

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



WCC provided a series of **talks on Ukraine and Russia's attack** on it. They included two virtual sessions with an education diplomat living in Poland, a discussion of history behind the invasion and the politics of war in Russia by a University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill professor, and WCC nursing faculty members Marielle Combs and Adam Combs speaking about their recent work with refugees at the Ukrainian border. The last two lectures can be viewed on the [Foundation of WCC's YouTube Channel](#).



The Epsilon Phi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority donated **school supplies and gift cards** to students in the English as a Second Language program to celebrate Global Impact Day in April.

Middle schoolers involved in Wayne County Public Library's **Technology Learning Lab** visited several areas of the campus. The project, in which WCC is a collaborator, provides immersive experiences that give students technology skills and concepts usable in STEM-related careers.



Pharmacy Technology students participated in **Operation Medicine Drop** at two locations. The events, sponsored by Safe Kids Wayne County and Goldsboro Police Department, collected and disposed of 80,317 units (233 pounds) of unwanted and out-of-date medications.

ON THE DOCKET

30th Foundation of WCC Invitational: Dinner and Live Auction - June 7, **Golf Tournament** - June 8 ▪ Walnut Creek Country Club

WCC at Center Street Jam - 6-9 p.m., June 16 ▪ The Hub, Downtown Goldsboro

Dental Assisting Walk-Through Pinning Event - 5 p.m., July 27 ▪ Dental Clinic, Holly Building

Practical Nursing Pinning Ceremony - 4 p.m., July 27 ▪ Moffatt Auditorium

Basic Law Enforcement Training Graduation - 6 p.m., July 28 ▪ Moffatt Auditorium

Workforce Continuing Education Allied Health Pinning - 11 a.m., Aug. 11 ▪ Moffatt Auditorium

Truck Driver Training Graduation - 6 p.m., Aug. 11 ▪ Moffatt Auditorium

WCC at Center Street Jam - 6-9 p.m., Aug. 11 ▪ The Hub, Downtown Goldsboro

Fall Classes Begin - Aug. 18

COLLEGE KUDOS

■ WCC earned a **bronze Paragon Award** in the Novelty Category from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations. The honored item is a presidential challenge coin. This is the fifth time in six years that WCC creative products have been Paragon Award finalists, collecting one bronze, four silver, and three gold awards.

■ SmartAsset, an investment advisor, has ranked WCC as **19th among the nation's community colleges**. The ranking was based on stu-

dent-to-faculty ratio, graduation and transfer rate and the cost of tuition and fees.

■ The Golden LEAF Board of Directors awarded WCC **\$500,000** from its Open Grants Program to provide state of the art equipment for the Center for Industrial Technology and Engineering.

■ April was recognized as **Community College Month** with proclamations by Goldsboro Mayor David Ham and the Wayne County Board of Education and a resolution by the Wayne County Board of Commissioners.

WHAT WCC'S WORTH

A new economic impact analysis found WCC has a \$114.2 million annual impact on the regional economy – supporting around 640 jobs or one out of every 26 jobs in the county. The impact of the increased earnings of WCC alumni and the businesses they work for totaled \$58.9 million.

The report also assesses the economic impact of five WCC programs on the area economy, the return on investment for students, and the benefits generated for N.C. taxpayers. The high-demand career pathways quantified in the report include Welding, Applied Animal Science, Associate Degree Nursing, Business Administration, and Industrial Systems Technology.

The college's economic impact study as well as the report for each of the featured programs, can be found under "Economic Impact" on the [WCC Institutional Effectiveness Documents webpage](#).

IN THE NEWS

Community College Daily article that includes about WCC's stop-out efforts: ["Preventing stop-out from becoming stay-outs"](#)

Johnston County Report story about graduate Luke Jones: ["Jones Receives Multiple Honors, Degree, and Job"](#)

Mount Olive Tribune story about graduate Jesus Quiroz: ["First-generation comeback leads to multiple degrees, awards"](#)

PBS North Carolina's nclM-PACT "Working For a Living Wage" episode featuring the Wayne WORKS and apprenticeships: ["Program eases workplace shortage with employer connections"](#)

nclM-PACT episode with Career Development Director Elvira Johnson as a panelist: ["Veterans Closing the Skills Gap"](#)

On a June date to be determined, Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning Coordinator Kristie Sauls and an apprentice will be interviewed for a CBS 17 "My Carolina" morning talk show segment.

PROUD of OUR PEOPLE



■ Biology Instructor **Sondy Hoffman** is the recipient of the college's 37th George E. Wilson Excellence in Teaching Award. She has taught at WCC since Fall 2013.

■ **Julie H. Faucette**, an instructor in the Academic Foundations Department, received the 2020 Gladys Shaw Award for Outstanding Service and Support for Student Success from the National Organization for Student Success.

■ Psychology Instructor **Charles Gilmore** earned his doctorate in Higher Education Leadership from East Carolina University. His dissertation was titled "Providing Transfer Student Capital to Vertical Transfer-Track Students in a

Vertical Transfer Student Success Course: An Action-Research Study."

■ The first issue of [North Carolina Community College Journal of Teaching Innovation](#) included articles by two WCC employees: "Evolution Misconceptions in Non-science Majors: A Pretest and Posttest Evaluation" by Biology Instructor **Lynn Swafford**, and "Book Review: Inspiring Incremental Innovations: A Review of Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons from the Science of Learning, Second Edition by James M. Lang" by Librarian **Elizabeth Watson**.

■ "The Amnesiacs," a short story by English Instructor **Dean Tuck**, was published in a recent issue of Clemson University's *South Carolina Review*. The story is a chapter from his novel-in-progress titled *Twinless Twin*.

■ Nursing Instructor **Marielle Combs** was selected for the Betty Garrison Award by the faculty of Gardner-Webb University where she recently earned her doctorate degree. The award recognizes exemplary practice in the clinical area, leadership abilities, service to the nursing school

and the community, and commitment to life-long learning and the nursing profession.

■ Simulation Coordinator and Clinical Nursing Instructor **Adam Combs** was chosen for the National League for Nursing's year-long Leadership Development Program for Simulation Educators. The participants focus on maximizing their leadership potential to advance simulation initiatives in nursing education and practice.

■ English Instructor **Allyson Daly** has been selected for a Getting to Know Europe Grant by the European Studies Center of the University of Pittsburgh. The study tour is designed to give educators first-hand knowledge of the European Union and its institutions.

■ Senior Executive Assistant to the President **Amber Tyler** was appointed to the City of Goldsboro's Commission on Community Relations and Development.

■ Members of the WCC Association of Education Office Professionals unit were presented renewal Professional Standards Program certificates at the recent state

association conference in Raleigh: Financial Aid Specialist **Jessica Giles** - Master, Transitional Programs for College and Career Administrative Assistant **Erica Babb** - Professional, and Workforce Continuing Education Executive Assistant **Angelia Warner** - Professional.

■ **Laura Buddin** is the new dean of the Arts and Sciences Division. She had served as the Interim Arts and Sciences Dean from August 2021 through March 2022 and was the Mathematics Department Chair before that.

■ Veteran Mathematics Instructor **Katrina Davis** is the new Mathematics Department Chair.

■ **Angie Blizzard** has been named Dean of Public Safety. She had been the Law Enforcement Training Coordinator for the Basic Law Enforcement Training program.

■ Retired Public Safety Dean **Beverly Deans** was presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine at the Honoring Our Firsts Gala. The recognition, for which the college nominated her, is the highest award for state service granted by the Office of the Governor.

STUDENT DISTINCTIONS

■ WCC's curriculum commencement ceremony on May 10 celebrated 437 individuals who received 312 degrees, 66 diplomas, 267 certificates (unofficial numbers). Two hundred graduates participated in the ceremony. WCC Dallas Herring Achievement Award winner Jesus Quiroz was the speaker.

■ The next day, **Transitional Programs for College and Career** held exercises acknowledging the completion of 27 Adult High School and 40 High School Equivalency students. Fifty-year-old AHS graduate Wennona Newsome gave an inspiring speech.

■ Several programs held ceremonies and sent graduates into the world. Those include

* Workforce Continuing Education Allied Health – 24 **Nurse Aide I** graduates and 15 **Phlebotomy** graduates,

* **Truck Driver Training** – 15 graduates,

* **Pharmacy Technology** – nine graduates,

* **Medical Laboratory Technology** – three graduates,

* **Associate Degree Nursing** – 37 graduates (including the first cohort of students dual enrolled at the East Carolina University School of Nursing in the Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses: one in the RIBN program and 10 in aRIBN, the accelerated version of the program), and * Dental Hygiene – 20 graduates.

■ Three **Honors Program** students were selected to present at the University of North Carolina Greensboro's Annual Undergraduate Hon-

ors Symposium. The students and their presentations were

* Katie Wagner: "Albizia julibrissin Flowering Patterns in the United States using iNaturalist" and "Understanding the Events of My Lai: How Miscommunication Formed and Followed a Massacre", * Emi Rodriguez-Castillo: "Growth and Loss Trends of the *Anaxyrus californicus*," and * Alexis Garner: "Saving One of God's Beautiful Creations" (Monarch Butterflies).

■ Six students (Janae Artis-Bass, Leah Boswell, Isaac Carreño, Aerial Antiquina Meready, Vismitha Taneti, and Katie Wagner) graduated with a **Scholars of Global Distinction** Certificate.

They received certificates from UNC-CH, wore white stoles embroidered with the programs logo, and the accomplishment is noted on

their transcripts. The college had its first Global Distinction graduate in December 2021.

■ Nine students completed WCC's **Honors Program**. They earned a certificate, medallion, and Honors Seal on their diploma. The Honors graduates are Janae Artis-Bass, Isaac Carreño, Alexis Garner, Billy Gomez-Guarchaj, Evan Gray, Nicole Page, Michaela Radford, Emily Rodriguez-Castillo, and Katie Wagner.

■ This year's **Renaissance**, the 38th volume, contains 96 pages of the college's best literary and artist efforts. Student awards went to Phoebe Ramirez, Front Cover; Katie Wagner, Back Cover; Danny Capps, Art; McKenzie Sollars, Prose; and Alayna Abbott, Poetry and the Beatrice K. Balkcum Renaissance Literary Award.