

# VANCE- GRAN VILLE COMM UNITY COLLEGE

2024-2025 President's Report

People First



# Our Mission and Vision

To educate, inspire, and support a diverse community of learners to achieve professional and personal success and to be a catalyst in developing strong communities where everyone experiences a fulfilling quality of life.

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I am pleased to present the 2024-2025 Annual Report for Vance-Granville Community College. Within these pages, you will find inspiring stories about real people and groups—turning dreams and visions into reality. You will see hope manifested through hard work and second chances. You will read about the entrepreneurial spirit very much alive in our community. There is a spirit of service and giving throughout these pages. Perhaps best of all, you will see our Vanguards moving forward, pushing onward—striving to be a catalyst in building strong communities where everyone can experience a fulfilling quality of life.

Take a journey in the recent past with us, as we celebrate our successes and show you “what’s next” for VGCC!

With determination and hope,

*Rachel M. Desmarais*

Dr. Rachel M. Desmarais

# Executive Leadership

Dr. Rachel M. Desmarais  
College President

Dr. Kim Sepich  
Vice President of Instruction & Student Services;  
Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Jerry Edmonds  
Vice President of Workforce & Community Engagement

Steven Graham  
Vice President of Finance & Operations

Dr. Christopher Pearce  
Vice President of Institutional Research & Technology

Kevin Tompkins  
Executive Director of Human Resources

Tanya Weary  
Executive Director of The VGCC Foundation

Julie Hicks  
Director of Planning & Research

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*Student Gov. Association President*



As Chair of the Vance-Granville Board of Trustees, it is my honor to introduce our Annual Report for the 2024–2025 academic year—a year defined by purpose, progress, and our unwavering commitment to a people-first philosophy.

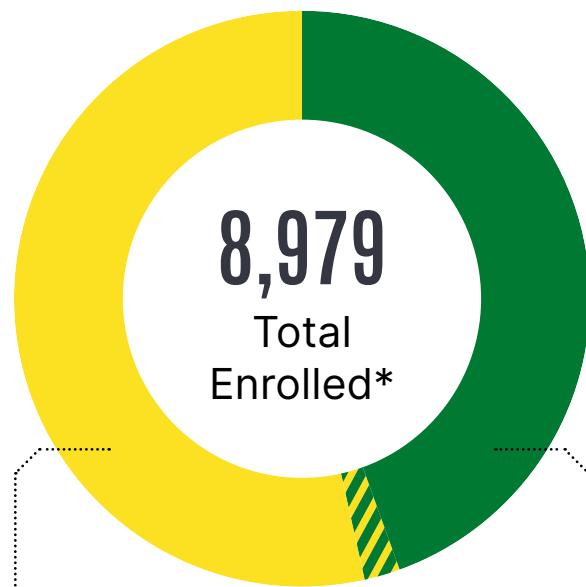
At VGCC, people are at the heart of everything we do. Our students inspire us with their determination to build better futures. Our faculty and staff bring passion, innovation, and care into classrooms, labs, and offices every day. Our partners and communities help us ensure that education remains accessible, relevant, and transformative. This year's accomplishments reflect what is possible when we place people first—when we listen, invest, and lead with compassion and accountability. Together, we expanded opportunities, strengthened workforce pathways, and reinforced VGCC's role as a catalyst for individual and regional success.

On behalf of the Board, thank you to everyone who makes Vance-Granville Community College a place where people truly come first.



Xavier L. Wortham

# The Year in Numbers



4,984 Students in  
Continuing Education  
and Literacy Programs

4,354 in Occupational  
& Industry Training,  
Small Business Center,  
Personal Enrichment

676 in Adult Basic Skills,  
ESL, and HS Equivalency

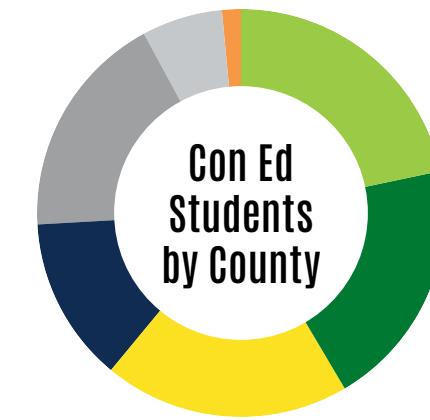
4,176 Students in  
Curriculum Programs

600 Curriculum Graduates

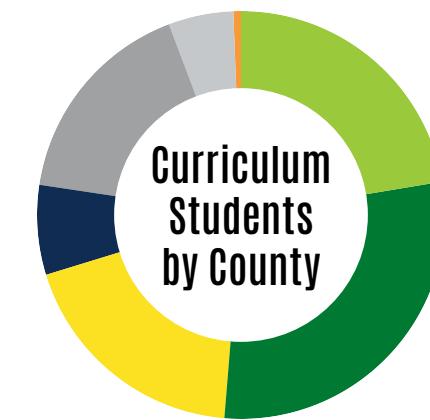
448 Associate Degrees

35 Diplomas

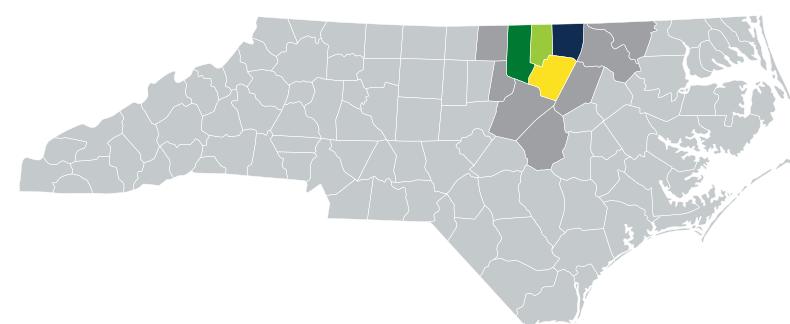
175 Certificates



Vance County	21.70%
Granville County	19.80%
Franklin County	19.50%
Warren County	13.10%
Adjacent Counties	18.00%
Other NC Counties	6.40%
Non-NC Residents	1.50%



Vance County	22.38%
Granville County	28.92%
Franklin County	18.96%
Warren County	7.11%
Adjacent Counties	16.88%
Other NC Counties	5.15%
Non-NC Residents	0.60%



\* Student total is not the sum of the two subtotals because some students took both Curriculum and Continuing Education/Literacy courses during this academic year.

Graduate data (7/1/24 – 6/30/25) obtained from Colleague as of 8/1/25. Enrollment data obtained from North Carolina Community College System Report/Colleague.

Scan to view  
more detailed  
student data





# Reimagining the VGCC Student Experience from the Very Beginning

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In 2024, Vance-Granville Community College began developing a new service model known as “One Front Door,” designed to achieve parity in service to students across our credit (Curriculum) and short-term workforce (Continuing Education) programs.

One Front Door will reorganize and refine how prospective students are invited, welcomed, and set up for success at Vance-Granville. When fully implemented, all students, regardless of their education interests, will receive the same onboarding and advising services. Major changes will include:

- A focus on career selection as opposed to programs or majors
- Presentation of easy-to-understand pathways to careers, tailored to individual student needs
- Simplified, timely communication to demystify college processes and navigation
- Providing a quality experience for Continuing Education students as well as credit students



During the 2024-2025 academic year, the OFD steering committee oversaw efforts to capture current processes and structures, as well as the creation of “career ladders”—simplified infographics for each field of study which outline levels of education needed to advance along a career path. Further initiatives were in progress at the time of this report’s publication:

- Adopting student-centered course schedules
- Reviewing and refining communications to students
- Separating and realigning aspects of Continuing Education records
- Improving understanding of learner pathways

*Pictured: Student Government Association officers and ambassadors at an August 2024 “Welcome Back” event*

# The Future is Here

During 2024-2025, Vance-Granville saw significant progress on two long-anticipated expansion projects: the Center for Advanced Manufacturing & Applied Technology and the Transportation Training & Technology Center

## Center for Advanced Manufacturing & Applied Technology

The 35,000 sq. ft. Center for Advanced Manufacturing & Applied Technology (CAMAT) will be a state-of-the-art training facility in Granville County. Once completed, it will support industry training needs, serve as a company recruitment benefit, and support high school and CTE collaboration.

The CAMAT will offer traditional credentials as well as relevant short-term training opportunities for students in Electronics, Fabrication, HVAC, Industrial Maintenance, Mechatronics, and Welding.

### Key Milestone Dates

- Architectural Design and Engineering Services: March – November 2025
- Bid Solicitation: Spring 2026
- Anticipated Construction Completion: July 2027
- Grand Opening: August 2027



## Transportation Training & Technology Center

The Transportation Training & Technology Center will be an innovative regional hub for high-demand transportation training, serving students and employers across the region. The center will bring transportation-related workforce programs together into one unified, modern site designed for today's industry needs and tomorrow's opportunities.

The Warren County facility will house Truck Driver Training, Heavy Equipment Operations, and the future Diesel & Heavy Equipment Mechanics program, with adaptable space for further growth.

- 11,000 sq. ft. of classrooms, training bays, labs, and more
- Paved training areas optimized for CDL-A and CDL-B
- Areas for expanded NCCC Heavy Equipment Operations services
- Sustainability-minded design



*Join us in shaping the future! The VGCC Foundation is excited to offer businesses and individuals the chance to make a lasting impact at these facilities through gifts, corporate support, and unique naming opportunities.*



*Scan the QR code on the adjacent page to read more about the CAMAT, or scan the code on this page to learn about the Transportation Center. You may also find information via the "About Us" menu on our website.*

# VGCC Recognized as a National Leader College by Achieving The Dream

This year, Vance-Granville Community College was designated a Leader College by Achieving The Dream (ATD), a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing community colleges as accessible hubs of learning, credentialing, and economic mobility in their communities. ATD made the announcement on February 20 at its DREAM 2025 conference in Philadelphia, PA.

"VGCC is honored to be recognized as a Leader College for the ATD Network as we work to achieve student excellence and success," commented Dr. Rachel Desmarais, Vance-Granville Community College president. "Continuous improvement is the fuel to advance the people and communities we serve."

VGCC joined the ATD Network in 2018, a coalition of 300+ colleges nationwide committed to supporting student success at their institutions and promoting economic vitality in their communities. The College's three-year Leader College term began in February, after which it will have the opportunity to recertify its designation.

Leader Colleges play an important role in accelerating the adoption of effective practices within the network and across higher education. These institutions have demonstrated quality work in whole-college reform, resulting in increased completion rates for all students. Leader Colleges develop innovative ways to work with other colleges to share knowledge and facilitate an exchange of ideas about evidence-based reform strategies.

"We are proud to recognize our 2025 Leader Colleges for their extraordinary commitment to student success," said Dr. Karen A. Stout, president and CEO of Achieving The Dream. "Their dedication to using data-informed approaches to create meaningful opportunities for students and their communities serves as a powerful example for all institutions of higher education and especially for those in the ATD Network."

*Pictured from left: Frankie Frink, VGCC English Professor and ATD Faculty Lead, joins President Dr. Rachel Desmarais to accept the Leader College accolade at the DREAM 2025 conference.*



COLLEGES  
ING SUCCESS

CREATE



# Veteran and Automotive Student Kyle Harris Wins Statewide Herring Award

This year, the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) named VGCC student Kyle Harris its 2025 Dallas Herring Student Achievement Award winner. He officially accepted the honor at a formal awards ceremony in Raleigh on April 3.

Harris served in the US military during the September 2001 attacks and was deployed to Iraq in 2003. After his honorable discharge, Harris faced significant challenges, including PTSD, addiction, homelessness, and incarceration. In the midst of these obstacles, he found support from the Veterans Life Center in Butner. That was where Harris met VGCC outreach staff, who visit the center regularly. They played a crucial role in helping Harris apply and enroll.

"Enrolling in the Automotive Technology associates' program is where my redemption story really began," he noted. "I hope that my story reaches as many people as possible struggling in addiction, to not only choose sobriety but to enroll in a community college."

While Harris started without much automotive experience, his determination combined with the mentorship of program head James Gibbs has allowed him to thrive. Before he had even graduated, Harris had already begun a fulfilling career at Southeastern Specialty Vehicles in Henderson. He also actively supports fellow veterans by encouraging them to pursue education and employment.

NCCCS bestows the award to current or former students who best embody the late Dr. Herring's philosophy of "taking people where they are and carrying them as far as they can go." Out of the 58 nominees submitted from the state's community colleges annually, only one person receives the Dallas Herring Award.

Harris graduated with an associate degree in Automotive Systems Technology as part of Vance-Granville's Class of 2025.



Scan the QR code to watch the official award video and hear Kyle's inspiring story in his own words

# VGCC Truck Driver Training Program Expands to Include CDL-B Pathway

Vance-Granville Community College Truck Driver Training officially expanded its operations in June 2025 as it welcomed the very first students into its new CDL-B training course. This marked the program's first major expansion since launching CDL-A in 2020.

The primary difference between a Class A and a Class B commercial driver's license (CDL) is the type and weight of commercial vehicles each license covers. A Class A CDL permits drivers to operate the largest and heaviest commercial vehicles, such as 18-wheeler tractor-trailers. A Class B CDL allows drivers to operate somewhat lighter vehicles like box trucks, school buses, and dump trucks.

By providing two distinct Truck Driver Training pathways, the College empowers future drivers to choose a course designed for their long-term career goals. Students can complete Vance-Granville's CDL-B track in about five weeks, roughly half the time the CDL-A track requires. For drivers who don't intend to do long-haul trucking, choosing a CDL-B license instead of CDL-A can mean a quicker path to employment and a more regular work schedule, while providing foundational skills to pursue the CDL-A later on.

Since VGCC launched Truck Driver Training in 2020, more than 350 students have successfully completed the program with the skills and support to step into high-demand careers.

*Pictured: Vance-Granville's first three CDL-B graduates and their CDL-A peers celebrate their accomplishments at a combined ceremony in August 2025.*



Scan the QR code to learn more about Truck Driver Training at VGCC and register for upcoming courses

# College Receives Nearly \$1 Million in Healthcare Program Funding



In fall 2024, Vance-Granville Community College received nearly \$1 million in funding from the North Carolina Community College System Office to support high-cost healthcare programs, marking a significant investment in healthcare education for our region.

Working with Health Sciences Dean Dr. Angela Thomas and Pharmacy Technology Head Dr. Erica Fleming, Angela Simmons (Dean of Workforce Readiness, Health & Public Safety) submitted a proposal for a new Continuing Education program in Central Sterile Processing, or CSP. This curriculum prepares students for careers in sterile processing, equipping them to disinfect, process, store, and distribute essential medical equipment; graduates can work in surgery centers, hospitals, and consulting services. Recognizing the growing demand for skilled professionals in the region, the College secured a \$500,000 award to support faculty hiring, equipment, and program training.



Since launching at VGCC's Louisburg campus in April 2025, Central Sterile Processing has exceeded expectations. Over 75 applicants vied for spots in the first cohort, prompting an increase in class size from 10 to 20 students. Thirteen students completed the first cohort, while 19 out of 20 remain in the second cohort as of the time of publication, reflecting a strong 95% retention rate. CSP's first graduation ceremony, combined with a mini job fair, helped seven students secure jobs immediately after completion. Demand for the program continues to outpace available seats.

Vance-Granville also plans to expand clinical training through its future Health Sciences Simulation Academy. When completed, this initiative will use advanced simulation and virtual reality to enhance the learning experience across the College's Health Sciences programs. The State Board of Community Colleges awarded \$400,000 to support the project in September 2024.

With these investments, Vance-Granville is positioned to continue training the next generation of healthcare professionals, ensuring they are ready to meet the needs of our community and beyond.

*Pictured: Students from Vance-Granville Community College's first Central Sterile Processing cohort practice their newfound skills.*

# Culinary Arts Initiative Empowers Students to Give Back Creatively

In March 2025, Vance-Granville Community College proudly launched an inspiring new initiative, "VGCC Feeding Hungry Minds." Dedicated to supporting VGCC students, the program ensures no mind or body goes hungry on the path to education and growth.

Through "Feeding Hungry Minds," work-based learning students in the College's Culinary Arts program put their professional skills into practice using ingredients from the VGCC Food Pantry. These future chefs design, prepare, and freeze a menu of wholesome dishes each week, and freezer chests stay stocked with these take-and-microwave meals. The meals are available free of charge to food-insecure Vanguards, providing both nourishment and a gesture of community care. The program is made possible thanks to funding from the Federal Perkins Grant.

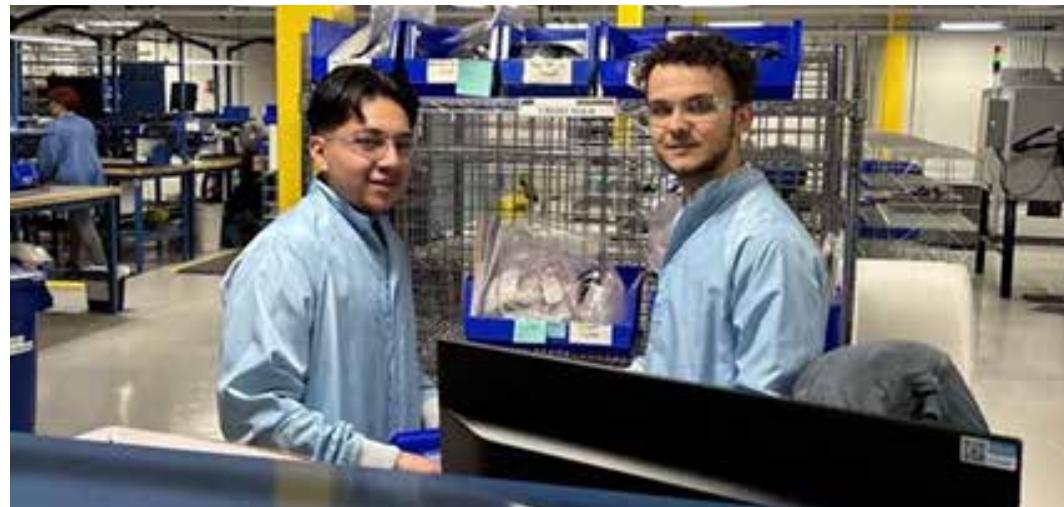
To access these meals, students can visit freezer chests conveniently located at all four Vance-Granville campuses.

VGCC is committed to fostering a supportive environment where students can focus on their education without worrying about basic needs. "Feeding Hungry Minds" is not just about providing meals—it's about creating a sense of belonging and uplifting students in their educational journey.

By combining the talents of our students, the generosity of the Federal Perkins Grant, and the power of community, Vance-Granville continues to demonstrate its dedication to student success.



Scan the QR code to explore the VGCC Culinary Arts program's certificate, diploma, and degree options



# Catamount Connections Transfer Partnership

Over 300 miles separate Vance-Granville Community College and Western Carolina University—but the two schools are now much closer than the physical distance that separates them.

In February 2025, President Desmarais, WCU Chancellor Kelli R. Brown, and colleagues from both institutions met by video call to sign a memorandum of understanding, guaranteeing admission to WCU for all Vance-Granville graduates who satisfy certain requirements. The “Catamount Connections” agreement will offer a direct pathway for Vanguards to earn their four-year degree at Western Carolina.

“We are pleased to be a participant in the Catamount Connections program offering a direct-entry admission opportunity to qualified VGCC graduates,” said Desmarais. “Western Carolina University offers unique programs of study, and we are excited to offer a pathway to these possibilities.”

To learn more about Catamount Connections and other VGCC transfer partnerships, visit [www.vgcc.edu/articulation-agreements](http://www.vgcc.edu/articulation-agreements).

## Ontic Apprenticeships

Vance-Granville has partnered with leading global aerospace firm Ontic to launch the first apprenticeship program at the company’s Creedmoor site, with support from the Granville County Chamber of Commerce. Two VGCC Mechatronics Engineering Technology students, Omar Ramos-Espinoza and Joey Richmond, became Ontic’s first local apprentices in spring 2025.

“Our Department Chair [David Bullock] is a big advocate for getting people into the workplace while learning,” Joey noted. “He really encouraged us to go for the opportunity at Ontic. We’ve been really lucky to be able to get a much broader understanding of how the business works, as well as building our technical understanding.”

Omar first learned about the opportunity at a job fair, when he saw lots of people crowded around the company’s recruitment stand. “I joined the crowd, heard about the apprenticeship and what Ontic offers, and decided to apply. I’ve always been interested in working in aerospace and want to be an aerospace engineer in the future.”

Through the program, Omar and Joey attend VGCC while working Monday through Friday at Ontic, allowing them to apply classroom theory directly to real-world industry challenges. The 6,000-hour apprenticeship will take about three years to complete and will equip them with a broad range of electro-mechanical competencies.



Interested in launching an apprenticeship program with VGCC? Scan to contact our Career Services team







# The NCCCS Academic Excellence Award

Every year, each institution of the North Carolina Community College System selects one student to receive the NCCCS Academic Excellence Award. To be eligible, students must be currently enrolled, have completed at least 12 semester hours in a curriculum degree program, and have a cumulative GPA of no less than 3.25.

VGCC is proud to recognize Grayson Gaul-Kinyon as our 2024-2025 Academic Excellence Award winner! An early college student at our South Campus in Creedmoor, Grayson graduated with both his high school diploma and Associate in Science degree in May 2025.

Grayson participated in and completed the North Carolina Governor's school program. He has also held local, state, and national leadership positions. He played football, worked part-time while maintaining high grades, and graduated as a first-generation college student. He was recognized as a Student of Commendation by the National Merit Scholarship Program, and he served as an active participant in his community through volunteering and fundraising. Additionally, Grayson acted as a peer tutor to help others overcome challenges.

*Photo by Gia L Photography*



# The Faces of Public Service

At VGCC, we're proud to educate and support the next generation of essential workers in our communities. We honor these students at program-specific pinning and graduation ceremonies which take place independently from our main spring convocation. Please join us in congratulating 2024-2025 graduates of our Health Sciences and Public Safety programs, some of whom are seen here.

*Pictured: Radiography (top), Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy 120 (bottom left), and Medical Assisting (bottom right).*

# Staff Milestones

Vance-Granville thanks all those who have dedicated years of service towards our students and communities! The following faculty and staff were recognized for service milestones during the College's annual employee convocation in August 2024:

## 30 Years of Service

Jessica Harvey



## 25 Years of Service

Jennifer Allen  
Willie Mae Foster-Hill



## 20 Years of Service

Dr. Tracey Carter  
Anna Royster



## 15 Years of Service

Antoinette Dickens      Lyndon Hall  
Frankie Frink      Veta Pierce-Cappetta



## 10 Years of Service

Stephen Barney	VP Steve Graham	April Rossi
Glen Boyd	Julie Hicks	Isaac Talley
Michael Brodie	Leslie Hurt	Victoria Whited
Dr. Erica Fleming	Raymond Lyon	Greg Wilson
Erin Folz		Kenneth Wilson

Tim Bates	Martin Griffin	Jonathan Jackson
Dr. Rachel Desmarais	Stephanie Harp	Sheri Jones
Dr. Krystal Foxx		Dr. Mercedes Kamoru

# 2024-2025 Staff Awards



## Mission Possible Award

sponsored by Duke Energy

Angela Peterson Simmons  
*Dean of Workforce Readiness,  
Health & Public Safety*



## President's Leadership Award

sponsored by Duke Energy

William Weaver  
*Director of Information Technology*



## Star Service Award

sponsored by Duke Energy

Diane Blalock  
*South Campus Receptionist*



## Vanguard Cup Award

School of Business, Applied  
Technologies & Public Services



## Faculty Member of the Year

Leslie Hurt  
*Sociology Professor*



## Staff Member of the Year

Candy Parker  
*Director of the Center for  
Teaching & Learning*



## Game Changer Award

sponsored by Duke Energy

David Bullock  
*Applied Technology Dept. Chair  
and Mechatronics Program Head*

# Faculty Rank System Yields First Professors

Vance-Granville's Faculty Rank System offers eligible instructors a formalized framework for promotion, which recognizes quality teaching, exemplary service, and exceptional leadership. VGCC congratulates our inaugural cohort of "professors," who achieved rank in 2024 and started the 2024-2025 academic year bearing that new title:

Rene' Alston-Thompson  
*Mathematics (Department Chair)*

Jason Bryan  
*English*

Yamika Dawes  
*Mathematics*

Erin Folz  
*Mathematics*

Frankie Frink  
*English*

Andrea Hyson  
*Criminal Justice Technology and Public Safety Administration (Program Head)*

Sharon O'Geary  
*Psychology*

Kristie Polk  
*Psychology*

April Rossi  
*Mathematics*

Patrick Southerland  
*Health/Physical Education*

Christal Thomas  
*Business Technologies (Department Chair)*

Victoria Whited  
*History*



# A Word of Gratitude

At Vance-Granville Community College, we know that education is the foundation of opportunity. But for many of our students, the path to that opportunity is filled with challenges—cost of tuition, food insecurity, transportation issues, and unexpected life emergencies. These are the "locks" our students face every day that could easily derail their progress.

The Foundation's 2025 theme "Unlocking Possibilities: You are Key" is more than just a phrase; it's a reflection of what happens every time a student receives a scholarship, walks into a classroom, or dares to dream a little bigger. A door is opened because someone like you believed in their potential. Every scholarship you fund, support offered to our students, every gift you give...it's not just a number. It's a name, a face, a story. It's a key that unlocks not only education, but confidence, stability, and a future filled with promise.

Associate Director Sheri Jones and I see students walk through our doors full of potential, sometimes unsure of themselves, often facing significant challenges—and we watch them grow, achieve, and believe in their future because someone like you made the journey possible. Thank you for allowing us to turn those locks into open doors. Remember you're not just helping students pay for college; you're helping them believe in what's possible. And that belief changes everything.

As we look toward the future, our hope is that we'll each reflect on the doors that have been opened for us through the years and that we'll genuinely look for ways to open doors for those around us.

On behalf of our students, The VGCC Foundation Board of Directors, and the entire VGCC family—thank you. Thank you for investing in potential, for unlocking opportunities, and for standing with us as we shape the next generation of leaders, dreamers, and doers.

  
Tanya S. Weary,  
VGCCF Executive Director

# Welding Student Reignites Success with College Support

The road to academic success often comes with unexpected twists, and for Kobe Bullock, it nearly ended before it began. But with determination and support, he turned a rocky start into a story of resilience and achievement.

Kobe first came to VGCC in spring 2021. Unfortunately, he struggled in an online learning environment. By the time the fall semester started, he had unenrolled with limited progress made toward completing his program. Kobe decided to start again in 2023, but his transcript from 2021 left him ineligible for federal financial aid. However, his journey was just getting started.

A member of VGCC's Financial Aid Office recognized Kobe's need for support and connected him with Academic Advisor Randall Thornton. They met and discussed the obstacles Kobe had experienced. Mr. Thornton helped Kobe enroll in a program better suited to Kobe's interests and current job outlook: Welding Technology. Kobe had been experiencing transportation difficulties, so Mr. Thornton helped



Kobe utilized our partnership arrangement with local transportation service KARTS. Even though federal financial aid was not an option for tuition, Kobe qualified for the Reignite Grant Program. He reenrolled successfully at VGCC in January 2024.

All of Kobe's hard work is already paying off. By the end of the fall 2024 semester, he had already completed the requirements for the Basic Welding Certificate—and had excelled enough that his federal financial aid was reinstated. He's currently on track to earn his Welding Technology Diploma by the end of the fall 2025 1st 8-Week term. Then, Kobe will be getting a job!

Vance-Granville Community College is committed to supporting students with innovative approaches that connect them with both a purpose and passion. As stories like Kobe's show, we're driven to educate students to industry-aligned standards for jobs that pay a quality wage and inspire them to be their absolute best.

The Reignite Grant is a scholarship specifically geared towards VGCC students who have lost access to the Federal Pell Grant program due to lack of satisfactory academic progress as defined by the U.S. Department of Education. Most begin college with goals, energy, and positive intent, but for some—particularly adult learners juggling many responsibilities—"life happens." While it is possible to earn back one's access to Pell, it must be done on private money.

The Reignite Grant is unique in that students are limited to one class per eight weeks. They must meet regularly with an assigned advisor who helps them navigate both academic and personal challenges that threaten to impede their success. In order to remain in the program, students must make an A, B, or C in the course. As students grow in their ability to navigate these challenges and gain a larger network of support, they are allowed to take an additional course each term. Once their GPA rises to 2.5 or higher and they complete all the classes for which they were registered that term, they become eligible for Pell once again.

Contributions to the Reignite Program, student emergency fund, or other student success funds are welcomed and appreciated. Please contact The VGCC Foundation for more information.

**Reignite**  
Spark new beginnings

# Duke Energy Foundation Grant Supports Local Small Business Growth

In July 2024, VGCCF received a \$50,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation's "Powering Local Economies" Small Business Grant Program to support small businesses in Vance, Granville, Franklin, and Warren counties. The VGCC Foundation partnered with the Small Business Center at Vance-Granville Community College to distribute the funds to deserving local entrepreneurs.

"Small businesses remain the backbone of the U.S. economy, and in rural areas, they also serve as the heartbeat of our local economies," noted President Rachel Desmarais. "This monetary commitment enables Vance-Granville Community College to promote the entrepreneurial mindset and support budding small business ideas into real businesses within our larger community."

In fall 2024, the VGCC Small Business Center selected grant fund recipients through a series of workshops, one based in each of the four counties the College serves. Each multi-session workshop culminated with a five-minute pitch contest, after which five of that session's 10 participants received a \$2,500 award to support their small business. Twenty organizations from throughout the College's service area received funds as a result.

In addition to receiving the grant, awardees received ongoing support from SBC Director Carolyn Perry and Dr. Jerry Edmonds, VGCC's Vice President of Workforce & Community Engagement—both of whom served as judges during the pitch contest. Under their guidance, recipients participated in Executive Counseling sessions designed to further refine their business plans and strategically advance their goals, ensuring sustained growth and success.

By fostering ongoing relationships with entrepreneurs in the areas we serve, Vance-Granville Community College continues to give back, supporting economic growth and development while strengthening the foundation of local businesses.



# VGCCF's Inaugural Live Like Sam Award

In April 2024, the Vance-Granville family was shocked and saddened by the passing of longtime employee Sam Jefferson. As the College's courier, Sam traveled between VGCC's four campuses and delivered as many warm smiles as he did packages.

As a way to honor Sam's memory, The VGCC Foundation established the Live Like Sam Award this year. The award celebrates Sam's legacy by recognizing an employee who exhibits the character he was known for: positive energy, a kind disposition, and a generous spirit.

To find a winner, The Foundation asked College faculty and staff to nominate deserving peers. The VGCCF team totaled the numbers and encountered a surprise: There was a tie! Rather than choose between two worthy nominees, both received the inaugural Live Like Sam Award in August 2024. Congratulations to honorees Dan Bender (IT Open Labs Coordinator) and Deanna Stegall (VP Executive Assistant) for this well-deserved recognition.

*Pictured left to right: Fredesvinda Colindres, then Assistant Grants Administrator; Ken Wilson, then Grants Administrator; honoree Dan Bender; Elvin Curtis, wife of Sam Jefferson and VGCC retiree; honoree Deanna Stegall; Sheri Jones, VGCCF Associate Director; and Tanya Weary, VGCCF Executive Director.*



## The 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award

During its September 2024 Scholarship Awards Luncheon, The VGCC Foundation honored Charlotte Harris of Oxford with its third annual Distinguished Alumni Award. Harris is a VGCC alumna twice over, earning both a GED and an Associate in Nursing. She ultimately went on to earn two additional college degrees, including a master's.

Harris has worked for over 25 years in the nursing field. As of the time of her award, she served as a family nurse practitioner and mentored new nursing professionals. Harris interacts directly with patients to ensure that they receive quality care, understand physician instructions, and have access to the services needed to maintain optimal health. She makes it her mission to take an all-encompassing role in supporting a patient's wellbeing.

Harris also volunteers with the Drug-Free Coalition of Granville County, assists with community blood drives, and serves as a community healthcare educator through podcasts and traditional educational settings.

*Pictured left to right: VGCCF Executive Director Tanya Weary, Charlotte Harris, and VGCC President Dr. Rachel Desmarais.*

# VGCCF Board 2024-2025

Dr. Rachel M. Desmarais

*Board Chair*

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*Vice Chair*

Sarah Baskerville

Michele Burgess

James W. Crawford, Jr.

Melissa Elliott

Clay Frazier

Sandy Gable

Leo Kelly, Jr.

Harry Mills

Sabine Stovall

Marshall Tanner

Elizabeth Townsend

Todd Wemyss

Xavier L. Wortham

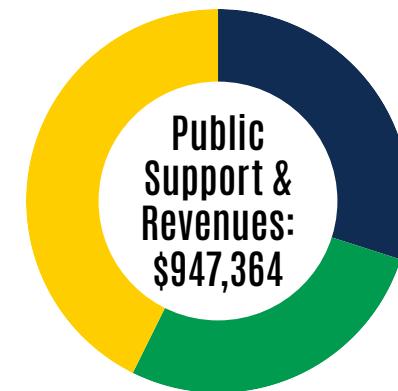
Tanya Weary

*VGCCF Executive Director*

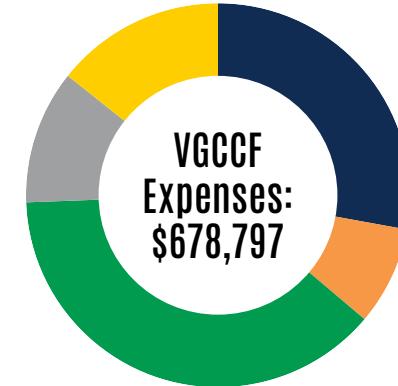
Sheri Jones

*VGCCF Associate Director*

# Financial Information



■ Cash Gifts & Contributions	\$283,574	29.9%
■ In-Kind Contributions	\$259,521	27.4%
■ Investment Income Contribution for Scholarships*	\$404,269	42.7%



■ Scholarships <sup>†</sup>	\$189,096	27.9%
■ Program & Institutional Support	\$56,471	8.3%
■ In-Kind Expenses	\$259,521	38.2%
■ Student Assistance Expenses	\$76,598	11.3%
■ Supporting Services	\$97,111	14.3%

Total Net Assets: \$11,639,787 (Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/25, Unaudited)

\* According to the spending policy of the VGCC Foundation Investment Policy Statement, the spending limit for the award of scholarships should be equivalent to 5% times the average of the 12 previous quarters ending investment balances. Scholarships were awarded to students based on scholarship qualifications.

<sup>†</sup> This amount reflects the scholarships awarded from the total funds available for scholarship payouts per the spending policy. Any remaining available funds are reinvested per investment policy.

## Vanguard Visionary (\$10,000+)

Duke Energy Foundation  
Granville Health System  
Guild Gift Gallery Inc., Maria Parham Health  
Robert P. Holding Foundation  
Sylvia and William Solari  
Dan and Susan Sullivan  
Triangle North Healthcare Foundation  
United Therapeutics  
Samuel Watkins, III  
**TOTAL: \$171,750**

## Vanguard VIP (\$9,999-\$5,000)

Altec Industries, Inc.  
CertainTeed LLC  
Redding Family Foundation  
Variety Wholesalers, Inc.  
**TOTAL: \$24,435**

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

Ardagh Glass  
CaptiveAire  
Carolina Commonwealth Forest Services  
Carolina United for Change  
Charles Boyd Chevrolet-Cadillac-GMC  
Rachel Desmarais  
East Coast Drilling & Blasting  
Food Lion - Foundation for the Carolinas

First Citizens Investor Services  
Sandy Gabel  
Garrett's Garage Doors, Inc.  
Glen Raven Custom Fabrics  
Institutional Interiors, Inc.  
Thomas Koinis  
N. Annette P. Myers  
National Mary Potter Club  
NC Community Colleges Foundation  
Marsha J. Nelson  
Oxford Preparatory School  
Quality Counts Mechanical Services  
Robco Manufacturing, Inc.  
SC Ventures LLC  
Swipe Out Hunger  
Tony Woodlief Insurance Services  
Triangle Avionics  
Universal Leaf Foundation  
Universal Leaf North America  
VGCC Faculty Staff  
Wester Realty & Insurance Agency  
**TOTAL: \$59,710**

## Vanguard Venture (≤ \$999)

Emily Abbott  
Jennifer Adcock  
Advanced Systems & Integration, LLC  
Aircraftmerchants LLC  
Sherri Alston  
Dorothy Anderson  
Keri Askew  
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Spence Bailey  
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Daniel Bender  
Nikhil Bhattacharya  
Suzanne G. Blackwell  
Anthony Blair  
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Yamika Dawes  
Marque Debnam  
Tina Dekle

Antoinette Dickens  
Maggie Dickerson  
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Lora Durham  
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Blondelle Edgerton  
Jerry E. Edmonds  
Judith and Richard Ela  
Richard Ellington  
Lauren Elliott  
Meredith Elliott  
Englebrights Welding, LLC  
Tia Evans  
Toney O. Falkner  
Eddie E. Ferguson  
First United Methodist Church  
Robinette Fischer  
Erin Folz  
Willie Mae Foster-Hill  
Frazier & Frazier Partnership  
Clay and Billie Frazier  
Melanie Frazier  
Keith Galloway  
Hollie Garrett  
Samantha Giguere  
Joshua Glasscock  
Faye Goode  
Steven Graham  
Serena Green  
Julia Haithcock  
Carl Hann  
Ethel Hardy  
Geraldine Hardy  
Stephanie Harp  
Kimberly Harris  
George Harvin

# 2024-2025 Donors

Your donation to The Foundation may be made by check, cash, or credit card. Checks should be made payable to The VGCC Foundation and mailed to P.O. Box 917, Henderson, NC 27536.

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Henderson Business & Professional Women Club	Stewart Lyon	Tamarsha Quick	Christal Thomas
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Sheri Jones	North Carolina Farm Bureau	Jonathan Sparks	Williford & Frazier Partnership
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Amanda Layton	Donnie Pickett	Don and Lynette Street	Xavier Wortham
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Priscilla Lewis	Sue Powell	Marshall Tanner	Virginia Yancey
Joanna Liguz	Helen Preston	Archie Taylor	Elizabeth Young
	Prim Residential Rentals, Inc.	Tegarris Associates Realty, Inc.	
		Tabata Tejada	<b>TOTAL: \$42,947</b>

# 2024-2025 Donors

*To make your secure online donation to The VGCC Foundation, please visit [www.vgcc.edu/foundation](http://www.vgcc.edu/foundation) or scan the QR code. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.*



# 2024-2027 Strategic Plan

In January 2024, the VGCC Board of Trustees adopted a new slate of strategic priorities to focus its vision and guide its efforts over the next four years. Each of the four long-term priorities listed below is comprised of dynamic short-term initiatives and key measures by which to gauge success.



**Prioritize economic mobility** through existing and future programs for student and community success.



**Be student-ready** by centering our work both inside and outside the classroom with the students we have.



**Amplify community connections** and belonging beyond campus boundaries through dynamic partnerships.



**Drive innovation** by optimizing campus resources to ensure growth and success.

## Short-Term Goals 24-25

### Prioritize economic mobility:

Integrate career exploration into Early College High Schools and reimagine Career Services by moving career selection to the front end of the enrollment process.

### Be student-ready:

Implement an institutional scaffolding model from entry to completion, student-centered course mapping and scheduling, and a Strategic Enrollment and Communication Plan.

### Amplify community connections:

Implement a Continuing Education-Curriculum Open House plan for the academic year and establish consistency for CE course scheduling and offerings.

### Drive innovation:

Implement the One-Front Door model for all students and cultivate high-impact teaching and learning opportunities in all programs. (Two-year projects)

## Key Measurements

- Increase enrollment in livable wage programs by at least 5% for Continuing Education programs and 10% for credit/CU programs
- Increase livable wage program completion rates by at least 10% for credit/CU programs
- Increase ratio of "Con Ed courses completed" to "Con Ed courses attempted" by 80%
- Increase Fall to Spring retention to 82% or higher
- Increase Spring to Fall retention to 72% or higher
- Increase the ratio of "credits completed" to "credits attempted" to 82% or higher
- Increase Adult Basic Education (ABE) enrollment by 25%
- Increase Continuing Education enrollment by 12%
- Increase credit/CU program enrollment by 10%
- Increase course success across all modalities to 85% or higher
- Increase percentage of ABE students achieving measurable skills gains to 45% or higher
- Increase applicant admission conversion rates to 50% or higher

## How Did We Do?

- The ratio of "Con Ed courses completed" to "Con Ed courses attempted" reached 81%, a 6% increase from the 2022-2023 benchmark
- Unduplicated ABE enrollment saw a 31% increase from 2022-2023
- Unduplicated credit enrollment rose by 13% from 2022-2023
- ABE measurable skills gains jumped from 30.7% in 2022-2023 to 48.2% in 2025—the highest attainment on record, going back at least six years



# Vanguard Values



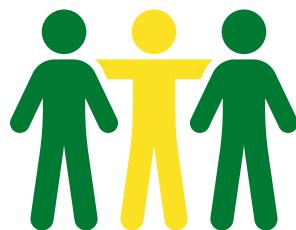
## Teaching and Learning

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



## 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.



## Community

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



## Communication

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

# Main Campus

200 Community College Road  
Henderson, NC 27537  
252-492-2061

# South Campus

1547 South Campus Drive  
Creedmoor, NC 27522  
919-528-4737

# Franklin Campus

8100 NC 56 Highway  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
919-496-1567

# Warren Campus

210 West Ridgeway Street  
Warrenton, NC 27589  
252-257-1900



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Vance-Granville  
Community College

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.

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