and staff.



## PREMIER SPONSORS

Henderson Fruit and Produce, Glen Raven, Wester Insurance Agency, Durham Coca-Cola, First Citizens Wealth, Charles Boyd Chevrolet Buick GMC, Duke Energy, Private Health Management of N.C., Novozymes North America, Inc., Universal Leaf North America U.S., Inc., Robling Medical, Union Bank, Bridgestone Bandag Tire, Carolina Commonwealth, Rose Oil Company, Inc., CertainTeed, Altec, Granville Health System, John Nelms, Jr., MR Williams, Kilian Engineering, Mast Drug Company and Coldwell Banker Advantage.

## PLATINUM SPONSORS

Core & Main, Variety Stores, Inc., Institutional Interiors, Henderson Collegiate and Oxford Prep.

## GOLD SPONSORS

Winston International, Golden Skillet and Carolina Sunrock.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Mako Medical Laboratories, Joe and Betty Jo Hamme, Newton Instrument Company, Jim Beck, Tru-Green Landscaping, Jim Crawford, ARC3 Gases, Dr. Ben Currin, B & R Properties & Development, Judge Henry and Mamie Banks, Donald Seifert, Sarah Baskerville and Walmart Distribution.

## GREEN SPONSORS

Greystone Concrete Products, Backyard Retreat, Barnett Real Properties, Inc., RFR Metal Fabrication, Wake Electric Membership Corp., Nick & Sons Truck Repair, Vescom North America, JM White Funeral Home, Watkins Plumbing, HG Reynolds, NT Techno, May & Place, Dill Air Controls Products and International Paper.

## TEE BOX SPONSORS

AAA Gas & Appliance Company, Hight Warehouse, Encore Tech, Comfort Zone, Granville County EDC, Hicks & Wrenn, Mosely Plumbing Company, Inc., WOW Wash on Wheels, Sunrise Biscuits of Oxford, Century 21 Country Knolls Realty, Inc., One Source Document Solutions, Carolina Country Snacks, Banzet, Thompson, Styers & May, City Tire, Inc., Cross & Currin Attorneys, Southern Educational Systems, Vance Construction Company, Stainback, Satterwhite & Zollicoffer, PLLC, Phillips Dorsey Thomas Waters & Brafford, P.A., Whitco Bug Warriors, Robco, Frazco, Inc. Insurance - Real Estate, Marsha J. Nelson, Brame Specialty, William L. Stark and Company, Dave Carver, Pete Smith's Tire and Quick Lube, Dabney Drive Animal Hospital, Alex Drake, DDS, PA, Sherman & Boddie, Inc., Riggs-Harrod, Ahner Security, H & W Investments, Henderson-Vance EDC, Benchmark Community Bank, Medical Arts Pharmacy, Ag Carolina Farm Credit, Hall's Floor Fashions, Inc., Will Jakes-Edward Jones, Fred's Towing & Transport, Inc., Professional Pharmacy, C & P Body Shop, Mack Choplin, Postal Plus Business Center, Waste Industries, MPACT Solutions, LLC and Eddie and Debra Ferguson.

# OUR *Students* 2019-2020

**9,301**  
TOTAL STUDENTS  
Unduplicated Headcount\*

## CONTINUING EDUCATION/LITERACY

**5,557**  
Students

**63.7%** Male      **35.9%** Female

**36**  
Average Age

**4,812** Students in Occupational & Industry Training, Small Business Center, Personal Enrichment  
**857** Students in Adult Basic Skills, English as a Second Language, High School Equivalency

## GRADUATES LITERACY

**81** High School Equivalency      **41** Adult High School Diplomas

## GRADUATES CURRICULUM

**446** Associate Degrees      **62** Diplomas      **88** Certificates

## CURRICULUM PROGRAMS

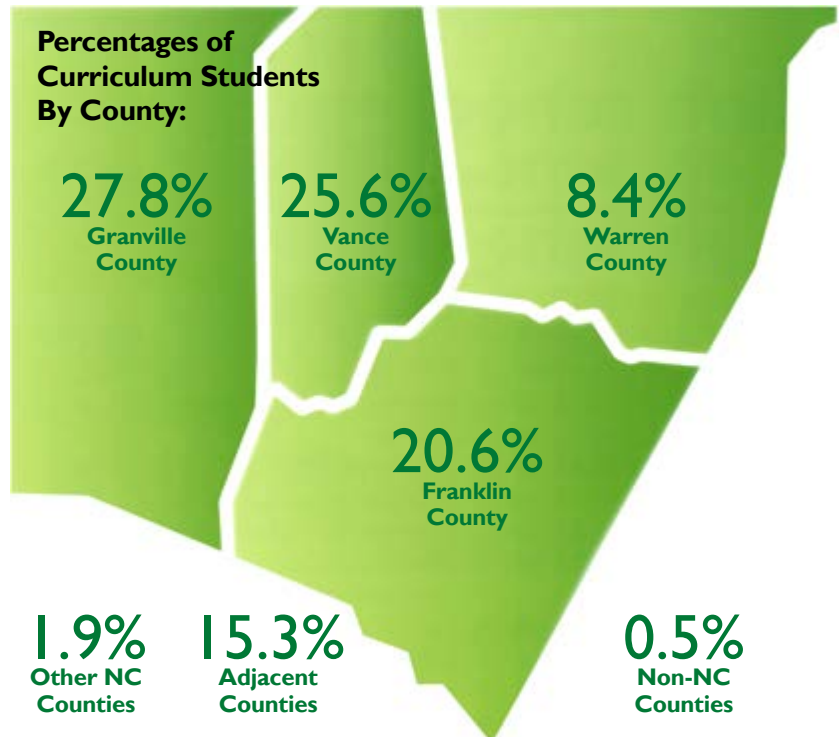
**4,045**  
Students

**33%** Male      **67%** Female

**19**  
Average Age

**16** Students Per Class      **16:1** Student/Faculty Ratio

VGCC celebrated the Class of 2020 with a virtual graduation commencement exercise held on Thursday, January 7, 2021. The college honored the accomplishments of 561 graduates from December 2020, May 2020, and July 2020 in our College & Career Readiness and Curriculum programs. We are so proud of our graduates and their successes! We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.



\* Unduplicated is not the sum of the two totals because some students took both Curriculum and Continuing Education/Literacy courses.

Data obtained from NCCCS Report provided on 8-3-20



# OUR *Resources*

2019-2020

## TUITION

| Tuition                                      | In-State | Out -of -State |
|--|----------|----------------|
| Per Credit Hour (fulltime)                   | \$76     | \$268          |
| Per Semester<br>(full time 16 hours or more) | \$1,216  | \$4,288        |

\*Tuition is set by the NC General Assembly and is subject to change

## FINANCIAL AID

| For Students                      | Number of recipients | Dollars awarded       |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Pell Grants                       | 1215                 | \$4,014,477.00        |
| VGCC Scholarships                 | 691                  | \$345,005.00          |
| Institutional Grants              | 220                  | \$68,439.00           |
| NC Community College Grants       | 255                  | \$212,173.00          |
| NC Education Lottery Scholarships | 114                  | \$92,745.00           |
| Federal Work Study                | 31                   | \$80,432.00           |
| Veterans Educational Benefits     | 43                   | \$161,266.00          |
| Other Financial Aid               | 602                  | \$1,803,586.00        |
| <b>Total (unduplicated)</b>       | <b>3094</b>          | <b>\$6,778,123.00</b> |

## OUR STAFF

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Full-Time Instructors | 101 |
| Full-Time Staff       | 130 |
| Part-Time Instructor  | 202 |
| Part-Time Staff       | 38  |



# ENDOWMENT FUND

# DONORS

## FOUNDER'S CIRCLE

— \$5,000 and up

Altec Industries, Inc.  
Barnett Real Properties, Inc.  
CertainTeed Corp.  
Dan Sullivan  
Duke Energy  
Duke Energy Foundation  
Faye D. Chappell  
First Citizens Investor Services  
Gupton Services, Inc.  
Henry Dixon  
Kilian Engineering  
M. R. Williams  
Mars Pet Care  
Marshall Tanner  
Mountain Creek Baptist Church  
Phyllis L. Dixon  
Redding Family Foundation  
Robert T. Daniel  
Ruin Creek Investments, LLC  
Santa Fe Natural Tobacco  
The Cannon Foundation  
The Church of the Holy Innocents  
Vance County Farm Bureau  
Warrenton Presbyterian Church  
William Horner

## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

— \$2,500 to \$4,999.99

Ardagh Glass  
Boyd Chevrolet-Pontiac-  
Cadillac-Buick-GMC  
Bridgestone Bandag, LLC  
Carolina Commonwealth Forest  
Products  
Glen Raven, Inc.  
Guild Gift Gallery Maria Parham  
Hospital  
Henderson Fruit and Produce  
John K. Nelms  
Mast Drug Company, Inc.  
Novozymes North America  
NT Techno USA Corporation  
Rachel Desmarais, Ph.D.  
Robling Medical  
Steve L. McRavin  
Universal Leaf North America U.S.,  
Inc.  
West End Baptist Church  
Wester Realty & Insurance Agency,  
Inc.

## DEAN'S CIRCLE

— \$1,000 to \$2,499.99

Durham Coca-Cola Bottling  
Company  
Faye Frazier

George Harvin  
Granville Health System  
H. G. Reynolds  
Institutional Interiors, Inc.  
James W. Crawford  
Janet Mills  
Lake Gaston Computer Club  
Leonard Pruitt  
Linda B. Weaver  
Lisa Cox  
Marsha J. Nelson  
Mary Ann Antley  
Mary Potter Club  
Newton Instrument Co.  
Oxford Preparatory School, Inc.  
RaceReach LLC  
Raymond Stone  
Rose Oil Company  
Tommy D. Riddle  
Union Bank & Trust Company  
Variety Stores, Inc. / Roses Stores  
Winston International, LTD.  
Wythe Advantage, Inc.

## SCHOLAR'S CIRCLE

— \$500 to \$999.99

Backyard Retreat  
Bridget F. Rogers  
Carolina Sunrock LLC, Bryan Pfohl  
Golden Skillet  
Greystone Concrete Products, Inc.  
Henderson Collegiate, Inc  
International Paper  
J.M. White Funeral Services Inc.  
James K. Speed  
Joe Hamme  
May & Place, PA  
Mr. and Mrs. Levy Brown  
RFR Metal Fabrication  
Stelfanie Williams  
Vescom America  
Wake Electric  
Watkins Plumbing and Piping

## HONOR'S CIRCLE

— \$250 to \$499.99

AAA Gas & Appliance Company  
AgCarolina Farm Credit  
Amy O'Geary  
Angela Thomas  
Badrinath Dhakal  
Cecilia Wheeler  
Daniel Knight  
Davis Royster Funeral Services  
James G. Beck  
Jerry E. Edmonds  
Jesse A. Sullins  
Kali Brown

Linda Fletcher  
Maria Bailey  
Ryan Rowland  
Vance County Economic  
Development Commission

## FRIEND'S CIRCLE

— up to \$249.99

Alliances, LLC  
Angela Gardner-Ragland  
Anna Seaman  
Antoinette Dickens  
April Perkinson  
Ashley Roberson  
Barbara L. Meacher  
Benjamin M. Currin  
Betsy Henderson  
Betty Clarke  
Blondelle Edgerton  
Bob Fleming  
Brande McAley  
Brandon C. Hudson  
Brenda Overton  
Brenda Smith  
C & P Body Shop  
Candy Parker  
Cathy Davis  
Century 21  
Charisse Lassiter  
Chelsea Porter  
Christal Thomas  
County of Granville  
Cross & Currin, LLP  
Daniel Bender  
Danny W. Wright  
Dawn M. Tucker  
Deborah Cross  
Debra Hughes  
Dennis Hodge  
Derrick Cameron  
Diane Blalock  
Diane Hunt  
Elton L. Newbern  
Emily Abbott  
Emily Coburn  
Encore Technology Group, LLC  
Erica Jastrow  
Faye Goode  
Frances Hargrove  
Frank H. Madigan  
Fred's Towing & Transport  
Gabrielle Norfleet  
George S. Foster  
Gina Brewer  
Gregory Smith  
Herbert Washington  
Herdi South  
Hight Warehouse  
Hilda Cordell  
Hollie Garrett

Hopper, Hicks & Wrenn, PLLC  
James Cross  
James Epps  
Jason Bryan  
Jason Snelling  
Jeffrey Allen  
Jennie Davis  
Jennifer Allen  
Jenny Luffman  
Jermiel Hargrove  
Jerry Stainback  
Jessica Harvey  
Jillian Whitlow  
Johnny Watkins  
Jonathan Sparks  
Karen Feezor  
Kathy Ktul  
Kay Currin  
Ken Lewis  
Kimberly Vargo  
Kyle Burwell  
Larry Thomas  
Lindsey Lotspeich  
Lisa Edwards  
Magnolia Terry  
Margaret Morgan  
Marque Debnam  
Martin Griffin  
Maureen Walters  
Michael Whittemore  
Michele Burgess  
Mpack Solutions  
Nancy Jackson  
Natasha Thompson  
Norma Pulley  
North Carolina Verbatim Reporters  
Association  
Pamela Harris  
Paul Sloderbeck  
Paul Stewart, Jr.  
Philip Pope  
Phillips, Dorsey, Thomas, Waters &  
Brafford  
Randy Owen  
Riggs-Harrod Builders  
Robco Manufacturing, Inc.  
Robinette Fischer  
Ron Dorsey  
Rose Marie Grissom  
Sarah Baskerville  
Sean Newton  
Sherri Alston  
Spence Bailey  
Stepahnie Harp  
Steve McNally  
Steven Graham  
Steven Hargrove  
Susan Corbitt  
Susan Williamson  
Tammy Ball



We are pleased to recognize the generous contributions made by these individuals and businesses through their continued support of the VGCC Endowment Fund from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Tanya Weary  
 Thomas S. Hester  
 Three A Services Inc.  
 Tiffani Polk  
 Timothy Bates  
 Tina Dekle  
 Tomeka Moss  
 Tonya Strum  
 Tracy A. Sutton  
 Tyrone Robinson  
 Vance Construction Co.  
 Veta Pierce-Cappetta  
 Vickie Smith

Wallace Evans  
 Wesley Williams  
 Whitco Termite and Pest  
 Control  
 William Carver  
 William Stark and Company  
 Willie S. Darby  
 Wills Hancock  
 Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans  
 & Company, LLP  
 Xavier Wortham  
 Yancey Washington  
 Zachary Beckstrom



Front row, from left to right, Kay Currin, VGCC Endowment Specialist; Rachel M. Desmarais, Ph.D., VGCC President; and Eddie Ferguson, VGCC Endowment Director. Second row, from left to right, Katharine Horner; Bob Hubbard, Vice-Chair; Ronnie Goswick; Tanya Evans; and Sarah Baskerville. Third row, from left to right, Opie Frazier; Julius Banzet; Danny Wright; John Nelms; Michele Burgess; and Jim Crawford. Fourth row, from left to right, Josh Towne; Marshall Tanner; Leo Kelly; Clay Frazier; and Todd Wemyss. (Not pictured are Rev. Dr. Richard Henderson, Secretary; Mark Heilman; and Donald Seifert.)

## New scholarship endowed in memory of Anne Tanner Berry

Vance-Granville Community College Endowment Fund board member Marshall Tanner and his wife, Martha, established a new scholarship at the college in memory of their daughter.

VGCC will award the Anne Tanner Berry Memorial Academic Achievement Scholarship to a student in a medical field, with a preference for second-year students who are older than the “traditional” college age. VGCC Health Sciences programs include Nursing, Histotechnology, Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Technology and Radiography.

“When Anne was in her twenties, she was diagnosed with diabetes, a diagnosis that changed her life and shortened it,” Marshall Tanner said. She passed away in 2018 at the age of 54. “Over the years, Anne was blessed to have many loving and caring healthcare professionals at her side through one health crisis after

another,” Tanner continued. “Along with her husband, Tim, and her sisters, Cecelia, Lea and Beverly, we know Anne would be pleased that from this memorial scholarship, many others may join the ranks of Healthcare Heroes.”

An alumna of Middle Tennessee State University and Oglethorpe University, Anne enjoyed a successful professional career in property management in Savannah and Atlanta, Georgia. She was considered a leader and teacher in all her positions and was a regional vice president of her last employer. She had the ability to train and assist other employees to meet and exceed their goals and was recognized with several awards for her management skills and leadership talents.

“Anne had a very outgoing personality; she never met anyone who did not have a positive first impression of her,” her father recalled. “Her ability

to interact in a warm, caring way enabled her to develop and maintain life-long friendships with many people.”

Marshall Tanner spent his career in the manufacturing sector, retiring in 2010 as a Vice President of Bridgestone Bandag. He moved to Oxford in 1991 to manage the local Bandag plant and has been active in the community ever since. Bridgestone Bandag is a longtime corporate supporter of VGCC, and Tanner has played in many VGCC Endowment Fund golf tournaments over the years. He joined the college’s Endowment Fund board of directors in 2017.

“I became involved with supporting VGCC many years ago. I saw that the college provided an accessible educational outlet to local people who did not want to go away to a university but instead start their higher education right here,” Tanner said. “Playing in the VGCC golf



tournament was a positive way to promote the college while raising money to provide more scholarships to help people get the job training that they needed. The recent addition of Truck Driver Training is a prime example. Vance-Granville is a wonderful school, led by people who are thinking long-term about what our community will need in the future.”

“We are honored that the Tanners would remember Anne in such a meaningful way, by supporting hard-working VGCC students who are pursuing careers of service in healthcare,” said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, the community college president.

# VGCC SCHOLARSHIP

# AWARDS

## PRESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

*The Presidential Excellence Award is the College's highest level of academic scholarship. A gift of \$60,000 will provide \$3,000 per year to worthy students.*

Donald and Betsy Seifert

## PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR AWARDS

*In October 1999, the Presidential Scholar Award was established to recognize full-time students with exemplary scholastic records. Currently the scholarship award may be up to \$1,250 depending on the investment income earned the prior year.*

Air Control, Inc.  
Ann Rose Allen/Guild Gift Gallery  
Ann Rose Allen/Guild Gift Gallery at Maria Parham  
Barnett Properties  
Brenda W. Beck  
Duke Energy  
Eben G. & Mary Frances McSwain  
Edward Tarry Watkins Memorial  
Felix McDaniel Family  
Frank and Ruth Askins  
Franklin Regional Medical Center  
Volunteers Auxiliary  
G. Daniel Knight, Jr.  
Gean Bobbitt/ Guild Gift Gallery at Maria Parham  
George Wilson & Pattie Alston Macon/  
Katharine M. Horner  
Scholarship  
Gilbert and Frances Capps  
Gilbert and Francis Capps  
Glen Raven, Inc.  
Glen Raven, Inc.  
GSK  
Guild Gift Gallery  
Guild Gift Gallery at Maria Parham  
Guild Gift Gallery Past & Present  
Volunteers #2  
Guild Gift Gallery Volunteers  
Guy Thomas & Lelle Courtney Horner/  
Guy T. Horner  
Harold and Helen Sherman  
J. Franklin Mills, MD/ Guild Gift Gallery at Maria Parham  
J. Franklin Mills/ Guild Gift Gallery of Maria Parham  
Jerome and Dora Faulkner Memorial

John K. Nelms  
John T. Church, Sr.  
John T. Church, Sr. Memorial  
John Weaver  
Lelia C. Brigham Memorial  
Lelia C. Brigham Memorial  
Leon Turner  
Leslie Carswell/Guild Gift Gallery at Maria Parham  
M. R. Williams  
Marsha J. Nelson  
Mary Ruth Nelms  
Miss Nannie A. Crowder Memorial  
Myrtle Jane Pruitt  
Oxford Lodge #103, I.O.O.F.  
Oxford Lodge, No. 103, I.O.O.F. Revlon  
Past & Present Guild Gift Gallery  
Volunteers of Maria Parham  
Patricia P. Graham  
R.B. "Bob" Butler Memorial  
Rehoboth United Methodist Church  
Robbie Gilliam Hedrick/ Robert Jerome Hedrick  
Robert C. Pirie  
Stanley Fox/Union Bank  
The Johnson Educational Fund  
Triangle North Healthcare RIBN  
Vernell Champion Guild Gift Gallery of Maria Parham  
W. Beverly Tucker, MD/ Guild Gift Gallery at Maria Parham  
William David Barker, Sr. and Anabel Manderson Barker  
Xerox

## PRESIDENTIAL MERIT AWARDS

*Candidates for these awards may be either currently or newly enrolled full-time students with excellent scholastic records. Currently the scholarship award may be up to \$750 depending on the investment income earned the prior year.*

Americal Corporation  
Betty S. Hicks/Granville Industrial & Business Club  
Bignall Speed Jones Memorial  
Bridgestone Bandag Tire Solutions  
CareFocus Nursing  
Christopher Johnson Memorial  
Church of the Holy Innocents  
Coca-Cola Bottlers' Foundation  
Dale W. Ramsey Music  
Dr. and Mrs. M.W. Wester, Jr.  
Dr. Ben F. Currin  
Dwight & Jane Frazier Family  
Eben G. & Mary Frances McSwain

Ella Glover Rowell  
Emma Rose Church  
Farrington Foundation  
Ferguson Family Foundation  
Flextronics International  
Frank and Ruth Askins Nursing  
Friends of Hospice  
George W. Jenkins Memorial Boy Scouts  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Glen Raven, Inc.  
Grace Hamme Jester  
Granville County Cattleman's Association  
Granville Industrial & Business Club  
H. Dermont Hedrick Memorial  
Harriet & Henderson Yarns, Inc.  
Harriette G. Mast Memorial  
Helen & Norris Post  
Helen Jones Sherman Memorial  
Holly Elizabeth Turner Memorial  
Hubbard Family  
Hugh White Holt Memorial  
John Stovall Royster, Jr. Memorial  
John T. Church, Sr.  
Joseph and Carrie Hamme  
Julius and Harriett Banzet  
Kayser-Roth Corporation/  
Creedmoor Distribution Center  
Keith and Stelfanie Williams  
Kittrell Family  
Lace Lastics Company, Inc.  
Leggett Family  
Lenox China  
Linda Aleshire Memorial  
Lucy Royster Brenner Memorial  
Margaret L. Gupton & Linwood M. Gupton Memorial  
Margaret West Cousins Matteson  
Marion Lee Johnson Church  
Marsha J. Nelson  
Marshall Young Cooper, Sr.  
Mishew C. Cooper Nursing  
Miss Nannie Crowder Memorial  
Nelms Family  
Oxford Woman's Club Centennial  
Oxford Woman's Club Memorial  
Professional Construction Estimators Association – Triangle Chapter  
Progress Energy  
R.B. "Bob" Butler Memorial  
Rain Park  
Revlon  
Robert A. Leggett, Jr. Memorial  
Robert A. Miller  
Robert J. Walker Memorial  
Robert T. "Buster" and Elizabeth Williford

Rudolph Corbitt Memorial  
Sam Watkin's Jr.  
Sirchie Finger Print Laboratories  
Talmadge Hamm Memorial  
Thurman and Fannie Crumpler Scouting  
Vera M. Hedrick Memorial  
VGCC Faculty & Staff  
West End Baptist Church  
West End Baptist Church  
William T. "Billy" Watkins Memorial

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

*Recipients of Academic Achievement Scholarships may be either currently or newly enrolled full-time students at VGCC with high scholastic ability, or graduating high school seniors selected by their counselors or principals. Currently the scholarship award may be up to \$500 depending on the investment income earned the prior year.*

Adna B. Pierce Memorial  
Amanda A. "Mandy" Braswell Memorial  
AMVETS – Vance County Chapter 730  
Anne Tanner Berry Memorial  
Annie R. Bullock Memorial/City of Henderson  
Ardagh Glass, Inc.  
Ardagh Group  
Bank of America  
BB&T of Henderson  
BB&T of Oxford  
Ben and Cornelia Terry  
Bernard O. Burgess Memorial Radiography  
Bessie Nelson Trado Memorial/First United Methodist Church  
Brenda McGee Wester, R.N.  
Buggana Subba Reddy Memorial  
Burlington Industries  
Capital Bank  
Carolina Sunrock  
Carrie Draper/Henderson Business & Professional Women's Club  
Cecil L. Chacon, Jr. Memorial  
CertainTeed Corporation  
Charles Brooks  
Chick-fil-A of Henderson  
Church of the Holy Innocents  
Clemens Oscar Seifert/ Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Henderson  
Cooper Auxiliary Post #2417, Inc.  
Davis-Royster Funeral Service



A total of 347 scholarships totaling \$261,700 were awarded to students at Vance-Granville Community College during the 2019-2020 academic year through the generosity of donors to the college.

Davis-Royster Funeral Service  
Diane W. Nethercutt Nursing Memorial  
Dora and Jerome Faulkner Memorial  
Dorothy M. Currin Memorial  
Dorothy M. Currin Nursing  
Dr. & Mrs. Roy L. Noblin Memorial  
Dr. Joseph Alston Boyd, Jr.  
Dr. Raymond A. Stone  
Dr. Rives Williams and Patty Lewis Taylor  
E. Anne Wortham/Henderson Business & Professional Women's Club  
Eastern Carolina Rabbit Breeders Association  
Edward L. Williams Memorial  
Elie Gut/Ideal Fastener Corporation  
Emily G. Whitten/ Henderson Business & Professional Women's Club  
Ethel Jane Rideout Harrison Memorial  
Fitzhugh A. Kesler/ Henderson Business & Professional Women's Club  
Founding Members of the Henderson Police Honor Guards  
Frank H. Madigan  
Frank Tedder Memorial/J.P. Taylor Employees/Universal Leaf  
Franklin County Education Fund  
Franklin Regional Medical Center Volunteers Auxiliary  
Fred E. and Ernestine H. Miller Memorial  
Friends of Hospice  
Gate Precast Company  
George B. Blum Memorial/ Middleburg Ruritan Club  
George E. & Estelle H. Bullock Memorial  
George W. Holden, Jr. Accounting  
George W. Jenkins Memorial Boy Scouts  
Georgia-Pacific Corporation  
Glen Raven, Inc.  
Grady W. Tunstall  
Granville Industrial & Business Club  
Harriette G. Mast Memorial  
Hayden C. Bailey Family Memorial  
Henderson Coca-Cola Bottling Company/Classic Food Services  
Henderson Kiwanis Club/Robert J. Turner  
Henderson Rotary Club  
Henderson Woman's Club  
Henry S. Peoples Memorial/Disabled American Veterans Chapter #67

Henry S. Peoples, Chapter 67, Disabled American Veterans (4)  
Hettie Currin Skipper Memorial Nursing  
Hubert L. Gooch, Sr.  
Hubert Lee Gooch, Jr. Memorial  
Hutson Wester Insurance  
Irene Hamm Hester Memorial/Carolina Cooling & Heating, Inc.  
J.M. White Funeral Home  
James Madison "Jimmy" Joyner Memorial  
Jerry Ellington Memorial  
Jerry Marshall White, Sr. Memorial  
John Brigham Memorial  
John K. Nelms/Granville Industrial Club  
John K. Nelms/Newton  
John Pearson Harris, Jr. Memorial  
John Pearson Harris, Sr. Memorial  
John T. Church, Sr./Roses Stores, Inc.  
Joy Nicole Fleming  
Joy Nicole Fleming Memorial  
Judge Henry and Mamie Banks  
Julius and Harriet Banzet  
Julius M. Frazier Memorial  
Kate M. Wood Memorial  
Kerr Lake Area Home Builders Association/ Red Faulkner Memorial  
Kerr Lake Area Home Builders Association/Carl Lawrence  
Kerr Lake Area Home Builders Association/John Franklin  
Kerr Lake Board of Realtors  
Ladies Auxiliary of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Hill  
Lenwood A. Crabtree  
Linda Vele Johnson Memorial  
Lou Ann Murphy Basic Skills  
Lucille Couch  
Lucy West Abbott Memorial  
Lunsford B. Brown  
Martha M. Clark  
Marvin H. Baugh/Warrenton Rotary Club  
Mary Helen Harris Shields Memorial  
Mary Potter High School (2)  
Mattie B. Harris  
Michael White  
Mike Huffaker  
Milton F. Legg, Jr. Memorial  
Minnie Moseley Cawley Memorial  
Miss Nannie Crowder Memorial  
Morris Wheeler West, Sr. Memorial  
Mr. and Mrs. B.A. Parker  
Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Keller and William Lee Keller Memorial  
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Delbridge  
Myrtle Jane Pruitt Memorial (6)

Nathan Burwell Memorial  
Nekoosa Packaging  
Newton Instrument Company, Inc.  
Nortel  
Novozymes North America, Inc.  
Otha Wilkins Memorial  
Owens-Illinois  
Oxford Junior Woman's Club  
Oxford Lions Club  
Oxford-Henderson Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma  
Theta Sorority, Inc.  
Pauline Neisler Brewer  
Planters National Bank  
Priscilla Brooks Nursing  
PSNC Energy  
Putlur Jayarama Reddy Memorial  
Putlur S. Devi Reddy Memorial  
R.B. "Bob" Butler Memorial  
Rachel P. Thomas  
RBC Centura Bank of Oxford  
Reese Memorial  
Revlon (3)  
Robert B. Harrison/Henderson Kiwanis Club  
Robert Burnham Harrison, Sr. Memorial  
Robert J. and Isabel B. Morgan Memorial  
Robin Rowland Memorial  
Ronnie Daniel Memorial  
Rowan-Walters Nursing (2)  
Royal Home Fashions  
Royster, Cross & Hensley, LLP  
S. M. Watkins, Sr. Memorial  
Sam Alford Memorial/Henderson Lions Club  
Samir Harith "Reef" Abdul Rasheed Memorial  
Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company  
Sante Fe Natural Tobacco Co.  
Scott Parker Peace Memorial  
Seby B. Jones and Rufus T. Aiken  
Smith Doss and Claude Monnier  
Sophia H. Currin Memorial  
South Granville Rotary Club  
Stanley H. Fox  
Steven Allen and Thomas "Tomme" Wayne  
Sue Wooten Grissom  
SunTrust Bank  
T & T Laundries, Inc.  
T.J. "Pooky" Currin Memorial  
Talmadge Hamm Memorial  
The Barnabus Fund James R. Barnes/  
The IAMS Company  
The Silo Restaurant  
Thelma 'Bug' Dempsey/Henderson Business & Professional

Women's Club  
Thomas B. Currin/Oxford Rotary Club  
Thomas G. & Mildred K. Taylor Memorial  
Thurston S. "Judge" & Vivian L. Parham  
Triangle Home Health Care, Inc  
Triangle North Healthcare Foundation  
Triangle North Healthcare RIBN  
Universal Leaf North America, US  
Vance Construction Company  
Vance County Association of Educational Office Professionals  
Vance County Farm Bureau  
Vance County Unit N. C. Retired School Personnel  
Vesta Fortson Manning Memorial  
Veterans of Foreign Wars/ Hill Cooper Post #2417, Inc. (3)  
W. D. Payne/Henderson High School Class of 1938  
W. D. Payne/Henderson High School Class of 1939 (2)  
W. D. Payne/Vance County Unit NC Retired School Personnel  
W.B. Beasley Memorial  
Walter J. Rublein Memorial  
Warrenton Rotary Club  
Wesley and Shelia K. Smith  
William D. Payne  
William J. "Bill" Matthews Memorial  
Wilson Sawyer/Variety Wholesalers

## ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Corbitt Preservation Association  
Nannie Crowder  
Henry and Cathy Dixon  
Duke Energy  
Glen Raven  
Lloyd Gabriel Memorial/Air Control, Inc.  
The Allen and Margaret Jones, Lucy Jones Allen Scholarship in Nursing  
The Howard and Thelma "Kitty" McRain Memorial Scholarship in Automotive  
Redding Family Foundation  
State Employees Credit Union Foundation - Curriculum  
State Employees Credit Union Foundation - Con Ed  
Dan and Susan Sullivan  
Kathryn Bentley Watson  
Vance-Granville Community College Faculty and Staff

# VANGUARD VISION

## OUR MISSION

Vance-Granville Community  
College educates, inspires, and  
supports a diverse community  
of learners to achieve professional  
and personal success.

## OUR VISION

Vance-Granville  
Community College  
will be a catalyst in  
developing strong  
communities where  
everyone experiences  
a fulfilling quality of life.



# OUR VALUES

## TEACHING and LEARNING

We value learning for all, providing quality instruction in a supportive environment aligned with community and workforce needs of today and tomorrow.

- A “culture of student success” is embodied in the way we engage, teach, advise, and administer policy to students
- Professional development in excellent teaching is provided and embraced. Innovation in teaching and learning is encouraged
- Measuring and monitoring student success allows us to continuously refine and improve our craft and process to ensure equitable student outcomes

## RESPECT

We value a climate where employees, students, and community members feel accepted and meaningfully involved in a common cause. We recognize that we are interdependent and will demonstrate respect for one another.

- Conflict is viewed as an opportunity to find a constructive solution that helps all to succeed
- Genuine interest and care are shown to our co-workers and students
- Everyone is accountable at VGCC for success
- We acknowledge, celebrate, and give credit where it is due

## COMMUNITY

We value positive and supportive relationships among the faculty, staff, and students. We strive to be a proactive partner in our community.

- We provide access to higher education for our communities. VGCC is a place where everyone is welcome
- We proactively seek to understand each other, our students, and our community in the fulfillment of our mission
- We consider the impact our decisions have on each other, our students, and our community
- Diversity is celebrated and inclusion is practiced

## COMMUNICATION

We value decision making through broad-based, respectful team work and effective dialog

- Our communication is genuine and transparent
- We communicate by being totally honest and totally kind
- Follow-through is an important part of communicating

# OUR GOALS

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Developing new and enhancing existing partnerships to strengthen workforce retraining and development, and providing additional pathways for higher education.

- **1.1** – Implementing short-term workforce development programs to build a strong base and prepare tomorrow’s workforce.
- **1.2** – Developing additional centers throughout our service area to offer educational opportunities for all residents.
- **1.3** – Constructing new transfer pathways and opportunities for students to streamline education beyond Vance-Granville.
- **1.4** – Enhancing existing K-12 partnerships to prepare students for work after graduation.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

Facilitating student success by incorporating professional development for faculty and supporting our students with intentional strategies.

- **2.1** – Ensuring that all students have equity in learning outcomes and support services.
- **2.2** – Structuring programs and schedules for efficient completion.
- **2.3** – Fostering quality instruction through faculty support and resources.
- **2.4** – Establishing and enhancing student services that support improved access, retention, success and completion.

## EMPLOYEE CULTURE AND INNOVATION

Supporting employees to enhance their growth, development, and experience leading to employee retention.

- **3.1** – Providing opportunities for internal collaboration to increase awareness to all employees on college matters.
- **3.2** – Improving processes and technology that facilitate an environment of continuous improvement.
- **3.3** – Enhancing the quality and consistency of services and resources to strengthen employee support.

## INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

Communicating and securing outside resources allowing VGCC to prosper now and in the future..

- **4.1** – Enhancing our external communications to build our foundation for the future.
- **4.2** – Securing additional resources to bolster, build, and extend workforce capacity.
- **4.3** – Cultivating the Vance-Granville brand through marketing, communications, and student results.
- **4.4** – Maintaining financial integrity with all avenues of budgeting.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees on January 27, 2020.

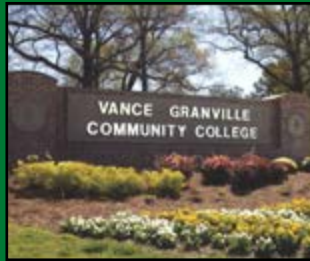


# Vance-Granville Community College

**Educating. Inspiring. Supporting.**

## Main Campus

200 Community College Road  
P.O. Box 917  
Henderson, NC 27536  
**(252) 492-2061**



## South Campus

1547 S. Campus Drive  
P.O. Box 39  
Creedmoor, NC 27522  
**(919) 528-4737**

## Franklin Campus

8100 NC 56 Highway  
P.O. Box 777  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
**(919) 496-1567**



## Warren Campus

210 West Ridgeway Street  
P.O. Box 207  
Warrenton, NC 27589  
**(252) 257-1900**

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VGCC's website - [www.vgcc.edu](http://www.vgcc.edu) - is optimized for smartphones and tablets

# [www.VGCC.edu](http://www.VGCC.edu) • [studentsuccess@vgcc.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@vgcc.edu)

Vance-Granville Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Vance-Granville Community College. Vance-Granville Community College is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The college serves all students regardless of race, creed, color, age, sex, national or disabling conditions. Vance-Granville Community College is a Tobacco-Free College.