



2020 – 2021

The **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**  
to the community

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Vance-Granville  
Community College

Educating. Inspiring. Supporting.

## Message from President Desmarais

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to present the Vance-Granville Community College 2020–2021 Annual Report. While somewhat challenging, ultimately, this year has afforded the opportunity for our Vanguardians to shine! Within these pages, you will see stories of persistence, accomplishment, creativity, and generosity. We are reminded through the events of the year that we are a community — that we rise and fall together. We have learned to extend grace and felt compelled to lend “helping hands” to one another because everyone matters at VGCC.



Our employees have shown their entrepreneurial spirit in creating new programs and pathways for students to gain ready skills for our evolving workforce. Our faculty have invested in deep professional development for teaching and learning, sharing evidence-based improvement techniques as they are successfully implemented. Our students have remained engaged through online, hybrid, and in-person learning experiences as evidenced by our highest course success rate achieved in the past five years. Our board has articulated a deep commitment to the college’s new vision. Our community has provided generous support in numerous ways to make our mission possible.

*Lux Lucet* — as the VGCC seal reads. We remain the “light shining”, even in this turbulent year. I invite you to learn more about our incredible students, faculty, staff, board members, and supporters presented within these pages. **We** are the community college.

Vanguardians lead!  
**Rachel**



## Looking to our Leaders

### Administration

- Dr. Rachel Desmarais** President
- Dr. Levy Brown** Vice President of Learning, Student Engagement & Success / CAO
- Dr. Jerry Edmonds** Vice President of Workforce & Community Engagement
- Steven Graham** Vice President of Finance and Operations
- Dr. Kenneth A. Lewis, Jr.** Vice President of Institutional Research & Technology

### Board of Trustees (2020–2021)

- Danny W. Wright**, Chair
- Xavier L. Wortham**, Vice Chair
- Doris Terry Williams, Ed.D.**, Secretary
- Deborah F. Brown**
- Deborah M. Butler**
- Barbara Cates Harris**
- Dorwin L. Howard, Sr.**
- Rev. Dr. Willie T. Ramey, III**
- Abdul Sm Rasheed**
- Susan Rogers**
- Donald C. Seifert, Sr.**
- Sara C. Wester**
- Jennifer Pierce**, Warren County Liaison
- Damion Harris**, Student Government President

## Message from Chairman



Education has always been a pathway to freedom, economic opportunity, and a better quality of life. We, the Board of Trustees of VGCC, are proud of the past and current work of the college in advancing opportunities for citizens in our four-county service area and beyond.

We commend our administrators and celebrate our students on their success. We invite both public and private individuals and institutions to join us in supporting the growth and long-term sustainability of this tremendous community asset.

Even with the disruption of Covid-19, we can still celebrate the commitment and excellence of our administrators, faculty, staff and students in the collective efforts to continue to advance VGCC’s legacy. Thanks to all who have invested in the college, its students, and its programs. We ask for your continued support as we move forward in the future.

**Abdul Sm Rasheed**  
 Chair VGCC Board of Trustees 21–22

## New Trustees Biographies



### Carolyn Faines

Carolyn Faines is a Career & Technical Education teacher for the Franklin County School system. She also currently serves as the Founder and Overseer of I Believe God Outreach Church. Her faith is the driving force in everything that she does and encounters, and she stands on 2 Corinthians 5:7, "For we walk by faith, not by sight". She holds a B.S. degree in Organizational Management from Saint Augustine's College, a Master's degree from Liberty University in Leadership/Management and an MBA from Liberty University in Business Human Resources. Mrs. Faines was elected in 2016 as County Commissioner for Vance County-District 1.

In her spare time, Mrs. Faines enjoys spending time with her family, which includes her devoted husband, her amazing children, and her 5 grandchildren who are the sparkles that light up her eyes. In regard to becoming a Board of Trustees member, Mrs. Faines understands the importance of being involved in her community and school organizations. She supports and stands on the school's vision statement and vows to be a catalyst in the development of strong communities where everyone experiences a fulfilling quality of life. As stated by VGCC, "we're more than a college, we're a community".



### Susan Faulkner

Susan Faulkner, a native of Henderson, has had a career in the public relations field spanning over 35 years. From owning her own business, to a career in real estate, she is always looking for new challenges. She has been employed with Chick-fil-A of Henderson for the past 15 years. Susan served as the marketing director for Chick-fil-A over 10 years before moving into her current role as Senior Director in charge of talent.

Over the years, she has served on numerous boards including the Henderson-Vance Chamber of Commerce, Henderson-Vance Crime Stoppers and has been a long-time volunteer for the Miss North Carolina Scholarship Pageant. Her favorite role is serving as a hostess (dorm mom) for the contestants.

Susan and her husband, Tony, live on Kerr Lake and enjoy gardening, boating, fishing, and most of all spending time with their 3 grandchildren.



### Rev. Dr. Willie T. Ramey, III

Reverend Doctor Willie T. Ramey, III is a native of Henderson, North Carolina. He is President of North Carolina Retired School Personnel, Chairperson of the NCRSP Administrative Council and Executive Board. He has served as Vice President, Treasurer, Chairman of the Budget and Strategic Planning Committees and Member of the Policy Committee, all at the State Level. He serves as a member on the North Carolina Association of Education Executive Board. He is the Immediate Past Director of Region 5 Retired School Personnel. He served as President of the Vance County Retired School Personnel for six years.

Doctor Ramey is a graduate of North Warren High School, Wise, NC; Shaw University, Raleigh, NC, where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education, and Minor in Religion; North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC, where he received a Master of Arts Degree in School Administration; East Carolina University, Greenville, NC, where he received a Six Year Degree in School Administration, Level II Superintendence; and American Theological Seminary, Milledgeville, GA, where he received a Doctor of Divinity in the Division of Practical Theology.

He has served as senior pastor for the Ridgeway Missionary Baptist Church for 46 years. He leads his church members to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and find shelter for the homeless. He also leads his members in voting rights marches.

He is Past First Vice-Chair of the Vance County Democratic Party. He is also a member of the North Carolina Democratic Party's Executive Committee.

Doctor Ramey is a Charter member Rho Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and served as its President for sixteen years and Chairman of Alpha's Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Breakfast, President of the Ramey Investment Group, LLC, a Charter member and President of Millennia Investors Club, a member of AARP, North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), Life Member of National Educational Association (NEA).

## New Trustees Biographies



### Deborah Butler

Ms. Butler taught in Connecticut public schools for forty years before retiring to North Carolina. Prior to the move, she served on the local land trust Board of Trustees, was a member of the Conservation Commission and held several elected positions in her town.

Locally, Debby serves as Chief Judge for her voting precinct and is Regent of the General James Moore

Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. She feels a strong connection to the community college system because her grandson graduated Granville Early College High School and granddaughter currently attends Granville Early College High School. Her interests include gardening, hiking and traveling with her husband, Mike. Debby has seen first-hand how the community colleges serve as an important first step toward a successful career and life and she enjoys contributing to that success.



### Dorwin Howard Sr.

Dr. Dorwin L. Howard, Sr. is a native and resident of Granville County, North Carolina. He was assistant principal, principal, Director of Career and Technical Education, and Assistant Superintendent, before completing his career as Superintendent of Granville County Public Schools when he retired in 2017. Howard earned a Bachelors Degree from NC A&T State University in Greensboro, NC; a Masters Degree from North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC; and a Doctorate Degree from N. C. State University in Raleigh, NC. He also did graduate studies at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC. In addition, he completed The North Carolina Principals Executive Program at UNC-Chapel

Hill, the North Carolina Next Generation Superintendent Development Program at Research Triangle Park, and The SUPES Academy in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Since retiring, Dr. Howard continues to be engaged in education, having been a consultant in school administration, and a race relations facilitator. In addition to being a Trustee of Vance-Granville Community College, he serves as Chair of the Advisory Board for The School of Education at North Carolina Central University. Reverend Doctor Howard is an ordained Baptist minister who served as a pastor between 1981 and 2012. After retiring from his career in education, he returned to work in Christian ministry, and now serves as Pastor of the First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. He is also Secretary of the General Board for the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. Dr. Howard is the father of two adult children, Malorie Rice of Raleigh, N. C. and D. L. Howard, Jr. of Greenville, N. C., and he is a proud grandfather.



## VGCC Announces Transition to Eight-Week Terms

In late 2021, Vance-Granville Community College announced that, starting in Spring 2022, most classes would be offered in eight-week terms instead of 16 weeks. Some courses would be scheduled from Jan. 7–March 4, while others would be scheduled from March 14–May 10, 2022.

Each course covers the same material, and provides the same amount of credit hours, as it would if it were offered over 16 weeks. Students who, for example, earn six credits in the first eight-week term and another six in the second eight-week term, will be considered full-time students.

VGCC began researching the success of an eight-week model approximately two years ago. Since then, college officials learned of several student success stories from schools such as Odessa College and Amarillo College in Texas, Trident Technical College in South Carolina, and Chattanooga State Community College in Tennessee.

"Vance-Granville began planning for this transition last spring, with the goals of improving student retention and course success rates, offering a better pathway to completion, and closing existing equity gaps," said Dr. Levy Brown, vice president of Learning, Student Engagement and Success for VGCC. "With these goals in mind, a diverse group of faculty and staff from across the college were assembled to plan for the Spring 2022 implementation of an eight-week model."

*"I am excited for the opportunities this transition will provide our students."*

**CECILIA WHEELER**  
VGCC Dean of Arts & Sciences

Though this model may be new for some academic areas at VGCC, a handful of programs made the transition several years ago and have seen the benefits first-hand. The Office Administration and Medical

Office Administration programs made the decision to offer their first courses in primarily eight-week terms in 2016. According to Christal Thomas, Department Chair of Business Technologies, "some of the benefits we have seen include faster completion of credentials (particularly certificates), the ability to focus on one or two classes at a time, less burnout, and higher course success rates."

"I am excited for the opportunities this transition will provide our students," VGCC Dean of Arts & Sciences Cecilia Wheeler added. "Transitioning to eight-week terms will be beneficial to all VGCC students, particularly our working adults. While the course material remains as rigorous, this model allows students to focus on one or two classes at a time and potentially finish their degree in a shorter time frame."

"It is important for us to be creative and use student success research to inform our practices. Our students have diverse educational needs. Some students have full-time jobs with families. This type of opportunity allows them to focus on multiple classes during a shorter period of time," said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, president of VGCC.

VGCC will become one of three community colleges in North Carolina offering most of their courses in eight-week terms. Since 1969, VGCC has been focused on providing educational and training opportunities to Vance, Granville, Franklin and Warren counties.

**For more detailed information on enrolling at VGCC or about the courses offered during the Spring eight-week terms, visit [www.vgcc.edu](http://www.vgcc.edu).**

## VGCC awarded USDA grant

In 2021, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) awarded \$286,000 to Vance-Granville Community College for a project, entitled "VGCC Plant, Thrive & Grow." The grant funds will support and enhance professional development learning opportunities and facilitate rural prosperity and economic development in Vance, Granville, Franklin and Warren counties.

"With this grant, Vance-Granville Community College will address the problem of limited agricultural pathways in our service area. The grant will evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies to introduce technology and data-savvy competencies to educators and will help to increase interest in career opportunities within the food and agricultural sciences," said Tanya Weary, VGCC Dean of Business & Industry Solutions and Project Investigator for the grant. "We appreciate the USDA's commitment to strengthen agricultural pathways in our four-county service area."

***"VGCC continues to enhance and provide high-quality training that leads to promising careers."***

**DR. JERRY EDMONDS**  
Vice-President of Workforce & Community Engagement

Part of the grant will provide needed agricultural system learning packages to local school systems. In addition, VGCC will establish two professional development learning opportunities, "AG for Educators" will expose K-14 educators to principles of agricultural business and technology. Teachers in the agricultural field and/or related fields will be encouraged to participate from middle and high schools across the four counties that VGCC serves. Educators will also have the opportunity to attend two national conferences.

"This grant is an exciting opportunity for the community and VGCC," said Dr. Jerry Edmonds, Vice-President of Workforce & Community Engagement. "VGCC continues to enhance and provide high-quality training that leads to promising careers."

The program is designed to collaborate and strengthen relationships with the four county school systems, local N.C. Cooperative Extension offices, local economic development offices, local farmers, North Carolina State University and North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University.

NIFA promotes sustainable agriculture through national program leadership and funding for research and extension. It offers competitive grants programs and a professional development program, and it collaborates with other federal agencies through the USDA Sustainable Development Council.

**For more information, contact Tanya Weary at [wearyt@vgcc.edu](mailto:wearyt@vgcc.edu).**



## VGCC conducts entrepreneurship camp for middle school students

Vance-Granville Community College held an innovative Entrepreneurship Youth Camp, called "Be a 'Trep" (to specify "enTREPpreneur"), from June 14-18, 2021. The participants were 17 local middle school students who are aspiring entrepreneurs.



The camp focused on entrepreneurial creativity, leadership and innovation. Campers acquired business and marketing knowledge and strengthened their competencies as they continue to embark on their entrepreneurial journeys.

Among the many highlights was the opportunity for the students to meet a real, local entrepreneur. Jason Shearin, owner of Lake Gaston Coffee, discussed the coffee business and fielded insightful questions from the campers.

Members of the business community supported the entrepreneurship camp as sponsors, including the Rotary Club of Henderson, Union Bank, Gupton Services, George Watkins, Youngsville Academy, Englebright Welding, LLC, and Precision Automotive Repair.

The lead instructor for the camp was Tonya Snider, the CEO of tenBiz, and the assistant instructor was Coach Toriano "TJ" McRae, Jr. of Warren County Schools.

"It's pretty powerful to see a community come behind a youth entrepreneurship program like this," said Snider. "From the college and community support, to the buy-in and participation from the parents and kids, it's been such a great experience! I can't wait to see what these kids do next, now that they have been introduced to limitless possibilities."

One parent remarked to VGCC officials: "I had to really force my son to come to camp Monday morning [but] when I picked him up Monday evening, he said, 'Mom, that was fun! I'm definitely going back!' Thank you so much for the work you all have done with these kids this week — it has been amazing."

**For more information on this and other entrepreneurship programs, contact VGCC Small Business Center Director Sheri Jones at [jones@vgcc.edu](mailto:jones@vgcc.edu).**

## VGCC Dean selected for leadership program

Kali Brown, Dean of Student Access and Support at Vance-Granville Community College, was accepted into the 2021 Chief Student Development Administrators Leadership Academy. The academy was developed through the North Carolina Community College System and invites a select number of administrative leaders from the state's 58 community colleges to participate each year.

Over the course of several months, participants will study multiple topics, including best practices for serving students, continuous improvement, communications, higher education legal issues, and resource management.

"We congratulate Dean Kali Brown on being recognized as a leader in our state's community college system, and we know that she will use what she learns in the academy to support our Vanguard's," said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, president of VGCC.



A resident of Franklinton, Brown has worked for VGCC since 2011, when she joined the college's Financial Aid Office. She became assistant director of financial aid in 2012 before being promoted to the director's post in 2013. In that role, she was named VGCC's Staff Member of the Year for 2015-16. Brown became Dean of Student Support Services in 2017, and then took on her current role in 2019.

"I am absolutely delighted to be selected into the 2021 Chief Student Development Administrators Leadership Academy, which provides an exceptional networking opportunity to learn from experts and leaders in the field of student services," said Brown.

Brown previously worked in financial aid and student services at her alma mater, Arkansas State University, Arkansas State University — Newport (a community college), and Pulaski Technical College in Arkansas. Brown earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Arkansas State, and a master's degree in Higher Education — Educational Leadership at Liberty University.

At VGCC, Brown has served on various committees, including the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, Marketing Advisory Council, Scholarships Committee, Leadership & Planning Council and the Recruitment & Retention Committee. She is a 2018 graduate of the N.C. Community College Leadership program and has trained other professionals throughout the state by conducting workshops sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the N.C. Community College System and the N.C. State Education Assistance Authority.

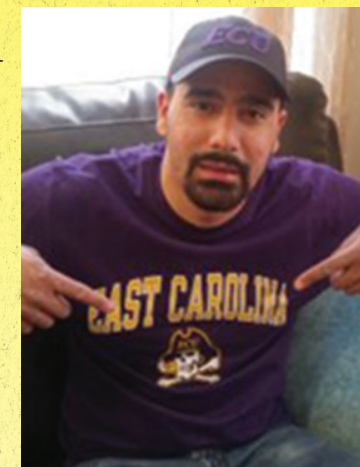
## Transferring VGCC student among first in ECU Honors College

Vance-Granville Community College student Rolando Rosado of Louisburg was accepted into the Honors College at East Carolina University, starting in the fall of 2021. Rosado is one of just 10 students who are the first ever admitted into the competitive honors program while transferring into the university attending Wake Technical Community College and working at a car dealership as a lube technician and a service technician. "In my experience as an automotive service technician, I was exposed to electronics and electrical circuitry," he recalled. "I found a passion in electricity that intrigued me to pursue a degree in engineering, and then a career in engineering in the aviation field." He also found the VGCC Associate in Science degree intriguing due to his interest in engineering and his belief that VGCC could prepare him to transfer to a university.

Rosado excelled academically at VGCC, earning President's List and Dean's List honors while taking most of his classes at the college's Franklin County Campus. He made his choice of where to continue his education after he attended a meeting with ECU representatives on VGCC's main campus. "I was impressed with the material that was presented there, which solidified my decision to transfer to East Carolina," Rosado said. "I chose East Carolina particularly because I found the commitment and diversity of their student body and the diversity of the programs offered attractive. Furthermore, I find the average student GPA and graduation rate appealing. Their reputation based on statistical rankings within North Carolina made it easy to choose East Carolina University."

After being admitted to the university, ECU's associate director of transfer recruitment referred Rosado to the separate process of being selected for the Honors College. Now, he looks forward to both majoring in electrical engineering and participating in unique opportunities provided by the Honors College. "I will have the chance to be part of a growing community of diverse, innovative, curious, and creative students,"

he said. "I will get a chance to acquire high-impact experiences that extend far beyond the classroom. The honors college will give me the opportunity to experience the full effect of the institution at East Carolina. These are the experiences I am looking forward to."



Rosado and his fellow transfer students will be ECU "Centennial Fellows" and will be required to complete the Honors College curriculum associated with being a Centennial Fellow. The Centennial Fellows receive a scholarship valued at \$1,250 per semester for up to five semesters, along with all of the benefits associated with participation in the Honors College. The Honors College provides an array of benefits for all of its students, including: priority registration; priority admission to graduate programs; experiences such as study abroad, research, and internships; and additional advising.

As he prepared to conclude his time at VGCC, Rosado reflected that he feels well-prepared for his next steps. "While attending Vance-Granville, I have encountered faculty members that are knowledgeable, and they have helped me in my pursuit of my goals," he said. "My intellectual capacity has broadened through Vance-Granville's education, inspiration, and support that they offer. This transfer program has made it possible to allow for a fulfilling career and positive social mobility after graduation. For anyone considering Vance-Granville's college-transfer program, I would recommend they attend VGCC for their outstanding program and outstanding faculty and staff. It's a program that has proven to benefit me and I am confident that it will benefit others."

## VGCC played special role in career of new elementary school principal

In 2021, Dr. Ryan Ewell was named the principal of Cleveland Elementary School in Johnston County, marking a new milestone in a career that took off in part due to his time as a Vance-Granville Community College student.

"I had the honor of attending Vance-Granville Community College from 2012 to 2014," Ewell recalled. "I became a student at VGCC in order to fulfill my Lateral Entry requirements as a beginning teacher with Warren County Schools." The Lateral Entry program helps someone who has a bachelor's degree in a field other than education to become a certified teacher.

After graduating from Warren County High School, Ewell had gone on to North Carolina A&T State University. He graduated in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in laboratory animal science, but not a credential in the field of education. Ewell was hired to teach science at Warren New Tech High School in Warrenton, and his VGCC courses soon allowed him to earn the credits necessary to obtain a license to teach in North Carolina.

After taking more courses, Ewell recalled, "I was fortunate enough to graduate from Vance-Granville in 2014 with an associate's degree in General Education. This degree allowed me to become more marketable in public education settings."

His VGCC experience went beyond simply academics. "While at VGCC, I had the opportunity to meet many influential individuals who have helped me advance in my current career; and for that, I am grateful," Ewell said.

Named "Teacher of the Year" at Warren New Tech High School for 2016–17, Ewell continued his education at North Carolina State University, where he earned a Master of School Administration degree. More recently, he defended his dissertation, earning his Doctorate in Educational Leadership at East Carolina University in 2021. "These attainments would not have been possible

without the solid academic support and foundation I gained at VGCC," Ewell reflected.

Today a resident of Raleigh, he moved to the Johnston County Public Schools system in 2017 to serve as assistant principal at Selma Middle School, where he also served as athletic director for his first two years.

"I am truly honored to serve as the next Principal of Cleveland Elementary School," Ewell said in a statement from the school system about his new role. "I look forward to building lasting relationships with the students and families in the Cleveland community. Together, we will continue to achieve greater levels of excellence."



## Data shows that VGCC students enrolled in more courses Fall 2021

As Vance-Granville Community College began a new academic year, college enrollment officials reported an uptick in students taking more courses for 16-week and 1st 8-week terms.

The college reported an estimated 7.4% increase in the total number of credit hours that students are taking — typically known as Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) enrollment — compared to the same point in time last year (August 2020). That FTE figure is important in calculating state funding received for each community college in North Carolina.

"Because community colleges do not get to keep tuition received, but instead rely on a redistribution of those receipts coupled with other state funds, our FTE calculation is very important. The more courses a student takes, the higher our share of that reimbursement — which is necessary for the college to continue and even increase quality training and services to the community. More importantly, though, is that when students successfully complete more courses, they accelerate entry or re-entry into the workforce with their new skills. That's good for individuals, the college, employers, and our community," said College President Rachel Desmarais.

"Our team is excited to see a positive uptick in FTE. Team members in admissions, financial aid, advising, marketing, faculty, and other areas have all played a part in this work. We are optimistic about this enrollment mark, and are committed to continuously connecting diverse individuals in our service area to our college, relevant academic programs, resources, and supports," said, Dr. Levy Brown vice president of Learning, Student Engagement & Success.



For more information on enrollment, visit [www.vgcc.edu](http://www.vgcc.edu). To learn more, click "Admissions" for enrollment details and how to apply.



# Vance-Granville Community College President Pledges to Promote Entrepreneurship

The National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), the nation's leading organization focused on promoting entrepreneurship through community colleges, has announced that President Dr. Rachel Desmarais, of Vance-Granville Community College, has taken its Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge.



## About the Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge

The Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge was in response to the White House's Startup America call to action to stimulate economic growth state by state by encouraging entrepreneurs to start their own businesses. NACCE is a founding affiliate of the Startup America Partnership, an alliance of the country's most innovative entrepreneurs, corporations, universities, foundations, and other leaders.

Through the pledge, presidents of community colleges throughout the country pledge to take five action steps that will increase their focus on entrepreneurship and the impact these colleges have on the economic well-being of the communities they serve.

With the economy still lagging in many regions of the United States, more than 200 community colleges throughout the country have signed the entrepreneurship pledge, and by doing so, have committed to playing a greater role in stimulating economic development in the communities they serve.

"An entrepreneurial mindset is critical to solving today's challenges for tomorrow. As a lead workforce developer in our region, it is imperative that VGCC support economic development through both skills and entrepreneurial training. We offer this support through our Small Business Center initiatives and the insertion of entrepreneurial thinking in our trades programs," Desmarais said.

According to NACCE President and CEO Rebecca Corbin, the Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge is a way for community colleges to advance entrepreneurship and create jobs across the country. Community college presidents who take the pledge commit to these five action steps:

- DEVELOP TRANSPARENCY OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY ASSETS**
- CREATE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TEAMS DEDICATED TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
- INCREASE ENTREPRENEURS' ENGAGEMENT IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES**
- ENGAGE IN INDUSTRY CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT**
- CREATE BROAD EXPOSURE TO THEIR COLLEGE'S COMMITMENT TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP.**

The Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge was in response to the White House's Startup America call to action to stimulate economic growth state by state, by encouraging entrepreneurs to start their own businesses. NACCE is a founding affiliate of the Startup America Partnership, an alliance of the country's most innovative entrepreneurs, corporations, universities, foundations, and other leaders.

"The five action steps were developed based on NACCE's observations of what was working best on member campuses," said Corbin. "After observing the entrepreneurship-related activities of our members over a period of years, we started to see commonalities among the more successful institutions," she said. "One of the major things that clearly makes a difference is the commitment by leadership to entrepreneurship."

## VGCC relieves the debt of over 250 students

Vance Granville Community College is continuing to remove barriers to education and promote student success. The college cleared the unpaid balances for 261 students who attended the college between the Spring 2020 and the Summer 2021 semesters. By utilizing institutional funds from the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), Vance Granville cleared a total of \$153,332.14 in outstanding student balances.

*"It is important for us to help our students remove barriers that keep them from getting the skills they need to better their work or life situations. Leveraging HEERF funds to help students affected by the pandemic to continue their education is just one of those ways. Our students and our communities matter to us!"*

**DR. RACHEL DESMARAIS**  
President of VGCC.

VGCC is one of several colleges across the state that used funds from HEERF to provide financial relief to students impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. This move speaks to the college's true commitment to helping students succeed. We are glad that our students were able to directly benefit from the HEERF funds and are able to continue their educational and training journey. Further, it is appropriate to thank the talented Business Office and Financial Aid personnel who made this happen for students, said Levy Brown, Ed.D., VGCC's vice president of learning, student engagement & success.

The VGCC Admissions and Advising teams will work directly with former students who are impacted by this change, to help them get re-enrolled at the college and continue pursuing their programs of study.

**For more information about enrolling or re-enrolling at Vance-Granville, visit [www.vgcc.edu](http://www.vgcc.edu).**

## Dr. Levy Brown chosen for National Presidential Fellowship for community college leaders



The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program announced that Dr. Levy Brown, Jr., the vice president of learning, student engagement & success at Vance-Granville Community College, is one of 40 leaders selected for the 2021–22 class of the Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship, a highly selective leadership program preparing the next generation of community college presidents to transform institutions to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success.

"As an Aspen Community College Presidential Fellowship Cohort 2 participant, I know the incredible value and honor of being selected for this program," said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, president of VGCC. "On behalf of Vance-Granville Community College, I am incredibly proud that Dr. Brown has been admitted to this program and will benefit both professionally and personally from participation. Dr. Brown will be able to hone his transformational leadership skills amongst the senior fellows and incoming participant fellows in this auspicious program."

"The Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship responds to the growing need for a new generation of leaders well-equipped to meet the challenges of the future. Nationally, nearly 80 percent of sitting presidents plan to retire in the next decade. While the traditional pathway to the presidency has often excluded women

and people of color, the incoming class of Aspen Rising Presidents Fellows is composed of 68 percent women and 70 percent people of color, and represents institutions of varying sizes and locations.

*"I am truly humbled and grateful for the chance to develop lasting professional relationships, exchange innovative ideas, and engage in deep thought about what community college excellence looks like, both now and in the future."*

**DR. LEVY BROWN**  
Vice president of Learning, Student Engagement & Success

"The opportunity to be a part of the Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship is something I do not take for granted," Dr. Brown said. "I am truly humbled and grateful for the chance to develop lasting professional relationships, exchange innovative ideas and engage in deep thought about what community college excellence looks like, both now and in the future. As a thoughtful lifelong learner, I look forward to learning with and from exceptional, experienced leaders from across the country. Further, I am elated to have the support of our president, faculty, staff, and communities as a representative of Vance-Granville Community College. This experience will help me make a greater impact in my current role while giving me the tools to be an exceptional community college president in the future."

Brown added, "on a more personal note, I am thankful for the support of my wife Elisa Brown, children, family, close colleagues, mentors, and friends. It takes a village."

## EMS coordinator for VGCC teaches life-saving skills to next-generation first responders

Steve Barney is the coordinator/instructor for Emergency Medical Services programs at Vance-Granville Community College, but in 2021, he taught a different set of students than he usually does — with life-saving results.

This summer, Barney led a "Fire Camp" for 26 kids in Warren County in his capacity as chief of the Hawtree Volunteer Fire Department. Then, he helped with the Gaston Fire-Rescue-EMS Kids Fire Camp in Northampton County, which was attended by some 70 children between the ages of 10–14.

"I assisted with teaching [at Gaston] most of the week," Barney recalled. "I got a call from the fire Chief afterward, and was told about a camper that was in the camp. I assisted with teaching Water Rescue on Thursday, August 5, and the next Tuesday (Aug. 10), one of the campers was able to assist another child to prevent a drowning."

As the Gaston Fire-Rescue-EMS department posted on its Facebook page, "Following camp graduation, one of our campers went on vacation with his family to Virginia Beach. While at the pool, the camper noticed that a young child was drowning. Our camper jumped into action with the training he was just taught and saved the young child...We commend this camper for his valiant efforts."

Barney noted that not only do the camps provide valuable skills to students, but they also help address a major recruiting challenge. "Over 70% of local fire departments are volunteer," he explained. "There has been a shortage of volunteers for years now, so we have been looking at ways to improve recruitment." These camps that introduce students to fire service at an early age represent one solution.

"Fire departments in the counties where the camps are being held are now getting volunteers from these camps," Barney noted. "Hawtree VFD now has five junior firemen, and all but one has come from the kids



camp. Gaston VFD is experiencing the same results with multiple juniors coming from the camp."

Barney is not only a volunteer firefighter and instructor but also a parent of one of the young people involved. "My son has been going to the Gaston Fire-Rescue-EMS camp for the last four years, and I have helped with certain blocks of instruction for the last three years there," he said.

Barney has also organized the Warren County program for the past three years. "At these camps, kids learn many skills, including CPR, first aid, fire extinguisher use, hose stream and appliances, water rescue, wilderness rescue, ladders, vehicle fires, vehicle extrication, ropes, rappelling, and personal protective equipment," he explained. "We also teach them about teamwork. One of the biggest take-aways from these camps is the fact that kids are learning skills that can, and have, saved lives."

**For more information on EMS training at VGCC, contact Steve Barney at (252) 738-3273 or email [barneys@vgcc.edu](mailto:barneys@vgcc.edu).**

## Gifts from Pruitts create VGCC scholarships

Before his recent passing, W. Leonard Pruitt and his wife, Dr. Dorothy Pruitt, both of Oxford, established two scholarship funds at Vance-Granville Community College to support students preparing for careers in health care.

First, a gift from the Pruitts will create the Leonard and Dorothy Pruitt Presidential Excellence Award, a full VGCC scholarship, which will cover a student's tuition, books and fees. In awarding this scholarship, preference will be given to students in Health Sciences programs at the community college, as well as students from Granville County.

This scholarship will also target students from Granville County. Future student recipients, to be called "Pruitt Scholars," will receive funds to cover all their tuition, books and fees at VGCC. After they transfer to ECU, these scholars will have many of their educational expenses covered by a similar scholarship that the Pruitts have established there.



Dorothy Jean Gooch enrolled at East Carolina in 1953 to study Home Economics. After moving back to her native Granville County to teach — first at Oxford High School and later at J.F. Webb High School — she met Leonard Pruitt. Together, the couple has made an indelible impact on their community.

Mr. Pruitt was a tobacco buyer for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company for 40 years, and raised beef cattle, fruits and vegetables for many years, as well. Along the way, he became well-known in Oxford for helping his neighbors, delivering produce (especially

strawberries) to friends, and regularly lending a hand at the school where his wife, Dorothy, worked. He served on the Jury Commission of Granville County and was recognized for community service by the Granville County Chamber of Commerce in 2006. Pruitt was also an active member at Oxford Baptist Church, where he was named "Deacon Emeritus." He died on March 31, 2021, at the age of 95.

Likewise, Dr. Pruitt has been active in her community, serving Granville County and the state of North Carolina for a total of 46 years as a teacher, principal,

Department of Public Instruction consultant and Granville County Board of Education member. She was the first woman elected to that board, which she eventually chaired. Among her many honors, Dr. Pruitt accepted a national model school award from President George H.W. Bush while she served as principal at C.G. Credle Elementary School, received the Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service, and was inducted into the ECU College of Education Educators Hall of Fame. Recognized as an "Incredible ECU Woman" in 2010, she is a member of the ECU College of Health and Human Performance Cornerstone Society.

The Pruitts have already established several scholarships at VGCC in honor of Mr. Pruitt's late sister: the Myrtle Jane Pruitt Presidential Scholar Award and five Myrtle Jane Pruitt Academic Achievement scholarships.

"A true team in every sense of the word, Dr. Dorothy Pruitt and Mr. W. Leonard Pruitt were partners for 58 years, and we join Dr. Pruitt in mourning the loss of her husband," said Eddie Ferguson, executive director of the Vance-Granville Community College Foundation. "They shared a belief in education and together, they have established innovative scholarship funds that will provide life-changing educational opportunities for deserving students, particularly those with a desire to transfer to Dr. Pruitt's beloved alma mater."

"We are grateful to the Pruitts for their incredible generosity and their passionate support for education, which will help our students prepare for their own careers of service," said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, the president of VGCC. "The success of future 'Pruitt Scholars' will serve as a lasting tribute to Dr. Pruitt and Mr. Pruitt's love for their community, for our college and for our partners at ECU."

## New scholarship opportunity helps students obtain job training at VGCC

A new scholarship opportunity at Vance Granville Community College will help eligible students obtain technical career training in a variety of fields at no cost.

The VGCC Job Corps Scholars program can help new students complete training in Automotive Systems, Biowork, CDL/Truck Driver Training, Electrical Systems, Heavy Equipment Operator, HVAC, Information Technology, Medical Assisting, Office Administration, Paralegal Technology, Pharmacy Technology, or Welding.

Students who are between the ages of 16-24, have a high school diploma or a GED, and meet certain eligibility requirements can receive a full scholarship for training in one of those programs, as well as job placement support, technology support, transportation assistance, certification exam assistance, and academic/success coaching. Students may qualify by being unemployed or under employed.

*"This opportunity strengthens the connection between workforce development and education by combining job training, classroom education, and employment counseling, giving participating young adults an opportunity to excel."*

**BLONDELLE EDGERTON**

Director of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act program for VGCC.

The VGCC Scholars program is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. In 2020, VGCC became one of just 20 colleges or universities across the country (and one of three in North Carolina) to receive the Job Corps Scholars grant.

For more information, visit [www.vgcc.edu/vgccjcs](http://www.vgcc.edu/vgccjcs) or contact Blondelle Edgerton at (252) 738-3374 or [edgerton@vgcc.edu](mailto:edgerton@vgcc.edu).

## VGCC vice president helps lead national entrepreneurship contest

Dr. Jerry Edmonds, III, Vice President of Workforce and Community Engagement at Vance-Granville Community College, participated as a judge for educators in a national competition in 2021.

Edmonds was one of five judges for the third annual National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) "Pitch for the Trades" competition, presented in partnership with the Philip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation. The competition featured teams of community college faculty from across the country, who "pitched" their creative ideas for incorporating entrepreneurship into workforce training programs at their colleges. Winning colleges took home a portion of a total of \$135,000 available to help fund these programs and put their ideas into action, thus expanding upon business opportunities for students in the skilled trades and apprenticeships. College teams made three-minute pitches and then fielded challenging questions from the judges, during the annual NACCE conference in Minnesota on October 5.

Each winner also receives the opportunity to be mentored by one of the judges. Edmonds will serve as a mentor for the teams from North Iowa Area Community College and Salt Lake Community College (Utah).

Carlene Cassidy, CEO of the Philip E. & Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation said, "We are very impressed with the unique ideas that solved a local problem or filled a gap and involved collaboration with partners across campus and in the community. The level of preparation, enthusiasm, and institutional support was outstanding. We are looking forward to seeing these programs launched."

Edmonds is not only involved with NACCE, but is also a leader on entrepreneurship at the state level, as a member of the North Carolina Black Entrepreneurship Council, which was established by NC IDEA, a Durham-



based private foundation committed to supporting entrepreneurial ambition and economic empowerment in North Carolina.

Edmonds added that he is excited to continue growing interest in entrepreneurship among VGCC students, faculty and staff. Recently, the college established a "Vanguard Entrepreneurship Club" for students. "Development of the entrepreneurial mindset in VGCC students places them at a competitive advantage in the work-place and in life," he said. Edmonds also hopes someday that a VGCC group will be able to participate in a similar "Pitch for the Trades" competition.

A resident of Henderson, Edmonds has served at VGCC since 2019. He oversees training programs that respond to community needs and prepare students for workforce success, including apprenticeship programs, and economic development support for the region. In addition, Edmonds leads the development of partnerships with businesses and government agencies, and coordinates outreach and marketing for the entire college.

## VGCC students inducted into men's academy

The "Men's Achievement Academy" (MAA) at Vance-Granville Community College recently held an induction ceremony to welcome new students into the unique program.

The purpose of the academy, which began in 2019, is to provide intentional support to male students that will empower them to accomplish their academic and career goals. The MAA focuses on the pillars of "Brotherhood, Scholarship, Professionalism, Service & Leadership." Any male student can join the academy.

During the ceremony on Sept. 28, new students were inducted, including Christopher Aninyei, Daniel Arthur, Alarius Garris, Lamar Hargrove, Marcus Johnson, Luis O'Farrill Roman, Rawquan Sneed and James Stewart. Each student was introduced by a VGCC Mentor (a member of the staff or faculty).

In addition, returning students were welcomed back, including Alvin Foster, Brandon Toney and William Woodlief.

Both the president of VGCC, Dr. Rachel Desmarais, and the vice president of Learning, Student Engagement and Success, Dr. Levy Brown, attended the ceremony and offered words of support for the academy.

"The Men's Achievement Academy is an incredible opportunity for our male students to connect to resources and people that will help them successfully navigate the college experience," Dr. Brown said. "This type of model has proven to be



particularly successful in helping men of color reach their academic and personal goals. A special thanks to Marque Debnam and Jason Snelling for co-leading this effort at the college."

*"The Men's Achievement Academy is an incredible opportunity for our male students to connect to resources and people that will help them successfully navigate the college experience."*

**DR. LEVY BROWN**  
Vice-President of Learning, Student Engagement & Success

The special guest speaker for the event was Jason Spriggs, a member of the Henderson City Council.

In addition to one-on-one mentoring, the MAA participants also meet as a group monthly. An October meeting featured a presentation on academic success, and in November, the focus was on men's mental health.

"We look to give our 'mentees' additional support through our faculty and staff who volunteer their time to offer guidance," said Jason Snelling, coordinator of the VGCC Academic Success Center. "Our goal is to continue to create a support system at that will help our mentees reach their academic, personal, and professional goals. Regular communication is expected between our mentors and mentees as well attendance to events throughout the academic year. We also hope to increase both retention and completion rates."

**For more information on the Men's Achievement Academy, contact Jason Snelling at [snellingj@vgcc.edu](mailto:snellingj@vgcc.edu) or (252) 738-3376.**

# Golf Tournament

VGCC thanks all the individuals and businesses that supported our annual Golf Tournament on May 3 and 4, 2021. Net proceeds totaled \$115,195.00 for the 2020–2021 Golf Tournament.

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Gupton Services, Inc.



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# VGCC enters new era with Foundation succeeding Endowment Fund

In 2021, the board of directors of the Vance Granville Community College Endowment Fund Corporation voted to change the name of the nonprofit organization to The Vance Granville Community College Foundation, Inc. Eddie Ferguson, who has served as endowment director, said that along with the name change comes a broadening of its mission.

Over the years, the primary purpose of the Endowment Fund was to raise monies for students to attend VGCC, Ferguson explained. However, in recent years, the needs of the college have expanded to include not only scholarships, but also funding for new programs, new buildings, or repurposing existing space. State and county resources have not been available to fund all those initiatives, so we feel that becoming a foundation will increase our ability to seek donations and grants from a wide variety of individuals, businesses and other foundations.

The VGCC Foundation will continue to oversee the endowing of scholarships, as well as contributions that can support the overall mission of the college. In addition, the Foundation will secure grants from private and public sources to support college programs, whether they are in the curriculum (credit) or continuing education divisions.

For decades, Vance Granville has enjoyed strong support from many donors and businesses in our community, for which we are grateful, said VGCC President Dr. Rachel Desmarais, who serves as the Foundation's board chair. "We look forward to continuing to build on that legacy with the VGCC Foundation, which will play a key role in helping us meet the growing needs for education and training in our region."

## VGCC student demonstrates that young women excel in construction trades

Demand is strong for people who are trained in skilled construction trades like carpentry, and one Vance-Granville Community College student defies conventional expectations of who is meeting that demand.



Jordan Loiset stands out first and foremost as a dedicated student, but she also is a woman in VGCC's Carpentry program, which has traditionally been favored by male students.

"I'm sure my choosing carpentry isn't a very common choice for most girls my age here, but I'm hoping I can show others that it really isn't that hard, and can lead to other trades as well; it's something that can be used for a long time and will be valued!" Loiset said.

National statistics indicate that women account for about 10 percent of workers within the construction industry. Earlier this year, the North Carolina Department of Commerce projected that by 2028, the state will employ 29,948 more workers in construction than in 2018. Construction-related businesses across the state are reporting significant shortages of workers, and making the field more diverse and inclusive can certainly help alleviate those shortages.

Loiset first started taking classes at VGCC three years ago as a high school student, through the Career & College Promise program.

"I didn't really decide I wanted to do Carpentry until senior year, in 2020," she recalled. "Sadly, this was when COVID was still really bad, so I wasn't able to start CAR-111 (the shop class) until now. I took the courses for Blueprint Reading and Residential Estimating last spring, so I'm now in my last class."

"I originally decided I wanted to do Carpentry because my dad used to be a carpenter, so I knew what I was going into and I already had some knowledge, which is really helping me out now, because I'm not as clueless as I thought I was!" Loiset noted.

After she graduates, Loiset plans to use her skills on a church building project in New York. "All of it is volunteer work, which makes this project really special," she said.

VGCC's Carpentry curriculum is designed primarily to train students to construct residential structures using standard building materials and hand and power tools. Many of the skills also apply to commercial construction. Course work includes: footings and foundations, framing, interior and exterior trim, cabinetry, blueprint reading, residential planning and estimating and related topics. Students develop skills through hands-on participation.

**For more information on Carpentry at VGCC, contact Robinette Fischer, Department Chair of Applied Technologies, at (252) 738-3255 or [fischerr@vgcc.edu](mailto:fischerr@vgcc.edu).**

## VGCC graduates fourth Truck Driver Training Program class

In summer 2021, Vance-Granville Community College celebrated the graduation of the fourth class in the short history of its Truck Driver Training, or CDL, program.

The program includes a combination of classroom instruction, range driving and road driving. With the end of training, students have successfully completed their official DMV road test, making them eligible for their "Class A" Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL-A) and fully employable as truck drivers.

"This is the fourth graduating class of CDL-A since we started the program back in February of 2020," said Kyle Burwell, Director of Occupational Extension for VGCC. "This group has endured many days of high heat and humidity, as they worked to learn all the truck driving skills needed to obtain their CDL-A license."

Burwell continued, "Vance-Granville is proud of this class and their accomplishments. A variety of employers visited the students to discuss employment opportunities over the nine weeks that class was in session. CDL truck driver training continues to be a very popular program, and early registration is highly encouraged for those who want to participate in future classes."

"Participating in the CDL Truck Driver Training class at VGCC has made me very proud and given me the tools I need to succeed in the workforce," said Cristina Hernandez of Kittrell, one of the new graduates.

"I am especially grateful for my awesome instructors, my wonderful family, and all of those that supported me through this class. I am excited for my future!" Hernandez is also a graduate of Vance County Early College High School, a partnership of VGCC and Vance County Schools.

The program, certified by the Professional Truck Driver Institute (PTDI), is considered essential to meeting the needs of many companies who need drivers to move goods across the country. Local employers have shown strong support for VGCC's program and have spoken to students about job opportunities. The college offers the program in collaboration with Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute (CCC&TI).

To enroll in the program, students must be at least 18 years old, have a valid North Carolina driver's license, and be able to read and speak English well enough to take instructions from highway signs, to converse with officials, and to complete the required reports. For those who qualify, there are opportunities for scholarships to partially defray the costs of tuition and fees.



**For more information on the Truck Driver Training Program, please visit [www.vgcc.edu/cdl/](http://www.vgcc.edu/cdl/) or contact Kyle Burwell, Director of Occupational Extension, at (252) 738-3276 or [burwellk@vgcc.edu](mailto:burwellk@vgcc.edu).**

## VGCC graduates seven Cadets in School's 112th BLET Class

Vance-Granville Community College held a graduation ceremony for the seven cadets of Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) Class 112 on June 15, 2021. After passing the state certification exam, all seven are authorized to work in any law enforcement agency in North Carolina. Members of this class have been hired by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, Henderson Police Department, Youngsville Police Department and Warren County Sheriff's Office.

Graduates included Jose Deleon and Kaleb Evans, both of Henderson; LeDrevion Richardson of Jacksonville; Jennifer Quick of Louisburg; Reed Danehy and Kameron Gregory, both of Oxford; and Regina Andranowska of Youngsville.

Three cadets received special awards in three categories. Evans won the "Top Gun" Award for having the highest overall firearm score. Quick took home the Academic Achievement Award for having the best grade average in the written tests each cadet must pass. Richardson earned the Physical Fitness award for scoring highest in the various fitness tests that the cadets undergo.

Evans noted that the greatest benefit he had received from the program was the knowledge and experience of his instructors. "We learned all of the necessary information needed for the completion of the course, while also gaining insight into our chosen career path from the many years of experience that our instructors have acquired over their time serving their communities," Evans said.

Quick added that the instructors "allowed us to start networking early in our career and took the time to work with each cadet to make sure we understood the material and had the knowledge to succeed in an increasingly difficult profession."

Danehy said that the VGCC BLET program "goes above and beyond to teach students basic to advanced skills that they can take with them every day on patrol."

Area law enforcement agencies often partner with VGCC to train their new recruits, as the community college runs one of the most rigorous law enforcement academies in North Carolina – requiring substantially more training hours than the state minimum mandates.

**For more information, contact Brandon Bishop, Director of BLET/LET, at (252) 738-3236 or [bishopb@vgcc.edu](mailto:bishopb@vgcc.edu)**



## Baskervilles create VGCC scholarship

Randolph and Sarah Baskerville of Henderson have established a new scholarship at Vance-Granville Community College after contributing \$10,000 to the VGCC Foundation.

Sarah Baskerville retired after a 30-year career in education, the last 15 as a counselor at Southern Vance High School. She has served for many years on the board of directors for the VGCC Foundation. Randolph Baskerville served as the first African American Assistant District Attorney in the 9th judicial district before serving as a District Court Judge from 2006-2014. Today, Judge Baskerville practices law with his son, Nathan, in Henderson.

In awarding the Randolph and Sarah Baskerville Scholarship at the Academic Achievement Award level, preference will be given to students of color, Vance County residents, and students in either the Criminal Justice or Paralegal Technology programs.

"Our motivation for establishing this scholarship is two-fold," the Baskervilles said. "First, we want to assist students from households of color who are first-generation college attendees. Often, the financial burdens are so overwhelming for some families that they cause an interruption in their education. We hope that by making this scholarship available through



Vance-Granville Community College, the financial gap will be lessened, and the burden lightened."

Their second motivation, they said, was to help students who need to gain the necessary skills to achieve a measure of success in the changing economy. "We hope that by making this scholarship available through VGCC, students can obtain additional training that will help them increase their salaries and achieve their goals in life," the Baskervilles added. "We chose the area of Criminal Justice and related fields because of the enormous need today for dedicated, effective and honest individuals in law enforcement who care about justice for all."

VGCC Foundation Executive Director Eddie Ferguson thanked the couple for their gift, saying, "We're honored that Judge and Mrs. Baskerville have chosen to be involved in VGCC, and this special scholarship represents their love for students, education and their community."

"Thanks to the generous support of Randolph and Sarah Baskerville, we can look forward to awarding a scholarship each year to a student who will have the opportunity to carry on their legacy of service and leadership," said Dr. Rachel Desmarais, VGCC's president. "This is yet another resource that we can use to create a community in which everyone can succeed."

***"Thanks to the generous support of Randolph and Sarah Baskerville, we can look forward to awarding a scholarship each year to a student who will have the opportunity to carry on their legacy of service and leadership."***

**DR. RACHEL DESMARAIS**  
President of VGCC

## Nursing grad completes bachelor's degree during pandemic

Vance County native Jeannie Adcock graduated in 2021 from Fayetteville State University with a bachelor's degree in nursing, marking yet another career milestone for the Vance-Granville Community College alumna.

She recently returned to VGCC to speak to the board of the college foundation about her experience and to express her gratitude.

Adcock now three collegiate alma maters. She first completed a bachelor's degree at East Carolina University and went into the working world. From 2009-2015, she worked at Maria Parham Medical Center in Henderson in administrative roles, but eventually felt drawn to pursue a career on the clinical side. After enrolling at her hometown college, VGCC, she excelled in the rigorous, challenging Associate Degree Nursing program. Adcock earned a pair of academic scholarships from the VGCC Foundation (then called the Endowment Fund), one endowed in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Roy Noblin and the other in memory of Myrtle Jane Pruitt. In 2018, she not only graduated, but completed the program with among the highest grade point averages in her class.

Adcock then became a registered nurse in the Neurosciences Intensive Care Unit at Duke University Hospital. "Who would have ever guessed that - with less than two years of experience as an ICU nurse - I'd be faced with a global pandemic, COVID-19?" Adcock reflected. "Being a Registered Nurse during the COVID outbreak of 2020 was one of the scariest times of my life."

As Duke is home to one of the area's leading, "level-one" trauma centers, the hospital was among the first to treat patients diagnosed with COVID-19, when very little was known about the virus and no vaccine was available.

"As fate would have it, I was the first RN on my unit to receive a COVID patient in April of 2020," Adcock said. "The upside to being at Duke during this time was that we always had PPE (personal protective equipment) available." Adcock recalled. "I went from being the first RN on my unit to treat a COVID patient to being a PPE expert the next night; that was a reality check for how serious things were. Though we were all scared, we persevered, without hesitation, because that's what healthcare professionals do; we take on challenges, fearlessly."

That led Adcock to another, very different challenge: completing a Bachelor's of Nursing degree (BSN) in the middle of a global pandemic, while working full-time as an ICU nurse.

"In August of 2020, I enrolled in college again, full-time, as a student at Fayetteville State University in the 'RN to BSN' completion program, a fully online program designed for nurses with associate degrees," Adcock said. "Full-time enrollment meant two classes every eight weeks, fast paced, and intense. Working as an ICU RN during a global pandemic while attending college full-time is far from easy. But I pushed through, mentally, physically, and emotionally, and am happy to say that I successfully completed my BSN in 12 months with a 4.0 GPA."

Just three years into her career as a registered nurse, Adcock marvels that she has become one of the more senior staff nurses on her unit, which she called "a sometimes scary, but rewarding and humbling realization."

She noted with gratitude that for her newest degree, she received assistance from her employer's tuition assistance program. As she described it, that sort of "earned" institutional support reminded her of the scholarships she received while at VGCC, thanks to donations from local citizens. Those scholarships gave her "a tremendous amount of help during a career change and an opportunity that I didn't know existed," Adcock remarked. She expressed appreciation for the leadership of VGCC Foundation Executive Director Eddie Ferguson.

"I remain very grateful to VGCC and the college endowment for their early support of my nursing education and career, one that has allowed me greater independence, freedom and stability in my life," Adcock said. "In the words of Benjamin Franklin, 'an investment in knowledge pays the best interest.'"

**For more information on giving to the VGCC Foundation, call (252) 738-3521, email [wearyt@vgcc.edu](mailto:wearyt@vgcc.edu), or mail contributions to P.O. Box 917, Henderson, NC 27536.**

## Faculty & Staff Awards

### Mission Possible Award



**Linda Fletcher**  
Director of  
Career Services

### Game Changer Award



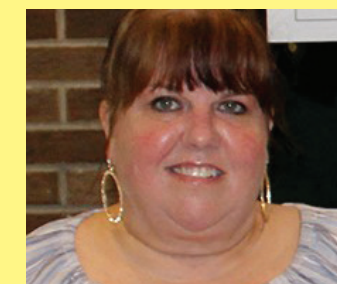
**Brandy L. Bowling**  
Department Chair  
of Science

### Star Service Award



**Jason Snelling**  
Coordinator,  
Academic Skills Center

### Glen Raven Excellence In Leadership



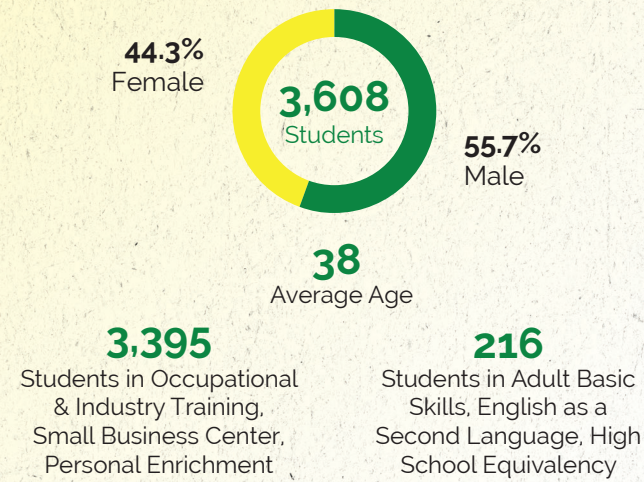
**Frankie K. Frink**  
Instructor, English



# Our Students 2020–2021

**7,258**  
Total Students  
*Unduplicated Headcount\**

## Continuing Education/Literacy

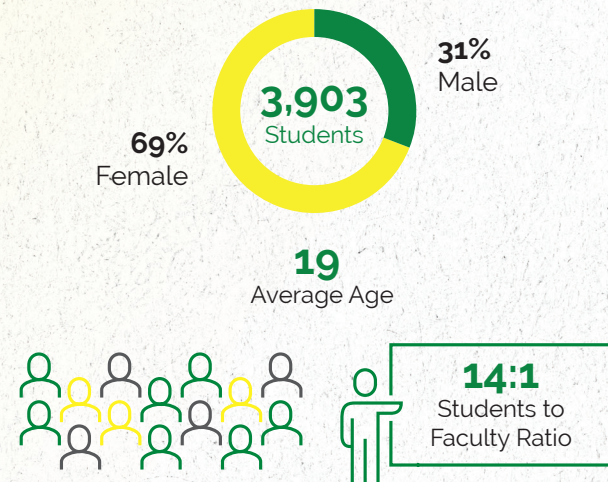


### Literacy Graduates

**3** High School Equivalency

**9** Adult High School Diplomas

## Curriculum Programs

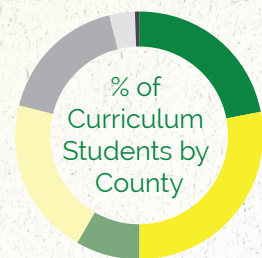


### Curriculum Graduates

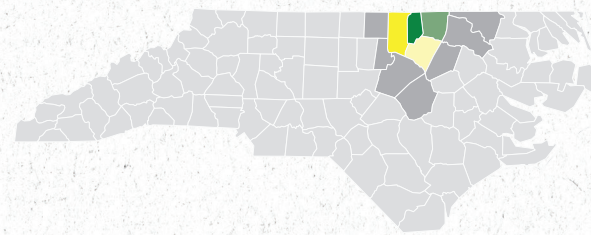
**461** Associate Degrees

**66** Diplomas

**74** Certificates



- 21.96% **Vance**
- 28.16% **Granville**
- 8.28% **Warren**
- 20.73% **Franklin**
- 17.14% **Adjacent Counties**
- 3.36% **Other NC Counties**
- 0.38% **Non-NC Residents**



VGCC celebrated the Class of 2021 with a virtual graduation commencement exercise held on May 20, 2021. The college honored the accomplishments of 601 graduates from July 2020 through June 2021 in our College & Career Readiness and Curriculum programs. We are so proud of our graduates and their successes! We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

*Unduplicated is not the sum of the two totals because some students took both Curriculum and Continuing Education/Literacy courses  
Graduate data obtained from colleague (7/1/2020 through 6/30/2021) as of 09/20/2021  
Enrollment data obtained from colleague*

# VGCC Data 2020–2021

## Curriculum Enrollment

(Summer 2020, Fall 2020 and Spring 2021)

<b>Total Enrollment:</b>	<b>3,903</b>
Full-Time Enrollment:	954
Part-Time Enrollment:	2,949
First-time Degree Seeking at VGCC:	1,007
Freshman: <i>First-time Degree Seeking</i>	311
Transfer-In: <i>First-time Degree Seeking</i>	137
Dual Enrolled: <i>First-time Degree Seeking</i>	559
Part-time Freshman, Degree Seeking at VGCC: <i>*Dual Enrolled Students are not Included.</i>	157
Median Age: <i>*Median of total enrollment.</i>	19

*Enrollment Data Obtained from NCCCS Report  
Full-Time/Part Time Status Obtained from Colleague*

## Curriculum Graduates

(7/1/2020 through 6/30/2021) as of 09/20/2021

<b>Total Completions:</b>	<b>601</b>
Total Associate Degrees:	461
Total Diplomas:	66
Total Certificates:	74
Total Completers:	574
Median Age:	22

*Data Obtained from Colleague on 9-20-21*



Curriculum Demographics	Percent of Total Enrollment That Are...	Percent of Total Completers That Are...
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.13%	1.92%
Asian	1.61%	1.39%
Black	31.80%	29.09%
Foreign	0.18%	2.09%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.10%	
Hispanic	8.25%	8.36%
Multiple	2.56%	2.26%
Unknown	8.58%	6.45%
White	45.79%	48.43%
Women	69.16%	69.69%
Men	30.85%	30.31%
Pell Recipients	27.34%	28.05%
Female	Percent of Total Women Enrollment That Are...	Percent of Total Women Completers That Are...
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.07%	1.75%
Asian	1.30%	1.50%
Black	34.23%	31.75%
Foreign	0.15%	2.25%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.04%	
Hispanic	7.97%	9%
Multiple	2.63%	2%
Unknown	8.11%	5.75%
White	44.50%	46%
Male	Percent of Total Men Enrollment That Are...	Percent of Total Men Completers That Are...
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.25%	2.30%
Asian	2.33%	1.15%
Black	26.33%	22.99%
Foreign	0.25%	1.72%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.25%	
Hispanic	8.89%	6.90%
Multiple	2.41%	2.87%
Unknown	9.63%	8.05%
White	48.67%	54.02%

Enrollment Data Obtained from NCCCS Report  
 Completion Data Obtained from Colleague

## VGCC Foundation Donors

We are pleased to recognize the generous contributions made by these individuals and businesses through their continued support of the VGCC Foundation from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

- |  |                                  |   |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
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## VGCC Scholarship Awards Donors

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## VANGUARD VISION

### Our Mission

Vance-Granville Community College educates, inspires, and supports a diverse community of learners to achieve professional and personal success.

### Our Vision

Vance-Granville Community College will be a catalyst in developing strong communities where everyone experiences a fulfilling quality of life.



## Our 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.

- A "culture of student success" is embodied in the way we engage, teach, advise, and administer policy to students
- Professional development in excellent teaching is provided and embraced. Innovation in teaching and learning is encouraged
- Measuring and monitoring student success allows us to continuously refine and improve our craft and process to ensure equitable student outcomes

### 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.

- Conflict is viewed as an opportunity to find a constructive solution that helps all to succeed
- Genuine interest and care are shown to our co-workers and students
- Everyone is accountable at VGCC for success
- We acknowledge, celebrate, and give credit where it is due

### Community

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

- We provide access to higher education for our communities. VGCC is a place where everyone is welcome
- We proactively seek to understand each other, our students, and our community in the fulfillment of our mission
- We consider the impact our decisions have on each other, our students, and our community
- Diversity is celebrated and inclusion is practiced

### Communication

We value decision making through broad-based, respectful team work and effective dialog

- Our communication is genuine and transparent
- We communicate by being totally honest and totally kind
- Follow-through is an important part of communicating

## Our Goals

### Economic Development and Partnership

Developing new and enhancing existing partnerships to strengthen workforce retraining and development, and providing additional pathways for higher education.

- 1.1** – Implementing short-term workforce development programs to build a strong base and prepare tomorrow's workforce.
- 1.2** – Developing additional centers throughout our service area to offer educational opportunities for all residents.
- 1.3** – Constructing new transfer pathways and opportunities for students to streamline education beyond Vance-Granville.
- 1.4** – Enhancing existing K-12 partnerships to prepare students for work after graduation.

### Teaching and Learning

Facilitating student success by incorporating professional development for faculty and supporting our students with intentional strategies.

- 2.1** – Ensuring that all students have equity in learning outcomes and support services.
- 2.2** – Structuring programs and schedules for efficient completion.
- 2.3** – Fostering quality instruction through faculty support and resources.
- 2.4** – Establishing and enhancing student services that support improved access, retention, success and completion.

### Employee Culture and Innovation

Supporting employees to enhance their growth, development, and experience leading to employee retention.

- 3.1** – Providing opportunities for internal collaboration to increase awareness to all employees on college matters.
- 3.2** – Improving processes and technology that facilitate an environment of continuous improvement.
- 3.3** – Enhancing the quality and consistency of services and resources to strengthen employee support.

### Institutional Commitment

Communicating and securing outside resources allowing VGCC to prosper now and in the future.

- 4.1** – Enhancing our external communications to build our foundation for the future.
- 4.2** – Securing additional resources to bolster, build, and extend workforce capacity.
- 4.3** – Cultivating the Vance-Granville brand through marketing, communications, and student results.
- 4.4** – Maintaining financial integrity with all avenues of budgeting.

*Adopted by the Board of Trustees on January 27, 2020.*





# Vance-Granville Community College

Educating. Inspiring. Supporting.

## Main Campus

200 Community College Road  
P.O. Box 917  
Henderson, NC 27536  
(252) 492-2061

## Franklin Campus

8100 NC 56 Highway  
P.O. Box 777  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
(919) 496-1567

## South Campus

1547 S. Campus Drive  
P.O. Box 39  
Creedmoor, NC 27522  
(919) 528-4737


## Warren Campus

210 West Ridgeway Street  
P.O. Box 207  
Warrenton, NC 27589  
(252) 257-1900


[www.VGCC.edu](http://www.VGCC.edu)


optimized for smartphones and tablets


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Vance-Granville Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact the 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, affirmative action institution. The college serves all students regardless of race, creed, color, age, sex, national or disabling conditions. Vance-Granville Community College is a Tobacco-Free College.

