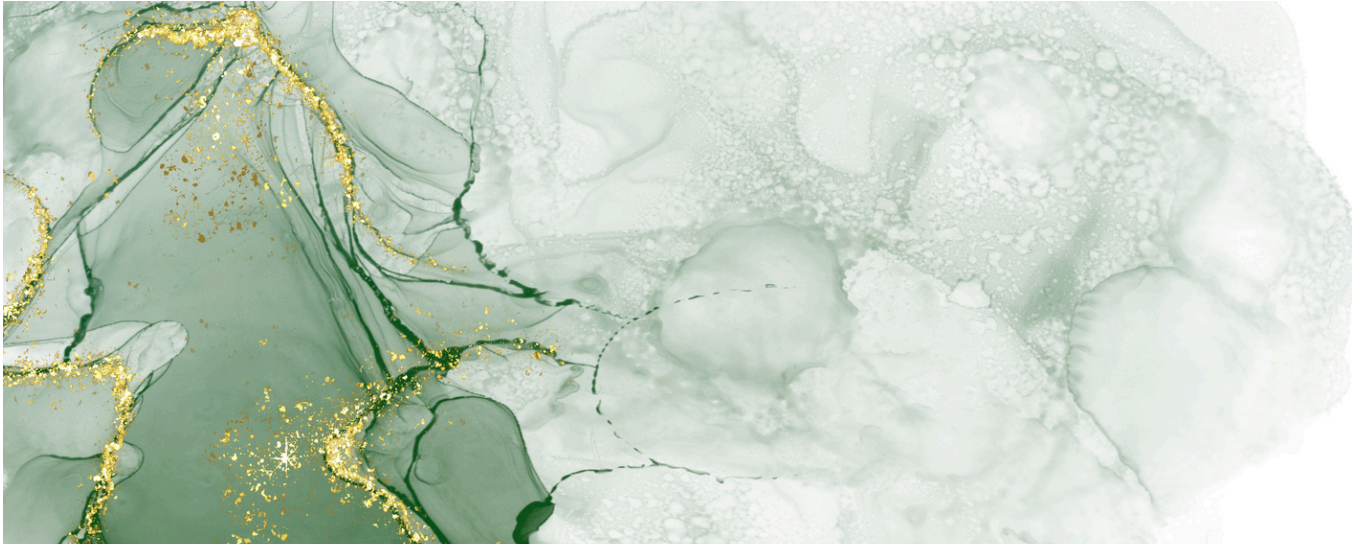




# Health Sciences

---

NEWSLETTER



## VGCC SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES: LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEW YEAR!

---

As we wrap up the fall semester, students and faculty at the VGCC School of Health Sciences are filled with excitement for the holiday break and the upcoming Spring 2025 semester. After a season of hard work and dedication, we're ready to recharge and come back refreshed for an exciting new term!

Stay tuned for future newsletters, where we'll be sharing details about exciting events happening in Spring 2025, including a cultural awareness event, mental health first aid training, and much more! We look forward to another year of growth, learning, and community here at VGCC. Happy holidays, and see you in the new year!

*-Submitted by: Kassie Felts, RN, MSN, CEN*

# MEDICAL ASSISTING

---

## Student Spotlight: Makayla Cox – Making History in Medical Assisting



The Medical Assisting program at the School of Health Sciences is proud to celebrate the incredible achievements of Makayla Cox, a standout student who is blazing trails and making history. During her first semester in the Medical Assisting program, Makayla landed a position as a Medical Assistant at Vance Family Medicine in Henderson, NC—a remarkable accomplishment and a first since I became the Program Head in 2019.

Makayla’s story exemplifies the possibilities that arise when passion meets opportunity. Her early success highlights the value of hands-on learning and the strength of partnerships between students and local healthcare providers like Dr. Vu at Vance Family Medicine. This collaboration not only opens doors for students but also enriches their educational experience through real-world application and mentorship. We are thrilled to witness Makayla’s journey and hope her accomplishment inspires other employers to see the potential in engaging students early in their health sciences education. Together, we can foster a culture of practical learning, mentorship, and growth that sets our students—and the healthcare industry—up for success.

Congratulations, Makayla! You are a shining example of what determination and early exposure to professional opportunities can achieve.

*Submitted by: Dr. Mercedes Kamoru, Program Head for Medical Assisting*

# MEDICAL ASSISTING (CONTINUED)

---

## Medical Assisting Student Organization Hosts End-of-Year Potluck

The Medical Assisting Student Organization (MASO) wrapped up the semester with a heartwarming potluck celebration! Students gathered to share food, laughter, and camaraderie, reflecting on their achievements and the bonds they've built throughout the year.

The event featured a spread of tasty dishes, lively conversations, and a strong sense of community, highlighting the spirit of teamwork and support that defines the Medical Assisting program. It was a perfect way to close out a successful semester and look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Kudos to the MASO for making this celebration a memorable one—here's to more milestones in the new year!

*Submitted by: Dr. Mercedes Kamoru, Program Head for Medical Assisting*



# NURSING

---

## New Faculty Positions



Mrs. Kassie Felts will be assuming a new role as the Nursing Faculty Collaborator starting on January 2nd, 2025. This position works across all nursing programs, including the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), Practical Nursing (PN), and Regionally increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN), with a strong emphasis on ensuring compliance with the North Carolina Board of Nursing (NCBON) and Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) standards. Additionally, the Nursing Faculty Collaborator contributes significantly to the Comprehensive Program Evaluation, supporting continuous improvement and maintaining the highest standards of nursing education.

*-Photo submitted by: Kassie Felts, RN, MSN, CEN*

Dr. Nakisha Powell will be assuming a new role as the Nursing Clinical Progression Specialist starting on January 2nd, 2025. The Clinical Progression Specialist is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of clinical progression of all nursing students, adhering to NCBON standards, and contributing to the overall programmatic success of nursing. The Clinical Progression Specialist will provide clinical and lab instruction implementing active learning strategies and focusing on student learning outcomes.

*-Photo submitted by: Nakisha Powell, DNP, MSN, BSN, RN, PMH-BC*



# NURSING (CONTINUED)

## Dr. Eller Earns TPM Badge at NC TPM Academy



Dr. Kelly Eller recently attended the NC Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) Academy, joining leaders from across North Carolina to address workforce challenges and create innovative talent pipelines. The program's culminating event was held on December 5th at the Stateview Hotel in Raleigh, where representatives from education, healthcare, industry, and community organizations gathered for collaborative discussions, dynamic panel presentations, and project showcases.

During the event, Dr. Eller earned her official TPM badge, issued by TPM Co/Lab through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. This badge represents her mastery of the key concepts and processes associated with organizing and managing talent supply chains using the TPM framework and methodology. Badge earners demonstrate their ability to organize for employer leadership and collaboration, project critical job demand, align and communicate hiring requirements, analyze talent supply, facilitate talent solution designs, and execute continuous improvement and resiliency planning.

With participants representing diverse sectors from across the state, the academy's success highlights North Carolina's commitment to developing stronger and more sustainable talent pipelines. Dr. Eller's achievement reflects her dedication to advancing workforce development and her leadership in creating impactful solutions for the future.

Congratulations to Dr. Eller for this significant milestone and her ongoing efforts to support workforce innovation in our community!

*-Submitted by: Kelly Eller, EdD, MSN, RN*

# NURSING (CONTINUED)

## Nursing Students Gain Hands-On Experience at UNC Burns Center

VGCC Nursing students recently had the unique opportunity to participate in a clinical rotation at the prestigious UNC Burns Center. This marks the first time such an experience has been offered to students, and it proved to be an invaluable learning opportunity. The students gained firsthand knowledge of burn care management, refining their skills in a highly specialized and challenging area of nursing. Nursing instructors also enjoyed the experience, expanding their own expertise and insights in the care of burn patients. This collaboration reflects VGCC's commitment to providing diverse and enriching clinical experiences to its nursing students.

*-Submitted by: Kassie Felts, RN, MSN, CEN*



# RADIOGRAPHY

## St. Jude Cards

As part of their second community service project, senior Radiography students designed holiday cards for St. Jude Children's Hospital on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. Each student was responsible for creating 4 cards. The cards were then mailed by Radiography Club President, Ethan Hykes.

*-Submitted by: Jamisha Twitty, M.H.S. RT (R)*

