

WAYNE ACCLAIM



Agriculture Instructor **Jennifer Johnson** was honored with the **Outstanding Woman in Agriculture Award** by the Wayne County Community and Extension Association at this year's Farm-City Banquet.

Joanna Morrisette, Associate Vice President for Academic and Student Services, was named **Administrator of the Year** by District 12 of the NC Association of Educational Office Professionals (NCAEOP).



Becky Mulligan, Institutional Effectiveness Coordinator, was presented the District 12 **Educational Office Professional of the Year Award**.

The women are the district's nominees for the same honors at the state level. Those awards will be announced in March 2019.



A delegation from the college will be heading to the Community College Futures Assembly in San Antonio in February 2019. They will **present** on the Clearing a Path to Student Success Initiative, which has been selected as one of 10 Bellwether Finalist Winners in the Planning Governance and Finance category. That presentation will be a factor in the decision on the winner.

Student **Estefani Cota** was recognized with a **Community Impact Award**, a commendation for outstanding leadership and service.

It was presented by North Carolina Campus Compact, a statewide network of colleges and universities committed to civic engagement.

According to her nominator, Cota has "a servant's heart, a marathoner's energy, and a leader's organizational skills."

Despite a full schedule in WCC's rigorous Honors Program and a part-time job as a certified nursing assistant, Cota makes time to participate in college organizations and give back to her community. She is a WCC Ambassador, member of the Upsilon Chi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, Vice President of the WCC Honors Club, and a WCC Engage volunteer.

Last summer, while participating in the **Summer Biomedical Research Program at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine** (as the only student from a community college), Cota found time to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern NC. The experience was so rewarding, she continues to volunteer there, undeterred by the length of the drive to Greenville.

Cota is a second-year student working toward her associate in science degree. Her



ultimate goal is to become a physician.

Cota was honored at the Compact's annual CSNAP (Citizenship, Service, Networking, And Partnerships) student conference, the first conference she has ever attended. The event convened more than 150 students and staff from 23 campuses in the network. In addition to awards and networking opportunities, the conference included student-led workshops, panel discussions, and plenary sessions on diverse community engagement topics around the theme "The Power of Youth Civic Courage."

WCC is a member of North Carolina Campus Compact, which is a collaborative network of 37 colleges and universities committed to educating students for civic and social responsibility, partnering with communities for positive change, and strengthening democracy.

Melanie K. Jenkins is a finalist for the 2019 State Board of Community Colleges Staff of the Year Award.

The award recognizes excellent performance and commitment to the community college mission by staff at NC Community College System (NCCCS) institutions and the System Office.

Jenkins, WCC's Clinical Counselor, was interviewed by a State Board committee on Nov. 15. The committee's choice will be presented to the State Board in mid-January 2019 for approval.

The prize for this award is \$8,000 and a plaque, and \$2,000 is given to the foundation of the winner's college by BB&T, the award's sponsor.

Jenkins is a product of community colleges, having earned two degrees from WCC as well as a certificate from Guilford Community College. She also holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in social work from East Carolina University.

She has been in her current position since 2007.

Following the shooting on the WCC campus in 2015, Jenkins was integral to the college commu-

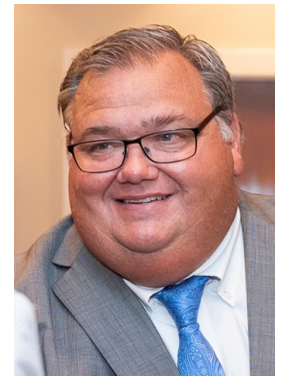


nity's healing. She initiated the college's first Behavioral Intervention Team and became an advocate of the behavioral intervention process. She has since spoken at two conferences sponsored by the NCCCS about the shooting and the need for mental health counseling at colleges.*

She was recognized as the college's Professional Staff Member of the Year in 2015.

**Jenkins was joined in presenting both times by Dr. Gene Smith and Joanna Morrisette. They provided the "Managing Student Mental Health Issues" session at the NCCCS Annual Conference in October. You can read about it at nccppr.org/taking-note-community-colleges-and-mental-health/.*

Two WCC staff members have been elected and installed as 2019-2020 NC Association of Educational Office Professionals District 12 officers.



On Nov. 16, the State Board of Community Colleges approved Brunswick Community College's choice for its next **President: Dr. Gene Smith.**

Smith began his career at WCC 25 years ago as a Biology Instructor and worked his way up to Vice President of Academic and Student Services.

His first day at BCC is Jan. 2, 2019.



Theresa White-Wallace, Arts and Sciences Division Administrative Assistant, is the new **President** and



Linda Berard, Wayne Business and Industry Center Executive Assistant, will serve as **Secretary.**



Renita Allen Dawson, Associate Vice President of Workforce Continuing Education, was elected **President-Elect** of the NC Community College Adult Educators Association during its fall conference.

Biology Instructors **Sondi Hoffman** and **Lynn Swafford** were invited to display and discuss their poster on "Using Scratch-Off Cards in Biology Classrooms" at the National Association of Biology Teachers Professional Development Conference. They **presented** their data and determinations at the conference in San Diego which they attended with fellow Instructor Amy Cherry Millis.

