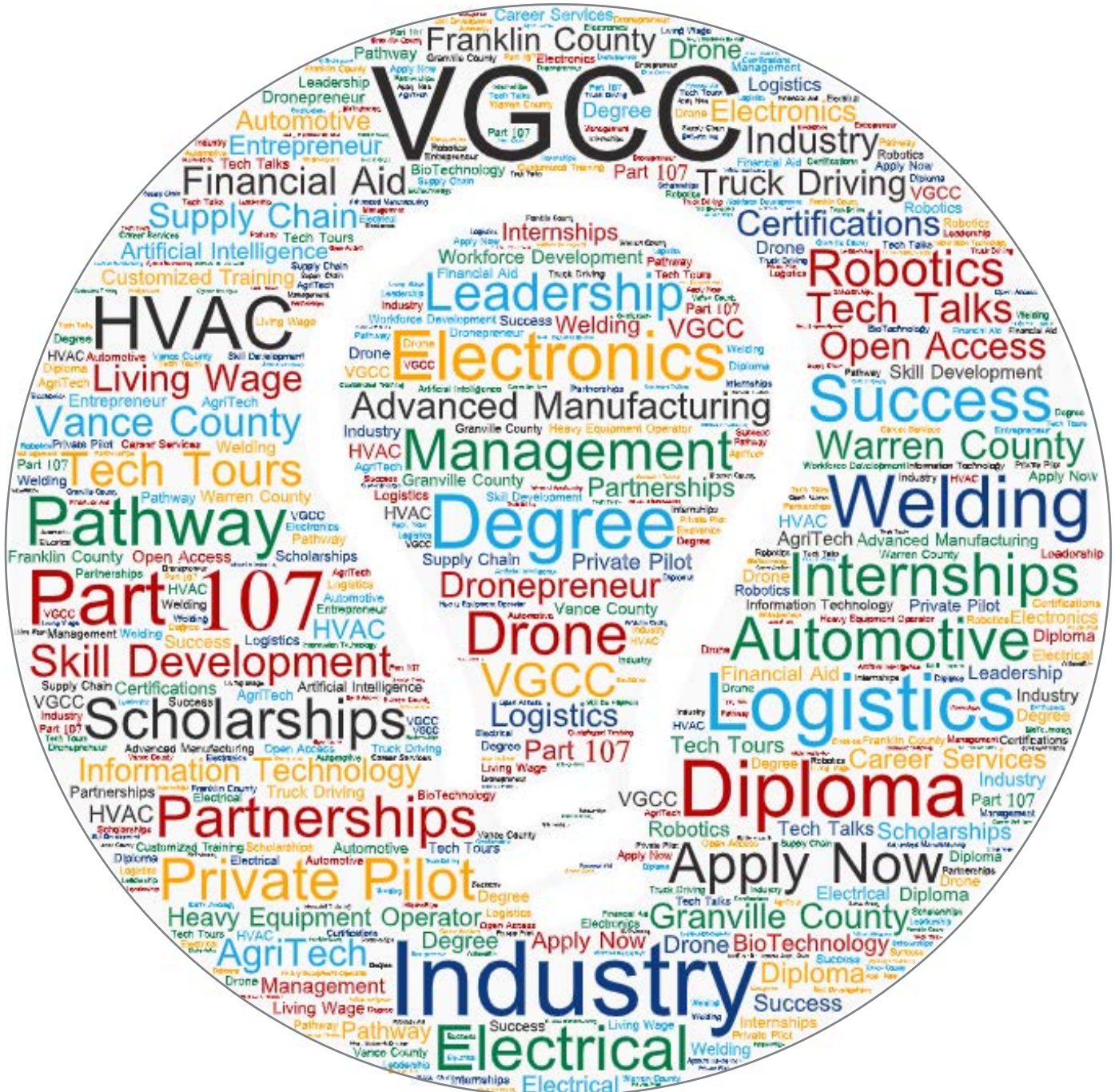


WINTER 2024



CAPTIVEAIRE & VGCC HVAC A GREAT MATCH

CaptiveAire recently made a donation to the Applied Tech division. Technology, equipment, and instructor expenses make the college's trade programs costly, but graduates are in high demand. Recognizing that VGCC can always use support to train potential employees, the CaptiveAire donation is a statement of their commitment.

The donation included HVAC equipment and student support. The student professional

"kit" supply program recognizes students need certain tools and protective gear to meet baseline expectations for training and professionalism. Goggles, meters, gauges, and tool bags made up the student kits that were supplied to address costs of program entry that add expenses to students.

Pictured below Top-Stephanie Tolbert, Chris Clough, Tanya Weary, Karen Arrizola, Bottom-Student professional bag & tools, Right-HVAC unit for classroom training, Left-Equipment delivery to college



CAPTIVEAIRE

AT THE VANGUARD

Welcome to Blueprint 2024. In 2024, while embarking on a major initiative, VGCC will carry forward several initiatives from 2023. Historically, curriculum and continuing education had different admission procedures. Dual systems, besides failing to foster integration among students, faculty, and staff, exacerbated communication continuity. By adopting a “One-Door” structure, VGCC will streamline the admission process of both divisions. The one-door design brings about a noticeable change, and involves having one team serve all students, no matter the entry point.

We are making another change by implementing the early placement of career services in the admission process. With very few exceptions, students attend college with the goal of getting a job, starting a career, or transitioning to more education. VGCC has been an essential contributor to workforce development in the four-county service area, in the health, trades, and service industries. To aid students in

focusing and preparing, engaging in early career discussions and exploration will help. Challenges are to be expected with change. We urge students, partners, faculty, and staff to be patient as we transition to the “one-door” structure to improve service and outcomes.

Initiatives from 2023 include developing two new facilities. In Granville County, the Advanced Manufacturing Center is progressing, while the Transportation Hub is doing the same in Warren County. We have received inquiries from several industry partners about getting involved with the new facility development. As we progress, our team will reach out to partners to gauge interest in participating in these new facilities. We welcome industry involvement and await meetings with partners about the facilities. This is an exciting time for the college, partner counties, industries, students, and region. Thank you to all of our partners for helping us reach this point.

Ken Wilson

VGCC Business and Industry Connect 2024 The Ties that Bind

Thursday, October 31, 2024

VGCC Civic Center

8:00 am sign-in & refreshments

Register Now



NEW TRAINING TOOLS AT VGCC APPLIED TECH

Mobile Arc Simulator for Welding



The simulator demonstrates the welding experience to students, it's portable, and equipped with realistic welding equipment, including torches, electrodes, and safety gear, it even

produces welding sounds.

How does it work?

- Students can practice various welding techniques, such as MIG, TIG, and stick welding, in a controlled virtual environment.

- The simulator provides real-time feedback on welding quality, arc stability, and bead formation. It allows students to refine their skills without wasting materials or compromising safety.

Why is it important?

- The Mobile Arc Simulator bridges the gap between theory and practice, allowing students to gain confidence and proficiency before working with actual metal.
- It promotes safety by minimizing exposure to hazardous fumes and sparks during training. This innovative tool allows users to earn industry standard welding certifications.

ABB FlexTraining for Mechatronics

The ABB FlexTrainer is designed for students pursuing careers in mechatronics, a field that combines mechanical engineering, electronics, and computer science.

Key Features:

- **Modular Learning:** The FlexTraining program breaks down complex concepts into manageable modules, easier for students to grasp.
- **Hands-On Labs:** Students engage in practical exercises using ABB robotic arms, PLCs (Programmable Logic Controllers), and sensors.
- The system includes virtual labs where students can troubleshoot and program robotic systems.
- ABB is a global leader in robotics and automation, so learning their technology prepares students for real-world applications.



Why is it important?

- Mechatronics professionals are in high demand across industries like manufacturing, automotive, and aerospace.
- The ABB FlexTraining system helps equip students with the skills needed to maintain, program, and troubleshoot advanced automation systems.
- Graduates can pursue careers as robotics technicians, automation engineers, or maintenance specialists.

VGCC's commitment to innovation ensures that students receive relevant, hands-on training using innovative tools. Whether you're interested in welding or mechatronics, these new resources empower students to excel in their chosen fields. At VGCC, we go beyond education; we inspire and support our diverse community of learners on their path to professional and personal success.

Aviation



CONGRESS AND NASA COME TO VISIT

In August, **NASA Deputy Director Pam Melroy** (*middle*) joined **Congresswoman Foushee** (*left*) and **Congressman Davis** (*far right*) for an enjoyable visit to the VGCC South Campus. The VGCC team showcased our fleet and tested the visitors' flying skills. According to her NASA Bio, Deputy Melroy was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program in 1983. As a co-pilot, aircraft commander, instructor pilot, and test pilot, Melroy logged more than 6,000 flight hours in more than 50 different aircraft before retiring from the Air Force in 2007. She is a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Just Cause, with more than 200 combat and combat support hours. One of only two women to command a space shuttle, Melroy logged more than 38 days (924 hours) in space. She served as pilot on two flights, STS-92 in 2000 and STS-112 in 2002 and was the mission commander on STS-120 in 2007. All three of her missions were assembly missions to build the International Space Station. Of course, we couldn't help but chide her about finally flying something exciting when she took the joysticks. Representatives Davis and Foushee had a go at it, but the drones emerged unscathed from their efforts.

April 27, 2024 will mark the second annual VGCC Drone Safety day. The day will be filled with information about the developing sector, vgcc programs and drone capabilities. VGCC will also be hosting its second annual Drone camp. The camp will be open to rising 6-8th grade students and be held on the VGCC Henderson campus June 24-28, 2024 and open to 6-8 graders. *See included flyer*



first task involved leading the VGCC Innovators in OKR training.

Multiple departments have asked Freddy to lead training sessions, and there is optimism that OKR training will yield positive results. For the uninitiated, OKR is a goal-setting framework used by individuals, teams, and organizations to define measurable goals and track outcomes. Initially popularized by Andy Grove at Intel in the 1970s, OKRs have helped companies achieve outstanding results.

John Doerr is perhaps the individual most closely associated with OKRs. After training with Grove, Doerr popularized the method at Google and later started a company focused on OKR and wrote a popular book in 2018 titled “Measure What Matters”.

VGCC Innovators' goals are to impact the college, promote an entrepreneurial mindset and solve problems preemptively. Paraphrasing the welcome letter, the VGCC team asked future innovators. "What motivates individuals and

groups to embrace the future and consistently innovate? Some try to transform challenges into opportunities, making lemons out of lemonade, as the expression goes. When given lemons, the innovator/entrepreneur sees beyond. Perhaps a lemon ice pop, lemon pound cake, lemon tart, lemon curd, lemon sorbet, additive for a cleaning solution... you get the idea."

VGCC is transforming the college mindset.

To be successful in today's world, students, staff, and faculty need to be nimble minded and creative. College leadership can foster this creativity and boldness by encouraging risk taking within acceptable limits. Creating a culture of entrepreneurship can lead to exciting new ideas, solutions to challenges and open avenues to greater happiness and success. To stimulate this transformation, the

college needs innovators to plant seeds of change and lead the college transformation. We need novel approaches to respond to opportunities, collaborate, explore the optimal utilization of resources, to achieve the greatest impact on and for our students.

Innovators have received training in project management, strengths training, and design thinking. The additional tools will aid in tackling opportunities and solve problems.



The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude.

Oprah Winfrey

VGCC WELDING ENTERS NEW *ERA*

When December 2023 arrived, Rusty Pace, Program head of welding, made the switch to “Gone Fishing” or, for those who know Rusty, “Gone Riding”. Rusty’s retirement capped off a highly productive run and the growth of the VGCC welding program. Accomplishments include expanding the program in both space, instructors, and degree offering. Rusty’s retirement gives him the opportunity to fully dedicate his time to his hobbies of motorcycle riding and golfing, and we will miss him. Enjoy your hard-earned retirement, Rusty.



Luke Gravel assumed Program head duties in January. Luke has been with VGCC since 2012, when he looked for a career change and started taking welding classes. Having completed his associate’s degree, Luke joined the Welding Technology program as an instructor on the Henderson Campus, where he has been serving for the last 10 years. Over the years, while developing his teaching and welding skills, Luke has been steadily building valuable relationships in the welding industry. In

2019, he achieved success by successfully earning his Certified Welding Instructor Certification (CWI) from the American Welding Society. Luke prepares his students for successful careers by holding their work to the highest industry standards. Luke’s dedication to the VGCC welding program and its success made taking over the program head position a natural transition.



Austin Finch graduated from VGCC in 2019 with an associate degree. Following that, he made his way to Edward Inc. to begin his welding career. Working at Edwards provided him with practical experience regarding the fast-pace of a fabrication shop. Having transitioned from Edwards, Austin took on the position of fabrication supervisor at Southeaster Specialty Vehicles. His time at SSV highlighted his skill as an educator. Austin returned to VGCC to teach in the evening. Thanks to Rusty’s retirement and the reshuffling that took place, Austin could finally pursue the full-time position after 3 semesters. Austin started his new career as a first-year welding instructor in January 2024.

ACE ACADEMY

AN AVIATION CAREER EDUCATION SUMMER CAMP

OPEN TO RISING 6TH – 8TH GRADERS

- Drones, Field Trips, STEM,
Aviation Career Exploration

June 24, 2024 – June 28, 2024

- VGCC Main Campus
200 Community College Rd
Henderson, NC 27537

- Daily Sessions
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Cost: \$125

- Space is limited to the
first 15 paid participants



VGCC's *ON-THE-GO* BUS: BRINGING EDUCATION ON THE ROAD

Background and Vision

VGCC, known for its commitment to student success, recognized the need to reach out to prospective students in a more personalized and convenient manner. Many potential students faced barriers, such as transportation challenges, that hindered their ability to visit the college's campuses. The college leadership envisioned a solution that would bridge this gap and make higher education accessible to all.

The KARTS Bus Transformation

In a remarkable collaboration, VGCC partnered with the Kerr Area Rural Transportation System (KARTS) to repurpose a retired bus. The KARTS bus underwent a remarkable



Allison Pegram KARTS Transportation Coordinator Stephanie Tolbert VGCC, Tanya Weary VGCC Foundation, Randy Cantor, KARTS Executive Director

transformation. The college worked with Stream RV in Creedmoor to convert it to a fully functional mobile enrollment office. We thank KARTS for their support!

Features of the On-the-Go Bus

- Redesigned the interior to accommodate essential features for career exploration, applying for admissions, registering for classes, and applying for financial aid. It now boasts comfortable seating, a computer lab, and consultation space. Prospective students can discuss educational goals, financial aid options, and program offerings with trained enrollment staff.
- Laptops, printers, and internet connectivity for technology integration are available. Admissions counselors can assist students with applications and answer questions.
- Flexible Schedule: The mobile enrollment office operates on a flexible schedule, visiting various locations within the four-county area.

Impact and Community Response

The mobile enrollment office will be a game-changer for VGCC by providing:

- Increased Accessibility: Students who previously faced transportation challenges now have a convenient way to connect with VGCC.
- Personalized Interaction: Enrollment counselors build relationships with students during one-on-one consultations, address concerns, provide guidance, and facilitate a smooth transition to college life.
- Community Engagement: The bus's presence at local events, community centers and schools will spark interest and awareness about college educational options. It's not just a mobile enrollment office—it's a symbol of opportunity.

Looking Ahead

VGCC remains committed to innovation and student-centered solutions. The On-the-Go Bus is just one example of how the college continues to evolve and serve its community. As the KARTS bus crisscrosses the four counties, it carries the promise of education, empowerment, and a brighter future for all.

Whether you're a prospective student or a curious community member, keep an eye out for the VGCC On-the-Go Bus—it may roll in your neighborhood soon.





Vance-Granville
Community College

DRONE SAFETY DAY

Join Vance-Granville Community
College and guests for:

- ✓ Drone Demonstrations
- ✓ Guest Speakers
- ✓ Operations

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH, 2024
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Contact Information:



252-738-3541



bullockd@vgcc.edu



DESIGN, REWORK, DESIGN REAL-LIFE PROJECT PROPELS MECHATRONICS STUDENTS

Mechatronics instructors David Bullock and Phillip Deville were thrilled when they learned that a VGCC real-world project opportunity existed for students. The project team asked the program heads and applied tech leadership to gather their thoughts on must



haves, needs and wishes to prepare for the design phase. Then came the brilliant idea to make the planning a process for the classes.

VGCC Mechatronics students took part in creating preliminary layouts for the Center for Advanced Manufacturing. Although not official, VGCC

Mechatronics students' layouts will contribute to the development of the official design once the design team contract is awarded. To date, the design team has developed and submitted four unique designs, and they are continuing to make revisions based on feedback from VGCC administration, students, and industry partners. Students from the Mechatronics Drafting class are also helping create scaled layouts of the center. These projects not only enhance technical skills but also foster creativity and problem-solving abilities. Kudos to the VGCC students for their contributions to the field of mechatronics! This was one of several real-world assignments that students are working on in the Design Project class. Thanks to mechatronics students Malcolm Brownson, Zachary Davis, Brendan Panizza, Philip Royster, and Jarrett Webster for their enthusiasm and participation in the project.

You don't learn to walk by following rules. You learn by doing, and by falling over.
Richard Branson

VGCC'S FIRST GROUND SCHOOL CLASS TAKES OFF!



VGCC's foray into Aviation continued as the first Ground School class took place this winter. The class was 32 hours of intensive preparation for future testing and flying for the students, along with demonstrations of theory to application using flight simulators and other demonstration tools. Chris Greco, FAA Certified Advance Ground Instructor (AGI) (Left), is all smiles along with Larry Mann, Jr (Center) and Juan Tejada (Right) at the conclusion of the first Private Pilot Knowledge Test Prep and Ground School at Vance-Granville Community College (VGCC). One of the first schools to incorporate X-Plane flight simulators into their ground schools,

Vance-Granville, is exploring out-of-the-box solutions to get more people to pursue aviation careers. "These students are just the first of many that I hope will become enthusiastic about flying," Greco said. "There are so many flight careers available and so many flight scholarships to help them attain their flying certificates, and we hope to help them along the way." **The next Ground school class will be held on Saturdays beginning in October 2024. Contact Elisa Rodwell - rodwelle@vgcc.edu or 252-738-3256 for more information.**

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