



Vance-Granville Community College

Educating. Inspiring. Supporting.

Table of Contents

- 2 Message from President Desmarais
- 3 Vanguard Vision
- 3 Message from Chairman Rasheed
- 4 Trustee Diversity / Equity Statement
- 5 Our Values
- 7 Our Goals
- 8 Our Students 2021-2022
- 10 VGCC Data 2021–2022
- **12** Looking to our Leaders
- 14 VGCC recognized as Entrepreneurial College of the Year by NACCE
- 16 Better Skills, Better Jobs: Adult Learners at VGCC
- **18** Ribbon Cut on VGCC's Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center
- 20 VGCC Biotech program set for growth, with federal grant support

- "We All Have a Story": One Vanguard's Vision to Inspire Others
- 24 VGCC Honors Radiography Graduates at Pinning Ceremony
- 25 Women in STEM Virtual Summit
- 26 VGCC's Inaugural Juneteenth Program
- 26 VGCC Launches new Apple Swift Programming Course
- 27 Lake Gaston couple endows new VGCC scholarship
- **28** VGCC joins Scholar of Global Distinction program through UNC
- 29 Faculty & Staff Awards
- **30** A Message from the Foundation
- 32 Gifts & Grants





MESSAGE FROM

President Desmarais

Have you heard the news? VGCC has a new attitude and approach to our mission! We have embraced new ways of thinking and doing in response to a post-pandemic environment and in anticipation of a changing workforce.

This past fall, the college was named the Heather Van Sickle Entrepreneurial College of the Year by the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurs. This award recognizes colleges that have demonstrated a commitment to entrepreneurship and a spirit of innovation both inside and outside the classroom. Arguably one the award's smallest and most rural recipients, VGCC demonstrates that size and location are no impediment to enterprising thought and innovative action.

Within these pages, you will see examples of progressive opportunities, "first" experiences, and new commitments. For example, we are offering new courses to meet emerging workforce needs. We have formed new training partnerships to multiply the impact of a ready, regional workforce. Visioning, adaptation, and innovation are all necessary components of surviving and thriving in a disrupted environment. The college is embracing this mindset, and we are passing that mindset to our students and community members by way of our new Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center. You will also learn more about VGCC's participation in the successful NC BioBetter Consortium, a bid for federal grant dollars to build a biotechnology workforce in our region.

As a 2021 participant in the NC Reconnect program pilot, VGCC collaborated with four sister colleges in increasing the successful enrollment and completion of "adult learners," aged 25–64 years old. We are proud to have been a part of this groundbreaking program and look forward to continued success with reengaging the adults in our community who are looking to have better work skills, better pay, and a better job!

None of what we report in these pages would be possible without the support of our community. Thank you for your financial gifts, your public support, and your volunteered time! I give special thanks to our Vanguard employees for their acknowledgement of our "new normal" and their willingness to "think outside the box" and try new things. Together, we are adopting a growth mindset. I must also give thanks to our Board of Trustees for their unwavering support and leadership as they envisioned the future state of our mission. Your courageous vision motivates us to think differently. As I complete my fourth year of service at this amazing college, I am humbled and honored to be a VGCC Vanguard.

Vanguards lead!

Rachel

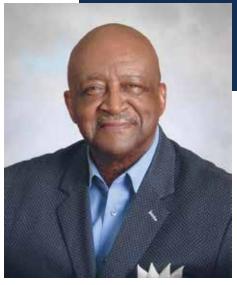
VANGUARD VISION

Our Mission

Vance-Granville Community College educates, inspires, and supports a diverse community of learners to achieve professional and personal success.

Our Vision

Vance-Granville Community College will be a catalyst in developing strong communities where everyone experiences a fulfilling quality of life.



MESSAGE FROM

Chairman Rasheed

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is my honor to commend Vance-Granville Community College for another outstanding year. Our administrators, faculty, and staff have surely upheld the mission of educating, inspiring, and supporting the four-county area through these dynamic times.

As we finally step into a post-pandemic world, we find that it looks quite a bit different than it did a few years ago. There are new needs, new expectations, new methods of doing things—and that's where institutions like Vance-Granville come in. I recently heard a local entrepreneurial leader describe Vance-Granville as "small, scrappy, and innovative." That's a reputation to be proud of. Those kinds of qualities will carry every member of our Vanguard family to greater heights, student and staff alike.

The future is being built right here, right now. We thank all who have partnered with VGCC over this past year, and we ask for your continued support as we climb ever upward.

Abdul Sm Rasheed

Chair VGCC Board of Trustees 21-22



Everyone Matters & Belongs at VGCC

In 2018, VGCC joined Achieving the Dream, a partnership network dedicated to promoting student success. According to the organization's website, Achieving the Dream "works[s] with...colleges to ensure all students can access learning that propels them into rewarding careers." VGCC employees and members of the Board of Trustees spent the following year learning more about our community needs, digging deeper into student data, and examining our approach to education.

In 2019, the VGCC Board of Trustees adopted a new vision statement for the college:

The challenges of 2020 caused us to assess the value the college brought to the communities we serve. We found opportunity gaps in the student data we examined. We asked our students what they needed. We explored who was missing from VGCC. We listened to each other in 2021.

In 2022, the VGCC Board of Trustees released the following definition and statement on equity to guide our journey to fulfilling the college's mission and vision of a vibrant future for our communities.

Vance-Granville Community College will be a catalyst in developing strong communities where everyone experiences a fulfilling quality of life.

EQUITY DEFINITION

VGCC Board of Trustees defines equity as the intentional process and practice to ensure that each student, faculty, and staff member receives the support necessary to achieve their full potential.

EQUITY STATEMENT

The Vance-Granville Community College Board of Trustees acknowledges and renounces systems that selectively advantage and/or disadvantage members of our four-campus college family and our community at large.

We *promise* to advocate for equity that culminates in equality.

We *commit* to leading the transformation of systems internal to the college so they support equity for

all students, faculty, and staff through assessment, reflection, and engagement.

We *pledge* to partner with those in our community who work to build equitable systems and/or transform inequitable systems into those characterized by equity.

We *strive* to ensure that every person of every social or cultural perspective has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

Everyone matters and belongs at VGCC.

Several members of our Board of Trustees were honored to present a rural, Southern college's equity journey and progression at the National Association of Community College Trustees annual conference in 2022.

¹Achieving the Dream. (2022, February 2). Our Work. https://achievingthedream.org/our-work/

OUR VALUES

Teaching and Learning

We value learning for all, providing quality instruction in a supportive environment aligned with community and workforce needs of today and tomorrow.

- A "culture of student success" is embodied in the way we engage, teach, advise, and administer policy to students.
- Professional development in excellent teaching is provided and embraced. Innovation in teaching and learning is encouraged.
- Measuring and monitoring student success allows us to continuously refine and improve our craft and process to ensure equitable student outcomes.

Respect

We value a climate where employees, students, and community members feel accepted and meaningfully involved in a common cause. We recognize that we are interdependent and will demonstrate respect for one another.

- Conflict is viewed as an opportunity to find a constructive solution that helps all to succeed.
- Genuine interest and care are shown to our co-workers and students.
- Everyone is accountable at VGCC for success.

Community

We value positive and supportive relationships among the faculty, staff, and students. We strive to be a proactive partner in our community.

- We provide access to higher education for our communities. VGCC is a place where everyone is welcome.
- We proactively seek to understand each other, our students, and our community in the fulfillment of our mission.
- We consider the impact our decisions have on each other, our students, and our community.
- Diversity is celebrated, and inclusion is practiced.

Communication

We value decision making through broad-based, respectful team work and effective dialog.

- Our communication is genuine and transparent.
- We communicate by being totally honest and totally kind.
- Follow-through is an important part of communicating.





OUR GOALS

Economic Development and Partnership

Developing new and enhancing existing partnerships to strengthen workforce retraining and development, and providing additional pathways for higher education.

- 1.1 Implementing short-term workforce development programs to build a strong base and prepare tomorrow's workforce.
- 1.2 Developing additional centers throughout our service area to offer educational opportunities for all residents.
- 1.3 Constructing new transfer pathways and opportunities for students to streamline education beyond Vance-Granville.
- **1.4** Enhancing existing K-12 partnerships to prepare students for work after graduation.

Teaching and Learning

Facilitating student success by incorporating professional development for faculty and supporting our students with intentional strategies.

- **2.1** Ensuring that all students have equity in learning outcomes and support services.
- **2.2** Structuring programs and schedules for efficient completion.
- 2.3 Fostering quality instruction through faculty support and resources.
- 2.4 Establishing and enhancing student services that support improved access, retention, success and completion.

Employee Culture and Innovation

Supporting employees to enhance their growth, development, and experience leading to employee retention.

- 3.1 Providing opportunities for internal collaboration to increase awareness to all employees on college matters.
- **3.2** Improving processes and technology that facilitate an environment of continuous improvement.
- 3.3 Enhancing the quality and consistency of services and resources to strengthen employee support.

Institutional Commitment

Communicating and securing outside resources allowing VGCC to prosper now and in the future.

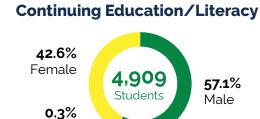
- **4.1** Enhancing our external communications to build our foundation for the future.
- **4.2** Securing additional resources to bolster, build, and extend workforce capacity.
- **4.3** Cultivating the Vance-Granville brand through marketing, communications, and student results.
- **4.4** Maintaining financial integrity with all avenues of budgeting.



OUR STUDENTS

2021-2022

8,512 Total Students Unduplicated Headcount



4,564Students in Workforce
Development

Unknown

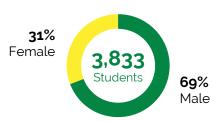
369 Students in Adult Basic Skills, English as a Second Language, High School Equivalency

Literacy Graduates

23High School
Equivalency

8
Adult High
School Diplomas

Curriculum Programs





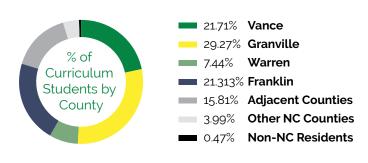


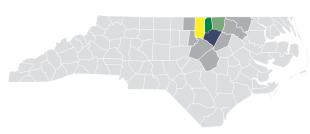
594 Curriculum Graduates

424Associate
Degrees

68Diplomas

102 Certificates





'Unduplicated is not the sum of the two totals because some students took both Curriculum and Continuing Education/Literacy courses Graduate data obtained from colleague (7/1/2021 through 6/30/2022) as of 09/13/2022 Enrollment data obtained from colleague on 9/13/2022



VGCC celebrated the Class of 2022 with a graduation commencement exercise held on May 15, 2022. We are so proud of our graduates and their successes! We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

VGCC DATA

2021-2022

Curriculum Enrollment

(Summer 2021, Fall 2021 and Spring 2022)

Total Enrollment:	3,833
Full-Time Enrollment:	979
Part-Time Enrollment:	2,854
First-time Degree Seeking at VGCC: *Includes Credential Seeking & College Transfer Pathway Students	950
Freshman:	324
Transfer-In:	114
Dual Enrolled:	512
Part-time Freshman, Degree Seeking at VGCC: *Includes Credential Seeking Students *Dual Enrolled Students are not Included	191
Median Age of total enrollment:	
*Median age of total enrollment	20
*Median age of total enrollment excluding Dual Enrolled Students	24

Enrollment Data Obtained from NCCCS Report Full-Time/Part Time Status Obtained from Colleague

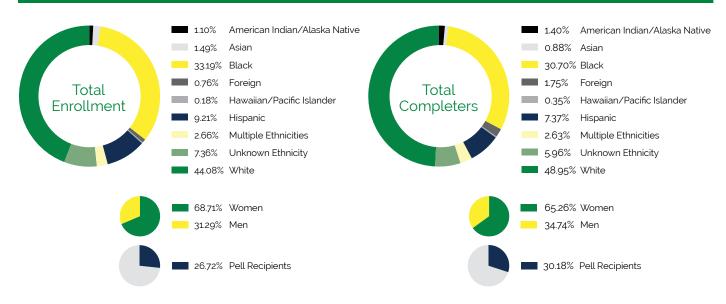
Curriculum Graduates

(7/1/2021 through 6/30/2022) as of 09/13/2022

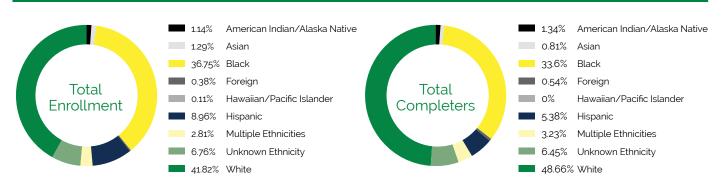
Total Completions:	594
Total Associate Degrees:	424
Total Diplomas:	68
Total Certificates:	102
Total Completers:	570
Median Age:	23

Data Obtained from Colleague on 9-13-22

Curriculum Demographics



Female



Male



Enrollment Data Obtained from NCCCS Report/Colleaague Completion Data Obtained from Colleague



Looking to our Leaders

Administration

Dr. Rachel Desmarais President

Dr. Jerry Edmonds Vice President of

Workforce & Community

Engagement

Steven Graham Vice President of

Finance & Operations

Dr. Kenneth A. Lewis, Jr. Vice President of

Institutional Research

& Technology

Cecilia Wheeler Acting Vice President of

Learning, Student Engagement

& Success / CAO

Kevin Tompkins Executive Director of

Human Resources

Tanya Weary Executive Director of

the VGCC Foundation

Board of Trustees (2021–2022)

Abdul Sm Rasheed. Chair

Xavier L. Wortham, Vice Chair

Deborah M. Butler

Carolyn Faines

Barbara Cates Harris

Dr. Dorwin L. Howard Sr.

Susan Nicholas

Rev. Dr. Willie T. Ramey, III

Donald C. Seifert Sr.

Sara C. Wester

Dr. Doris Terry Williams

Danny W. Wright

Jennifer Pierce, Warren County Liaison

Gwen Clayton, Student Government President

SGA Officers



VGCC Student Government Association officers for 2021-2022. From left: Nicole Martin, secretary/treasurer; Keziah Brown, vice-president; Gwen Clayton, president; Clarence Sanderford, Franklin Campus senator; Celia Mann, parliamentarian; Tia Evans, Main Campus senator; Serena Aycock, social media officer.



VGCC RECOGNIZED AS

Entrepreneurial College of the Year by NACCE

The National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), the nation's leading organization focused on promoting entrepreneurship through community colleges, has named Vance-Granville Community College as the 2022 "Heather Van Sickle Entrepreneurial College of the Year." That honor was announced at NACCE's annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts, where teams from VGCC also won prizes in "pitch" competitions.

First, Vance-Granville won \$50,000 in NACCE's "Pitch for the Foundations," a new initiative created to support community colleges and their foundations in providing transformational opportunities. In this competition, Tanya Weary, executive director of The VGCC Foundation, Sheri Jones, associate director of The VGCC Foundation, and Kenneth Wilson, grants administrator, made a presentation that won the prize (tied for the largest amount given to any competitor this year) for the VGCC Red Tails Drone Aviation program. This program has provided training in the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs, commonly known as "drones"), particularly through a summer camp for area high school students. This camp taught students how to play a team sport called "Drone Soccer" as part of a team nicknamed the "Red Tails."

Another VGCC group participated in NACCE's "Pitch for the Trades" competition. This competition featured teams of community college faculty from across the country, who "pitched" their creative ideas for incorporating entrepreneurship into workforce training programs to a panel of judges. Led by Dean of Business & Applied Technologies Stephanie Tolbert and Grants Administrator Kenneth Wilson, VGCC's presentation won \$10,000 to support expansion of the Welding Technology program. The judges

encouraged VGCC to continue working on this project and pitch it again next year.

Both pitch competitions were presented by NACCE in partnership with the Philip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation.

Topping off those big wins, VGCC was then recognized as the 2022 Entrepreneurial College of the Year. Chris Whaley, the president of Roane State Community College in Tennessee and chair-elect of the NACCE Board of Directors, presented the award, noting VGCC's rural population and that this competitive award is given to a college that makes a difference in the ecosystem of a community.

In a statement about VGCC's selection for that honor, NACCE saluted the leadership of President Rachel Desmarais, Ph.D., who has steadily expanded the college's entrepreneurial initiatives. In 2021, President Desmarais signed NACCE's *Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge (PFEP)*, committing the college to five action steps designed to create economic vitality through entrepreneurship.

In addition to the Drone program, the college has hosted an innovative entrepreneurship youth camp called "Be a 'Trep" (short for entrepreneur) for area middle school students, opened the



The National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship presents the Heather Van Sickle Entrepreneurial College of the Year to VGCC. From left, NACCE Senior Director of Membership Katie Gailes, VGCC Vice President of Workforce & Community Engagement Jerry Edmonds, VGCC President Rachel Desmarais, Roane State Community College President Chris Whaley, and NACCE President/CEO Rebecca A. Corbin.

VGCC Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center at the college's South Campus, established a Student Entrepreneurship Club, and offered an Agricultural Entrepreneurship Program.

"Through innovative events hosted by Vance-Granville's Small Business Center and other entrepreneurial programming, the college has demonstrated its commitment to promoting entrepreneurship througheout the region it serves," said Rebecca Corbin, Ed.D., the president and CEO of NACCE. "It is a pleasure to recognize this outstanding college, which was selected by an independent judging panel, as the winner of NACCE's 2022 Entrepreneurial College of the Year Award."

President Desmarais congratulated the team involved, including Tanya Weary, Sheri Jones, Ken Wilson,

Stephanie Tolbert, Alicia Williams, and Dr. Jerry Edmonds, along with the entire VGCC faculty and staff for adopting an entrepreneurial mindset.

"We could not be prouder of the VGCC Vanguards for making a big 'splash' at the NACCE conference, and for embracing entrepreneurship both inside and outside the classroom," Dr. Desmarais said. "Entrepreneurship is an important way to promote both student success and our region's economic development. It is also related to the innovative, outside-the-box thinking that we have incorporated into how we address challenges and how we offer education and training programs for the community."

About NACCE

NACCE is an organization of educators, administrators, presidents, and entrepreneurs focused on igniting entrepreneurship in their communities and campuses. NACCE has two main goals: to empower college leaders to approach the business of running a community college with an entrepreneurial mindset and to augment the community college's role in supporting job creation and entrepreneurs in their local ecosystems. NACCE has over 340 member colleges, representing nearly 2,000 members and approximately 3.3 million students.

For more information, visit www.nacce.com.



Better Skills, Better Jobs: Adult Learners at VGCC

At a time when many adults struggle to find adequate work, quality education can make all the difference; yet according to a 2019 study by myFutureNC, 1.3 million North Carolinian adults ages 25-44 do not have a credential or degree. Community colleges like Vance-Granville are poised to change that statistic.

Spearheaded by the NCSU College of Education Belk Center for Community College Leadership and
Research, the North Carolina Reconnect Program
launched in 2021 to reengage Adult Learner (ADL)
students in this age bracket, particularly those who
started attending college but left without completing
a degree or other credential program. NC Reconnect
recruited Vance-Granville Community College to be
a direct supporting partner and one of the five pilot
colleges known as Cohort One.

As a participating institution, Vance-Granville worked with the John M. Belk Endowment (JMBE), the Belk Center, InsideTrack, VisionPoint Marketing, and the North Carolina Community College System to develop and implement strategies specifically with Adult Learners in mind. This initiative, known as the "Better Skills, Better Jobs" campaign, sought to connect and inform as many adults as possible in the colleges' service areas about the variety of fast, flexible, and affordable education/training programs the colleges offer. Efforts bega<mark>n in earnest in June</mark> 2021 with the goal to see increased enrollment by the fall 2021 semester. Over the course of six weeks. InsideTrack Enrollment Coaches conducted research by contacting 12,000 students who had left a Cohort One institution without a credential.

Vance-Granville Community College discovered the use of data was essential to moving forward with Adult Learners—student data is not simply facts and figures but the inspiration and motivation to do things in a fresh way. Executive leadership used the data as a way to look at the success of the college's Adult Learner efforts and evaluate next steps. By sharing visuals of ADL data institution-wide, Dr. Rachel Desmarais guided faculty and staff to take time to ask questions and understand the stories behind the data.

One resulting change is already apparent across the four VGCC campuses: the restructuring of the academic calendar. "We're transitioning to a predominantly eightweek term," said Dr. Desmarais, college president. "We all know that Adult Learners, they want to get in, and they want to get out. We believe this change will accelerate short-term opportunities and better serve the Adult Learner population."

Vance-Granville Community College continues to participate in the NC Reconnect—ADL program as a mentor to the new wave of participating institutions, sharing insights and strategies gained by experience.

As a result of NC Reconnect, VGCC has taken many steps that benefit not just Adult Learners but the entire student population. Continue reading to find out more.

Development of the Student Debt Program

Originally a pilot program offered in fall 2021 focused on running balances of <\$500. This shifted to a Debt Forgiveness Form on our website. Staff offer applicant students timely assistance, with the goal of resolving student debt before the next enrollment deadline. The college encourages students to apply for other forms of financial aid first.

Development of the Second Chance Program

In response to the unique challenges faced by Adult Learners, Vance-Granville Community College launched the Second Chance Scholarship Program in November 2021. Through the program, students ages 25+ will be assisted with cost-related barriers and have an opportunity to earn a college credential. This scholarship program will cover the cost of tuition, fees, and books for one class during the initial enrollment semester. Assistance for future semesters contingent upon successfully adhering to program requirements.

Business Office Audits

Prior to NC Reconnect program, our Business Office did not have consistent process of checking holds on accounts; now the Business Office reviews holds monthly. This manual auditing process has revealed and resolved holds that should have been cleared previously, allowing for these students to continue their education at VGCC.

Focus on ADL Outreach and Marketing

Data informed the college that we need continuous outreach efforts as prospective students, including ADL, navigate the enrollment process. Intentional ADL outreach (11 events in fall 2022 within the fourcounty service area) provided VGCC with 119 such contacts. At time of printing, four additional ADL outreach events were scheduled to occur within the month. These events are led by our Outreach & ADL Support Coach, a position that was also developed out of this program.

Grant funding allowed VGCC to purchase a license with CollegeAPP, strengthening our enrollment pipeline with ADL prospects. With this license, our marketing team is able to increase our ADL marketing efforts within the college's four-county service area and highlight college academic and short-term programs with larger ADL populations.

Recent marketing efforts include social media, radio, TV ads targeting short-term training programs for potential Adult Learners, and a geofencing campaign designed to target potential Adult Learners within a 35-mile radius of the VGCC Main Campus.

Providing ADL Support

As a result of these new initiatives, VGCC developed the new position of Adult Learner Enrollment

Assistant to serve Adult Learners as they apply for college admission and complete the enrollment process. The ADL Enrollment Assistant will be trained on all academic programs to assist students who desire to enroll in curriculum or short-term (Continuing Education) programs. Additionally, the Enrollment Assistant will support Adult Learner reengagement efforts as many such students have to complete the Residency Determination Service (RDS) process, reapply for admission, and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The college also see the need for expanded hours and locations for student support. ADL pilot grant funds will help support our college's efforts of acquiring a Student Services management platform, ConexEd, that will provide simple digital access to real-time VGCC employees through cell phones, tablets, and kiosk devices. Kiosk locations are being planned for April 2023 rollout.

Results of InsideTrack

Starting in the fall 2022 semester, Student Service staff members received professional development from InsideTrack, a coaching firm focused on best practices for education. These effective coaching methods and increased staff confidence positively impacted how Admissions and Advising staff interact with all learners, with Adult Learners as a special focus. Staff are better equipped to help set actionable goals for our ADLs, build a successful ADL network, and leverage that ADL network effectively.

VGCC continues to track students who were included in the InsideTrack outreach campaigns. For those students that were provided to InsideTrack for the fall 2021 semester (summer 2021 and November 2021) the stats are as follows:

- 29 students completed a credential between
 12/2021 and 12/2022; over half were Adult Learners.
- At the time of printing, VGCC has 116 students enrolled from the InsideTrack list. Of the 116 students still enrolled from the InsideTrack list, 60% are ADL.



Ribbon Cut on VGCC's Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center

Vance-Granville Community College's Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center (EIC) is open for business at VGCC's South Campus in Creedmoor. In November 2021, students and community members attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Granville County Chamber of Commerce. This momentous occasion coincided with Global Entrepreneurship Week.

This initiative directly relates to the college's mission of educating, inspiring and supporting a diverse community of learners to achieve professional and personal success.

The EIC furthers VGCC's mission of strengthening the economy of North Carolina by helping rural NC students and clients achieve their entrepreneurial potential; connections with local mentors and entrepreneurial ecosystem partners will expose them to entrepreneurial thinking and entrepreneurial opportunities. The EIC will help NC entrepreneurs succeed by offering them the training and learning opportunities that prepare them to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams and ideas. This effort enhances VGCC's Small Business Center offerings of Ice House, Kauffman FastTrac, NC REAL Entrepreneurship training and others. It is also in keeping with VGCC's signing of the NACCE Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge.

"I think that the center is a great opportunity for networking, gaining business skills and preparing for the future in business," said Tanya Weary, former dean of Business & Industry Solutions. "I am really excited for VGCC. This is the start of something that will grow and develop. The opportunities this innovation environment will create are endless." Serena Aycock, one of the members of the newly formed Vanguard Entrepreneurship Club, was on hand to take part in the ribbon cutting. "I am absolutely inspired and honored to attend this great community college," she said. "I feel the energy of success in this room during this unforgettable ribbon-cutting event."

The center has had support from NC IDEA. NC IDEA is an independent, private, 501(c)(3) foundation whose vision is to help North Carolinians achieve their entrepreneurial ambition to start and grow high potential companies. The foundation fosters sustainable economic development with competitive grants and programs for entrepreneurs and funding to strengthen the state's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Thom Ruhe, president and CEO of NC IDEA, attended the ribbon cutting to support VGCC's continued entrepreneurial efforts.

Also present were Dr. Rebecca Corbin, president and CEO of the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship; Alyssa Martina, director of Doherty Center for Creativity, Innovation & Entrepreneurship for Elon University; Dr. Rudi Colloredo-Mansfeld, senior associate dean for Social Sciences and Global Programs at UNC Chapel Hill; and members of the four local counties served by Vance-Granville Community College.





VGCC BIOTECH PROGRAM

Set for growth, with federal grant support

Vance-Granville Community College is poised to expand its Biotechnology workforce training and play a leading role in preparing talented students for one of the state's growing industries, following the announcement that the college will receive approximately \$1.75 million as part of a federal grant.

VGCC is included in a statewide consortium of colleges, universities, and other strategic partners like the NC Biotechnology Center and the NC Community College System's BioNetwork, which collectively received a grant award totaling nearly \$25 million from the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better Regional Challenge.

VGCC is one of ten community colleges participating in the "NC BioBetter" Project funded by the grant.

Stewart Lyon, VGCC's program head for Bioprocess/ Biotechnology, expressed his excitement about what the grant will mean for his program and his students.

"About half of this grant will allow VGCC to purchase new biotech laboratory equipment and additional lab supplies, so that students can get the up-to-date training they need," Lyon explained. "We will be able to replace some older equipment in our existing biotech lab on our Franklin County Campus and expand into a new space on the campus for a second biotech lab. We may be able to expand our program to include daytime and evening offerings."

The grant will also provide funds to support new faculty and staff positions for three years, he added. "Specifically, we are looking to hire one additional fultime biotechnology instructor as well as a full-time 'pathway navigator,' who will be an intensive advisor for the program," Lyon said. "The navigator will reach out to the community, help new students through the onboarding admissions process, provide academic

advising and mentorship throughout the students' time in the program, and finally help complete their journey with resume prep and job search assistance as they prepare to graduate."

Lyon noted that this project is designed to increase the number of North Carolinians who are trained and ready to fill positions in the biopharmaceutical industry workforce, with a specific intent to expand opportunity to under-represented populations in that field, including women and people of color. "This is a significant focus, but everyone enrolled in the program will equally benefit from the resources of the grant, including the faculty and staff it provides," he said.

VGCC enjoys strong partnerships, particularly in the Franklin County area, which are helping to promote biotech and life sciences.

"Franklin County is committed to contributing our resources and dedication to having a ready and prepared workforce," said Kim Denton, the County Manager. "This grant award will help to advance the county's economic development goals by providing critical funding for the Bioprocess program at Vance-Granville Community College, which supports vital industries in the county."

Dr. Danyelle Parker, Executive Director of Secondary Education and Career & Technical Education (CTE) for Franklin County Schools, explained that VGCC and the school system are already collaborating on several initiatives related to life sciences.



Enrique Rodriguez Jimenez and Stewart Lyon

"The main new activity that we are promoting is our new STEM Magnet program at Louisburg High School," Parker said. "Part of our magnet program involves students pursuing a college or career pathway. One of the three pathways is the STEM Focused Program Pathway offered at VGCC. Specifically, the programs offered are Medical Office Administrative Assistant, Bioprocess Technology, and Information Technology/Cyber Security Support. Right now, the primary focus has been on establishing the Bioprocess Technology program."

She added that in the 2023-2024 school year, the magnet program will become available to high school students throughout Franklin County. "We're very excited for this opportunity and believe this is a way to make Bioprocess Technology available to more students," Parker said. "We hope to grow the program and incorporate work-based learning, such as field trips and job shadowing with area Bio/Life Sciences companies. With growing demands in this field, we believe Bioprocess Technology is an excellent career opportunity for our students, and we are thrilled to be partnering with VGCC for this endeavor."

Among the area's major life sciences employers is Novozymes, which has a facility in Franklinton, not far from VGCC's Franklin County Campus. The wider region is home to many other biomanufacturing and biopharma companies.

"Vance-Granville Community College is delighted to be part of a coalition designed to increase access to good paying jobs in the Life Sciences sector," said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, the president of VGCC. "Working together with partners from government agencies, private industry, K-12 schools, other community colleges and universities, VGCC is excited to bring this spectacular vision to life in our region."

In the Bioprocess Technology credit (curriculum) program, VGCC offers a certificate, which can be completed in six months; a diploma program, which takes about one year, and the two-year Associate in Applied Science degree. All these options are eligible for federal financial aid to qualified students. In addition, there is a BioWork Process Technician continuing education course offered periodically, in a format that takes less than one semester to complete. Prospective students can register now for "Bioprocess Practices" (BPM-110), which starts Jan. 6, 2023, in a hybrid format, combining some online coursework with in-person instruction at the Franklin County Campus.

The Build Back Better grant will take effect during the 2022–2023 fiscal year and will be reflected in the grant totals for that year's annual report.



"WE ALL HAVE A STORY"

One Vanguard's Vision to Inspire Others

From the age of 8, Safwan Ali knew he wanted to work in public service, even though he couldn't anticipate all the twists in the road to realizing that dream. It all started when he encountered a friend of his father, who happened to be a sheriff's deputy.



"After a quick chat, he asked if I'd like to see what he does on a daily basis," Ali recalled. "He took me in his patrol vehicle and explained to me how people count on him to help during their time of need and the unexplainable feeling of satisfaction he gets by helping others. I will never forget that day."

At the time, Ali attended a public elementary school in Franklin County. Born in the country of Yemen, he moved to the US at 6 years old and started first grade knowing absolutely no English. He was able to adjust after a couple years, but his new normal wasn't permanent.

"Unfortunately, I never got the chance to middle school," he lamented. "Right after fifth grade my family and I moved back to Yemen. I vividly remember that on the first day of sixth grade, as the school bus came to pick me up, I was loading my luggage and leaving for the airport."

Upon returning to Yemen, Ali found himself in a familiar situation: He knew almost nothing of his new home, its culture, or how to read and write the Arabic language. But he committed himself to learning, and those teenage years proved formative.

"Within one year, I was able to read, write, and speak fluently. Those years helped me gain a better understanding and appreciation for all of the opportunities and blessings that I have," he shared. "That [experience] also helped me realize that my potentials are as far as I'm willing to challenge them."



Ali moved back to the United States in 2011 at age 17 and discovered a new challenge. While he did attend school in Yemen, the country's education standards didn't match those in this country, so he couldn't simply resume his American education. Too old to

start high school and too young for college, the best option available to him was to take his GED exam—and fortunately for him. VGCC was there to help.

"I decided to take my exam at Vance-Granville Community College and earned it in record time, within approximately two weeks." he recounted.

"I took my diploma and went straight to college."

Throughout his teenage years, Ali had contemplated the best way to make a difference in the world around him. He wanted to help people much like the deputy from his childhood had, but he wanted to do so on a greater scale. Before he started college, he had decided to be an attorney, fighting injustice in whatever form it takes and being a voice for the voiceless. Once again, VGCC was the perfect fit. "Just as I started pursuing an associate's degree, VGCC launched the Paralegal Technology Program. It was a no-brainer for me. I was one of the first to enroll and part of the first class to graduate," Ali said.

Then, in another twist almost too perfect to be true: "Just as I started planning to pursue a bachelor's degree, VGCC launched its Eagle Voyage Program. Talk about luck."

Launched in fall 2017, Eagle Voyage is a partnership between VGCC and North Carolina Central University; it empowers students to earn their bachelor's degree from NCCU with the convenience of taking classes on VGCC's Main Campus. Criminal Justice was the very first program available through this partnership, and it was just what Ali wanted. He transferred to NCCU and thrived just as he had at VGCC. After earning his

Within one year, I was able

to read, write, and speak fluently.

Those years helped me gain

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that I have.

bachelor's degree from NCCU in 2019 (with a perfect 4.0 GPA, he'd like to add), he stayed at that institution and earned his doctorate in law, graduating May 2022.

When VGCC first story, he was working at a law firm in Durham exam; by the time the

reached out to Ali to his opportunities and blessings and studying for the bar

story went to print, he had officially been admitted as an attorney to the New Jersey Bar by the Supreme Court of that state. His continues working in Durham with a focus on immigration law. Now a husband and father of two, his motivation to succeed is not to brag about himself but to lead by example.

"I hope that the purpose of this is not to showcase my accomplishments," clarified Ali. "We all struggle in one way or another. It's up to us individually to decide whether the struggle we endure is used as an excuse for why we aren't where we want to be or as fuel to get us there."



VGCC HONORS RADIOGRAPHY GRADUATES

At Pinning Ceremony

Twenty-one new graduates of Vance-Granville Community College's two-year Radiography program were honored in a May 2022 pinning ceremony in the college's Civic Center.

Angela M. Thomas, the Dean of Health Sciences and former Interim Program Head for Radiography, presided over the ceremony. She encouraged the graduating students, "As you progress to the next phase of your journey, remember to always focus on you, how you can improve daily so that you can make a difference for others."

The guest speaker for the ceremony was Issack E. Boru, Duke University Medical Center MRI Manager. He left the students with three lessons: "Lesson 1: Be curious! The learning never stops, even about things you already know. Lesson 2: Don't take anything at face value, no matter who told you. Lesson 3: Don't forget where you started from and why. Find something to remind you of why you started and hold on to it."

Graduate Morgan Latta gave an address on behalf of her classmates, thanking the educators for helping the class learn from their mistakes. She commended her fellow graduates, "Through all of our hard work and dedication, we were the ones who got into the program and got through all five semesters."

Suzanne Brown from EmergeOrtho in Apex was chosen by the graduating students to receive the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) Certificate of Excellence for Clinical Educators. Ruth Wood from EmergeOrtho in Oxford was chosen to receive the Clinical Technologist of the Year Award, and EmergeOrtho Raleigh-Duraleigh Road was chosen to receive the Clinical Affiliate Award of Excellence.

Among other awards presented, the VGCC Radiography Academic Achievement Award



Award-winning graduates (from left): Cody Greene, Alisha Anglin, and Josie Roberson.

was given to Josie Roberson, the Most Improved Award was bestowed upon Alisha Anglin, and the VGCC Radiography Clinical Excellence Award was presented to Cody Greene.

Instructor Angela Thomas shared the history of the Radiographer's Pin before she and Anthony Twisdale awarded the pins to each graduate. Thomas then led the graduates in reciting the Radiographer's Pledge as the ceremonies concluded.

Students from the Radiography Class of 2022 represent communities in the Vance-Granville service area and beyond: Apex, Bahama, Cary, Creedmoor, Durham, Henderson, Louisburg, Morrisville, Oxford, Raleigh, Roxboro, Stem, Tarboro, and Timberlake.



First row (from left): clinical coordinator Stacey Soles, Alisha Anglin, Adriana Barnett, Brian Williams, Jessica Goodwin, Caroline McGhee, Kylie Blackwell, program head Tashika Oleros. Second row (from left): Dr. Angela Thomas, Jill Massimiani-Bland, Morgan Latta, Amber Pruitt, Katie Testerman. Third row (from left): Nate' Hopkins, Angela Bowen, Mackenzie Pendergrass, Hannah Brummitt. Fourth row (from left): Alexis Williams, Josie Roberson, Alexis Hobgood, Alexis Oothoudt. Back row (from left): Starr Matthews, Cody Greene, Jason Murphy.

Women in STEM

Virtual Summit

In honor of Women's History Month, VGCC's Initiative on Equity for Women of Color (VIEW) presented a Women in STEM Virtual Summit on March 23, 2022. The summit focused on the history, successes, and challenges for women interested in STEM careers. Dr. Virginia C. Tickles, retired aerospace engineer with the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center and a member of the Sisters of the Academy (SOTA) Institute, served as the keynote speaker.

With roughly 60 participants registered, the summit began with a welcome from VGCC President Rachel Desmarais. VIEW co-chair Dr. Tracey Carter then shared the history and mission of VIEW, as well as the agenda for the summit. From there, attendees transitioned into breakout sessions that captured topics such as the history of women in STEM, preparing for STEM careers, inclusiveness in STEM, and navigating roadblocks for women of color in healthcare fields.

During her keynote address, Dr. Tickles her shared her own story, educational background, and professional journey in STEM. She asked participants to think about why STEM is important and what opportunities are available for women pursuing STEM. Dr. Tickles

then presented the symbolism and essence of various types of flowers, challenging the STEM community to embrace, include, and value a more diverse STEM environment. This led to reflections on how we as individuals show up in various environments and connect to others.

The summit ended with a roundtable discussion, addressing topics such as gender equity or equity gaps, preparation for women leaders in STEM, and best practices of DEI initiatives at STEM-involved institutions and organizations.

Summit Presenters & Panelists

· Shakerrie Allmond

Former Regional Operations Director and Board Member for Virtual Doctors, a telemedicine charity connecting over 200 facilities with physicians in the UK and Zambia

· Lisa Fedele

Global Creative Operations Lead for The Hatch, Cisco System's internal creative agency

· Julie Hicks

Director of Planning Research at Vance-Granville Community College

- Stephanie Martinez
 CEO of PowerGPU LLC
- Andrea McDaniel
 Coordinator of Institutional Research at Vance-Granville Community College
- Dr. Jamila Simpson
 Assistant Dean for Inclusive Excellence in the College of Sciences at North Carolina State University
- Dr. Angela Moore Thomas
 Dean of Health Sciences at Vance-Granville
 Community College
- Dr. Natasha Thompson
 History Instructor at Vance-Granville Community
 College and former member of VIEW

VIEW's mission is to support the success of Women of Color at VGCC through education, empowerment, experience, and exposure in order to significantly increase the persistence and retention rate as well as improve job attainment. Current VIEW co-chairs and lead facilitators for this event were Dr. Tracey Bennett Carter and Dr. Krystal Foxx. VIEW leadership plans to hold a summit annually, with an in-person event scheduled for March 2023.



VGCC'S INAUGURAL

Juneteenth Program



Vance-Granville Community College presented a special educational program in observance of Juneteenth on Friday, June 17 at the college's Main Campus in Henderson; the 2022 program was the first such event at the institution. The public was invited, as were VGCC students, faculty and staff. VGCC also livestreamed the program on the college's YouTube channel.

Jason Spriggs, a member of the Henderson City Council, served as the guest speaker. Spriggs, who was first elected to the city council in 2019, is also a United Way of Vance County board member and the founder of Rural Change America.

The oldest known commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States, Juneteenth (a contraction of "June Nineteenth") marks the day in 1865 when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the news of freedom, reaching some of the last enslaved people in the country. Juneteenth became a federal holiday in 2021, but the observance is not currently a state holiday.

In addition to the June 17 program, VGCC also presented informational bulletin boards about the holiday on each of its four campuses, along with information on the college library's website.

VGCC Launches new Apple Swift Programming Course

Vance-Granville Community College debuted a new coding course, Apple Swift Programming I, during the Second 8-Week Spring Term in 2022. This course introduces the development of iOS applications and Apple applications using Swift programming language. Emphasis is placed on syntax, object-oriented principles, memory management, and functional concepts of Swift programming. Upon completion, students should be able to develop fully functional iOS and Apple applications using Swift programming language. Classes are held online.

IT jobs in software development, quality assurance, analysis, and testing are expected to grow by 22% by 2030, much faster than the average. VGCC is offering a new computer programming certificate that provides students with a core knowledge of common programming and coding languages desired in today's job market. This certificate provides numerous employment prospects, as it covers multiple industry sectors including healthcare, finance, and banking, and mobile technology. Many courses include an available industry certification.

Vance-Granville's Information Technology (IT) curriculum prepares graduates for employment as designers, testers, support technicians, administrators, developers, or programmers with organizations that use computers to design, process, manage, and communicate information, depending on the technical path selected.

For more information on enrolling, contact Spence Bailey, Program Head of Information Technology, by emailing baileys@vgcc.edu.

LAKE GASTON COUPLE

Endows New VGCC scholarship

Philanthropists Sylvia and William "Bill" Solari of Lake Gaston established a new scholarship at Vance-Granville Community College during the 2021-2022 academic year. While this is the first scholarship the Solaris have endowed with The VGCC Foundation, they previously set up scholarships at several schools, including Catawba Valley Community College in Sylvia Solari's native Hickory.

"Our intention with this new scholarship, as with the other four we have established, is to give to some deserving young person a gift which no one can take away from them ever—an education," Bill Solari wrote. "Our hope is for the future, that a youth with a desire to learn and better their life's situation will take advantage of this chance to use his or her Godgiven talents, to improve and sharpen his or her skills, to perhaps try a new and different career path, to eventually become a productive, happy, satisfied member of society."

He and his wife also expressed the hope that recipients will go on to invest in other students' successes in the future.

Bill Solari is a native of Richmond, Virginia, which is also where he met Sylvia while they were both attending college. After graduation, Bill began his career in the business world with General Electric in Louisville, Kentucky, and was later transferred to Raleigh. Most of his career was in the financial/investment advising profession. He worked with two companies during his more than 37 years as a financial consultant. In addition to raising their children, Sylvia worked as a sales associate for J.C. Penney and as assistant purchasing agent for a third-party



insurance company. For many years, the Solaris had a summer home on Lake Gaston, and after Bill's retirement in 2008, they moved there permanently from Raleigh. Sylvia and Bill have two children and four grandsons, who all live in North Carolina.

The Solaris are also longtime supporters of the VCU Health Community Memorial Hospital (CMH) in South Hill, Virginia. Bill currently serves as the chair of the CMH Foundation, and Sylvia has volunteered in the hospital's emergency department for many years. That emergency department and the hospital's Solari Radiation Therapy Center are both named in honor of the couple. The Solaris have also both been active volunteers with local theatrical productions in the region.

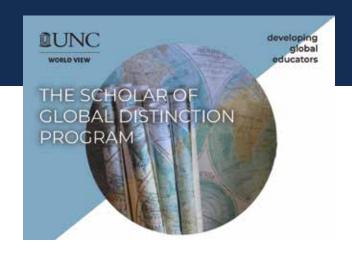
"We are honored and grateful that the Solaris have chosen to establish a scholarship at Vance-Granville," said Eddie Ferguson, former Executive Director of The VGCC Foundation. "Their strong commitment to education will help students for years to come."

"The new Sylvia and Bill Solari Scholarship is a testament to their generosity and interest in improving the community," said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, VGCC's president. "Their support will make a tremendous difference in the lives of students who will be able to obtain a high-quality education, succeed in the workforce and achieve their dreams."



VGCC JOINS

Scholar of Global Distinction program through UNC



Vance-Granville Community College has joined the "Scholar of Global Distinction" program, a partnership between community colleges and UNC World View, a public service program of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

As part of this partnership, community colleges and their faculty commit to develop and offer globally intensive courses and activities through which students can earn a global distinction credential. UNC World View mobilizes the international resources of UNC-Chapel Hill to help community colleges create truly global campuses, representing a national model for university-community college collaboration in global learning.

World View and its UNC partners – including UNC's five U.S. Department of Education-funded area studies programs, called National Resource Centers, and UNC University Libraries – provide support and access to knowledge, networks and grant funding needed to develop certain course offerings and support students' global education.

As a "Scholar of Global Distinction" college, VGCC will allow students the opportunity to earn a "Graduated with Global Distinction" notation on their transcripts by:

- Completing at least 15 credit hours of globally intensive courses;
- Participating in eight international activities and dialogues;
- Gaining 30 hours of global experience in a study abroad or domestic intercultural experience; and
- Completing a capstone presentation related to their two-year global learning experience.

Examples of globally intensive courses are foreign language courses, as well as courses with "World," "Global," "International," "Comparative," or "Cultural" in the course title.

The program seeks to develop students' abilities to:

- Investigate the world beyond their immediate environment, framing significant problems and conducting well-crafted and ageappropriate research;
- Recognize perspectives, others' and their own, articulating and explaining such perspectives thoughtfully and respectfully;
- Communicate ideas effectively with diverse audiences, bridging geographic, linguistic, ideological, and cultural barriers; and
- Reflect critically on their role as a member of the global community and pursue ways to create positive change.

For more information, contact VGCC's World View liaisons: instructor Frankie K. Frink at frinkf@vgcc. edu or 919-528-4737; and instructor Jason Damon Bryan at bryanj@vgcc.edu or 252-738-3538.

Faculty & Staff Awards

Faculty of the Year Award



Antoinette Dickens August 2021

Staff of the Year Award



Lyndon Hall August 2021



A Message from the Foundation

Established in 1969, Vance-Granville Community College offers more than 40 curriculum programs, in which students work toward certificates, diplomas and degrees. Area residents and businesses can also take advantage of a variety of Continuing Education opportunities, as well as the High School Equivalency and Adult High School Diploma programs. High school students can also get a step ahead by starting their college education at VGCC.

I am honored to serve as the new Executive Director for The VGCC Foundation and help lead it forward as we work to support students, the college and our communities. I am pleased to announce that Sheri Jones joined The Foundation in September as our new Associate Director. Together, we will promote connectivity between VGCC students, faculty and staff and the individuals, businesses and civic organizations of our communities. Our goal is to bring awareness of the many different programs offered at the college that bridge the needs of businesses with individuals seeking career opportunities.

In addition to providing scholarships to deserving students, The Foundation supports a broad range of special projects involving education, training and economic development in our community. Ken Wilson, Grants Administrator, works to secure grants from private and public sources to support college programs.

The Foundation has seen a great need in the support of the Student Emergency Fund, a fund that provides resources to students experiencing crises or unforeseen circumstances that can wreak havoc in their lives. Investment of charitable and planned gifts with The VGCC Foundation are not merely investments in the college—they literally change lives and our community. When you invest in VGCC, you directly impact families and ensure the future prosperity of the entire community. I invite you to join me in being a life-changer by supporting our students and VGCC. If you are already a donor, I want to thank you for your ongoing commitment to the college and the communities we serve. Your gifts enable VGCC to build a better world for all of us, one student at a time.

With gratitude.

Tanya S. Weary,
Executive Director



VGCC Foundation Year in Review

 The VGCC Foundation has a new look. Check out our new logo!



- Annual Employees Campaign "made a big splash," raising over \$16,000.00 with a focus on the Student Emergency Fund.
- Over \$195,000.00 awarded in scholarships, and we are still awarding!
- The 38th Annual Golf Tournament presented by Gupton Services, Inc. raised over \$108,000.00.
- Partnership with NC Food Bank allowed us to distribute over 21,000 meals.



Consider Giving Online

If you are able, we hope you'll consider giving online today. To make your gift, please visit www.vgcc.edu/foundation or scan this QR code using the camera app on your smartphone. All gifts submitted by check/mail will be processed through our business office at the Main Campus (P.O. Box 917, Henderson, NC 27536).

NON-RECURRING COMPETITIVE

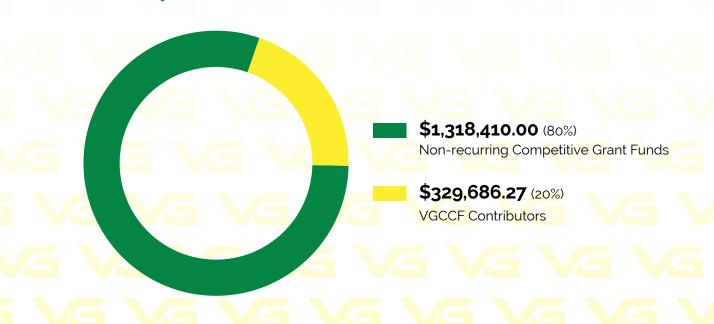
Grant Funds Received during

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

\$1,318,410.00

Donors and grantors include the following:	
Association of Community College Trustees	N.C. Department of Transportation
Belk Foundation	National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship
Cannon Foundation	NC IDEA Foundation
Duke Energy	State Employees Credit Union
Federal Highway Administration	U.S. Department of Agriculture
GlaxoSmithKlein	U.S. Department of Labor
Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments	U.S. Economic Development Administration

Grants & Donations Received
July 2021 — June 2022



The VGCC Foundation 2021–2022 Contributors

Vanguard Visionary (\$10,000+)

Susan S. Adcock

Duke Energy Foundation

Gupton Services, Inc.

Robert P. Holding Foundation

Mountain Creek Baptist Church

William Solari

Dan Sullivan

Village Pharmacy of Wake

Forest

Samuel Watkins, III

TOTAL: \$192,050.87

Vanguard Vip (\$9,999-\$5,000)

Altec Industries, Inc.

CertainTeed LLC

Kilian Engineering Inc

Redding Family Foundation

Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Co

James G. Wright, II

Steve Wright

TOTAL: \$47,325.00

Vanguard Victor (\$4,999-\$1,000)

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Mary Ann Antley

Ardagh Glass

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J<mark>oseph Calla</mark>han

Car<mark>olina Com</mark>monwealth

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Agency, Inc.

Stelfanie Williams

Wythe Advantage, Inc.

TOTAL: \$70,384.43

Vanguard Venture (< \$999)

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PLLC

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Winston Williams Creech

Evans & Co., LLP

Xavier Wortham

Danny W. Wright, CPA, PLLC

Gray Yancey

L. Clement Yancey

TOTAL: \$19,925.27

Total Contributed:

\$329,686.27



Main Campus

200 Community College Road P.O. Box 917 Henderson, NC 27536 (252) 492-2061

Franklin Campus

8100 NC 56 Highway P.O. Box 777 Louisburg, NC 27549 (919) 496-1567

South Campus

1547 S. Campus Drive P.O. Box 39 Creedmoor, NC 27522 (919) 528-4737

Warren Campus

210 West Ridgeway Street P.O Box 207 Warrenton, NC 27589 (252) 257-1900

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Educating. Inspiring. Supporting.



Vance-Granville Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools 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.