

BLUEPRINT

THE APPLIED TECHNOLOGY, ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND WORKFORCE NEWSLETTER
FOR VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FALL 2023



Vanguards Lead!

ONWARD!

Fall is upon us, and school is back in session. In this issue, you will see several options for workforce training and exciting program updates. We are excited about the progress we are making on many fronts.

We have seen an increase in activity from industry partners and we welcome your insights. Students benefit immensely from interactions with industry representatives. Students' understanding that there are jobs available after training energizes the career pipeline. We held mock interviews in the spring, and they made an enormous difference for students. Having outside professionals take part is very impactful, and we'd love to host them on an ongoing basis. Anyone looking to use their experience to make a difference in the next generation should contact Dr. Krystal Foxx - 252 738-3342 - foxxk@vgcc.edu.

Recently, we were reminded about the need to "just ask one more question" when speaking with students. One of our coaches and I recently had a long chat with two students. These young men were attempting to decide on a program they wanted to pursue. After several questions, we asked them what the future looks like, and they hadn't really thought that far. While these two are supported at home, they did not have the information to understand their options or even decide on a plan. It was a stark reminder of why we were here. Instead of disparaging today's youth, we as adults must ask questions and be ready to "chat" with young people as long as it takes. The village concept only works when everyone in the village works toward a common goal.

Ken Wilson

The world is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper. Bertrand Russell

Future proof your options

Continuing Education to Curriculum Transfer

Take short term training classes for additional training or to get your feet wet. If you decide to pursue a full curriculum program you receive credit for the short term option*. All students learn the same information at the same time. Options include:

Mechatronics:	Industrial Wiring
Mechanisms	Digital and Analog Electronics
Automation	Maintenance:
Electrical:	Hydraulics and Pneumatics
Commercial Wiring	Electrical Maintenance
DC/AC Electricity	*Credit given for approved classes

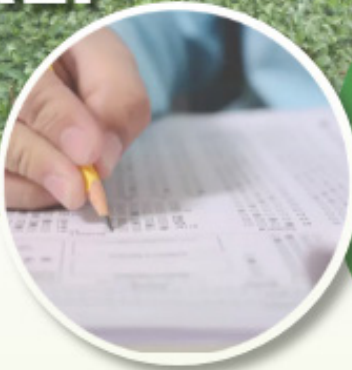
To learn more about these course options and registration contact:

Kyle Burwell
Dean of Business and Industry Solutions
252-738-3521 - burwellk@vgcc.edu

Elisa Rodwell
Director of Occupational Extension
252-738-3276 - rodwelle@vgcc.edu



FAA PART 107 EXAM PREP



This 24-hour class will help you to prepare for the FAA 107 exam, allowing you to use UAVs for commercial purposes.

Use your UAV education & certification in these industries:

- Education
- Roof/Gutter Inspection
- Surveying
- Real Estate
- Tower Inspection
- Agriculture
- Aerial Photography
- Fire & Safety
- Law Enforcement

What We

Can Offer You?

You will be instructed by an FAA-licensed Remote Pilot. Materials are included in your tuition.

2023 Fall Class

Saturdays, November 4th, 11th, 18th
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturdays, December 2nd, 9th, & 16th
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

For More Information: Visit www.vgcc.edu/coned/aviation or contact Kyle Burwell at burwellk@vgcc.edu or 252-738-3521

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. Vance-Granville Community College is an equal opportunity 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.



Aviation

VGCC GROUND SCHOOL

VGCC is holding its first Private Pilot Ground School Course this fall. A recreational or private pilot certificate requires passage of both the FAA private pilot knowledge exam and successful completion of flight training. The Ground School course is the first step to prepare for the knowledge exam. VGCC Ground School teaches you about weather, airport operations, aerodynamics, aircraft systems, navigation, and more from an FAA certified instructor. At the end of the course, the student should be

equipped to pass the knowledge test for Private Pilot. The VGCC course is open to those who completed the VGCC Part 107 course. Students need to understand basic math functions such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, along with simple algebra and geometry. A textbook, plotter, and E6B manual flight computer are included as part of the registration fee. The materials are based on section 61.105 of FAA's rules.

Private Pilot Class Dates (40 hours)
Class Dates -8am-5pm
October 14, 21, 28
November 4, 11 18

Registration
<https://www.vgcc.edu/coned/aviation/>
Cost \$180

VGCC ACE ACADEMY

Vance-Granville Community College welcomed local youth to our Henderson and Louisburg campuses for the first ever VGCC ACE Academy (Aviation Career Exploration Academy). The week long high-flying academy included drone flying, trips to RDU, Henderson-Oxford Executive Airports, Triangle North Executive Airport and other educational experiences! The camp was made possible with the support of the Federal Aviation Administration. Grant funding was supplied by the NC Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation and the VGCC Foundation. Planning for next years camps are already underway.



Carpentry is Back

Carpentry classes are back on the schedule at the Warren Campus after a hiatus since 2019. Through our partnership with Warren County High, we have 10 students enrolled in the fall classes. Students are transported to the Warren County campus every afternoon to take Blueprint Reading, Carpentry 1, and Residential Planning and Estimating. Classes are taught by Richard Carrara (pictured left with Mark Tillotson, Program Head for Construction Technology) and open to all.

Mr. Carrara has over 30 years of experience in the residential and commercial building industry.



He earned an Associate's degree in Construction Management at Wake Tech and is enthusiastic about joining VGCC Faculty to teach future carpenters. He comes to us because he has seen the number of people in the field dwindle after the pandemic. "Franklin, Warren, Vance, and Granville Counties are growing at a record pace, and they will need trained carpenters to help keep up with the demand. I am thrilled to be a part of helping train these men and woman to go into this field."

Interested in Carpentry classes, email us today at tillotsonm@vgcc.edu for Spring registration information.

Charge It! - Electric Vehicle Training comes to VGCC

Did you know that the number of electric vehicles in Vance, Warren, Franklin, and Granville counties has risen by 17.6% since January 2023 according to North Carolina DMV monthly registration data? After record breaking electric vehicle sales in 2022, demand is still growing for electric vehicles, and sales are expected to grow by 35% during 2023.

Electric Vehicles are also coming to the Vance Granville Community College Automotive Technology Department! The college will use funds from the Federal Perkins Grant to purchase an electric vehicle during the fall 2023 semester. We will incorporate this vehicle into our curriculum for all automotive technology classes. This will help us ensure that the students we are preparing for the workforce with the skills

and knowledge to work on gas, hybrid, and fully electric vehicles. We have also added additional faculty members to our Automotive technology teaching team.

Interested in learning more about our automotive program, contact James Gibbs - Program Head gibbsj@vgcc.edu or 252-738-3204.

Pictured (left to right) Fred Brewer, James Gibbs (Program Head) and our newest member Robert Rogers. Mr. Rogers is a veteran and a recent graduate from the VGCC Automotive program.



NOVOZYMES ENDOWS SCHOLARSHIP



Tanya Weary, Darren Alfano Stewart Lyon, Rachel Desmarais Sherri Jones

Global biotech powerhouse Novozymes recently endowed a new scholarship to support students enrolled at Vance-Granville Community College, continuing their longstanding history of investment in local higher education.

Novozyymes is a leading provider of bio-solutions for drought-resistant crops, cold water laundry washing, and renewable energy. The company serves over 30 industries in 130 markets with enzymatic, microbial, advanced protein, and digital solutions.

Since 1979, Novozymes has had a manufacturing plant and its North American headquarters in Franklinton, located in Franklin County. The parent organization, Novo Group, has been around since the 1920s. Novozymes formed a relationship with Vance-Granville Community College when the Franklin Campus opened and helped build the biotech lab in 2001.

Darren Alfano from Novozymes North America visited VGCC Franklin Campus to present the donation in the same building the company helped build 20 years ago. On hand, to receive the generous donation were Dr. Rachel Desmarais, VGCC President; Tanya Weary and Sheri Jones, Executive

Director, and Associate Director of the VGCC Foundation (VGCCF), and Stewart Lyon, Program Head of Bioprocess/Biotechnology for the college.

“This scholarship presents another wonderful opportunity to expand resources that will allow us to educate, inspire, and support a diverse community of learners to achieve professional and personal success” .

“The biotechnology industry is growing at a record pace as bio-solutions continue to be developed for more applications every day,” Alfano commented. “From the food you eat to the clothes you wear, bio-solutions are part of all of our daily lives. We are excited to partner with Vance-Granville Community College in providing high-quality education to the future

biotech workforce in our local communities.”

By donating \$15,000 to VGCCF, the company has established this scholarship at the “Academic Achievement” level. Recipients of Academic Achievement Scholarships may be current or newly enrolled full-time students at VGCC with high scholastic ability or graduating high school students selected by their counselors or principals. Currently, the scholarship award may be up to \$500, depending on the investment income earned the prior year. “This scholarship presents another wonderful opportunity to expand resources that will allow us to educate, inspire, and support a diverse community of learners to achieve professional and personal success,” Weary remarked.



Industrial Maintenance **Returns**

Beginning September 8th, a short term training option for Industrial Maintenance Safety and Circuit Analysis will begin. These classes will run in hybrid format. Classes will have online and in-person components. The hands on portion will be held Friday's from 8:30 to 3:00 at our Creedmoore/South campus.

To register go to: www.vgcc.edu/coned/oex

Questions contact:

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Dean of Business and Industry Solutions
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or

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Schedules for 2024 coming soon!



Workforce Math

$$\text{Students} + \text{Employers} + T^2 = \text{Jobs Filled}$$

TechTours and TechTalks (T^2) focus on filling in-demand jobs and continue to pay dividends for students and employers. Meeting industry professionals and experiencing work environments helps students with career decisions. CertainTeed, Altec Industries, Edwards, Newton Industries, CaptiveAire, Southeastern Specialty Vehicles, and Crossroads Automotive group took part in T^2 during spring and summer. Several partners took part in “Mock” interviews. We hesitate to say “mock” interviews, as nothing prevents industry partners from snagging a student on the spot. Please contact the applied tech team as soon as possible if you are an industry partner who wants to meet students. T^2 calendar spots are limited each semester and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Eleven students began their careers in the spring/summer.

Edwards, Inc. is a full-service industrial general contractor providing construction, fabrication, and crane services. We serve a variety of industries including pharmaceutical, food processing, wood and paper products, textiles, general manufacturing, agriculture, and nuclear power generation throughout North America.

Edwards holds an unlimited, unclassified general contractors license, along with mechanical and electrical trade licenses in multiple states. We are an AISC Certified fabricator for building steel, bridge component steel, and sophisticated paint. With ASME A, S, U and PP stamps, and a National Board R stamp, we are experienced in the construction, fabrication, and repair of boilers, power piping, and pressure vessels. All of our crane operators and lift directors are NCCCO trained and certified.



CertainTeed has helped shape the building products industry for more than 110 years. Founded in 1904 as General Roofing Manufacturing Company, today, CertainTeed® is North America's leading brand of exterior and interior building products, including roofing, siding, fence, decking, railing, trim, insulation, gypsum and ceilings. A subsidiary of Saint-

Gobain, one of the world's largest and oldest building products companies, CertainTeed and its affiliates have more than 6,300 employees and more than 60 manufacturing facilities throughout the United States and Canada.

CaptiveAire began in a one-room facility in 1976. In 2016, CaptiveAire's sales exceeded \$400 million. INC. magazine has repeatedly named CaptiveAire one of the top 500 fastest growing private companies in America. CaptiveAire is continually voted “Best in Class” by industry dealers and consultants, according to Foodservice Equipment & Supplies magazine. CaptiveAire has been recognized as one of the 100 largest private companies in North Carolina (Business North Carolina magazine) and one of the top 50 fastest growing private companies in the Raleigh Triangle (Triangle Business Journal).



Altec is a leading provider of products and services to the electric utility, telecommunications, tree care, lights and signs, and contractor markets. We deliver products and services in more than 100 countries throughout the world. Altec, Inc. is the holding company for Altec Industries, Global Rental, Altec NUECO, Altec Worldwide, Altec Capital, Altec Supply, and Altec Ventures, LLC.

Southeastern Specialty Vehicles

produces new ambulances, UTVs, Upfit ambulances to pre-existing chassis, UTVs and Trailers. SSV also offers fire apparatus services based on client needs.

Crossroads Automotive Group

founded in 1996 provides a different vehicle buying experience for customers in it's various showrooms throughout the NC Triangle

*VGCC would like to thank
thoses industry partners
who worked to provide our students with
valuable learning and employment
opportunities*



All Logos remain the copyrighted property of their respected companies





LEARN TO FLY!

UAV PILOT TRAINING

This 16-hour class is for novices who want to learn to fly quadcopter-style Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/Drones. Learn to fly from FAA licensed Remote Pilots using VGCC's fleet of drones.

JOIN TODAY!



SECTION 1:

Saturdays, September 16th & 23rd
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SECTION 2:

Mondays & Wednesdays, October 2nd - October 25th
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SECTION 3:

Saturdays, October 7th & 14th
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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252-738-3521
burwellk@vgcc.edu



VGCC.EDU/CONED/AVIATION

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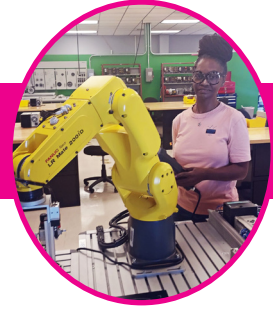
These Ladies Rock!



VGCC has seen an increase in female enrollment in our applied technology programs of automotive technology, welding, electrical technology, electrical engineering, and Mechatronics. We are thrilled! This is good news for industry and the state. North Carolina is #1 in the southeast for advanced manufacturing according to the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. Hopefully, this trend will continue.

In North Carolina, there are 250+ unique automotive manufacturers and 75,000+ jobs in plastic and chemical manufacturing. Vance Granville Community College is doing our part to help make sure there are well-trained men and woman to fill these job openings. Rusty Pace, Program Head for Welding Technologies, stated, “I love having females in the welding program. They are some of our best in the class because of their attention to detail.” They are setting an example for girls in elementary, middle, and high school and leading the way for future females. Vance Granville Community College tracks our students that enroll in “nontraditional” programs of study, and we are proud that in 2021-2022 academic school year 22.98% of our students were enrolled in “nontraditional” programs. Thanks to these ladies and their girl power, we expect to see this percentage continue to increase at the college.

Top -Dayra Hernandez, Darlene Beck, Hali Wheeler- Welding
Right- Christina Hazelwood, Sarah Bell, Austin Elizabeth House- Automotive
Bottom Left to Right - Kimberly Garcia Rodriguez - Mechatronics, Ava Simpson- Welding, Suzanne Perry- Welding, Michelle Hargrove -Mechatronics





APPRENTICESHIP - TAILORED TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

Apprenticeships can be set up at by industry sponsors at VGCC in almost any program. VGCC works with industry, NCApprenticeship and program personnel to design program tailored company needs. Program set-up is easy, and apprenticeships are a proven human resource capacity building option.

Interested in starting an Apprenticeship contact Ken Wilson - 252.738.3259 - wilsonk@vgcc.edu

Programs

Mechatronics Engineering Technology
Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration
Technology
Heavy Equipment Operator
Electrical Systems Technology
Industrial Maintenance

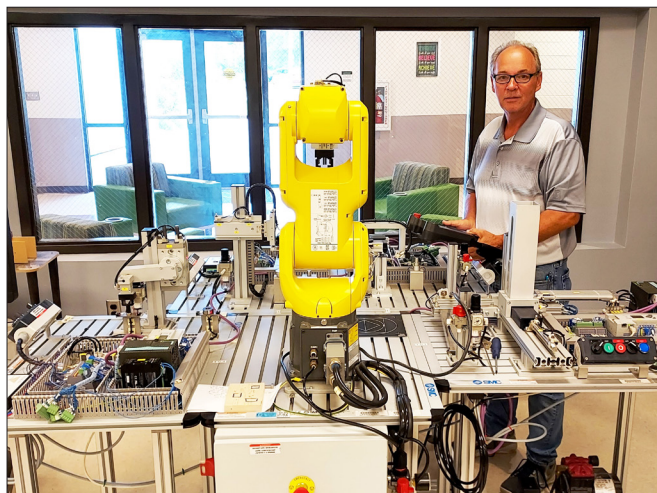
Industry Sponsors

Glen Raven
Dill Air Control Products
Carolina Sunrock
National Association of
Electric Contractors
Eaton Corporation

Eaton Corporation
Mars Petcare
Pallet One
VGCC
Ardagh Group
St Owen



VGCC Applied Tech Welcomes New Department Chair



David Bullock is no stranger to VGCC. He has worked as our part-time night welding instructor at the Henderson Campus for over 14 years. During his tenure he trained many students and guided them to an impressive student completion and qualification test rate. A graduate of VGCC, *(as are 4 of the 5 instructors)* David went on to complete an apprenticeship. In his full-time job, David worked at Newton Instrument company and held positions as Manufacturing and Quality Engineer, Robotics / Welding Engineer, Manufacturing / Production Manager/Creedmoor Facility, and Project Manager while earning numerous industry certifications and a Master Craftsman certification from the US Department of Labor. VGCC is thrilled to welcome David as the New Department Chair of Applied Technology *(welding, automotive, HVAC, electrical and mechatronics)* and Program Head of Mechatronics.

We sat down with David to get his thoughts on the new position, and aspirations for the applied tech programs.

Q. What is your focus in the new role

A. After spending so much time in industry, I will have to transition to the higher education requirements of program supervision. Having

worked here for so long, I know most of the instructors and they are all extremely competent, so we can hit the ground running.

Q. Are there any ideas on raising the bar for welding student training?

A. VGCC welding has been a strong program years. Our instructors bring different capabilities and personalities to the program, but the one thing they all share is excellence in instruction. We are looking at ways to add additional qualification tests for welding students which would give them more career options. Several years ago, with the help of grant funds, the college invested in robotic welders and plasma cutters. Industry is clearly adopting robotics and we will look to add a robust robotic class option into the welding program. In other areas we are looking at ways to increase the preparedness of students using automation, software training, and exposure to cutting edge technology

Q. Won't this add additional time to the welding course sequence?

A. Our idea is to move and merge the robotic cells from the Henderson and Franklin campus to the mechatronics program at the south campus. The welding instructors can focus on manual welding, while the mechatronics instructors can add their knowledge of robots to their existing instruction. We believe this will benefit instruction for both programs. We will likely substitute a class for the robotic class or make it an elective so as not to lengthen the time for program completion.

Q. Will new training be needed for instructors.

A. As an instructor it is easy to loose touch with changes in industry. For some programs, certification requirements require continual recertification. Industry continually changes

and we must change in order to provide relevant instruction and produce exceptional students. With this in mind we must research new professional development / training opportunities for our applied technical instructors to help understand what changes and trends are occurring in industry.

Q. Are there resource concerns for the programs?

A. There are always resource concerns. Supplies, equipment and finding great staff in applied tech is expensive. Stronger engagement with industry partners and suppliers can help us address some of these concerns. The potential new Applied Technical Center for Advanced Manufacturing and the proposed Transportation Hub facility would help with consolidation and economies of scale. Our industry partners could help support our equipment, personnel and supply concerns. Currently, we receive welding supplies from two of our industry partners. This allows us to let welding students practice until they get the skill right. Without this support, the program would have to ration supplies which could be problematic for students who take a little longer to become proficient. For mechatronics, donations of automation equipment, robots and software could prove to be a game changer.

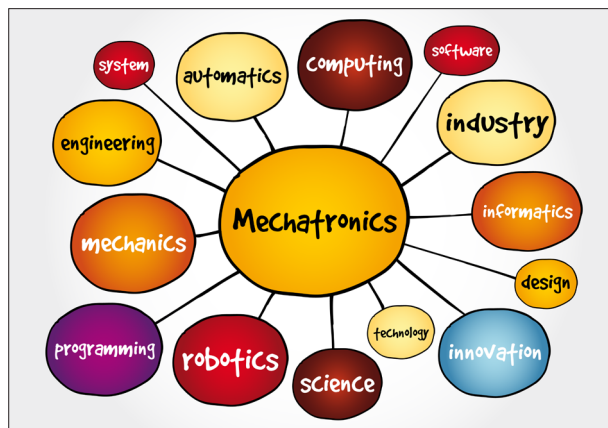
Q. How will you attract new students to the applied tech programs?

A. We need robust marketing of Applied Technology and VGCC in general. An enormous volume of information bombards today's youth. To get their attention, we must demonstrate the benefits of what we offer and reach them in ways they are familiar with. Closer integration with our K-12 partners can help, as well as exposure of career opportunities to parents and influencing

adults. Increases in industry partners that offer tours, career exposure, and hire our students could increase program demand. Nothing beats having job opportunities upon program completion and being able to highlight jobs that are available is best. Obviously, we must produce highly trained ready to work students.

Q. You speak of engaged industry partners. What does that mean?

A. The focus of industry is production and the bottom line. The college is the engine that produces employees. We must ensure that we are producing the employees' industry needs for success. To do this, we need industry to help us with expertise, student exposure, program advice and hiring. If we can tout the company culture, salaries and benefits available to our students, that's attractive.



Q. There is one question that comes up when we are out and about... what is Mechatronics?

A. Laughter! If you google the term, you get "Mechatronics is a mix of mechanical, electrical, and electronic engineering. The term was coined in 1969 by engineer Tetsuro Mori to describe the synergy between electrical control systems and the mechanical machines they regulate. Mechatronics is used in various fields such as medicine, industry, military, and technology. It's a system that uses software and hardware to respond to physical circumstances". For me, it's a multidisciplinary program that provides exposure to the coolest aspects of industry. Someone who studies mechatronics will be exposed to automation, robotics, software/computing, and get to solve interesting problems.

Digital Bridge comes to Franklin County

DigitalBridge is a Wireless Research Center of North Carolina (WRC) social venture. WRC, an independent 501c3 nonprofit, is headquartered in Wake Forest, NC. Rooted in digital equity, DigitalBridge aids people and communities in gaining digital skills and accessing higher-paying, in-demand, remote and in-person careers.

“We are thrilled to collaborate with Vance-Granville Community College to support our communities and proud to join the community of resources to assist students and employers.”
Erica Hixon, DigitalBridge executive director.

Franklin County residents have a new digital resource. DigitalBridge and Vance-Granville Community College have joined forces to open a training hub at the Louisburg campus. Together the institutions will bridge the digital divide for underserved communities through accessible technology and training.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony at VGCC’s Franklin Campus in July marked the official launch of the new partnership. DigitalBridge’s model delivers fast-track certifications and connects people directly to job opportunities. Residents can take over 130 digital courses and certifications for free. They get digital training, coaching, and job pairing based on their goals. Partnering with DigitalBridge is a natural extension of the college’s commitment to support residents. While a degree or similar credential can open doors for career opportunities for many people, DigitalBridge can provide alternative forms of education that may better serve others.

“VGCC actively seeks new ways and new partners to reduce the opportunity gap in our communities,” said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, president of the college. “Digital literacy and technology skills are still areas where we see those opportunity gaps. We are excited to partner with DigitalBridge to support opportunity for better jobs in our service area.”

Franklin County residents have a new digital resource. DigitalBridge and Vance-Granville Community College have joined forces to open a training hub at the Louisburg campus. Together the institutions



Top: VGCC President Rachel Desmarais & Gerald Hayes President & CEO, Wireless Research Center of North Carolina cut the ribbon.

Bottom: The Computer Lab at VGCC Franklin Campus

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Stay Connected With VGCC!



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