

BLUEPRINT

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



2025 SPRING EDITION

Reaching New Heights: Empowering the Workforce of Tomorrow.

This issue highlights how our students climb to the top in applied technology and advanced manufacturing, equipping themselves with the skills needed for success in today's evolving industries.



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Blueprint, Vance-Granville Community College's newsletter dedicated to applied technology, advanced manufacturing, and workforce. As we kick off the year, we're excited to share some great

news and updates. 2025 is starting off strong with a surge in enrollment, reflecting the growing interest and demand for skilled professionals in the field. This edition highlights some key collaborations between departments, designed to foster

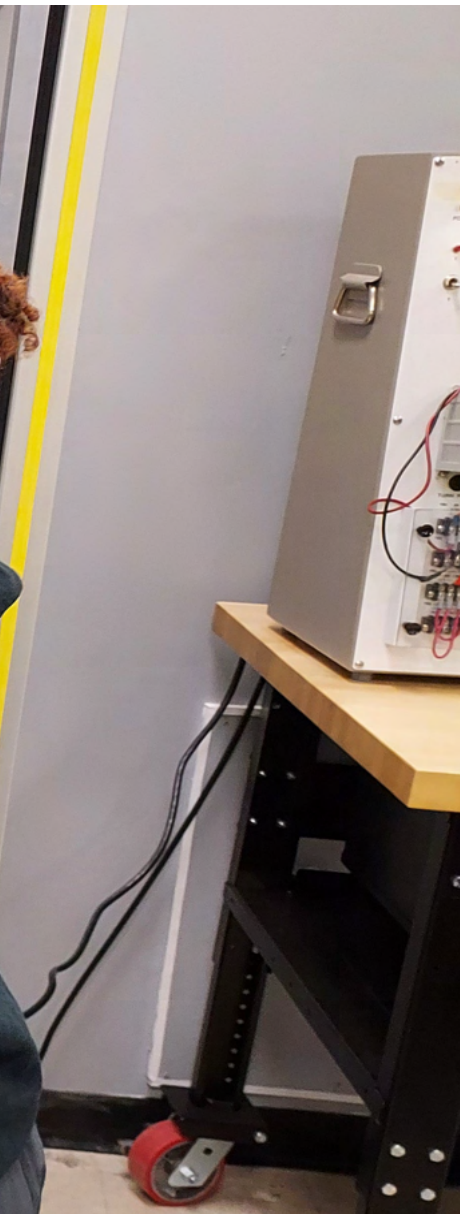


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innovation and provide our students with cutting-edge training. We’re also thrilled to introduce a brand-new job board, connecting students and graduates to career opportunities. And that’s not all - there are plenty of upcoming events and

initiatives to look forward to. Whether you’re a student, alumni, or community partner, there’s something for everyone. Read on to learn more about the exciting developments happening now!

- FREDESVINDA COLINDRES

ENROLLMENT SURGE AT VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY

A CLOSER LOOK

Vance-Granville Community College (VGCC) has witnessed a remarkable surge in enrollment over the past two years, particularly within its School of Business, Applied Technology, and Public Service. From Fall 2022 to Fall 2024, overall enrollment in this school has increased by an impressive 10.8%. Even more striking is the 22% rise in enrollment specifically within the trade programs during the same period. The enrollment in applied technology programs grew from 168 students in the fall of 2022 to 205 students during the fall of 2024.



A GROWING INTEREST IN APPLIED TECHNOLOGY AND TRADE PROGRAMS

The significant uptick in enrollment can be attributed to several factors. VGCC has made concerted efforts to enhance its curriculum, ensuring that it meets the evolving needs of the job market. The college's trade programs, which include fields such as welding, electrical systems, mechatronics, automotive technology, carpentry and HVAC technology, have become particularly attractive to students seeking practical skills that lead directly to employment opportunities.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VGCC's strategic initiatives have played a crucial role in this growth. The college has actively engaged with local industries to tailor its programs to the specific needs of employers. This collaboration has not only improved the relevance of the education provided but also increased job placement rates for graduates, making VGCC an appealing choice for prospective students.

Additionally, VGCC has invested in state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, providing students with hands-on experience that is critical for success in technical fields. The college's commitment to maintaining high standards of education and training has been a key driver of the increased enrollment.

SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

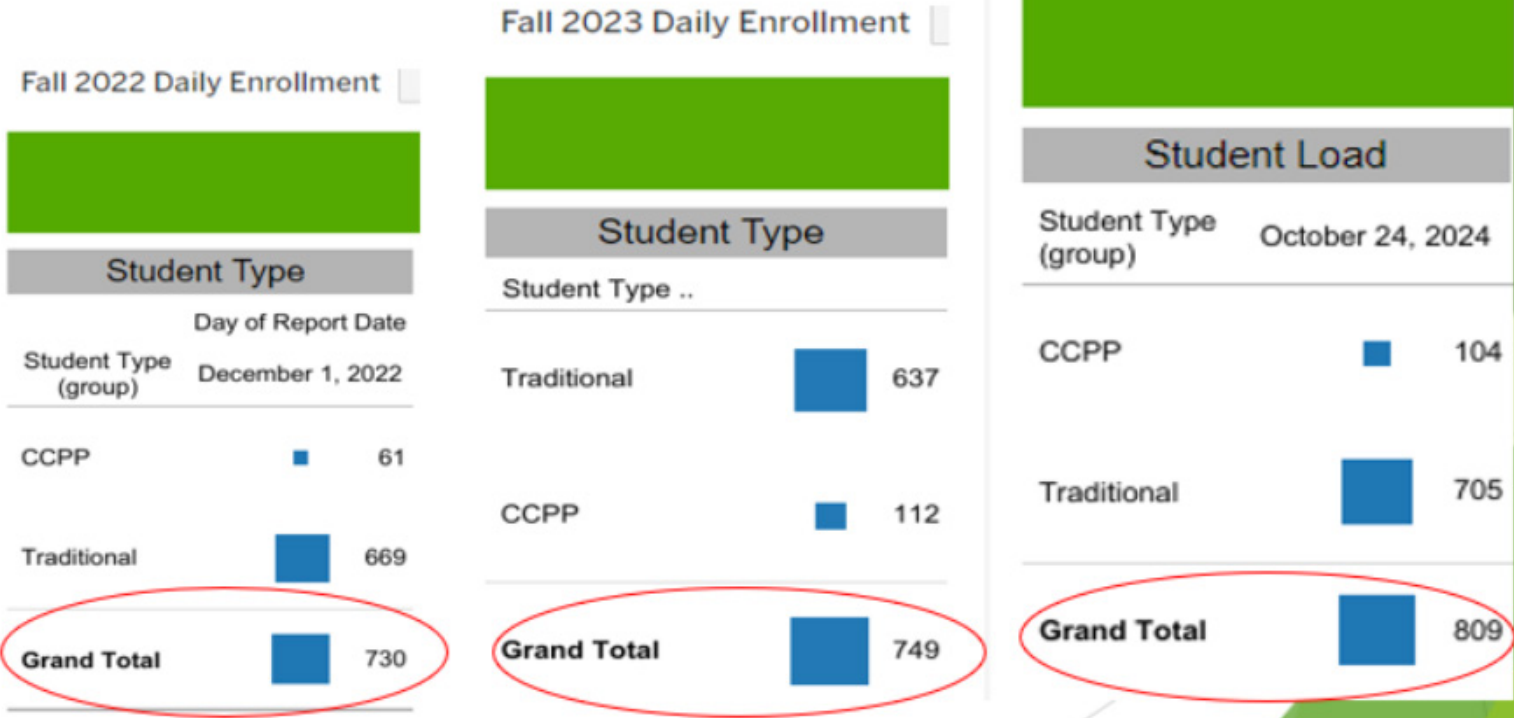
Another factor contributing to the rise in enrollment is the supportive learning environment at VGCC. The college offers a range of support services, including tutoring, career counseling, KARTS transportation, VGCC Food Pantry and financial aid assistance, which help students navigate their educational journey successfully. This holistic approach to student support has made VGCC a preferred destination for many seeking to advance their careers.

LOOKING AHEAD

As VGCC continues to adapt and grow, the future looks bright for its students and the community it serves. The college’s focus on providing relevant, high-quality education and training ensures that it remains a vital resource for workforce development in the region. The impressive increase in enrollment at VGCC’s School of Business, Applied Technology, and Public Service is a testament to the college’s dedication to meeting the needs of its students and the local economy. With continued investment in its programs and facilities, VGCC is well-positioned to sustain this growth and continue making a positive impact on the community.

STATISTICS

Enrollment Increase in BATPS: Fall 2022-2024 (10.8%)





ALTEC INNOVATION CHALLENGE

FOR GRANVILLE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS

Stephanie Tolbert, Dean of Business, Applied Technology, and Public Service and Xavier L. Wortham, Chair of the VGCC Board of Trustees, at Vance-Granville Community College, recently served as judges at the Innovation Challenge hosted by Altec.

The event was a showcase of young talent, with two student groups from Granville Central and one group from JF Webb presenting their innovative solutions to problems in their schools and communities. The creativity and dedication of these young minds were truly inspiring! Each team researched issues affecting their school and/or community and they

presented innovative solutions to help solve these challenges. Each team was assigned mentors who are also employees at Altec to help guide them through the process.

A special congratulations goes to the winning team from JF Webb, who impressed the judges with their innovative solution. They were awarded \$10,000 by Altec to bring their idea for a Maker Space at their school to life!

We are incredibly proud of all the participants and grateful to Altec for supporting our future innovators.

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND MECHATRONICS MINI CAREER EXPO

A VALUABLE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS

On November 13, 2024, the Biotechnology and Mechatronics Mini Career Expo marked a significant milestone in providing students with valuable career development opportunities. The event saw the participation of over 60 students, who attended the in-person gathering to engage with potential employers and explore various academic pathways in the biotechnology and mechatronics fields.

The Expo brought together students and industry leaders, offering a platform for students to network with representatives from some of the most prominent companies in the sector. Among the employers present were Novo Nordisk, Plantd, Mako Medical, ADUSA Distribution & Transportation, Novonesis, Ontic Engineering, Merck, CertainTeed, Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals, and the North Carolina Biotechnology Center.

The event provided students with an invaluable opportunity to learn about diverse career options and gain insights into the skills and qualifications needed to succeed in the rapidly evolving biotechnology and mechatronics industries. Through direct interactions with industry professionals, students were able to build essential connections that are instrumental for both job searching and career advancement.



PICTURED ABOVE: JERIEL CANALES PEREZ, BIOWORK STUDENT, SPEAKS TO A NOVO NORDISK REPRESENTATIVE

This Expo exemplified the importance of facilitating career readiness programs, empowering students to take the next step in their professional journeys with confidence. The experience underscored the essential role that networking and industry exposure play in shaping the future of students pursuing careers in biotechnology and mechatronics.

BRIDGING THE GAP:

MECHATRONICS AND HEALTH PROGRAM COLLABORATION FOR ENHANCED STUDENT LEARNING

In recent years, the intersection of mechatronics and health care has emerged as a transformative force in medical technology. Mechatronics, the integration of mechanical engineering, electronics, computer science, and control engineering, is increasingly finding applications in health programs, revolutionizing patient care, diagnostics, and treatment methodologies. This collaboration holds the promise of more efficient, personalized, and effective health solutions. This article explores how the synergy between mechatronics and health programs is enhancing patient care and paving the way for future innovations in the educational arena.



The ongoing collaboration between mechatronics and health programs involves interdisciplinary efforts to integrate technological innovations with education, laboratory, and clinical practices. Key aspects of this collaboration include: Research and Development, Clinical Trials and Testing, Education and Training, and Patient-Centered Care.



Mechatronics plays a pivotal role in modern health care through the development of advanced medical devices and systems. Its application spans several domains, including: Medical Robotics, Prosthetics and Orthotics, Diagnostic Equipment, and Assistive Technologies.



Several successful collaborations between mechatronics and health programs highlight the potential of this synergy. They include: The Exoskeleton Revolution, Robotic Surgery Systems, and Telemedicine and Remote Monitoring.

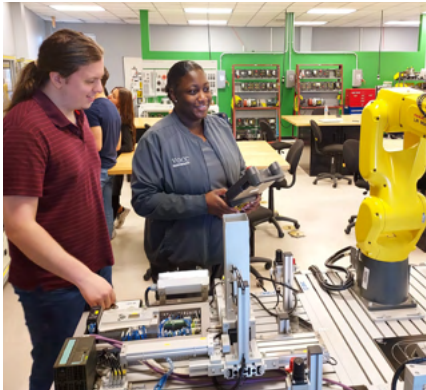
Vance-Granville Community College has taken advantage of these key aspects of collaboration to integrate mechatronics with the health sciences programs. The instructors have exposed their students to a broad scope of robotics that can be used in health care, specifically to radiology, pharmacy, and the operating room. There are future plans to develop campus laboratory robots that will mirror their usage in the clinical setting. The goal is to prepare our School of Health Sciences students to exceed entry-level health care professionals, while giving the mechatronic students an opportunity to see the actions of their work first-hand.



The collaboration between mechatronics and health programs represents a powerful convergence of technology and medicine, offering transformative potential for the educational process and ultimately, patient care. By integrating advanced mechatronic systems with clinical practices, this partnership is paving the way for more precise, effective, and personalized health solutions. As technology continues to evolve, the synergy between these fields will undoubtedly lead to groundbreaking advancements in health care education, ultimately benefiting patients worldwide.

Looking ahead, the future of mechatronics in health care education holds exciting possibilities. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and advanced materials are poised to further enhance the capabilities of mechatronic systems. Continued collaboration between mechatronics and health programs will be key to driving innovation, advancing education, and improving patient care.

INNOVATIVE MINDS AT WORK:



VGCC BioWork Program Achieves Milestone with Record- Breaking Class Enrollment

Vance-Granville Community College proudly hosted its largest BioWork class in history, marking a significant achievement for both the institution and the industry. The Fall 2024 class, which saw 18 students enrolled, reflects the growing interest and momentum in the bio-manufacturing sector. This milestone class also stands out due to the incredible support provided to students through funding opportunities.

Thirteen students received financial assistance to cover tuition and textbook fees through BBBRC funding or the Novozymes BioWork Process Technician Scholarship. This support has made the program more accessible, allowing students to focus on their education without the financial burden that often accompanies higher learning. The success

of this class is not just a testament to the quality of VGCC's BioWork program, but also to the increasing demand for skilled workers in the bio-manufacturing industry. As the industry continues to grow, the program's expansion is a clear indication of how vital it is to equip the workforce with the necessary skills to meet these demands.

Mark Olino, a graduate from this cohort made the following statement: "Completing the Bio-Work Process Technician course has helped me understand the basics of working in bio-manufacturing, like safety rules and how the process works. It gave me the skills and confidence I need to start looking for jobs in this field."



KYLE HARRIS:

A JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE AND TRIUMPH

Vance-Granville Community College has proudly nominated Kyle Harris for the prestigious Dallas Herring Award. This nomination celebrates Kyle's remarkable journey of resilience, determination, and success.

Kyle's story begins with his service in the military during one of the most challenging times in recent history. He was serving when the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001, and was later deployed to Iraq during the 2003 invasion. After being honorably discharged, Kyle faced significant challenges, including PTSD and addiction. These struggles led to homelessness and mental and medical health issues.

Despite these obstacles, Kyle's turning point came when he sought help from the Veterans Life Center in Butner. There, he received the medical and

mental health support he needed, along with free housing. It was during his time at the center that Kyle connected with representatives from Vance-Granville Community College, who visits the center monthly. They played a crucial role in helping him apply and enroll in the Automotive Program.

Kyle's dedication to his studies was evident in his impressive 3.714 GPA. His commitment to his education and future career was further demonstrated by his proactive engagement with Southeastern Specific Vehicles, a company that visited his class to discuss job opportunities. Kyle's initiative paid off when he was hired by the company, enabling him to earn a livable wage, purchase a car, and secure a house, significantly improving his quality of life.

Kyle credits Vance-Granville Community College for providing the training and opportunities that have been instrumental in his journey to recovery and success. His story is an inspiring example of how education and community support can help individuals overcome adversity and achieve their goals. Kyle now pays it forward by encouraging other veterans to enroll at Vance-Granville Community College and helping them navigate the process. He has also assisted two of his classmates in the Automotive Program in securing jobs at Southeastern Specific Vehicles.

Kyle Harris is not only an exemplary student but also a role model for his peers. Kyle embodies the spirit of resilience and the transformative power of education, making a positive impact on his community and beyond.



PICTURED ABOVE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ROB ROGERS, AUTOMOTIVE INSTRUCTOR, KYLE HARRIS, STEPHANIE TOLBERT, DEAN, AND JAMES GIBBS, AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAM HEAD



DISCOVER OPPORTUNITIES ON THE HANDSHAKE JOB BOARD

Vance-Granville Community College is officially a Handshake partner. We are excited to share this college-to-career network with you where you can post and review job opportunities, internships, and apprenticeships. Handshake Job Board has over 12 million student users and 1500+ registered colleges and universities. The unique platform provides an opportunity to network with over 900,000 employers hosted through the site. We look forward to connecting with you on this platform. To sign up, visit: <https://vgcc.joinhandshake.com/login>. Be sure to add Vance-Granville Career Services once you have created an account! For more information about Handshake, please contact VGCC Career Services at careerservices@vgcc.edu or by phone at 252-738-3466.

SPRING INTO YOUR FUTURE: 2025 CAREER FAIR

Join us at Vance-Granville Community College for the Spring Career Fair to assist job seekers with job opportunities, expert advice, and career exploration. Mark your calendars and seize the opportunity to market your companies and job offerings!

DATE: Thursday, April 24, 2025

LOCATION: Vance-Granville Community College – Civic Center (200 Community College Road, Henderson, NC 27536)

A yellow poster for the Spring Career Fair 2025. It features three hexagonal images showing people at a career fair. A blue hexagon in the center contains the text 'CAREER SERVICES'. The Vance-Granville Community College logo (VG) is in the top right. Large blue text says 'JOIN US!'. Below that, the date and time are listed: 'THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025 9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON'. At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'CONTACT CAREER SERVICES AT 252-738-3466 OR CAREERSERVICES@VGCC.EDU FOR MORE INFORMATION'. A small disclaimer at the very bottom states that the college is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and is an equal opportunity institution.

CAREER SERVICES

JOIN US!

**THURSDAY,
APRIL 24, 2025
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON**

**CONTACT CAREER SERVICES AT
252-738-3466 OR
CAREERSERVICES@VGCC.EDU
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**SPRING
CAREER FAIR**

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.

There will be an employer luncheon from 12:00 to 1:00 PM immediately after the Spring Career Fair. To register your company for the career fair and luncheon, please reach out to careerservices@vgcc.edu or Dr. Krystal Foxx, Director of Career Services at 252-738-3466. Visit the career services website to learn about all services at: <https://www.vgcc.edu/career-services/>

WELDING TECHNOLOGY

WHAT IS WELDING?

Welding is a series of fabrication processes used to permanently fuse metals by introducing a high heat to the material. These parts are usually melted together and reinforced with the addition of a suitable filler to create a molecular coalescence. The heat used to bond the surfaces is most often produced with an electric arc that is generated between the welding power source and workpiece.



INDUSTRIES SERVED

- Automotive
- Construction
- Petrochemical
- Manufacturing
 - Railway
- Aerospace



CREDENTIALS OFFERED

- Welding Technology A.A.S. Degree
- Welding Technology Diploma
- Basic Welding Certificate
 - A Variety of AWS Qualifications



PROGRAM OPTIONS

- Day & Evening Courses - Available at Main Campus and Franklin Campus

Contact Us Today! ☎ 252-738-3338 ✉ welding@vgcc.edu





FULL STEAM AHEAD

Science: Everyday, Everywhere, Everyone

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
1547 S Campus Dr, Creedmoor, NC 27522

Join us for a fun-filled day of science for the whole family. Participate in various science activities for all ages. Learn about STEAM-related educational programs and summer camps. And discover local industry partners with current job openings!



OFFICIAL EVENT

Find more events at NCSciFest.org



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KEN WILSON'S NEXT ADVENTURE

A HEARTFELT FAREWELL

As Ken Wilson embarks on his well-deserved retirement, I couldn't be happier for him. It's rare to come across a leader who leaves such a lasting impact, and Ken is undoubtedly one of those people. His innovative leadership, calm demeanor, and ability to tackle any challenge, no matter how big, have always been an inspiration.

Ken has not only contributed immensely to the college but has also set an example for all of us to follow. I am grateful for his wisdom, his funny stories, and the time he invested in me. While we will miss his steady presence, we are excited to see him embrace the next chapter of his life – leisure studies and new adventures await!

Ken's leadership extended far beyond just his day-to-day responsibilities. He created the Blueprint, a newsletter that has become an essential part of how we stay connected and informed. As he moves on to new adventures, keeping the Blueprint alive is not just a way of maintaining his legacy here – it's a tribute to the mark he's made and the foundation he built. His work in creating this platform for communication is just one example of how he's shaped our culture and will continue to inspire us.

Ken, thank you for everything. We wish you nothing but the best in your retirement. Enjoy every moment – you've certainly earned it!

- FREDESVINDA COLINDRES

UNLOCKING POSSIBILITIES

YOU ARE KEY!

THE VGCC FOUNDATION

WINE TASTING GALA & SILENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

HIGHROCK FARMS

2317 ENON RD, OXFORD, NC 27565

CONTACT: FOUNDATION@VGCC.EDU OR 252-738-3264

TICKETS

\$75

SILENT AUCTION,
WINE PULL, RAFFLES





VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE 41ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

MAY 5 & 6, 2025



252.738.3264 | foundation@vgcc.edu | <https://www.vgcc.edu/golf>

ABOUT THE EVENT

Golfers will have a chance to hit the green and support scholarships at The Vance-Granville Community College Foundation's 41st Annual Golf Tournament for Scholarships. The four-member team Super Ball tournament will take place on May 5 & 6 at the Henderson Country Club.

The golf tournament serves as one of VGCC'S primary fundraisers for The Foundation. It will raise funds for scholarships to help need-based students with the cost of tuition and books, as well as emergency grants.

The golf tournament provides resources for the College to remove barriers in order to enhance and expand its efforts to address need-based aid for students and promote equitable outcomes for all learners.

Sponsor today and choose your day of play.

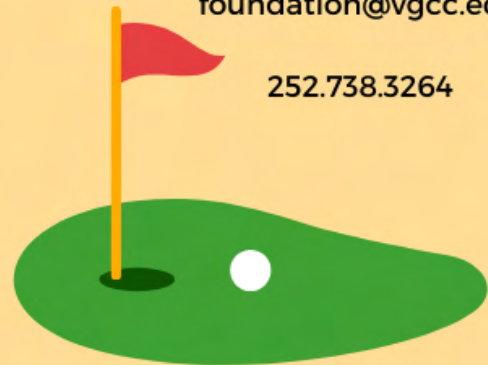
For more information visit:



CONTACT US:

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(252) 492-2061
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