

# community Access

SUMMER 2022

Quarterly Newsletter of  
Alamance Community College

## Enroll NOW for Fall 2022!

Priority registration is now  
open for Fall 2022.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Registration ongoing now  
through Friday, August 12.

Friday, August 12

Payment deadline for late fall  
registration.

Monday, August 15

Fall classes begin.

Visit [alamancecc.edu/admissions](http://alamancecc.edu/admissions)  
for the application process.

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

## REGISTER NOW— CLASSES ARE FILLING FAST!



Architectural rendering of the  
Biotechnology Center of Excellence  
currently under construction.



Architectural rendering of the Student  
Services Center.



Construction is moving fast on ACC's Biotechnology Center of Excellence at Exit 150 on I-85/40.

## Two Major Construction Projects Head Toward Early 2023 Openings

Construction on the ACC campus continued this spring on the Biotechnology Center of Excellence project and Student Services project as both reached midway goals toward completion by early 2023.

The Biotechnology Center of Excellence, its progress viewed daily by commuters along I-85/40, is a \$19.4 million freestanding 32,000 square foot structure that will be a mix of labs and classroom space serving the Biotechnology, Medical Laboratory Technology, Histotechnology and Agricultural-Biotechnology programs. It will expand the College's ability to provide workforce development, education and training to undergird several rapidly growing fields of science.

Slated to open in late fall 2022, the Student Services Center is a 12,203 square foot, \$6.7 million facility that will relocate and enhance space for Admissions, Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, Student Payments, and the Office of the Vice President for Student Success. Upon completion, it will serve as the new entrance to the campus core facing Jimmie Kerr Road.



Construction on the Student Services Center is past the midway point toward an early 2023 opening.



## College Celebrates New Construction with Beam-signing, Open House

Alamance Community College welcomed the local community to an array of special events on April 29, kicking off with a ribbon-cutting and beam-raising ceremony for the new Student Services Center currently under construction on the main campus.

Following the outdoor ceremonies, the College offered tours of five other recently renovated areas: Emergency Management Services labs; Culinary Kitchen and Dining Room; Print Center; ABSS Early College; and the Agricultural-Sciences Building that houses the Horticulture and Animal Care programs.

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The Student Services Center, along with the under-construction Biotechnology Center of Excellence that sits adjacent to I-85/40, are expected to open for business by January 2023.



College President Dr. Algie Gatewood (3rd from right) and guests pose before the final beam to be raised. Right of Gatewood is ACC Trustee Brigadier General (Ret.) Blake Williams and NC State Senator Amy S. Galey, District 24.



ACC's Horticulture Technology student team at the National Collegiate Landscape Competition at NC State University.

## ACC Horticulture Students Excel at National Landscaping Competition

ACC's Horticulture Technology students excelled at this spring's 46th National Collegiate Landscape Competition. The team finished 10th among 43 colleges and universities from across the U.S.

Held on the NC State University campus March 16-19, ACC's 16 students matched their horticulture and landscaping skills in contests against 510 students. Individual students and teams placed to accumulate scores that pushed ACC into the upper echelons of the competition.

Among ACC's 42 competitors were the likes of Colorado State University, Auburn University, Brigham Young University, Michigan State University, NC State, and approximately 12 community colleges.

This was the 19th consecutive year that ACC's Horticulture department had attended this national event, including virtual events due to Covid the past two years. The annual event provides students opportunities to spend a day in workshops led by industry professionals, attend a career fair featuring more than 50 top landscape companies from across the U.S., and pit their horticulture skills in numerous competitions.

"Our students put in hours of preparation time and worked diligently. They competed against others with huge teams and some from large four-year universities, and they still came out on top," said Dr. Elizabeth Riley, Department Head of Horticulture Technology at ACC, who accompanied the team to the event.



ACC President Algie Gatewood (center) and special guests cut a ribbon to officially open six new indoor spaces the college has renovated over the past year.

## ACC Expands Dental Assisting Program to UNC Campus

ACC's Dental Assisting program is expanding its offerings for prospective students who live in Orange and Durham counties by opening a satellite campus at UNC-Chapel Hill starting in January 2023.

The new ACC at UNC cohort will allow Alamance Community College students to utilize the UNC Adams School of Dentistry facilities and earn a Dental Assisting diploma. No dental assisting program currently exists in Orange and Durham counties.

"North Carolina is currently experiencing a severe shortage of dental assistants, and up to 24 graduates per year will have a tremendous impact on alleviating the critical shortage of dental assistants throughout the region," said David Frazee, Dean of Health and Public Services at ACC.

ACC students enrolling in this unique cohort will have the choice to complete their general education courses in the fall semester either online or in person. Accepted students can then begin in-person classes and labs on the UNC campus in January 2023.

"This really is a win for both ACC and UNC students," said Joanna Roberts, Department Head of Dental Assisting at ACC. "Our dental assisting students and UNC's dentistry students will learn to work together before their careers start, and that's invaluable experience for both the ACC and UNC students."



# ACC Honors 818 Graduates at First In-Person Commencement in Two Years



Dental Assisting graduates celebrated earning their credentials.

ACC held its first in-person commencement exercises in two years on June 3, providing 818 graduates of curriculum and GED/ Adult High School programs the opportunity to celebrate with family and friends at the ceremony held on the Elon University campus. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, commencement was held virtually in 2020 and 2021.

## Commencement – By the Numbers

- The College conferred degrees, diplomas and certificates on 726 curriculum students, 79 GED/HiSet, and 13 Adult High School for a total of 818 graduates overall.
- 172 graduates received Honors and 140 earned High Honors among the total curriculum graduates.

## 103 High School Students Earned College Credentials

This number includes:

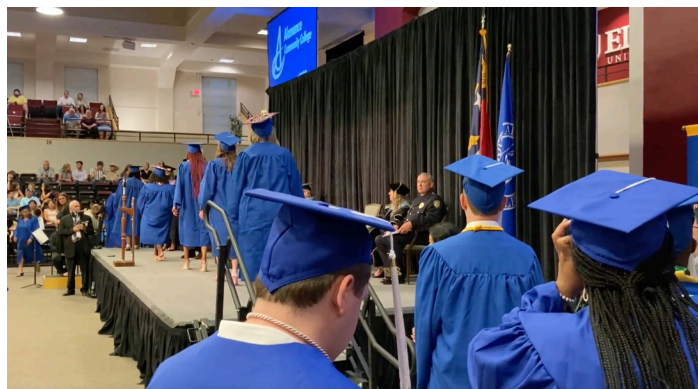
- 68 high school students (Career and College Promise pathways and ABSS Early College) earned Associate in Arts degrees with 60 college credits -- allows them to transfer with full Junior class status
- 35 high school students earned certificates or diplomas in various career technical programs



NC State Senator Amy Gale delivered the commencement keynote address.



ACC President Dr. Algie Gatewood (left) congratulated each graduate as they crossed the stage to receive their degree or diploma.







## ALAMANCE PROMISE



Alamance Community College has introduced a new initiative called *Alamance Promise* that ensures all students with financial need can afford a two-year education.

With Alamance Promise, the ACC Foundation will provide donated funds to bridge the gap as a “last-dollar” scholarship to fully pay for tuition and fees not covered by federal Pell grants, the Longleaf Commitment grant, and other public funding. In many cases, textbook and supply costs will be covered. ACC’s Financial Aid Office and the ACC Foundation are partnering with the Alamance

Promise pilot program to ensure qualifying students can complete a credential without fear of financial hardships curtailing their educational ambitions.

“This is about addressing the belief gap in our community, about letting families know that college is attainable for their children and for themselves, that they can believe a college education is within reach,” said ACC President Dr. Algie Gatewood. “Alamance Promise will enhance enrollment and increase retention. This is also about making certain that educational attainment for our underserved populations does not end with a high school diploma.”

“Through Alamance Promise, the ACC Foundation may pay for supplemental needs such as licensure exams or the cost of field trips, as well as short-term assistance such as housing costs, utilities or childcare,” said Carolyn Rhode, Executive Director of the ACC Foundation. “These are costs not normally covered by state and federal grants.”

Said Dr. Lisa Johnson, Vice President of Instruction, “Alamance Promise will assist incoming students, no matter their age or program interest, to graduate from college debt-free with credentials that allow graduates to be employed in high-demand professions that serve our state’s communities. The guarantee of Alamance Promise provides us with the tools to help students achieve their dreams.”

To support the Alamance Promise visit <https://givebutter.com/AlamancePromise>

To apply for support from Alamance Promise, go to [www.alamancecc.edu/alamance-promise](http://www.alamancecc.edu/alamance-promise).

Question? Contact [Carolyn.Rhode@alamancecc.edu](mailto:Carolyn.Rhode@alamancecc.edu) or 336-506-4128.

## Want a portrait of Haw the ACC River Otter for yourself?



Simply visit the Painted Grape, 3400 South Church Street in Burlington or 1909 South NC Hwy 119 and ask to paint Haw, the ACC River Otter and you will get your very own work of art to show off in your office or home.





## News from the ACC Family

### Congratulations to:

- Rodney Ellis, ACC Instructor, on his retirement in May.
- Ervin Allen, ACC Small Business Center Director, on his retirement in June.
- Natalie Miles, ACC Foundation, on her retirement in July.

### Condolences to:

- The family of Billie Jones, ACC retiree, who passed away on April 15.
- The family of Ann Couch, ACC retiree, who passed away on May 19.
- Brad Harmon, ACCF Board Member, whose father, Sonny, passed away on June 8.

## Long time ACC Foundation Employee Retires



*Natalie Miles*

Natalie Miles, Special Projects Coordinator, is retiring after 31 years of service. Natalie came to ACC in 1991, originally working part-time in the Literacy program. After a few years she began working full-time in the Advancement Office.

In that time, she has overseen one of the most outstanding ambassador programs in North Carolina, working with nearly 300 student ambassadors. Through ambassador phonathons and other efforts, such as FundFest, she has been directly responsible for approximately \$1 million in donations.

For the past 18 years, she has been the Special Projects Coordinator for the Foundation and the College. She has managed various events, such as the Donor/Recipient reception involving more than 200 guests, the annual Celebration of Excellence at the Alamance Country Club, and even multiple 5Ks.

In 2015, Natalie was instrumental in starting the ACC Alumni Council, made up of 20 ACC graduates of various ages and programs. She also oversees the Dividend quarterly newsletter, is the primary liaison for the ACC Foundation website, and manages all honor/memorial communications on behalf of donors. Congratulations Natalie on a great career!

## Faculty / Staff Grant: ACC Food Pantry

This past spring, the ACC Foundation provided support to the ACC Food Pantry. In part, funds were used to develop a campus community garden. The garden has provided service-learning opportunities for Career College Horticulture students and the Horticulture program's Irrigation class. Through the process, Advertising and Graphic Design and Computer-Aided Drafting program students were provided Work-Based Learning opportunities to apply their curriculum knowledge for garden-specific projects.

The project has had multiple successes in educating the campus about food insecurity and providing greater access to fresh food. A Pizza Plant Giveaway was held during ACC Spring Fling. This event was a signature event designed to address immediate hunger and offer a sustainable anti-hunger component.

During the Spring Fling, volunteer students served pizza to 104 students as well as provided 168 students with plants, planting instructions, and recipes enabling students to make pizza over the summer while away from campus. Thanks donors for helping us provide innovative grants.



*ACC students working in garden*



# ACC Biotechnology Student Selected for National Immersion Workshop

A 2022 Biotechnology graduate spent a week in June at a summer immersion program that provides opportunities to learn about the pharmaceutical industry and a chance to network with industry professionals.

Jeffry Garcia, 26, of Burlington traveled to Philadelphia, Pa. days after his graduation from ACC to take his place among 20 fellow college science majors in a nationally competitive program operated through the University of Delaware and the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL).

"This is a tremendous opportunity for a community college student like Jeffry to compete on a national level with students at four-year universities. We are extremely proud of his achievements," said Michelle Saboun, Department Head of Biotechnology at ACC.

Funded by an arm of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the workshop is geared toward minority college underclassmen and is an exclusive in-person, all expenses paid immersion program designed to introduce them to biopharmaceutical careers. Through hands-on learning and personal interactions, students have an opportunity to earn a deep understanding of how the industry and federal agencies work together to develop and manufacture life-saving medicines, according to the organization's website.

Jeffry Garcia dropped out of high school, worked various jobs over the next few years, and eventually earned his GED. But he had always cultivated a great interest and talent for biology. He enrolled at a community college in Massachusetts, but COVID-19 interrupted his studies and Jeffry realized that remote learning



[Jeffry Garcia in ACC's biotechnology lab earlier this spring.](#)

was not ideal for him. In 2021, a cousin who lives in Alamance County invited Jeffry to transfer to Alamance Community College to take advantage of the school's long-running Biotechnology program.

"Jeffry hit the ground running at ACC and completed our biotechnology degree program in one year. He is an engaged student who works hard to get results," said Saboun.

"I'm really looking forward especially to the professional development and networking," said Garcia prior to the workshop in Philadelphia. "Learning about different careers in the biopharmaceutical industry should be a great benefit because that was my focus at ACC."

Garcia's goals after graduating from ACC include working at Research Triangle Park in molecular biology.

## ACC Graphic Design Students Excel at NC SkillsUSA Competition



**Winning Team.** Posing after the NC SkillsUSA competition are (from left) ACC Graphic Design instructor Nicholas Goble; first-year student Amber Schnurr; second-year student Andrew Wassil; second-year student Madison Pinnix.

Three Advertising and Graphic Design students at ACC excelled in the NC SkillsUSA competition in Greensboro this spring. Led by first-year instructor Nicholas Goble, each student placed in their respective competition.

Second-year student Andrew Wassil placed first in the T-shirt Design competition. First-year student Amber Schnurr placed third in the Advertising Design competition. Second-year student Madison Pinnix placed third in the Pin Design competition.

Wassil's first-place finish qualified him for the national SkillsUSA competition in Atlanta June 20-24. Additionally, his winning design represented the N.C. delegation at the competition.

"We are proud of our showing, especially since this was our first year to participate in this competition," said Erik Perel, Department Head for Advertising and Graphic Design at the college.



# College Honors Distinguished Alumni, Faculty, and Student Excellence

ACC alumni, faculty, staff, and students were honored by the College on May 26 at the 2022 Celebrating Excellence Awards, hosted by the ACC Board of Trustees and the ACC Foundation Board of Directors.



ACC Distinguished Alumni past and present included (from left) Jesse Long, 2013; Mark McIntyre, 2015 Inspiration Award; Reagan Gural, 2021; Sadie Howard-Stanfield, 2022 Inspiration Award; Burlington PD Chief Brian Long, Distinguished Alumnus 2022; Margaret Hooper, 2002; Sheriff Mike Welch, 2005; Lori Welch Wilson, 2019; and Jack Overacre, 1999.



Employee Excellence recipients (from left): Bonnie Blalock, Workforce Development Instructor of the Year; Monica Isbell, Staff Member of the Year; Robert "Bob" Davis, Faculty Member of the Year; and Susan Dalton, Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year.



Student award recipients are (from left): Ruth Mann, Governor Robert W. Scott Student Leadership Award recipient; Logan White, Academic Excellence Award recipient; and Jeffery McClure, Dallas Herring Achievement Award.

## 2022 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Brian Long has served as Chief of Police of the Burlington Police Department since 2021 after serving with that agency since 1995. Brian earned his associate's degree from ACC's Criminal Justice Technology program in 2006. As a result of his degree, Brian moved through the ranks of the police department. In 2016, he was promoted to Captain and became commander of the Professional Standards Division. Brian graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy in 2014.

## 2022 INSPIRATION AWARD

Sadie Howard-Stanfield is a 1982 graduate with an Associate in Applied Science degree in Business Administration. Sadie used her skills over 25 years in customer service, administration, sales and marketing, including 14 years with AT&T Telecommunications. She has a long history of civic engagement and advocating for social justice and civil rights in Alamance County and North Carolina. She volunteers with the Burlington Police Department and has completed its Citizens Academy. She has organized and directed camps for children, and worked with the Alamance-Burlington School System's Child Nutrition Department.

## ACC educators recognized were:

- Robert "Bob" Davis, Mathematics instructor, as Excellence in Teaching Recipient
- Susan Dalton, English instructor, as Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year
- Monica Isbell, Disability Services Coordinator, as Staff Member of the Year
- Bonnie Blalock, Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET), as Workforce Development Instructor of the Year

## Student Academic Excellence Award Recipient:

Logan White seized numerous opportunities during her two years studying at ACC: participating in coding and cybersecurity competitions with the campus IT (Information Technology) Club; pursuing independent research through the Honors program; and becoming a NASA Community College Aerospace Scholar. Logan earned her Associate in Science degree on June 3 and plans to transfer to a four-year institution this fall to major in computer science and physics.

## Dallas Herring Achievement Award:

Jeffery McClure is a first-generation college student who enrolled at ACC to pursue his career goal of becoming a high school English teacher. He obtained his substitute teacher and assistant teacher certifications to better prepare for his career. His interest in teaching was sparked while in high school while tutoring struggling students in the methods of effectively expressing themselves through writing. Jeffery earned his Associate of Arts degree on June 3 and will attend UNC Chapel Hill this fall.

## Governor Robert W. Scott Student Leadership Award:

Ruth Mann is a graduate of home schooling who completed her high school experience as a Career and College Promise (CCP) student at ACC. As Chair of the Executive Board for the SGA, Ruth used her platform to advocate for her peers, recruited students for ACC leadership opportunities, and strategized ways to get students engaged and connected. She earned her Associate in Arts degree on June 3, two years earlier than most of her peers. She plans to transfer to a North Carolina university to study psychology and criminal justice.





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**The 2022 ACC Mock Trial Intramural Championship** was held in late April -- the first time since the pandemic began that ACC students have had an opportunity to participate and show off their advocacy skills. Students representing prosecution and defense attorneys, as well as expert witnesses, tried the case of a man accused of aggravated arson. In past years, ACC's Mock Trial team has been competitive with students from UNC and Wake Forest in regional mock trial exercises. English instructor Kevin Sargent is the faculty coordinator.

## ACC Students Among 2022 Class of NC Teaching Fellows

Three Alamance Community College students are among 119 individuals selected for the 2022 class of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows by the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission.

The following Alamance Community College students are members of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Class of 2022:

- Anneisha McWilliams of Burlington is an ACC alumna and will attend Elon University as an Alamance Scholar.
- Riley Fennelle of Burlington graduated this semester, and also plans to attend Elon University as an Alamance Scholar.
- Sidney Beckham of Mebane has been a Career and College Promise (CCP) student and plans to attend Elon University this fall.

Those named as Fellows may attend any of the program's eight partner institutions that include Elon University, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, North Carolina State University, Meredith College, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

The commission considered grade point average, leadership and experience, awards and honors, written essays, and interviews to narrow this pool of applicants. Standardized test scores from SAT/ACT were again optional due to COVID-19 test cancellations.

**Community ACCess** is an official college publication coordinated by the Public Information and Marketing Office of Alamance Community College.

**COMMENTS OR ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUEST:** Contact [sarah.hardin@alamancecc.edu](mailto:sarah.hardin@alamancecc.edu)

**VISIT ACC'S WEB SITE:** [www.alamancecc.edu](http://www.alamancecc.edu)



**ACC Hosted a Focus on Alamance forum** on June 7 that featured panelists (from left) moderator Reagan Gural, Alamance Chamber; Jim Butler, Mayor of Burlington; Dr. Algie Gatewood, ACC President; and Brian Denisar, President and CEO of Bobbitt. Sponsored by the Triad Business Journal, the panelists discussed numerous topics that affect education, local government, and industry in Alamance County, including the importance of educational and industry partnerships; retaining employees; and connectivity as a means of keeping graduates in Alamance County.

**Alamance Community College hosted a legislative breakfast** in April. Guests included NCCCS President Thomas Stith, Senator Amy Gale, State Representatives Dennis Riddell and Ricky Hurtado, and members of the College's Board of Trustees and President's Cabinet. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the legislative agenda and community college needs in anticipation of the new legislative session.

