

EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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CareerFocus™



Meet EDGE Scholarship Students

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On the cover:

Recipients of the EDGE Scholarship are (from left) Kaila Boulden, Stacey Letchworth, and Alex King. Read more about them on page 6.

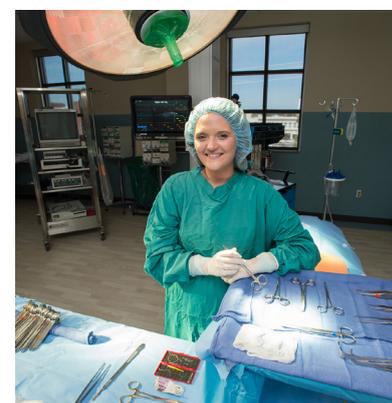
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FEATURES

- 2** Edgecombe Community College Announces Innovative Scholarship
- 2** Layoff Results in New Career Goals
- 3** EDGE Scholarship Answers National Call to Boost Number of College-Educated Adults
- 3** Math Teacher Plans to Study Accounting
- 4** Natural Playscape Provides a Public Playground and Learning Lab for Students
- 4** New Class Is Empowering Local Residents to Be Healthier
- 5** ECC and Wesleyan Sign Transfer Agreement
- 5** College Launches New Brand
- 6** Employees Complete Safety Training, Campus Security Strengthened
- 6** Meet EDGE Scholarship Students
- 7** College Expands Emergency and Public Safety Programs
- 8** New Biotechnology and Medical Simulation Center Is Expanding College's Reach and Improving Healthcare Education
- 10** Registration Under Way in College and Career Readiness
- 10** Sign Up for a Continuing Education Class
- 10** EDGE Scholarship Is Taking the Worry Out of Paying for College
- 11** Edgecombe Community College A-Z
- 12** Edgecombe Community College A-Z for High School Students

Inside back cover

College Celebrates High School Students on ECC Signing Day



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It's the easy way to share articles, access Edgecombe Community College resources, and get on the path to a new career.



Edgecombe Community College Announces Innovative Scholarship

Full-ride scholarship pays for education for up to three years

Edgecombe Community College has joined the national effort to increase the number of college graduates while decreasing the financial burden for students seeking a college diploma.

Beginning in Fall 2016, ECC is offering a three-year EDGE Scholarship to fully fund the education of qualified students at the in-state tuition level.

Current tuition is \$76 per semester hour or a maximum of \$1,216 for a full-time load of 16 hours.

The scholarship is both merit- and need-based and is open to full-time and part-time students who are enrolled at least half-time.

The scholarship covers tuition, books, and fees for the recipients, who must be U.S. citizens. By meeting the requirements and remaining in good standing, EDGE Scholarship students will graduate with a debt-free community college degree.

ECC is among the first North Carolina community colleges to move in this direction. At the end of the three-year pilot project, the college will study the results



and determine the future of the program.

Staton Dupree is among area high school graduates from the Class of 2016 to receive the EDGE Scholarship. He will enter Edgecombe Community College this fall with 20 tuition-free college credits through the college's Career and College Promise program with high schools.

Dupree plans to transfer to NC State University for his junior and senior years. He estimates that the EDGE Scholarship will save his family more than \$20,000 per year in college expenses before he transfers.

"This new scholarship program has taken wings," says Michael

Jordan, vice president of student services. Applications for the EDGE Scholarship have been steady since the scholarship was announced in May.

Thus far, about 50 percent of applicants are recent high school graduates, and 50 percent are non-traditional students. The college anticipates awarding approximately 200 EDGE Scholarships for the Fall 2016 term.

To qualify for the program, a student must have a 2.6 grade point average (GPA for high school and/or college credits) and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Recipients must maintain a minimum 2.6 GPA, remain enrolled at ECC, file

the FAFSA annually, and make continuous progress toward a degree.

Students with a 3.5 GPA or greater may receive additional honors as EDGE Scholars. Beyond free in-state tuition, books, and fees, EDGE Scholars will enjoy priority registration and book pick-up services, opportunities for service learning, and invitations to selected college events and performances.

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Layoff Results in New Career Goals

Gloria Whitaker worked in the information technology field for more than 18 years at various companies until she was laid off in 2012 from RBC Bank/PNC Bank.

Instead of panicking and taking the next job that came along, Whitaker went back to school and in 18 months earned a master's degree in information systems and technology management, a program that typically takes three years to complete.

Along the way, bills had to be paid. She picked up a couple of part-time jobs, working as a bus driver for Nash-Rocky Mount Schools and as an administrative assistant for the Edgecombe Community College Foundation.

True to her nature of valuing education, Whitaker enrolled in several continuing education classes in accounting at ECC after settling into her new role at the foundation.

"That's when I decided to do something different," says Whitaker, 43. "I realized that I really like accounting."

Continuing to self-fund her education through loans seemed risky, especially with so many unknowns. She applied for ECC's new EDGE Scholarship, and within a few weeks, she was notified that she received the award.

"I am so excited," she says. "No more loans!"



Gloria Whitaker has turned a layoff into an opportunity to pursue a new career.

Whitaker believes the EDGE Scholarship is a perfect opportunity for prospective students to advance their education at a quality school.

"I've been to a four-year school," explains Whitaker, who received her undergraduate degree from North Carolina A&T State University. "Edgecombe Community College provides as good an education as those schools while offering a chance to build relationships at a smaller school."

She plans to add an Accounting degree along with a Business Administration degree and Quickbooks and Excel certifications to her educational arsenal, get a job at a corporation, and then maybe branch off on her own.

Whitaker adds, "Getting the accounting piece to go along with my technology background, I really think I can go somewhere with it."

– J. Eric Eckard

EDGE Scholarship Answers National Call to Boost Number of College-Educated Adults

by Dr. Deborah L. Lamm



The EDGE Scholarship “demonstrates the college’s commitment to serve NC residents/US citizens who desire an education, make progress toward a credential, and prove their ability to succeed,” says Dr. Deborah L. Lamm, president of Edgecombe Community College.

The current national education debate proposes to extend free public education to post-secondary credentials, including two-year degrees, and to bolster the national workforce by increasing the numbers of college-educated adults.

Programs in Tennessee and Chicago inspired the White House to begin the conversation over a year ago when President Obama unveiled his proposal, America’s College Promise, that is, a promise to make two years of community college free for responsible students.

Candidates for the 2016 Presidential primaries have touted a range of solutions from transparency in costs and tuition caps to making community college tuition free or debt free. Each of these discussions has as its goal to decrease the burden of student loans and to minimize the occurrence of loan defaults.

Additionally, the national dialogue speaks to developing our workforce to maximize productivity. A Georgetown University Center 2014 study projects that by 2018, 67% of jobs in North Carolina will require post-secondary education. Currently, only 54% of North Carolina’s workforce holds a credential beyond a high school diploma.

Governor McCrory, as part of the State dialogue, envisions North Carolina narrowing the skills gap between education and job requirements by achieving the goal of 67% of

working adults with education and training beyond high school by 2025.

In January, the State Board of Community Colleges passed a resolution supporting North Carolina’s Call to Action and the Governor’s goal of having 67% of working-aged adults with education and training beyond high school.

Edgecombe Community College joins the national discourse at the local level by offering the EDGE Scholarship beginning in Fall 2016 and continuing through Summer 2019.

The EDGE Scholarship, for students who qualify, will cover tuition, books, and fees, based on in-state tuition only, after all other sources of funding are exhausted.

Funds to be used first are available from Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), Federal Work Study, and aid for military families, among others.

North Carolina also offers grants that benefit community college students. Additionally, there are private sources for scholarships, such as those offered by the ECC Foundation, Golden LEAF Foundation, and the SECU Foundation. Finally, funds are available through profits generated from the ECC Bookstore.

The EDGE Scholarship is both a merit- and a need-based scholarship. Students must meet certain requirements to be awarded the EDGE Scholarship and to remain funded in the program. Recipients must be US citizens.

To qualify, students must:

- Have a high school grade point average (if a new admission) or cumulative college grade point average (if a returning student) of at least 2.6;
- Complete the FAFSA each calendar year;
- Be enrolled at Edgecombe Community College at least one-half time;
- Make progress toward a credential;
- Continuously enroll at Edgecombe Community College after qualifying for the EDGE Scholarship, fall and spring semesters; and
- Maintain a cumulative college grade point average of at least 2.6.

Edgecombe Community College is interested in improving the higher education gauge for Edgecombe County by increasing its graduation rate and by helping the state and the nation raise the bar for the required education of its citizenry to beyond the high school diploma.



“Without the scholarship, I don’t think I would have been able to do it, especially with a new baby on the way,” says Ryan Braley.

Math Teacher Plans to Study Accounting

Ryan Braley has been a numbers guy most of his life.

He has a bachelor’s degree in math from Penn State, he earned a teaching certificate from the University of Pittsburgh, and he’s been teaching math in public schools for the past seven years.

But he’s always had a dream of opening his own accounting firm.

The self-proclaimed “math nerd” and his wife just bought a fixer-upper in Tarboro, and their first child is on the way. As a math teacher at Tarboro High School, there’s not a lot of free time to spend with his wife or renovate his new home.

Plus, there’s the financial aspect of going back to school while saving capital for a new business.

“I had no idea financially how I could go back to school,” he says.

Then one day while on lunch duty at the high school, by chance he overheard a group talking about Edgecombe Community College’s new EDGE Scholarship.

“I’ve been looking for something so I could spend more time with my family,” says Braley, 31. “We’ve been talking about me going back and eventually getting an accounting degree and opening up my own firm.”

Braley applied for the EDGE Scholarship, which will fund his education for up to three years as long he meets certain requirements. After receiving word that the scholarship was his, he said he was “really excited” and that he is now a little closer to realizing his dream.

– J. Eric Eckard

Natural Playscape Provides a Public Playground and Learning Lab for Students

by J. Eric Eckard

While video games and cell phones keep kids indoors, Edgewcombe Community

College is doing its part to get children back outside.

A section of the college's Tarboro campus has been transformed into a Natural Playscape, complete with a teepee, observation deck, seesaw, and sandboxes – all made of wood and other natural materials.

"It's a playground without plastic," says Mary Stocks, chair of Early Childhood Education.

A \$25,000 grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust's Healthy Places NC initiative funded the project.

"We want to focus on reducing obesity in low-income areas," says Kelly Anderson, instructor of Early Childhood Education. "We want to get children outside and playing."

Located adjacent to the Wetlands Trail entrance, trees, boulders, and logs for climbing dot the mulch-rich playground. But the area isn't just for running and jumping. The Playscape also features other sensory materials, such as wooden

wind chimes in its music wall, a paint area, resource box of outside activities, and a library box.

Jennifer Derby, instructor of Early Childhood Education, says the college would like to see more natural playscapes pop up in Edgewcombe County.

"We want our Playscape to be a model for child cares in the community so they can see how easy it is to build these playscapes," she explains. "We're inviting day cares in the community to use it, which will also provide our Early Childhood Education students with a learning lab so they can learn more about outdoor education."

Studies have shown that playgrounds increase attention span, decrease bullying, and help with young people's social skills.

The Healthy Places NC grant paid for the materials, but volunteers from the college and community provided the labor.

Landscape architect Tom Moss organized several workdays over the past year for volunteers from ECC, Edgewcombe Early College High School, and Cummins.

"The volunteers did all the work, and the money went toward



"We love this little space," says Liz Aguilera Rodriguez (back left), owner of Liz's Creative Kids. "It's fun outside," agrees Lilah Rodriguez, 6, who is busy on the music wall. Playing behind her are twins Matti and Morgan Harrell, age 6.

equipment, fencing, boulder, plants, and mulch," Stocks says.

"One more work weekend, and it will be finished. The community is welcome to enjoy it."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Laura Clark (right), Health Occupations coordinator, assists Chauronda Williams (standing) with proper placement of a blood pressure cuff on classmate Glenda Jackson. Through the new Community Health Coach class, local residents are learning how to improve health.

New Class Is Empowering Local Residents to Be Healthier

Edgewcombe Community College is working to improve the health of local residents, one at a time.

Through its new Community Health Coach program, the college is teaching students that small changes lead to big results.

Community Health Coach is a unique collaboration between Edgewcombe Community College and the East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine. At this time, it is the only program of its kind in the state.

The college offered its first Community Health Coach class this past spring, with 10 community members completing the program.

Students in the current class already are incorporating lessons learned into their daily lives.

"We are watching what we eat, reading food labels, drinking more water, and sharing everything with family and friends," says student Katie Staton.

The Community Health Coach program focuses on chronic disease prevention and management, obesity and weight management, and access to care.

Topics studied include symptoms of chronic diseases, nutrition, exercise, tobacco use, cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and physical activity.

Graduates can work in numerous health care settings under licensed health care professionals as well as in churches and other community organizations.

The next class is set for September 6-November 7 on the Rocky Mount campus. A class on the Tarboro campus meets October 3-December 6.

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Dr. Dewey Clark, president of North Carolina Wesleyan College, and Dr. Deborah Lamm, president of Edgecombe Community College, reauthorize an agreement that enables ECC graduates of specific Associate in Applied Science degrees to transfer to Wesleyan to complete four-year degrees.

ECC and Wesleyan Sign Transfer Agreement

Associate in Applied Science degrees typically are not college transfer programs. Dr. Starnes explains, “Industry is starting to demand more than a two-year degree from prospective employees, so any steps we can take to strengthen training in the applied sciences will benefit students and local employers.”

Wesleyan is among a number of independent North Carolina colleges and universities that have signed the Independent Comprehensive Articulation Agreement with the North Carolina Community College System. This agreement enables any student who has obtained an Associate in Arts or an Associate in Science degree from any community college statewide to transfer into certain baccalaureate degree programs at Wesleyan.

“Edgecombe Community College continues to educate outstanding students who are very prepared to continue and earn bachelor’s degrees,” says Wesleyan President Dr. Dewey Clark.

“It is important that we provide these students with an easy transition, credit for the quality work they have done at Edgecombe, and affordability through merit scholarships.”

by Mary Tom Bass

Edgecombe Community College and North Carolina Wesleyan College reauthorized a collaborative articulation agreement in June that will help qualified ECC graduates transfer to Wesleyan.

The goal is to enable a seamless transfer for students who enroll at Wesleyan following completion of their two-year degree at ECC.

The articulation agreement targets Edgecombe Community College students who complete specific Associate in Applied Science degrees: Accounting, Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, General Education, Human Services Technology, Information Technology, Medical Assisting, Medical Office Administration, Nursing, and Office Administration.

Through the Independent Comprehensive Articulation Agreement with the North Carolina Community College System, ECC graduates who have completed an Associate in Arts degree or an Associate in Science degree may transfer to Wesleyan.

Transfer agreements for students who complete these degree programs have been in place for years between the community college and Wesleyan.

“We have a long history of successful partnerships with Wesleyan,” says Dr. Harry Starnes, dean of the Division of Arts and Sciences at Edgecombe Community College.

“This articulation agreement is especially beneficial to local students who prefer to stay in the area to pursue higher education.”

College Launches New Brand

This past year, Edgecombe Community College introduced its new tagline:

“Get more than an education. Get the Edge.”

“We believe this new tagline better reflects who we are and our mission in the community,” says ECC President Dr. Deborah Lamm.

“Whether students seek to improve job skills, transfer to a four-year institution, or complete a program in two years or less and enter the workforce, Edgecombe Community College provides the edge to help students succeed.”



**Get More Than An Education.
Get The Edge.**

In early 2016, the college also released a redesign of its website at www.edgecombe.edu.

The goals of the redesign, which took more than a year to develop and implement, were:

- To provide quality content in a more attractive and user-friendly environment;
- To improve the “front door” aspect in order to increase interaction with prospective and current students;
- To develop a responsive site to provide optimal viewing and interaction across a wide range of devices, from mobile phones to desktop monitors;
- To advance the college’s brand: “Get more than an education. Get the Edge.”

“We continue to utilize Facebook and Twitter to build engagement with students and the community,” says Mary Tom Bass, director of

public information. “Recently, we integrated an additional social media platform: Instagram.”

A Fall 2015 survey of ECC students and their social media use found that 80% prefer Facebook and only 2% prefer Twitter. However, 25% use Instagram on an hourly basis.

“Social media provides wonderful opportunities to showcase our people and programs,” says Bass. “These platforms also help us listen to what people are saying.

“We can build relationships with prospective students and individuals in the community before they ever step foot on our campuses.”

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Employees Complete Safety Training, Campus Security Strengthened

by J. Eric Eckard

As mass shootings continue to terrorize communities across the United States, Edgecombe Community College has broadened its safety training for faculty and staff on both campuses.

“We’ve always tried to have core people trained,” says Robert Whistler, coordinator of Emergency Services and Public Safety Training. “But the Wayne Community College incident pushed the issue to the forefront.”

In 2015 in Goldsboro, a man shot and killed a Wayne Community College employee on campus. The campus was locked down while law enforcement searched for the suspect. He later was captured in Florida.

Soon after, Edgecombe Community College President Dr. Deborah Lamm tasked the college’s Emergency Services department to begin widespread training for faculty and staff. The focus goes beyond shootings; it deals with a wide variety of emergency situations.

“Preparing for all emergencies is vital for safety and security on our campuses,” Dr. Lamm says. “We believe this training will help our employees work in coordination with emergency personnel, should any incident occur here.”

As a result of the training, about 75% of the faculty and staff are now certified in CPR and first aid. Approximately 50% of college employees have completed a FEMA-designed National Incident Management System (NIMS) training program that deals with large scale emergencies.

“NIMS training deals with having a lot of emergency personnel on campus,” Whistler says. “It introduces to our faculty and staff what their roles are.

“It focuses on how we react to the situation, what information emergency personnel need, what to expect, where to go, and what to do.”

In addition to advanced emergency training, Edgecombe Community College has beefed up its security infrastructure by adding more cameras to both the Tarboro and Rocky Mount facilities and grounds.

At present, 58 security cameras monitor activity on both campuses, and the college hopes to add more security cameras on the Rocky Mount campus this fall.

“We want to protect our facilities and provide a safe environment for students, visitors, faculty, and staff,” says Neil Baker, director of computer services. “There’s been a heightened awareness that has come from major events across the country, but of course, we hope to never see that here.”

Edgecombe Community College began installing security cameras about six years ago. The cameras have strengthened security on campus and assisted local law enforcement as well. Video surveillance images have helped solved numerous property crimes in Rocky Mount as well as a kidnapping.

Other security measures include emergency alerts to students and employees via email or text, and announcements through loudspeakers stationed across both campuses.

Training at Edgecombe Community College is ongoing. A FEMA program that targets schools will be offered in the coming months, and a de-escalation training seminar is in the works.

“The de-escalation training will deal with how to talk suspects down and how to protect yourself,” Whistler says. “We believe all of this training is very important.

“Our faculty and staff will be on the scene long before anyone else is. The more they are trained, the better.”



From left, John Butts, Tarboro campus maintenance supervisor, and John Ward, Rocky Mount campus maintenance supervisor, test a Code Blue Emergency Pole on the Rocky Mount campus. The device automatically contacts 911 with the press of a button. Numerous steps have been taken this year to beef up safety and security on ECC’s campuses. Employees have completed advanced emergency training and more security cameras have been added, among other initiatives.

Meet EDGE Scholarship Students *Featured on the cover*



Kaila Boulden

2016 graduate, Northern Nash High School

ECC Program: Prerequisites for Nursing



Stacey Letchworth

Degrees: ECC Associate in Arts
ECC Associate in Science
Bachelor’s degree in chemistry, NC State University
Bachelor’s degree in genetics, NC State University
ECC Program: Nursing



Alex King

2016 graduate, Tarboro High School

ECC Program: College Transfer

College **EXPANDS** Emergency and Public Safety Programs

by J. Eric Eckard

In the past year, Edgecombe Community College has dramatically increased its curriculum for emergency and public safety workers.

“We’ve probably more than doubled our course load because of the needs in the community,” says Robert Whistler, coordinator of Emergency Services and Public Safety Training.

“It seems like the more we put out there, the more agencies want, which is a great.”

Whistler credits several factors behind the growth of the college’s training programs, including a focus on customizing classes to cater to the students’ strengths and weaknesses. Called Edgecombe Quality Improvement Program, or EQUIP, it steers students away from the typical training plans.

“We do these standardized courses, and they doesn’t always invoke a lot of thinking,” Whistler explains. “We wanted to go beyond that.”

“We give students a pre-test and identify areas that don’t meet our benchmarks, and then we customize the curriculum for that class.”

Whistler says that building strong relationships with regional rescue squads, fire departments, and law enforcement agencies also is helping grow the programs.

The Edgecombe County Rescue Squad uses the college exclusively to train its workers, and Chief John Britt says ECC’s unique approach helps keep the agency up-to-date in a highly technical environment.

“Edgecombe Community College has consistently offered high quality EMS training and

continuing education programs to individuals and agencies from Edgecombe County and the surrounding area,” Britt explains.

“We are extremely pleased to consider Edgecombe Community College our primary education partner.”

In addition to certification programs for EMTs, paramedics, and first responders, the college offers such classes as Spanish for EMS, basic and advanced life support, anatomy and physiology, and clandestine drug lab awareness.

Rocky Mount Fire Department’s Battalion Chief of Safety and Training Carl Moore says that the college’s programs cover a wide range of training to accommodate each department – from top to bottom.

“Edgecombe Community College provides diverse training to the public safety personnel of Eastern North Carolina,” Moore says.

“The classes that are offered provide an opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge needed for entry level firefighters to chief officers.”

Whistler says the college is branching out, partnering with more agencies than just those within Nash and Edgecombe counties. Earlier this year, Franklin County Emergency Services officials reached out to Whistler to handle their training.

“The word is starting to spread,” he says.

The college’s HealthCare Simulator – a medical classroom on wheels – enables Edgecombe Community College to work around various agencies’ schedules. Whistler and other instructors travel to Franklin



Personnel with the South Edgecombe Fire Department assist with a Mass Casualty Incident drill for the paramedic training program at Edgecombe Community College.

County every other month to train various personnel there.

The mobile training center is equipped with a high-tech training manikin, which can be programmed to show a wide variety of symptoms that EMTs and paramedics might face in the field.

“It blinks, talks, breathes; it has a blood pressure and a pulse,” Whistler says. “We can program the manikin to have certain symptoms, like a heart attack or an allergic reaction where its airway is closed.”

“It can simulate just about any situation that emergency personnel may face.”

Edgecombe Community College also uses an infant version of the high-tech manikin in its training. Training sessions are recorded to offer students insight on how they handled the simulations.

Not all schools offer such state-of-the-art equipment, Whistler says, and he believes this is another reason for the growth in offerings. In addition to more classes, the number of students signing up for classes also is growing, he adds.

“Historically, EMS and paramedic programs have about 10 students who pre-register. We already have 21 pre-registered for our fall classes.”

Annually, from 250 to 300 students take fire courses and about 400 go through EMS training at Edgecombe Community College.

“Our fire and EMS programs use highly qualified instructors,” Whistler says. “The instructors expand on the traditional lecture-style of teaching by incorporating simulations, props, moulage, group activities, and games.”

“The student benefits from a global approach, rather than purely auditory or visual or kinesthetic. We use state-of-the-art trainers while teaching modern techniques.”

Even with high-tech equipment and quality lesson plans, Whistler believes working with good people and word-of-mouth advertising are key to Edgecombe Community College’s success.

“Working with Vince Hunter, Edgecombe County Rescue Squad deputy chief, has helped us get more support from local agencies,” he adds.

And that has led to partnerships like the one in Franklin County.

“We’re making good progress,” Whistler says. “We’re gaining a lot of support from local agencies as well as from communities beyond our borders.”

“I think they’re catching on to what we’re trying to do.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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New Biotechnology and Medical Simulation Center Is Expanding College's Reach and Improving Healthcare Education

by Diane C. LeFiles

After only one full semester of operation, the Biotechnology and Medical Simulation Center at Edgecombe Community College is already attracting many new students and raising the standard of healthcare education throughout the region.

The college opened the state-of-the-art, 45,000-square-foot facility on the Rocky Mount campus in January 2016 and held an official ribbon cutting in early March.

Edgecombe is one of two North Carolina community colleges that offers a simulated hospital environment on campus. The other is located at Catawba Community College in Hickory. Together these institutions are changing the way healthcare graduates are developing skills and training for the job market.

"Community colleges are North Carolina's workforce trainers," says Dr. Deborah Lamm, ECC president. "We are preparing future healthcare professionals today for the jobs of tomorrow.

"This facility and our instructors are ensuring that our graduates are ready for the fast-paced and advancing field of healthcare. By providing realistic patient scenarios, students from various health science programs learn to communicate, collaborate, and work as a team in the same way healthcare professionals of an interdisciplinary team work together in a real life situation."

Edgecombe County voters helped generate funding for the center by approving a ¼ cent sales tax referendum in 2012. Tax revenues combined with a grant of \$1.5 million from the Golden LEAF Foundation supplied funds for the \$9.7 million construction project.

The new three-story Biotechnology and Medical Simulation Center was designed to maximize current technology and mimic a true hospital setting with emphasis on adaptability to meet future needs.

Multiple classrooms and a 96-seat auditorium complement an entire floor (1st) that reflects a real-world medical environment. The simulated hospital is spread over two floors (2nd & 3rd). Featured are an emergency room, intensive care unit, nurses' station, radiography suites, surgical suite, and an ambulance setting.

Simulation and training are offered for Nursing, Practical Nursing, Nurse Aide, Medical Assisting, Surgical Technology, Radiography, and Respiratory Therapy.

Amid the sights and sounds associated with routine and emergency medical care, students practice their skills on computerized manikins resting on hospital beds. The lifelike manikins can be programmed by instructors to imitate many signs and symptoms of acute and chronic conditions and even childbirth.

Students learn to analyze, react, and provide appropriate care for each situation, while the manikins respond to medications

and other student actions that can be controlled and recorded by the operator. Healthcare students are allowed to learn and make mistakes without endangering a real patient.

Using a hands-on approach in this high-tech simulated health care environment has many advantages. Like athletes who want to improve their games, healthcare students can see videos of their work for self-evaluation and instructor feedback.

They can observe themselves in many scenarios such as the delicate task of inserting a breathing tube into a manikin's trachea or assisting with a difficult birth. The simulated environment is very realistic and designed to give students the

skills and confidence needed for a smooth transition to the next level and ultimately for success in the workplace.

Patient simulators facilitate learning

When they advance to the clinical phase of their degree or certification program, students from 18 of ECC's 22 health sciences areas have had the powerful advantage of developing their medical and communication skills in a controlled situation before interacting with human patients and established healthcare professionals.

"The Biotechnology and Medical Simulation Center is an excellent university-quality instructional space. It's unusual



"The designers clearly put a great deal of thought into creating a realistic hospital atmosphere that allows us to integrate our classroom knowledge with the skills we need for patient care in the actual work situation," says Taylor Hart, Surgical Technology student. She holds a bachelor's degree in recreational therapy and enrolled at ECC to strengthen her skill set and expand her options for healthcare employment.

to find something like this at the community college level. It's no surprise that it is generating a lot of interest from individuals, as well as from other colleges," says Tim King, clinical director of Respiratory Therapy.

"I receive calls and emails every day with requests for enrollment information from potential students. Most are local, but I've had inquiries from Halifax, Pitt, Wake, and other counties in our region."

Experiencing realistic patient situations enables students from different curriculum areas to function as members of a professional healthcare team, while ECC instructors monitor and critique their performance and progress.

"The Biotechnology and Medical Simulation Center is revolutionizing the techniques our instructors use to deliver information and integrate learning," King explains. "Now our students can truly understand how their tasks impact and relate to the work of those from other healthcare fields who come together to provide care for a patient. This is improving the way our students develop their skills and prepare for the job market."

Second-semester Surgical Technology student Taylor Hart agrees. "My first classes were held in the older building on the Tarboro campus last fall," she says. "The instructors were great, but the classrooms were small, and that limited some of our activities."

"In January, we transferred to this beautiful new building in Rocky Mount. The advanced technology in the center is amazing! The designers clearly put a great deal of thought into creating a realistic hospital atmosphere that allows us to integrate our classroom knowledge with the skills we need for patient care in the actual work situation," she says.

Hart, 27, completed allied health sciences courses at Tarboro High School before earning a bachelor's degree in recreational therapy at East Carolina University. After finding a limited number of job openings in her field, she enrolled at ECC to add the surgical technology certification to her skill set and expand her options for healthcare employment.

Hart will finish the program in August and hopes to work in a same-day surgery center in Greenville or at a hospital in the eastern region.

Nancy Hobbs serves as the nursing admissions counselor for ECC. "We have had more applications for the Nursing program this year than ever before," she says. "Most of our applicants have heard about the new building and are telling us that ECC is their first choice for attendance."

Nursing, the largest program in the ECC health sciences division, is limited to 80 students.

Hobbs is seeing applications from local zip codes as well as from addresses in Ahoskie, Cape Carteret, Kinston, Knightdale, Raleigh, and other cities. She notes that four students who have been admitted for the fall semester plan to carpool from Durham until they can find a local apartment to share.

"The medical simulation center is attracting a new group of students," says Ralph Webb, chair of Respiratory Therapy. "As a community college, we serve a wide variety of students, including recent high school graduates, working adults, individuals seeking to change or advance a career, and those seeking educational enrichment."

"Since opening this building, we are seeing more students who have earned a bachelor's degree but want to add an associate degree or a certification to their transcripts."

"What we offer in healthcare is second to none, and it is remarkable to see what our students are accomplishing as a result," Webb continues. "Certification board scores are already at a higher level, and post-completion job placement has increased. I believe that ECC graduates will have a clear advantage in the healthcare job market."

Many students agree with Webb, including Respiratory Therapy student Lee Cox, who is pursuing a second career at age 48 after recently retiring from the NC Highway Patrol. In August 2015, he enrolled in the program commuting from Wilson to the Rocky Mount campus.

"This simulated environment is very realistic," Cox says. "I believe it will give us the skills and confidence we need for a smooth transition to our clinicals and the workplace."

Andrea Cunin, age 32, worked for two years as an emergency medical technician (EMT) after training at Wake Tech and earning intermediate credentials at ECC. Cunin enrolled in the Respiratory Therapy program seeking to



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\$2.5 MILLION TO FURNISH



18 HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAMS



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WILL USE THE FACILITY ANNUALLY

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Operating room, obstetrics/neonatal room, occupational therapy lab, ICU, pulmonary function lab, respiratory care lab, home health/community health training room, counseling/mental health room, debriefing rooms, nurses' station

incorporate her emergency medical knowledge into the high level of critical care needed in the mobile setting.

"I was accepted by two other colleges, but I commute from Raleigh to ECC because of this wonderful facility and all it offers," she says.

"Based on my EMT experiences, I know jobs in the healthcare field require life-saving reactions and interventions," Cunin adds. "Having realistic lab settings at our fingertips allows us to train thoroughly for those situations before we work with actual patients."

Cunin and Cox plan to pursue their bachelor's degree following graduation from Edgecombe Community College.

Cox, Cunin, and Hart agree that the hands-on approach in the high-tech simulated healthcare environment in the Biotechnology

and Medical Simulation Center has many advantages.

Hart encourages individuals interested in the healthcare field to come to the Rocky Mount campus and check out the new facility.

"Once you see and experience the center in action, you will understand more about the requirements of the healthcare field you are considering," she says.

"You will know what is needed to complete the degrees and certification programs. It's much more effective than searching online or reading the catalog."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nancy Hobbs
Nursing Admissions Counselor
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hobbsn@edgecombe.edu

Registration Under Way in College and Career Readiness

The Division of College and Career Readiness is accepting students for the fall semester on the Tarboro and Rocky Mount campuses and off-site locations.

The mission of College and Career Readiness, formerly Basic Skills, is to offer adults the opportunity to improve their literacy skills and acquire the necessary knowledge for success in employment, self-sufficiency, higher education, and the family.

Programs are open to adults 18 years old or older who have not completed high school. Non-high school graduates who are 16 and 17 also may enroll with special permission. College and Career Readiness offers a refresher course to interested high school graduates.

The following College and Career Readiness programs are offered to assist adults in reaching their goals:

- Adult Basic Education I
- Adult Basic Education II
- High School Equivalency Diploma

- Adult High School Diploma
- Basic Skills Plus
- English Language Acquisition
- Stackable Credentials

While working toward a high school credential, students also may study toward one of six career pathways and earn an industry credential. Currently, College and Career Readiness offers industry credentials in Emergency Medical Technician, Certified Production Technician, Automotive Technology, Nurse Aide I, Barbering, and Cosmetology.

College and Career Readiness classes enable students to work at their own pace. Some individualized instruction is provided. Classes are taught on the Tarboro and Rocky Mount campuses. Off-campus classes are located at various sites throughout Edgecombe County.

Classes are offered day and night to accommodate working adults. Times vary at each location. Classes begin Thursday, August 18, at most sites.



Varnell Kinnin works with student James Short on math problems. One-on-one tutoring and personal attention are hallmarks of College and Career Readiness programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

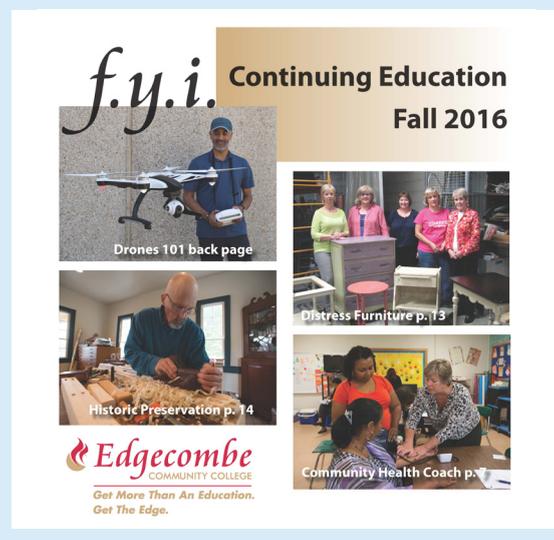
Jerry Harper
 Director, College and Career Readiness
 823-5166, ext. 379
harperj@edgecombe.edu

Sign Up for a Continuing Education Class

The fall issue of *f.y.i.*, the college's Continuing Education schedule, is available. If you haven't received a copy in the mail, please contact 823-5166, ext. 293, and we'll send you a schedule.

Or, check out the schedule online at www.edgecombe.edu. Click on Continuing Education: Find Classes: Printed Continuing Education Fall 2016 Schedule.

We hope to see you in a class this fall!



Attending Edgecombe Community College would have been a hardship without the EDGE Scholarship, says Genesis Munguia-Valencia, who will begin her first semester in Nursing this fall.

Genesis Munguia-Valencia says she's wanted to be a nurse "since forever."

There wasn't one thing that happened, but she remembers at about age 13, she realized that nursing was in her future.

"My next-door neighbor is a nurse, and a lot of my family is in the medical field. I've always been drawn to it," Munguia-Valencia says.

By the time she graduated from SouthWest Edgecombe High School in 2014, she was well on her way.

She earned a Nurse Aide certificate while in high school, and she started taking prerequisite nursing classes at Edgecombe Community College after graduating.

EDGE Scholarship Is Taking the Worry Out of Paying for College

But paying for college over the past two years started taking its toll on Munguia-Valencia and her family.

"It has been a tough transition from the beginning of college to where I am now," the 19-year-old says. "I had to take out a student loan."

This spring, Munguia-Valencia decided to apply for the new EDGE Scholarship. A week later, she received word that she was awarded the scholarship.

"I was excited, I was happy, I was proud of myself," she says.

Now that her tuition angst is behind her, Munguia-Valencia can focus on what she's always wanted to do – help people. She is caring for an elderly bedridden patient this summer until classes begin in the fall, and will possibly continue as a caretaker.

"I didn't want to put more hardship on my family. And it would have been a hardship without the scholarship."

– J. Eric Eckard

Edgecombe Community College A-Z

Following is an alphabetical list of programs offered at Edgecombe Community College.
Contact (252) 823-5166, ext. 255, or visit www.edgecombe.edu to learn more.

Credentials Offered

Program	Degree	Diploma	Certificate	Other
Accounting	✓	✓	✓	
Advanced Canine Handler Training			✓	
Advanced EMT			✓	
Automotive Systems Technology		✓	✓	
Barbering		✓		
Basic Canine Handler Training			✓	
Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) Note: Also credit for 18 hours in Associate CJ or 19 in Bachelor's CJ			✓	
Biotechnology*	✓			
Business Administration	✓	✓	✓	
College Transfer - Associate in Arts	✓			
College Transfer - Associate in Science	✓			
Collision Repair and Refinishing Technology	✓	✓	✓	
Community Health Coach				✓
Computed Tomography & Magnetic Resonance Imaging	✓	✓	✓	
Computer Technology Integration	✓	✓	✓	
Cosmetology		✓	✓	
CPR			✓	
Criminal Justice Technology	✓		✓	
Dental Assisting*		✓		
Dental Hygiene*	✓			
Detention Officer Certification				✓
Direct Care (Introduction) Note: CPR Certification				✓
Direct Care Basics Note: Eligible to work as a limited home care aide				✓
Early Childhood Education	✓	✓	✓	
Electrical Systems Technology		✓	✓	
Emergency Medical Technician			✓	
Esthetics Technology			✓	
Facility Maintenance Worker		✓	✓	
Firefighter			✓	
Funeral Service Education*		✓		
General Occupational Technology	✓	✓	✓	

Program	Degree	Diploma	Certificate	Other
Geospatial Technology	✓		✓	
Global Logistics & Distribution Management			✓	
Health Information Technology	✓	✓	✓	
Healthcare Management Technology*	✓			
Historic Preservation Technology	✓	✓	✓	
Human Services Technology	✓		✓	
Hunting & Shooting Sports Management	✓	✓	✓	
Industrial Systems Technology		✓	✓	
Lateral Entry Teaching			✓	
Mammography			✓	
Manicuring & Nail Technology			✓	
Manufacturing Technology	✓		✓	
Mechanical Drafting Technology		✓	✓	
Medical Assisting	✓			
Medical Office Administration	✓		✓	
Medical Responder			✓	
Medication Aide			✓	
Medication Aide Instructor			✓	
Natural Hair Care				✓
Nurse Aide I			✓	
Nurse Aide II			✓	
Nursing	✓	✓		
Office Administration	✓		✓	
Paramedic			✓	
Phlebotomy			✓	
Radiography	✓			
Respiratory Therapy	✓			
School Age Children	✓	✓	✓	
Surgical Technology		✓		
Technical Rescue			✓	
Therapeutic & Diagnostic Services: Nurse Aide		✓		
Welding Note: ARC, MIG, TIG, PIPE			✓	

* Collaborative program with another NC community college

Edgecombe Community College A-Z for High School Students

Following is an alphabetical list of programs offered for Edgecombe County high school students at Edgecombe Community College. To learn more, contact Shawn Dawes, Early College liaison and high school coordinator, at 823-5166, ext. 205, or dawess@edgecombe.edu. Or check with the counselor at your high school.

Program of Study	Division	Credential
Edgecombe Early College High School	Career & College Promise	HS diploma; AA degree, AS degree
Associate in Arts College Transfer Pathway	Career & College Promise	Degree, available at Early College only
Associate in Science College Transfer Pathway	Career & College Promise	Degree, available at Early College only
Automotive Systems Technology	Business & Technologies	Basic Automotive Servicing Certificate
Business Administration	Business & Technologies	Diploma
Business Administration	Business & Technologies	Business Leadership Certificate
Collision Repair & Refinishing Technology	Business & Technologies	Non-Structural Damage Certificate
Computer Technology Integration	Business & Technologies	Info System Foundation Certificate
Cosmetology	Business & Technologies	Diploma
Cosmetology	Business & Technologies	Certificate
Criminal Justice Technology	Arts & Sciences	Certificate
Early Childhood Education	Arts & Sciences	Diploma
Early Childhood Education	Arts & Sciences	Certificate
Electrical Systems Technology	Business & Technologies	AMP Certificate
Electrical Systems Technology	Business & Technologies	Diploma
Electrical Systems Technology	Business & Technologies	Electrical Wiring Certificate
Electrical Systems Technology	Business & Technologies	Industrial Wiring Certificate
Electrical Systems Technology	Business & Technologies	Industrial Controls Certificate, SWEHS only
Facility Maintenance Worker	Business & Technologies	Diploma
Facility Maintenance Worker	Business & Technologies	Construction Building Certificate
Geospatial Technology	Business & Technologies	Geospatial Tech Foundations Certificate
Historic Preservation Technology	Business & Technologies	Certificate
Human Services Technology	Arts & Sciences	Certificate
Manicuring & Nail Technology	Business & Technologies	Certificate
Mechanical Drafting Technology	Business & Technologies	Diploma
Mechanical Drafting Technology	Business & Technologies	Engineering Design Certificate
Medical Office Administration	Business & Technologies	Medical Billing Certificate
Nurse Aide I	Health Sciences	Certificate, for rising seniors only

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www.facebook.com/ECCBLET





College Celebrates High School Students on ECC Signing Day

More than 50 Edgecombe high school seniors declared their intention to attend Edgecombe Community College this fall at ECC Signing Day held in Edgecombe high schools on May 11.

Signing Day is a national initiative to celebrate students for making a commitment to higher education. Students, parents, and college and high school officials attended ECC Signing Day events at North Edgecombe, SouthWest Edgecombe, and Tarboro high schools.



Top Left: ECC Signing Day at Tarboro High School.

Middle Right: ECC Signing Day at SouthWest Edgecombe High School.

Bottom Left: ECC Signing Day at North Edgecombe High School. From left are Samantha Bolin, Rodolpho Lara-Pacheco, Career Coach Christie Sondergard, Stacey Martinez, and Kimberly Smith.

Register Now for Fall Classes

**Register by Wednesday, August 17.
Fall semester classes begin Thursday, August 18.**



Edgecombe Community College offers 57 programs of study in fields that are in high demand, from Manufacturing and Automotive Systems to Radiography and Welding.

These programs are unique in the Edgecombe area:

- Accounting: Excel
- Accounting: Quickbooks
- Business Administration:
Hunting & Shooting Sports Management
- Collision Repair & Refinishing
- Criminal Justice: Loss Prevention
- Esthetics
- Geospatial Technology
- Historic Preservation



***Get More Than An Education.
Get The Edge.***

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admissions@edgecombe.edu

