

community Access

SUMMER 2021

Quarterly Newsletter of
Alamance Community College



Ongoing construction progress includes (from left): Culinary Arts Expansion Project nears completion; a new student commons and dining facility will fill this recently gutted space; Animal Care and Horticulture programs will soon move into renovated shop building.

College Construction, Renovation Projects on Target

Exciting progress is being made on a variety of capital projects here at ACC.

The College's main campus this spring and summer is bustling with construction activity as the result of the voter-approved 2018 county bond projects and Connect NC Bond funding.

The county bond-funded Biotechnology Center of Excellence begins construction in August while Phase 1 of the campus Backfill Project that began last fall is near completion. This entails the total upfit and renovation of the existing old shop building that previously housed ACC's automotive and welding programs, both of which moved to the Advanced Applied Technology Center in 2017.

Later this summer, the renovated shop building becomes the home of Animal Care & Management Technology and an expanded Horticulture Technology program.

Phase 2 of the Backfill Project, slated for later this summer, will transform the first floor of the B Building into a new home for the Alamance-Burlington Schools Early College. Another county-funded project just begun will relocate the Emergency Medical Technology (EMT) program to expanded space on the second floor of the B Building.

Another Backfill project that began in June will transform the look and accessibility of the student commons and dining facilities in the main campus building. It is expected to be ready for students and college employees to enjoy by January 2022.

The Culinary Arts Expansion Project, which began in early 2021, was completed in mid-June. The result is the creation of a specialized state-of-the-art production kitchen and dining space simulating the preparation and serving environments students will experience when they enter the workforce.

Enroll Now for Fall!

Priority registration is now open
for Fall 2021.

Dates to Remember

- Fall classes begin August 16.
Registration ongoing now through August 13.
- Aug 10—Payment deadline for Early Fall Registration.

Visit alamancecc.edu/admissions for the application process.

Call **336-506-4270** for virtual and phone advising appointments.

**REGISTER NOW—
CLASSES ARE FILLING FAST!**

ACC Honors 789 Graduates at Virtual Commencement, Nurse Pinning Ceremony



Adam Schechter, Chairman and CEO of Labcorp, delivered the commencement keynote address.

The College on May 14 conferred degrees, diplomas and certificates on 789 graduates, a total that represents 685 Curriculum (degrees/diplomas/certificates), 80 GED/HiSet, and 24 Adult High School.

For the second consecutive year, a virtual ceremony replaced the traditional on-site event due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.

Some highlights:

- The College conferred credentials on 105 high school students taking college credit classes through the free Career and College Promise (CCP) program.
- 208 received Honors and 123 earned High Honors among the total curriculum graduates.
- 15 GED/HiSet students earned Honors.
- Patrick Henry was the top GED testing student.

See **GRADUATION** on page 3

ACC Breaks Ground on Biotechnology Center of Excellence

Construction Set to Begin This Summer



Dozens of special guests were invited to ceremoniously break ground for the Biotechnology Center of Excellence.

The College held a ground-breaking ceremony on May 7 to kick off the initial construction phase for the \$17.6 million Biotechnology Center of Excellence facility.

College administrators, public officials, and business leaders attended the in-

per-

son ceremony while observing social distancing rules. The Biotechnology Center of Excellence, a freestanding, three-story, 30,000 square foot structure, will be a mix of labs and classroom space serving the Biotechnology, Medical Laboratory Technol-

ogy, Histotechnology and Agricultural-Biotechnology programs. Funding is through the 2018 voter-approved county construction bond.

Burlington is the #1 Small Metropolitan Area in the nation for health diagnostics and testing. Further, biosci-

ences job growth is expected to grow exponentially over the next decade.

A large invited crowd of dignitaries, elected officials, industry leaders, and college personnel listened to an array of speakers, including:

- ACC President Dr. Algie Gatewood
- Dr. Roslyn Crisp, Chair of the ACC Board of Trustees
- John Paisley, Chairman of the Alamance County Board of Commissioners
- Thomas Stith III, President of the NC Community College System
- Amy Galey, NC State Senator from District 24
- Sandy van der Vaart, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Counsel of Labcorp, Inc.
- Dr. James B. Powell, Former CEO of Labcorp, Inc.
- Chris Brasier, Clark Nexsen Architects
- Kinberly Pearson, ACC Biotechnology Alumna Class of 2014
- Travis Wheeley, ACC Biotechnology student

The event concluded with the ceremonial groundbreaking as several groups of dignitaries donned construction helmets and pitched dirt with silver-plated shovels.

Among those who ceremoniously broke ground were ACC President Dr. Algie Gatewood; ACC Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Roslyn Crisp; NC Community Colleges System President Thomas Stith, III; NC State Senator Amy S. Galey; Alamance County Board of Commissioners Chair John Paisley; NC State House Rep. Ricky Hurtado; NC House Rep. Dennis Riddell; and ACC Foundation President Charles Canaday.

Construction is expected to begin this summer. The Center of Excellence building will open for students in fall 2022.

ACC Announces Grant That Covers Tuition for HS Graduates *2021 Graduates Encouraged to Enroll Now*

Most 2021 North Carolina high school graduates will have their tuition and fees covered at any state community college for up to two years thanks to the establishment of a new state grant.

The Longleaf Commitment is a grant program for 2021 North Carolina high school graduates who will attend any one of the state's 58 community colleges starting in the fall 2021 semester.

High school graduates are eligible to receive this grant—not a loan—to cover tuition and fees toward a degree or to attain transfer credit. Full-time eligible students are guaranteed to receive \$700 to \$2,800 per academic year, for a total of two years. Less than full-time students may receive a partial award.

Locally, the grant funds will provide a path for incoming students at Alamance Community College to persist, complete, and achieve their academic goals.

Said Dr. Lisa Johnson, Vice President of Instruction at Alamance Community College: "This is a game changer for the graduating class of 2021 and their parents. We look forward to assisting high-school graduates and their parents as they navigate this process. This is an opportunity to graduate from college, debt-free, with a degree that allows graduates to be employed in high-demand professions that serve our state's communities."

The Longleaf Commitment Grant ends at the conclusion of the 2023 spring semester.

Eligibility Requirements for the Longleaf Commitment Grant include:

- Graduate from a North Carolina high school in 2021.
- Be a North Carolina resident for tuition purposes.
- Be a first-time college student, including Career & College Promise (CCP) and Early College. Students enrolled in a high school in fall 2021 are also eligible.
- Have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from \$0–\$15,000. EFC is based upon a student's FAFSA determination.

Students may contact the Student Success Office at ACC directly at 336-506-4270.

ACC Graduates First 7 Apprentices from Career Accelerator Program

The Alamance Career Accelerator Program graduated seven apprentices from its first cohort that began in 2016 at a ceremony held at the College on June 3.

The Career Accelerator Program (CAP) is designed for high school juniors and seniors who can earn money on the job as soon as they start the apprenticeship program while also taking college classes. It is a partnership between Alamance Community College, Alamance-Burlington Schools, and a dozen industrial businesses in Alamance County.

The seven industrial students who earned their associate degrees from Alamance Community College last month had worked full-time as apprentices since 2016. They are Matthew Andress, Shawmut Corporation; Benjamin Barr, GKN; Trevor Coffey, Sandvik; Justin Padmos, Fairystone Fabrics; Gabe Redding, Glen Raven, Inc.; Jace Walker, RegO; and Ryan Woods, GKN.

All tuition, books, and fees for the associate's degree program are covered, so the students graduate debt-free. Upon completion of the program, apprentices earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) from Alamance Community College and have the option to then transfer degree credits to most state four-year universities.

The students also earn specialized certification and experience that is recognized and sought by employers. Many employers offer health insurance, retirement, and paid-time-off benefits to apprentices. Currently 12 participating local companies are members of the consortium. A new cohort of apprentices has been initiated each year since 2016 in Alamance County.

GRADUATION from page 1

- Nathan Thacker was the top Adult High School student with a 4.0 GPA.

Adam Schechter, the Chairman and CEO of Labcorp, Incorporated, delivered the commencement address. In his pre-recorded remarks, Mr. Schechter told the ACC Class of 2021:

- "Many of you are planning your future. From my own experience, my advice is don't let surprises limit you—be prepared for them and embrace opportunities along the way."
- "Be a lifelong learner. Assume the world will keep changing, and your degree is the foundation for your future. Be curious. Absorb the world around you, learn from people who are different from you, and keep asking questions. Take roles and responsibilities that challenge you and may seem daunting. Remember that the wider and stronger your base, the taller your pyramid will be. Build a strong foundation of experiences."
- "Keep ethics and integrity at the forefront of all you do. Know when you go to bed at night that you did the best you could, worked as hard as you could, and not only accomplished your goals, but did so in the right way. Look in the mirror and know you did the right things for the right reasons."



Among those celebrating the CAP graduation were (from left): Jim Bryan, President of Fairystone Fabrics; Chris Rojas, Fairystone Fabrics; Justin Padmos, apprentice; Kathryn Castelloes, Apprenticeship NC; Dr. Angela Bost, ABSS Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Algie Gatewood, ACC President; Trevor Coffey, apprentice; Jace Walker, apprentice; Gabe Redding, apprentice; Ryan Woods, apprentice; Benjamin Barr, apprentice (red shirt); and business partner officials. Apprentice Matthew Andress was absent.

The CAP graduates completed approximately 8,000 hours, comprised of 6400 hours working as apprentices and 1600 hours learning in class, according to Jim Bryan, President of Fairystone Fabrics.

Apprentices have grown by about 80% since Apprenticeship NC began partnering with the NC Community College System in 2016, according to Kathryn Castelloes, Apprenticeship Director for Apprenticeship NC.

"You are some of the most important graduates in our college...About ten thousand Americans reach retirement age every day, and so we need to fill those jobs. It's one reason the CAP program was created. We could not have been a success with this program if not for the full cooperation of all our partners in this effort," said Dr. Algie Gatewood, ACC President.

Alamance CAP is recognized by the State of North Carolina as a registered apprenticeship program.



Happy nursing graduates posed for family photos following the outdoor pinning ceremony.

Associate Degree in Nursing Pinning Ceremony

Prior to the virtual commencement ceremony, the Associate Degree in Nursing department held an in-person pinning ceremony outside the campus Allied Health/Powell Building. The College's new policy allowing no masks outdoors allowed nursing graduates and their families to watch from lawn chairs in the parking lot. In all, 20 nursing graduates received pins signifying completion of their training prior to becoming Registered Nurses.

College Honors Distinguished Alumni, Employee and Student Award Winners



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ACC's annual Celebrating Excellence Awards was held May 27 to honor alumni, students, and faculty and staff.

New CDC guidelines allowed the event to be staged in-person, limited to college hosts, award recipients and their immediate family members.

2021 Distinguished Alumna

Reagan Chandler Gural is a graduate of ACC's Business Administration program. She took evening classes at the College while working during the day at MidCarolina Bank. Between 2003-2011, Reagan received promotions including Relationship Development Associate. In 2011, Reagan was hired by the Alamance Chamber as Vice President of Membership Development where she designed and implemented programs focused on recruitment and retention. In 2015, she became Vice President of the Chamber. She serves as a member of ACC's Small Business Center Advisory Council.

The Distinguished Alumni recipient was presented with the Presidential Medallion, crafted by ACC's Computer-Integrated Machining Department.

2021 Inspiration Award

Rolanda Long Stanfield is a 1989 graduate of ACC where she studied for her degree in Early Childhood Education while working part-time at Wee Care Child Development Center in Burlington.

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VISIT ACC'S WEB SITE: www.alamancecc.edu

She continued her career at Wee Care for more than 20 years in many capacities, including as Center Director until the business was sold in 2018. In 2005, Rolanda earned her bachelor's degree in Child Development from UNC Greensboro. In early 2019 she began a new career at the state-affiliated Children's Development Services Agency. In 2020, she was promoted to Early Intervention Service Coordinator. Her current role allows Rolanda to use her expertise and extensive knowledge of child development while working with community agencies, professionals, and families of young children.

Also recognized were:

- **Donna Pruitt**, Dental Assisting Instructor, as Excellence in Teaching Recipient
- **Valerie Whitley**, Computer Information Technology Instructor, as Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year

- **Chief David Prevatte**, Director of Public Safety, as Staff Member of the Year
- **Carrie Russell**, High School Equivalency Online Instructor, as Workforce Development Instructor of the Year

Student Academic Excellence Award Recipient:

Anna Peterson earned an Associate in Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Education on May 14. During her time as a non-traditional student at ACC, Anna says she has learned how to better a child's learning through positive and imaginative hands-on learning. Anna volunteered her professional photography skills to document the Early Childhood Education department during an all-day ACC Open House College to Career Festival in early 2020.

Dallas Herring Achievement Award & NC Governor Robert W. Scott Leadership Award:

Kimera Naidoo is the first ACC student to be selected as recipient of both these awards in the same year. Kimera is working toward an Associate in Arts with a secondary major in an Associate in Fine Arts - Visual Arts. She hopes to transfer to Appalachian State University to study communication sciences and disorders. A native of South Africa, Kimera came to North Carolina in 2018 where she immersed herself in education to study speech language pathology. She credits her ACC experience and the leadership roles she has been provided with gaining self-confidence and understanding for others.



Past recipients of the ACC Distinguished Alumni Award joined the 2021 recipients. From left: Jesse Long (2013), Leon Saul (2018), Amy Franklin (2020), 2021 Distinguished Alumna Reagan Gural, 2021 Inspiration Award recipient Rolanda Stanfield, Candace Rey (2000), and Jack Overacre (1999).