



# BLUEPRINT

## TAACCCT NOTES

When Vance-Granville Community College was awarded the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant in the fall of 2013, it was the largest grant in VGCC's history. VGCC President Dr. Stelfanie Williams often said she believed the grant "would have huge impacts on the college." Initially, the organization and implementation of grant responsibilities felt like inhaling water. As we became accustomed to the demands of grant implementation, reporting and program implementation, we progressed to breathing via a snorkel. As we approach the end of the TAACCCT grant, we are now floating on our backs breathing clean fresh air. Fast forward to 2017 and our president's predictions have manifested themselves in many ways.

The TAACCCT grant supported the development and implementation of the Welding Technology associate

degree and of the Mechatronics Engineering Technology degree, the hiring of instructors and academic coaches, and ordering of equipment. As a result of the TAACCCT grant, VGCC has joined the apprenticeship movement and welcomes apprenticeship partners Dill Air Controls, Revlon, Glen Raven, NCTAP and the NCWorks Apprenticeship staff. We are actively looking for additional apprenticeship partners across all divisions. TAACCCT staff have represented the college and assisted with the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments and Regional Partners' pursuit of the establishment of Certified Pathways in Advanced Manufacturing, Information Technology (IT), and Healthcare. There have been other direct and indirect benefits derived from the college's participation in the federally-funded TAACCCT grant, including the ability to secure and prosecute large grant opportunities

without "breathing water."

Industry advisory partners have provided feedback and helped move our programs forward. We wish to acknowledge the assistance of our original partners, Bridgestone, Proctor & Gamble (Mars), Glen Raven, Altec Industries Inc., Franklin County Economic Development, Granville County Economic Development, Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board, Henderson-Vance County Economic Development Commission and Warren County Economic Development Commission. Since the grant kickoff, additional industry partners have joined with VGCC to drive the local resurgence of Advanced Manufacturing. There are far too many to list in this brief piece, but we at VGCC would like to extend our robust "thank you," and we look forward to more success in the coming months and years.

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW HIRE

The Grants team would like to welcome Job Placement Coordinator Cherrelle Lawrence. Cherrelle will be focused on the Advanced Manufacturing and IT programs under the TechHire grant. Local industry partners now have a single point of contact to assist in placing VGCC students into



*Cherrelle Lawrence*

Welding, Mechatronics and IT positions. Cherrelle is a Certified Career Development Facilitator and Job Coach. She has a Bachelor's degree in Business Education & Marketing from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

and is currently working on a Master of Business Administration degree at Meredith College.

Cherrelle comes to VGCC with over five years of experience in Workforce Development as a Career & Job Placement Coach. Her previous experiences include career coaching for the University System of Maryland, as well as managing workforce development programs and business partnerships with various non-profit organizations, including Dress for Success in Raleigh.

When asked what she hopes to accomplish in this position, Cherrelle said, "I hope to establish strong, long-lasting relationships with local industry employers and assist our instructors with producing confident and successful students to become future leaders of our local workforce." Industry partners can drop Cherrelle a note or send open positions to Cherrelle at [lawrencec@vgcc.edu](mailto:lawrencec@vgcc.edu) or 252-738-3386.

## FUTURE EMPLOYEES

It has been difficult to answer the question from an employer, "Do you have any Mechatronics students we can have?" Our response has always been, "Our program is just starting, and we haven't had a graduate yet!" In May, however, we will be able to answer in the affirmative. We take this time to introduce the students who are expected to be VGCC's first-ever graduates of the Mechatronics degree program, as well as the expected 2017 graduates of the Welding degree program.

### Welding Expected Graduates:



Ethan Bailey  
of Oxford



Andrew S. Hamrick  
of Henderson



Nicholas Keeton  
of Bullock



Jared Q. Siemers  
of Wake Forest



Quentin Tully  
of Raleigh

Not pictured are the Welding graduates from Dec. 2016, who are Kyle Callahan of Louisburg, Nolan Ellington of Oxford, and Thomas Holleman of Creedmoor.

### Mechatronics Expected Graduates:



Thomas Boyd  
of Henderson



Charles Nordcliff  
of Creedmoor



Kyle Painter  
of Berea

## CUSTOMIZED TRAINING

New course offered by request:

### Essential Team Leading Skills for New Supervisors & Managers

**Purpose:** For newly assigned supervisors and managers to introduce basic concepts in team leadership. This class is highly interactive and includes personality analysis, practice of effective communication and conflict.

#### Learner Objectives:

- Discover your personality style and apply this knowledge to improve work relationships
- Use communication more effectively
- Give effective performance feedback
- Resolve conflict among team members and peers
- Build effective teams and monitor and enhance engagement

For more information about this course and other Leadership courses, please contact Sara Lloyd, Director of Customized Training at 252-738-3433 or lloyds@vgcc.edu.

## TECHHIRE

TechHire is off to a flying start. Our first cohort of students began their journey with CompTIA A+. Potential students must be between the ages of 17-29 and meet other grant related criteria. Our NC TechHire grant provides support for the course registration fees, books, certification fees and other support. Anyone interested should contact Ken Wilson at (252) 738-3259 or wilsonk@vgcc.edu or Tiffani Polk at (252) 738-3291 or polkt@vgcc.edu.

#### Schedule of Upcoming Classes

**Microsoft Office Specialist II**  
3/9/17

**CompTIA Security+**  
3/22/17

**Microsoft Office Specialist I**  
3/23/17

**CompTIA Networking +**  
3/23/17

**CAD with Solid Edge**  
(2 selections available)  
4/3/17 am & 4/3/17 pm

**CISCO CCENT Certification**  
5/22/17

## PACE HONORED FOR LEADERSHIP AT VGCC

Rusty Pace, program head for Welding Technology at Vance-Granville Community College, was recently honored with the President's Leadership Award from Dr. Stelfanie Williams, the president of the college.

Pace's honor is one of three Glen Raven Excellence in Teaching and Leadership Awards presented to VGCC employees during each academic year. The others, the Faculty Member of the Year and Staff Member of the Year awards, are presented in the fall semester. Glen Raven, Inc., the manufacturer with a site in Norlina, is a longtime VGCC partner. The company's support includes sponsoring the annual stipends to recognize outstanding VGCC instructors and staff members, and endowing many scholarships for students.

Dr. Williams praised Pace as an innovative faculty leader. "Under Rusty's leadership, the Welding program, which was already well-known for excellence, has increased its retention rate while also expanding from a one-year diploma to an associate



*Above: VGCC President's Leadership Award recipient Rusty Pace*

degree program," the president said. "He has worked hand-in-hand with our Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant department staff to grow his program, meeting the needs of both our students and our local employers."

Williams also noted that Pace has demonstrated a commitment to professional development, by traveling as far away as Ohio for

welding technology training, by attending a conference related to the TAACCCT grant in Florida and by taking courses at the college in online education and computer skills.

A Louisburg resident and native of Franklinton, Pace enrolled at VGCC fresh out of Franklinton High School. He graduated from VGCC with a diploma in Welding in 1978 and quickly became certified through the Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory. Pace worked as a welder for many years in Wake Forest and Franklin County, eventually opening his own business. He later completed an associate degree in Welding at Nash Community College.

Pace returned to teach Welding at VGCC on a part-time basis in 1998 and became a full-time instructor in 2004. Pace was promoted to the role of program head in 2007. At the college, he has served on the Professional Advisory Committee, the Judicial Committee and the Student Success Committee, and completed the VGCC Leadership Institute in 2006.

## COACH'S CORNER: AVOIDING SPRING FEVER



*Tiffani Polk*

Coming soon to a window near you: Birds chirping, flowers blooming and sunshine radiating. Spring will be here before you know it and with it comes the urge to play hooky from school to enjoy the fresh air, go fishing or pursue other springtime activities. Don't fall into the trap! Here are some easy ways to stay motivated when spring breathes new, exciting life into the world around you, but maybe not into your classroom or workspace.

- **PLAN AHEAD**

If you know your friends want to hang out at the lake later, get in an hour or two of homework before you go and party all night (but don't skip class the next day)!

- **CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE**

Don't think of it as nine more long weeks left in the semester. Think of it as **ONLY** nine weeks left to summer!

- **SET SHORT-TERM GOALS AND REWARD YOURSELF**

Develop some goals for completing your assignments on time. Once you complete one, reward yourself with something you love like getting outside to enjoy the spring or ice cream!

- **REMEMBER WHY YOU ARE HERE**

You're in school to graduate. Your hard work will pay off in the end. Give it all you've got!

## INAUGURAL WORKING SMART CLASS COMPLETED!

In response to employer demands, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Workforce Development Partners through funding from the Foundation For The Carolinas developed Working Smart: Soft Skills for Workplace Success. It is designed to provide the work and life skills that enhance employee productivity. Employers want employees that will come to work and work. They need employees who enhance productivity. Many employers have said they can teach the technical hands-on skills but they need employees who understand work ethics and soft-skills for the workplace. The Working Smart course covers self awareness, communication, work ethics, self-management and problem solving skills and upon completion the participant receives a State-Recognized Credential (currently recognized in North Carolina and South Carolina).



Five students completed the VGCC Working Smart class in February. Pictured from left are Calvin Person, Inisio Affiah, James O'Meara, Nolan Self, Jonathan (Caleb) Bullock.



Pictured above on front row from left is James O'Meara and Jonathan (Caleb) Bullock; on second row from left are Calvin Person, Jean Blaine (instructor), Inisio Affiah, and Nolan Self.

## MECHATRONICS INSTRUCTORS ATTEND ROBOT TRAINING

Two Mechatronics instructors, Donald Medlin and Wesley Williams, attended a class at the FANUC America Southeast Robotics center in Huntersville, N.C., on January 3-6. The class was called Handling Tool Operation and Programming and is designed to be the first in a series of robot programming courses covering the programming of a variety of FANUC robots. Almost every modern manufacturing facility has robots and FANUC is the global leader in industrial robots.

The instructors will utilize their training to help students develop an understanding of how robots are incorporated into automated systems and how to program simple motions. The students and instructors will be able to practice what they learn using the FANUC LR Mate 200iD robot and manufacturing training system in our laboratory at South Campus.

*Shown at right, Wesley Williams, Program Head of Mechatronics Engineering Technology, stands in front of a FANUC M-2000ia six-axis vertically articulated robot which was used on site to move large sections of concrete pipe.*



### VGCC ONLINE

- [www.vgcc.edu](http://www.vgcc.edu)
- [www.vgcc.edu/admissionsoffice/](http://www.vgcc.edu/admissionsoffice/)
- [www.vgcc.edu/academics/academics-programs](http://www.vgcc.edu/academics/academics-programs)
- [www.vgcc.edu/Registrar/](http://www.vgcc.edu/Registrar/)



American Welding Society  
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION MEMBER

## VGCC EMBRACES A PROGRAM CHANGE IN GLOBAL LOGISTICS AND DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Global Logistics and Distribution Management Technology will soon have a new program name identified as Supply Chain Management with two pathways: (1) Global Logistics Technology and (2) Transportation and Operations Management. VGCC recognizes that Logistics is thriving and we purpose to offer a program that will satisfy employers with skilled employees to advance in their field.

The Trucking Operations Management (TOM) pathway introduces students to all facets of a trucking company's operations. Specific areas of study include: modes of trucking, industry terminology, dispatch functions, customer service, equipment maintenance, industry technology, human resources, driver requirements, safety functions, regulatory requirements, freight brokerage and routing.

Personnel employed in the trucking industry typically rely heavily on high-tech information systems that encompass the entire business model, as well as communications with drivers. North Carolina statistics show that the average starting



salary is over \$44,000 annually in the trucking industry. Likewise, a logistic analyst with a two-year degree may start around \$48,000/year.

According to learningpath.org the transportation and logistics field offers a number of job opportunities in the supply chain industry. This field is not limited to materials handling, warehousing, transportation and distribution. An associate's degree

can make one competitive for entry-level positions, while the bachelor's program offers a more advanced education that prepares one for management. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) found that the logistician openings were projected to increase by 26%.

For additional information please contact Delton Farmer at farmerd@vgcc.edu or 252-738-3508.

### AMSC PROGRAMS:

#### Applied Technologies

Keith Shearon, Department Chair: (252) 738-3541, shearonj@vgcc.edu

#### Engineering Technology (Electronics & Mechatronics)

Wesley Williams, Program Head: (252) 738-3256, williamsw@vgcc.edu

#### Welding Technology

Rusty Pace, Program Head: (252) 738-3375, pace@vgcc.edu

#### Customized Training/Industrial Services

Sara Lloyd, Director of Customized Training: (252) 738-3433, lloyds@vgcc.edu

#### TechHire Program

Kenneth Wilson, JD, Project Manager: (252) 738-3259, wilsonk@vgcc.edu

#### TAACCCT Program

Zane Styers, Project Manager: (252) 738-3342, styersz@vgcc.edu

Tiffani Polk, Academic & Career Coach: (252) 738-3291, polkt@vgcc.edu

Cherrelle Lawrence, Job Placement Coordinator (252) 738-3386, lawrencec@vgcc.edu