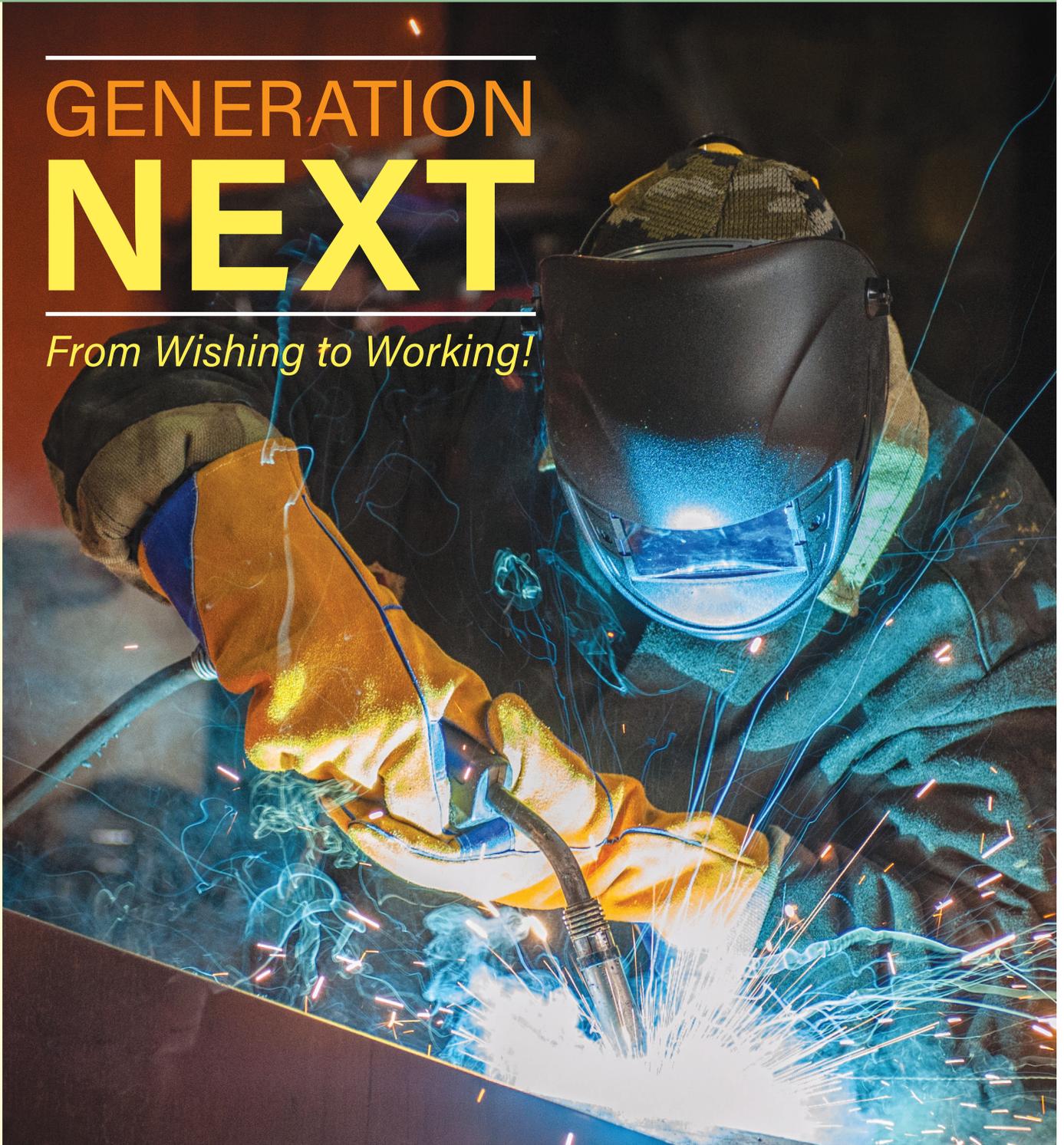


# BLUEPRINT

February  
2018

## GENERATION NEXT

*From Wishing to Working!*



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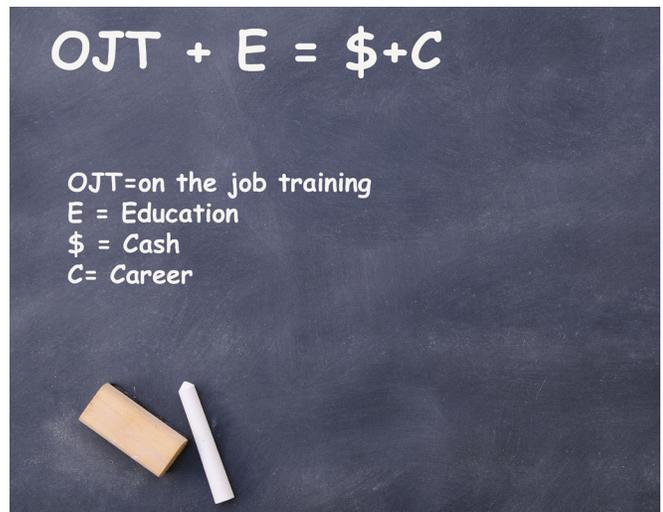
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## THE EQUATION THAT MAKES SENSE

Although the equation in the picture looks nothing like any math or scientific equation many of us were introduced to in school, it is becoming reality for increasing numbers of students. Education remains the best means to gain upward mobility and provide for the future. But, the value/debt math of traditional study is causing many to contemplate educational options.

Government officials, politicians, industry representatives and educators are exploring ways to increase the impact of education on the economy and address debt. The traditional education/roll the dice approach where students complete an educational phase, obtain a degree and then (hopefully) land a job is under scrutiny.

Throughout this newsletter we highlight efforts underway at VGCC in conjunction with our partners to impact the education to career paradigm. Our College to Career pipeline includes Techlink speaker presentations/tours, work based learning options,



internships, apprenticeships, mock interviews, résumé prep, soft skill coaching and our Graduate Mixer. All are designed to provide training, exposure and insight to propel students along a career pathway in an informed manner, in effect shortening the odds of securing gainful employment.

## GRADUATION IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

### Meet Our Graduates



On May 1, 2018, we will host our second annual Graduate Mixer. This is an opportunity for students and industry partners to network and make beneficial employment matches. Last year we presented 15 graduates of Mechatronics and Welding to nine industry partners. Students made crucial industry connections and/or obtained employment. Employers gained early access to educated, qualified potential employees.

This event is just one of the ways we increased synergy with employer partners while providing a robust pipeline for qualified future employees. Mark your calendars for this special event. Contact TechHire Job Placement Coordinator Cherrelle Lawrence for more information at [lawrencec@vgcc.edu](mailto:lawrencec@vgcc.edu) or 252-738-3366.

## PARTNERSHIPS

# GLEN RAVEN®

# &



## Vance-Granville Community College

### *Working Together To Improve People's Lives*

Glen Raven and Vance-Granville Community College have been partners for over 20 years. The demand for a quality workforce is paramount in the continued success of Glen Raven's business. Over the past year, Glen Raven has worked closely with TechHire Job Placement Coordinator Cherrelle Lawrence to engage students in experience options and secure employment for VGCC Mechatronics Engineering Technology students. Vance-Granville's move into the field of Mechatronics has proven beneficial in providing qualified employees into Glen Raven's workforce. These graduates have taken lead positions within Glen Raven and pushed the envelope for continuous improvement.



*Pictured above from left are Todd Wemyss, Glen Raven's Norlina Plant Manager, and Chuck Nordcliff, Section Leader.*



*Former VGCC students shown above from left, Tyler Reiss, Technical Manager, and Kyle Painter, Process Specialist.*



*Shown above, from left: Glen Raven's Mike Stanberry, Maintenance Coordinator, and Joe Nehme, Facility Technician, both former VGCC students.*

# Is a Career in **Cybersecurity** right for you?

By Tony Marshall, President, Innovative Systems Group

One of the stated traits referenced in the bestselling book “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” is to begin with the end in mind. If the goal of your educational journey is to end with a great career, you should at least consider cybersecurity. If you are looking for a career that involves jobs in demand, you should consider cybersecurity. If you are looking for career options in demand everywhere you go ([www.cyberseek.org/heatmap.html](http://www.cyberseek.org/heatmap.html)), you should consider cybersecurity.

It is estimated that by 2020 there will be 1.5 million unfilled cybersecurity jobs in the United States. Internationally, the numbers are even more daunting! One reason young people overlook careers in cybersecurity is they get intimidated by the

One misconception is that cyber jobs are limited to “geeks”. While there are many jobs for geeks, there are many positions for other personality types as well. The National Institute for Cyber Education (NICE) has developed a great tool that highlight career pathways and how a cyber aspirant can proceed to their specified goal.

While there are many pathways to a career in cybersecurity, as an employer, I have found more success using apprenticeship as a development tool. Development of cyber skills requires education, training and experience. This is analogous to the process of learning to drive a car. You must read the driver’s manual. This is the education. You have to drive around a few parking lots or dirt roads. This



complexity of cyber. Keep in mind that most things we do for the first time can be complex and intimidating. Most of us were stumbling around holding on to coffee tables and walls when we learned to walk. After practice and effort, for most of us, it became so easy that we don’t think about it. Learning to walk is not much different then learning most things in life. If we can internalize the learning process, life gets easier.

is training. Then, you move to driving on streets with other drivers. This is experience. If you short change any part of this three-step process, you will be an insurance company’s nightmare. As a Cyber Professional, you must make the proper investment in each step in order to have a long and prosperous career.

See “Cyber,” page 5



*“Cyber,” from page 4*

Changes in technology and lifestyles can be very disruptive. As society automates, cybersecurity will increase in importance and its viability will continue to increase. As we see the Internet of things (IOT) extend to vehicles, appliances, homes, toys and more, cybersecurity will be required. Cyber-related salaries are skyrocketing. This is a function of low supply and high demand. However, if the only thing that motivates you to enter a cyber related career is money, I would say that is not enough. You should only pursue a career if you can be fulfilled. Doing any job that does not provide fulfillment can lead to a miserable existence.

Apprenticeship requires the employer to make an investment in the employee and the employee to trust the employer to help them develop. As an employer, when I invest in the employee, the expectation is that the employee is going to be appreciative of the investment and will in turn be loyal to the employer long term. As an employer, I recognize that my teams are only as good as the talent that I can employ, so making this investment is not a problem.

In summary, my company made an investment into apprenticeship and it has been a tremendous benefit to us in finding and keeping very talented people. If you are looking for a career in demand, where you can command a better than average salary, consider cybersecurity. If you are interested in getting connected to an employer that is going to assist you in your development consider apprenticeship.



For information on TechHire  
[www.vgcc.edu/Techhire](http://www.vgcc.edu/Techhire)

## TechLink Series

### Prescient TechTalk

Our ongoing effort to expose students to career options continued Friday, January 26, 2018, with the latest TechTalk speaker presentation. Present were Deanna B. Yates, HR Manager; Kevin Tucker, Operations Manager; and Mike Allen, welder/panel cell lead, all from Prescient. Prescient is a manufacturing and technology company that offers a faster, greener and cost-effective alternative to conventional building structures. Prescient's primary market is multi-unit buildings and residential construction, including apartments, condos, senior and assisted-living communities, hotels, college and military dormitories.

Prescient provides a unique and efficient value proposition based on proprietary technology and lean manufacturing. The company is new to the area having opened their Mebane facility within the last 15 months. Over 30 Welding students and faculty



instructors were impressed with the build processes represented during the presentation. Discussions centered on the welding techniques and requirements inherent in their projects.

Over the next several years Prescient will be expanding significantly and is seeking welders who are looking to start their career with this exciting company. We look forward to touring their facility and working with them in the future.

**PRESCIENT®**  
FASTER. BETTER. GREENER. CHEAPER.



### Edwards, Inc., TechTalk

VGCC Welding Technology students and faculty were able to go behind the scenes to learn more about welding, fabrication and pipe fitting at Edwards, Inc. Edwards is an industrial contracting company based in Spring Hope, NC. Students were led on a tour by

the company's Engineering and Quality Assurance teams. Mike Williams, a first-year VGCC Welding student, observed, "I could really see myself working here one day!"

Students were first introduced to Edwards, Inc. during a "TechTalk" session held on VGCC's campus, where the company's Engineering Manager, Joel Lee, spoke with students about the company, welding industry and the various career opportunities available with Edwards, Inc. Joel stressed that education is key to be successful and that once learning is complete the education on the job is never ending. According to Joel, Edwards "Rangers" go anywhere to get the job done to the customers satisfaction without excuses.

*Thank You, Edwards, Inc., for allowing our students and faculty to tour your facilities!*

**EDWARDS**  
Inc.

## Welding Apprenticeship

### WELDING APPRENTICESHIP INFORMATION SESSION

April 18, 2018 • 10 a.m.-12 p.m. • Building 8, Conference Room  
VGCC Main Campus • 200 Community College Road, Henderson

Over the last several years, we have worked hard to strengthen our welding program with the help over several grant initiatives. Our TAACCCT grant provided equipment and support for the establishment of our Associate in Applied Science degree. Now with our diploma and degree options thriving we have added career development support and exposure while actively preparing our students for professional careers.

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*“According to a Bureau of Labor Statistics Job Outlook report, welders could see fifty thousand job openings per year through 2026.”*

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Apprenticeship are industry-driven training programs and only work when there are industry partners willing to provide support for on the job training aspect of the program. VGCC would like the opportunity to be the education training partner for this effort. The good news is that we have received the Duke Energy/Piedmont Natural Gas Apprenticeship grant to support student education. We have set aside a two-hour informational meeting for industry partners to hear more about this great economic development opportunity. Come out and see the course sequence and ask questions of the NC Apprenticeship office and VGCC staff. Use the sign up link below to reserve your spot. Don't miss this opportunity to secure your future high performers.

For information on signing up for the Welding Apprenticeship Informational Session, please go to [www.vgcc.edu/welding-apprenticeship](http://www.vgcc.edu/welding-apprenticeship)

## Academic Excellence Award Winner

### VGCC Welding Student Receives Community College System's Award



VGCC Welding student, Andrew (Andy) Lynam, shown above, is VGCC's recipient of the North Carolina Community College System's 2018 Academic Excellence Award

Vance-Granville Community College's recipient of the North Carolina Community College System's 2018 Academic Excellence Award is second-year Welding student, Andrew (Andy) Lynam. This award recognizes one outstanding student from each community college in the state who is committed to academic excellence and has an interesting "Success Story." A committee of VGCC faculty and staff selected him for this award. Andy is a Career & College Promise (CCP) student pursuing his Associate degree in Welding Technology. He shows himself to be very thoughtful, diligent and always willing to learn. Andy self-recognizes the lack of experience that is inherent with his youth, but shows himself eager to learn, takes direction and executes suggestions for professional improvement, with ease. During his time in the Welding program, Andy has earned the Gold level National Career Readiness Certification along with several industry qualifications. To learn more about Andrew, visit: <https://portfolio.com/AndrewLynam>

# Portfolio

Students highlight accomplishments, education, certifications, digital badges and creativity all in one online place.

For more information, visit [portfolio.com](https://portfolio.com)

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# Generation

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For more information, log onto:  
[vgcc.edu/techhire](http://vgcc.edu/techhire)

**To Learn More, Contact:**

**Kenneth Wilson, Project Manager**  
(252) 738-3259

**Cherelle Lawrence, GCDF**  
Job Placement Coordinator  
(252) 738-3386

## HVAC APPRENTICESHIP HEATS UP

### *VGCC students are first apprentices in new HVAC partnership*

Jared Akers of Franklinton and Cyrus Jover of Henderson, both students in the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Technology (HVAC) at Vance-Granville Community College, recently became the first participants in the college's new apprenticeship partnership with Youngsville-based Frigi-Temp, a commercial HVAC and refrigeration service provider and licensed mechanical contractor serving central North Carolina since 2001.

Jared and Cyrus were already enrolled in the HVAC program when Frigi-Temp CEO Cory Thornton spoke to VGCC students about the

experience so far has been amazing." He said that in just one month, he has learned a great deal.

Cyrus previously worked in HVAC residential installation for almost four years before becoming an apprentice and jumped at the chance to gain new experience. "Commercial HVAC is fun and opens me up to a new world of possibilities," Jover said. "It's something new every day. Frigi-Temp lets their apprentices become immersed in many different specialties, not just one type of service." Jover, originally from the Philippines, earned a college degree in Biology before coming to the United States



*Pictured from left, Cyrus Jover of Henderson and Jared Akers of Franklinton.*

apprenticeship opportunity. Jared, a South Granville High School graduate, said the program appealed to him "because it meant I could go to school and get experience in the field at the same time." He looked for apprenticeships before and was thrilled that VGCC started the program. "I went into the HVAC field because I researched and found out that it's a growing field with a shortage of technicians, so opportunities are really wide-open for new technicians," Jared added. "Frigi-Temp is a quality company, outstanding in customer service and awesome with employees. The

seven years ago. Here, he found that the HVAC field had numerous job openings. Cyrus enrolled at VGCC, first as a part-time and then a full-time student. Now, he has completed most of his classwork and spends most of his time working at Frigi-Temp. Students interested in enrolling in the HVAC program can contact program head Wesley Smith at [smithw@vgcc.edu](mailto:smithw@vgcc.edu) or (252) 738-3214. Employers interested in partnering with VGCC on apprenticeships are encouraged to contact Ken Wilson at [wilsonk@vgcc.edu](mailto:wilsonk@vgcc.edu) or (252) 738-3259 for more information.

## Duke Energy/Piedmont Natural Gas Grant for Apprenticeship



Show above from left, Dr. Ken Lewis, Vice President of Institutional Research & Technology, Kenneth Wilson, JD, TechHire Grant project manager, Tanya Evans, Duke Energy district manager, and Dr. Stelfanie Williams, VGCC President.

Vance-Granville Community College received a \$200,000 grant from Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas to connect students with hands-on training and career development opportunities. The investment, from the Duke Energy Foundation, will support the “Vanguard Apprenticeship Collaborative,” a VGCC initiative designed to cultivate highly skilled workers for industry partners in a number of disciplines. Grant funds will provide scholarships to adult students who are accepted into registered apprenticeship programs. Funds will also be used to purchase some equipment used for technical training and other supplies.

“Apprenticeships are key to meeting the workforce needs of our region’s industries while also supporting students’ academic and career success, and this new grant will allow Vance-Granville to continue to grow this exciting initiative,” said Dr. Stelfanie Williams, president of VGCC. “On behalf of our current and future apprentices and our local employers, we sincerely appreciate the strong support of our partners at Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas.”

“We are proud to partner with Vance-Granville Community College to connect students with apprenticeship and workforce training opportunities,” said Tanya Evans, Duke Energy district manager. “These students will gain valuable hands-on experience while directly helping meet the needs of the region’s industries.”

This grant is part of Duke Energy’s \$35 million investment in North Carolina’s Community Colleges’ focus on technical education and support of business and industry. Individual community colleges could apply for funds through the North Carolina Community Foundation and the Foundation for the Carolinas. Applications were reviewed by a committee of representatives from Duke Energy, NC Community College System and NC Department of Commerce.

### About the Duke Energy Foundation

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to address the needs of the communities where its customers live and work. The foundation provides more than \$30 million annually in charitable gifts. The foundation’s education focus spans kindergarten to career, particularly science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), early childhood literacy and workforce development. It also supports the environment and community impact initiatives, including arts and culture.

Duke Energy employees and retirees actively contribute to their communities as volunteers and leaders at a wide variety of nonprofit organizations. Duke Energy is committed to building on its legacy of community service. For more information, visit <http://www.duke-energy.com/foundation>.

North Carolina Community Foundation administers the Duke Energy/Piedmont Natural Gas Community College Apprenticeship Grant Program in the Duke Energy Progress area of the state. The Foundation is the single statewide community foundation in North Carolina, serving the philanthropic needs of donors and a broad range of charitable purposes in North Carolina. Visit [www.nccommunityfoundation.org](http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org).



A network of Colleges and Registered Apprenticeship Programs working together to provide college-to-career opportunities

## VGCC NC TECHHIRE

Not every IT/Tech job requires a degree. Many of these open positions widely known as “new collar jobs” can be had with a recognized industry certification. If you are between 18-29, you could be eligible to receive training at no cost. Courses provide the same certifications as advertised on TV and radio without the high cost. Contact TechHire Academic & Career Coach Tiffani Polk at [polkt@vgcc.edu](mailto:polkt@vgcc.edu) or 252-738-3291 for more information.

### SPRING TECHHIRE SCHEDULE (start dates)

**March 7** – CompTIA Network+

**March 10** – CompTIA A+ (902)

**March 12** – Microsoft Excel

**March 12** – Microsoft Powerpoint

**March 13** – Microsoft Access

**April 16** – Microsoft Word



**April 17** – Microsoft Excel

**May 17** – CompTIA Server+

**May 21** – CompTIA Security+

**May 21** – Microsoft Powerpoint

**May 22** – Microsoft Access

*This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it.*

# SAVE THE DATE

- GRADUATE MIXER -

# 05.01.18

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AND MECHATRONICS, READY FOR HIRE!



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### Welding Technology

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### Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration (HVAC)

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Vance-Granville Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Vance-Granville Community College. Vance-Granville Community College is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The college serves all students regardless of race, creed, color, age, sex, national origin, or disabling conditions. Vance-Granville Community College is a Tobacco-Free College.