

# ForsythTech

16  
WINTER

EDUCATION FOR LIFE IN ACTION

magazine 

HOW FORSYTH TECH IMPACTS OUR COMMUNITY EVERY DAY

*expanding  
our  
influence*

SENATOR  
**BURR** 2  
HAS PRAISE

PUTTING  
**FACULTY** 14  
FIRST

ALUMNA JOINS  
**GROWING** 19  
FIELD

THE 2015  
**Education  
For Life**  
REPORT



*Dr. Gary M. Green*

I often say that most people in our community know someone who has been touched by Forsyth Tech in some way, because the college's impact is so far-reaching.

Our high-quality, customized training program impacted Caterpillar's decision to open a new manufacturing plant in Winston-Salem. We are creating innovative training models for R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company's workforce, impacting this manufacturer's transition to a new type of company.

In the past four years, we have seen a 1300 percent increase in demand for our corporate training programs, allowing us to impact hundreds of clients by meeting their business and workplace needs.

Our outstanding faculty and staff are impacting the quality education we offer. *Newsweek* recently placed Early College of Forsyth in the top one percent of all high schools in the country. Senator Richard Burr visited the college this summer to acknowledge our Cyber Security program's national designation by the NSA and Department of Homeland Security as a Center for Academic Excellence. Our Digital Effects & Animation program has been named a Toon Boom Centre of Excellence, the first U.S. community college to receive this international designation from the leading software company.

While these statistics and designations are impressive, the true measure of our success is the impact we have on the lives of our students, their families and, by extension, our community. A recent study shows that our graduates contribute approximately \$380 million in income to the local economy.

At a recent Board of Trustees meeting, we heard from a student, originally from El Salvador, of Forsyth Tech's impact on him. After watching his mother work 16 hours a day to support the family, he decided to do things differently. He enrolled in Forsyth Tech's nanotechnology program and now has a bright and secure future in this high-tech field that will allow him to give back to his family.

**Changing lives:** *This is what community college is all about.*



Alumna Chantal Mullen, AAS, Horticulture Technology, is helping the world develop more sustainable food systems. (pg. 19)



Community stakeholders and entrepreneurs gather at Venture Innovation Café™, co-hosted by Forsyth Tech and Wells Fargo. (pg. 10)

# The Impact Issue

Forsyth Tech is proud to be part of the North Carolina Community College System, with 58 institutions serving more than 800,000 students annually. North Carolina Community Colleges are creating success in our state by:

- > Offering hope for a better future through vocational training and education
- > Providing opportunity by making higher education available to all citizens
- > Generating jobs by creating a skilled workforce for business and industry

Forsyth Tech welcomes diversity and is dedicated to meeting the needs of students with disabilities, as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information, please contact Sarah Hawks, Coordinator, Disabilities Services Office, at 336.734.7155 or [shawks@forsythtech.edu](mailto:shawks@forsythtech.edu).

Forsyth Technical Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate degrees, diplomas and certificates. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404.679.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Forsyth Technical Community College.

**We're Listening!**  
If you'd like to comment on anything in this issue of *Forsyth Tech Magazine*, you can email us at [FTMagazine@ForsythTech.edu](mailto:FTMagazine@ForsythTech.edu).



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## The Alumni Oval

A celebration of Alumni milestones

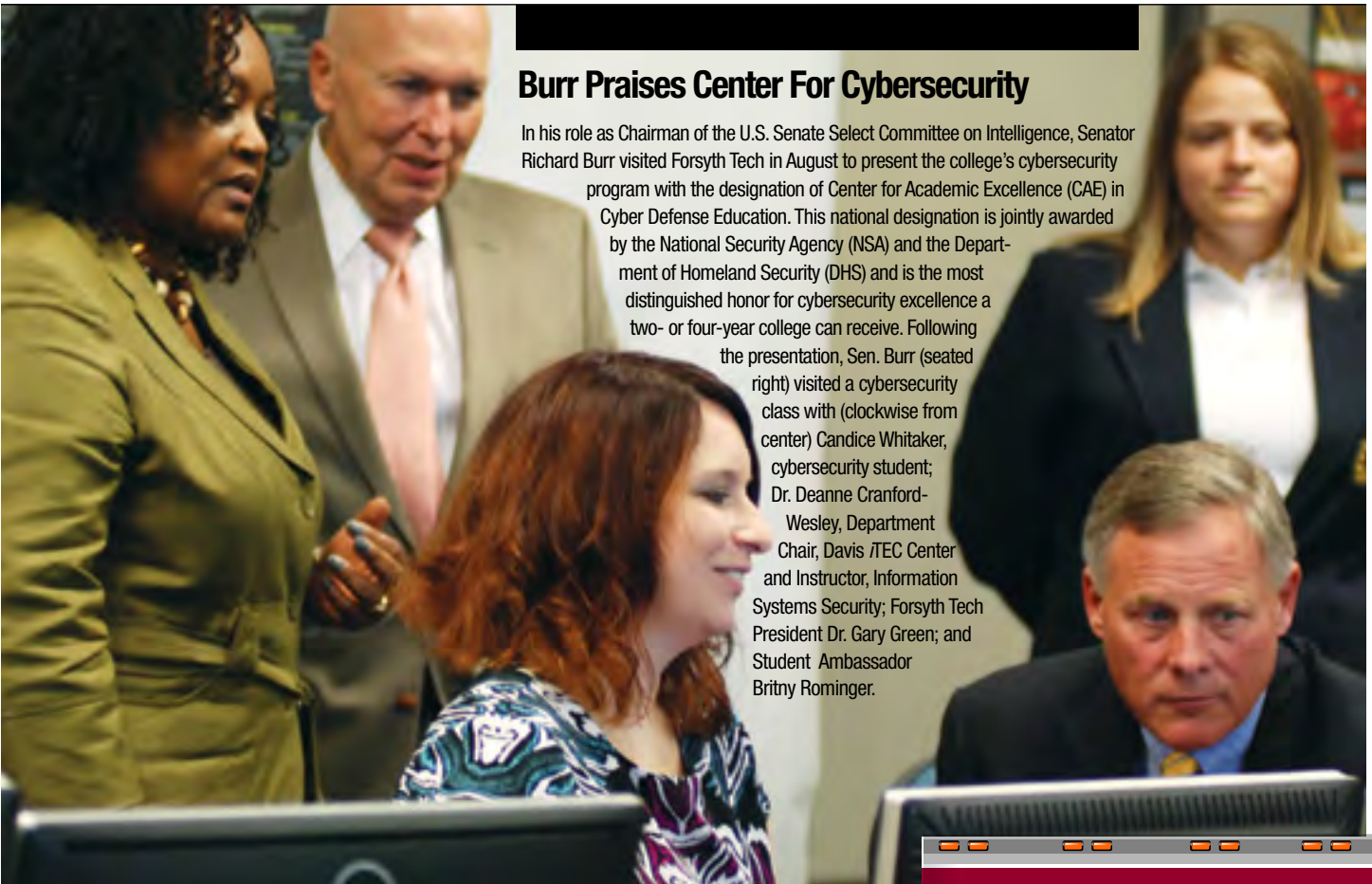
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News about gifts, scholarships and our gracious donors



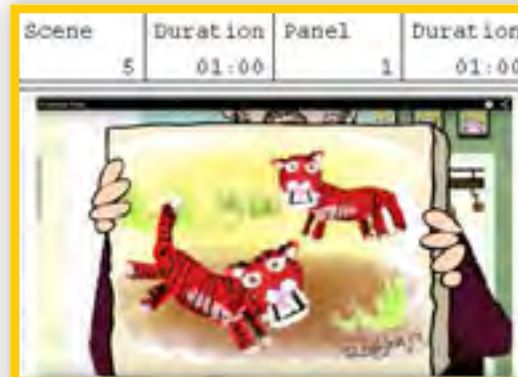
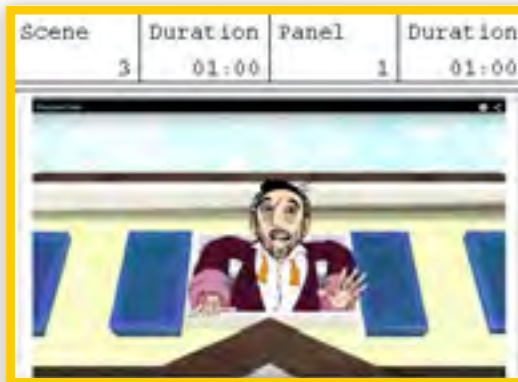
Tech Journal is where we present the college's latest accomplishments – awards won, grants received, new programs and degrees offered, and honors bestowed on the college, faculty and staff – along with events on campus and other noteworthy items. It's a quick way to catch up on the news from Forsyth Tech.



### Burr Praises Center For Cybersecurity

In his role as Chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Senator Richard Burr visited Forsyth Tech in August to present the college's cybersecurity program with the designation of Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) in Cyber Defense Education. This national designation is jointly awarded by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and is the most distinguished honor for cybersecurity excellence a two- or four-year college can receive. Following the presentation, Sen. Burr (seated right) visited a cybersecurity class with (clockwise from center) Candice Whitaker, cybersecurity student; Dr. Deanne Cranford-Wesley, Department Chair, Davis ITEC Center and Instructor, Information Systems Security; Forsyth Tech President Dr. Gary Green; and Student Ambassador Britny Rominger.





Animation storyboards are created with Toon Boom software to show storyline progression.

## Excitement Animated!

Forsyth Tech's award-winning Digital Effects & Animation (DEA) program has another feather to add to its creative cap. The program has been named a Toon Boom Centre of Excellence, the first U.S. community college to receive this designation.

Toon Boom is a Canadian company specializing in animation and storyboarding software, whose clients include Fox, Disney and the Cartoon Network. It recognizes post-secondary institutions that are "powerful incubators" for preparing graduates for jobs in the animation, film and media arts industries.

"It's an honor to be recognized as the first community college in America to be a Toon Boom Centre of Excellence," says Herb Burns, department chair Design Technologies, program coordinator Digital Effects & Animation, and coordinator International Partnerships. "This is a real testament to the great animated works created by our students and the quality of our faculty," he adds. "It will open many more new job opportunities in the animation industry for our graduates."

Forsyth Tech Transportation Technology student Daniel Hanna won first place in the American Trucking Associations' 2015 Technology & Maintenance Council's National Student Technician Competition held in Orlando, FL in September. Greensboro-based WheelTime Network sponsored Daniel, and classmate Cody Styers, who placed sixth.

Daniel and Cody competed against students from tech schools around the country. In November,

WheelTime held a ceremony honoring Daniel and Cody at the college's Transportation Technology Center, where Daniel received prizes valued at \$12,000.

"Competitions are an intense format for learning and accelerating skills needed to work in high performance," said Mike Delaney, president and CEO of WheelTime. "They also serve as a tremendous motivational tool for these students to continue excelling in their classes, and their future careers."

"We couldn't be more proud of Daniel and Cody," said Alan Doub, Forsyth Tech's program coordinator for Heavy Equipment & Transportation Technology. "Their high performance at the national level speaks to their talent and skill as technicians."

### Event Sponsors:

**WheelTime**      **PEAK**      **Eaton**  
**Cornwell Tools**      **MAC Tools**      **Redline**



(L-R) NC Gov. Pat McCrory, Dr. June Atkinson, State Public Schools Superintendent and Forsyth Tech President Dr. Gary Green

## A Conversation With Sally Elliott Stokes Economic and Workforce Development Coordinator



**You recently graduated from the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Institute. Could you explain what it is?**

The Institute is offered by The North Carolina Rural Center, whose mission is to develop, promote and implement sound economic strategies to improve the quality of life of rural North Carolinians. It's our voice in local and state government and pushes forward issues that affect rural counties, which often get forgotten.

### **What is your role?**

My job is to make sure the college is involved and has a voice in what goes on in Stokes County. I work with prospective and established businesses and local government officials to help with training or education needs and provide them with the college's resources to support economic development.

### **Can you give an example of how you interact with businesses?**

The HR department of a local employer may approach us looking for employees. We work closely with Stokes Economic Development to offer assistance with recruitment and retention of area businesses. We also offer small business counseling (in conjunction with the Small Business Center) through our local workforce development center in Walnut Cove.

### **What types of businesses are being promoted in the county?**

Stokes County has difficulty bringing in large corporations because we don't have the highways to transport materials and goods easily. So the county has been focusing on travel and tourism in recent years. We had a 4.9 percent increase in travel and tourism last year. Hanging Rock State Park and the Dan River are big attractions that draw thousands of visitors to our county each year.

### **Do you have a role in planning courses?**

I coordinate all our adult basic skills and compensatory classes. I am also helping create a new certification in agricultural and artisan entrepreneurship, to teach local farmers and artisans to be more business-minded and increase their profits.

### **What did the course consist of?**

We went to Raleigh three consecutive days each month for three months. The Institute brought in speakers with specialties, such as infrastructure and workforce development. In between, we were given projects to work on.

### **You seem so passionate about Stokes County. Do you live there?**

Yes! We've lived here for 8 years, on 27 acres of land. I love the river system, the natural beauty and the friendly small towns. I want this area to develop in a way that preserves our natural resources and our way of life but also ensures that we thrive economically. That takes vision, planning, and teamwork with local businesses and government agencies. The community college is an integral part of this process, and we're excited to play a role in the progress that is occurring throughout Stokes County.

### **Is there anything you'd like readers to take away from this conversation?**

I want people to know that rural communities are wonderful places. We want to progress, but in the right way: We'd like to keep what's charming and wonderful about our rural communities. But we also want to keep our young people here, by giving them a way to make a living, while still enjoying a rural lifestyle.

## The Governor's Science – And Life – Lessons

Six Forsyth Tech nanotechnology and biotechnology students had their day in the spotlight Tuesday, September 29, when Governor Pat McCrory and members of the State Board of Education visited Forsyth Tech's Science Lab at Innovation Quarter in downtown Winston-Salem.

The board members, in town for the biannual State Board of Education's Fall Planning and Work Session, joined the governor to observe three presentations of devices Forsyth Tech students created as part of their curriculum.

Nanotech students first presented a prototype of a transparent, plastic solar cell that, when placed on a windowpane, creates power. "You can put it on your window and it gives power to your home," says Dr. Mehrdad Tajkarimi, Nanotechnology instructor. The nanotech students also presented a second prototype – a graphene-based supercapacitor that saves energy to environmentally friendly batteries.

Biotechnology students presented the third project – a nanosensor that detects a strain of E. coli that can lead to death. "The main problem with E. coli outbreaks is that it takes 48 hours to detect and confirm the presence of the bacteria. The students devised a very small chip that detects E. coli in a couple of hours," explains Mehrdad.

The governor spoke informally to the students, asking them what he and education officials could do to get more young people interested in the sciences. "You need to tell us what resources we need to make this happen," he stressed. Several students urged the governor and board members to promote project-based learning – a method that gives students the opportunity to learn by doing what makes science exciting.

## Engineering A Career

Students planning a career in engineering will find transferring from Forsyth Tech to a four-year university much easier from now on. The college introduced a new Associate in Engineering (AE) program at the beginning of the 2015-2016 academic year.

Collaborating on a joint project called Engineering Pathways, the North Carolina Community College System and the University of North Carolina developed an articulation agreement that allows community college students with an AE degree to transfer to a four year engineering program at five universities in the UNC system.

The new AE degree includes all the prerequisites needed to enter the engineering programs at East Carolina University, Western Carolina University, University of North Carolina Charlotte, North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T University. All credits from AE students' community college courses will be recognized by the universities, which means students will no longer need to take additional or duplicate courses. But that doesn't guarantee acceptance at those universities. They still need to go through the application process.

"Unlike an AAS degree in Engineering Technology, the Associate in Engineering is not a terminal degree, it's a transfer program," says Sharilyn Owens, Ph.D., mathematics department chair, Associate in Engineering Program Coordinator and Faculty Learning Communities Facilitator. "We provide physics, chemistry, calculus and all the other courses students need in the first two years of a four-year degree," she explains.

One of those courses is Introduction to Engineering, which familiarizes students with the various branches of engineering. When they choose a senior institution, they'll select one that offers the type of engineering they want to specialize in.

"We've had a lot of supportive feedback from the senior institutions," Sharilyn says. "They're excited about having our students come to their universities."

## NC Poet Laureate's Wit And Wisdom Inspires Students

Troubadour, storyteller, perennial teacher, 76-year-old Shelby Stephenson, North Carolina's poet laureate, transfixes audiences. Alternately reading from his lyrical poems about a childhood spent "Down East" on a North Carolina farm and singing soulful renditions of Hank Williams' ballads, Mr. Stephenson shared his passion for words with Forsyth Tech students, faculty, staff and the public October 9 at the Oak Grove Center auditorium.

Having grown up with only a Sears Roebuck Catalog and a Bible in his home, Mr. Stephenson finally discovered books and poetry in his mid-20s, he told the audience.

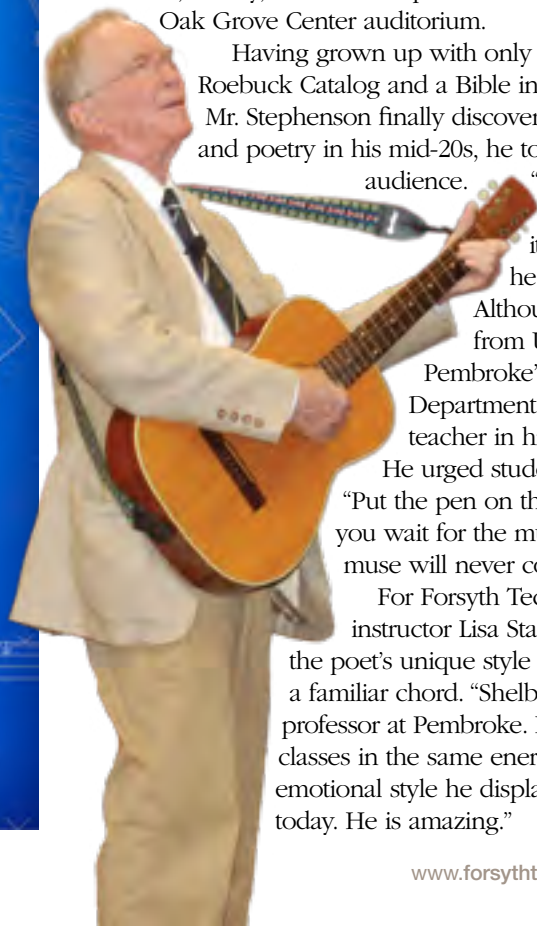
"Whatever poetry is, it chose me," he explained.

Although he retired from UNC-

Pembroke's English Department in 2010, the teacher in him lives on.

He urged student writers to "Put the pen on the page. If you wait for the muse, the muse will never come."

For Forsyth Tech English instructor Lisa Stanley-Smith, the poet's unique style struck a familiar chord. "Shelby was my professor at Pembroke. He taught his classes in the same energetic, emotional style he displayed here today. He is amazing."



## Agreeing To Agree

In August, the North Carolina Community College System and North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities opened up new pathways of opportunity for community college students. They were joined by 22 of the state's 36 independent colleges and universities in signing the Independent Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (ICAA), which increases access for community college students at institutions of higher education in the state.

"In the past, most transfers to independent colleges were on a school-by-school and a program-by-program basis," explains Dr. Jewel Cherry, vice president, Student Services and interim vice president for Instructional Services. "Now, all credits are accepted by participating schools and universities."

According to Jewel, everyone likes the new agreement. "It was not a difficult process for us to work with the independents," she says. "They were happy to adopt the agreement."

And, as it should be, those who are benefiting most from this agreement are the students.

*To see a complete list of the independent colleges and universities who have signed this agreement, visit <http://www.ncicu.org/>*

NORTH CAROLINA  
INDEPENDENT  
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES



## Desmarais Named Forsyth Tech COO

It's a big job, but one for which she's well prepared. In July, Dr. Rachel M. Desmarais was named Forsyth Tech's executive vice president and chief operating officer (EVP/COO). In her new role, she is responsible for overseeing the college's leadership team as well as day-to-day operations.

She brings a unique perspective to the position. For the past 13 years, Rachel served Forsyth Tech as an instructor, department chair of the Thomas H. Davis iTEC Center, and vice president of Planning and Information Services. Over this period, she also completed her Ph.D. in Instructional Design & Technology from Old Dominion University.

She outlines the first tasks on her agenda. "We are already working hard to identify ways Forsyth Tech can operate more efficiently and effectively over the long run, given the funding challenges facing all community colleges right now," Rachel says. "One of my first responsibilities is helping guide the college in a bit of soul-searching, reflecting on who we are in 2015 and what we want to become. Then we can move forward in a strategic way."

Fortunately, she won't face these challenges alone. "I'm privileged to be working with an awesome group of people," she acknowledges. "Everyone here is focused on doing their part to broaden the high-quality education and training opportunities available to our students."



## The Art Of Diplomacy

Richard Jaworski has an interesting world view. He recently completed an assignment as minister counselor for Management Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. And before that, he held posts in Turkey, London, Warsaw, Tel Aviv and Helsinki. In September, Mr. Jaworski spoke to a group, including 28 international business students, in the Oak Grove Center auditorium, about his career as a U.S. State Department Foreign Service officer.

Currently serving as diplomat-in-residence for the southern U.S. Mid-Atlantic region, Mr. Jaworski introduces students to career opportunities within the Foreign Service. During his talk, he stressed that the State Department seeks people with diverse experience from all academic backgrounds. "The Foreign Service offers a career for life," he explained. "You have to be adaptable, sensitive to other cultures, passionate about public service and willing to embrace change – you'll be moving every few years."

International Business program coordinator Diane Griffin's class attended the presentation. "My goal is to introduce my students to job and career options that they might not know exist," explained Diane, whose MBA in International Business Management led to a job at the Pew Research Center in Washington, DC. "Sessions like the one held today show students that a background in international business can open up many unexpected doors."



# Features<sup>®</sup>

## Forsyth Tech's deep influence in so many areas of the community can't be measured.

The college touches the lives of countless individuals, companies and organizations every day but also prepares thousands of students who will go on to impact the lives of generations to come. It's embedded in the heart of the community, and the beat goes on.



Forsyth Tech and Wells Fargo co-host Venture Innovation Cafe.™

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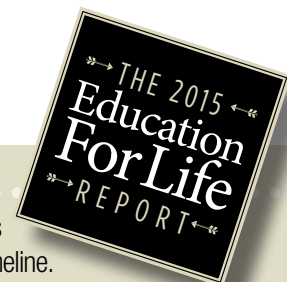
### **IMPACTING THE NOW**

How Forsyth Tech makes its mark on our community every day.

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### **IMPACTING THE FUTURE**

Forsyth Tech's high school pathways prepare students for college success.



Forsyth Tech has embraced its role as an agent of change. In the past year, the college has employed the skills of faculty and staff, enjoyed the generosity of donors, and deployed thousands of passionate students into our community to affect change. Over the next pages are highlights from 2014-15, presented as a timeline.

If you were to create an illustration showing Forsyth Tech's links with the community, you'd probably end up with something like an airline map, with lines going every which way. But even if you managed to create that diagram, it still wouldn't tell you the impact of those many connections.

Forsyth Tech students, teachers, staff and donors are the people who forge those connections. They keep information, communication and collaboration flowing from campus to community and back. The following stories highlight a few examples of the ways the college influences the community.

### Extending a Helping Hand

As part of the training for her nursing degree, Faith Medrano was asked to spend 24 hours volunteering in the community. The first volunteer opportunity that came to her mind was the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission. "They're well established and have so many programs, I thought they might need volunteers," she recalls. She was right. Ms. Billie Holley, volunteer coordinator at the organization, welcomed her with open arms. And when Faith announced in class that the agency could use more volunteers, 10 fellow students also stepped up.

Located on Trade Street, the Rescue Mission offers a residential program for homeless men, a variety of community programs, and partners with Forsyth Tech to offer classes to residents who want to earn their GED and pursue vocational training.

Faith threw herself into her volunteer shifts. "I worked in the thrift store, sorting and hanging up clothes, and in the food pantry, handing out groceries such as pasta, canned vegetables and soups, cereal, and milk that doesn't need refrigeration. I also gift-wrapped donated items that the mission distributes as gifts," explains Faith.

Ms. Holley was so impressed with Faith and the other nursing students, she wrote to Linda Latham, director of Nursing at Forsyth Tech, to express her thanks. "Not only is Faith one of the best volunteers we have had, she is willing to do whatever project is most urgent," Ms. Holley says. She says volunteers usually want to serve in one area, doing one job. "But all the students in Faith's class have been willing to serve in whatever capacity they were needed in on any given day," she observes.

For Faith, the experience has been enlightening. "Meeting people at the mission has given me a new perspective on how individuals become homeless or incarcerated, often as a result of substance abuse," she says. "I've volunteered at other organizations, but this has been the most rewarding. I feel that we were really able to accomplish something, that we made a contribution."

### The Business of Starting a Small Business

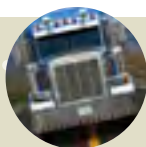
In 2014, when Carrie and Emeka Anazia started their business, Acing the Undergrad, they began small. Authors of the book *Acing the Undergrad: Your Personal Mentor*, they promoted it at a series of speaking events.

Since then, the entrepreneurs have expanded their services to include workshops, teaching students their method to develop the tools needed for college suc-



Faith Medrano volunteers at the Rescue Mission food pantry as part of her nursing training.

2014



**07.12.14**

Diesel Technology Program receives a \$52,000 donation from the Pope Foundation to train more graduates for local jobs

**08.14.14**

Australian Fulbright Professional Scholar Raymond Cadmore presents a SciTech lecture while visiting the college

**08.18.14**

Forsyth Tech introduces Motorcycle Collision Repair course



# A COMMUNITY



**08.27.14**

NC Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announces United Furniture Industries NC, with the help of Forsyth Tech, will bring 200 jobs to Forsyth County



**09.08.14**

Early College of Forsyth ranks in top 3% of *Newsweek's* 2014 High School Rankings

**09.09.14**

Forsyth Tech launches "Stokes Works" program to connect qualified Stokes County residents with full-time jobs and new careers, free of cost

cess. They've also added a mentorship program and created a 10-episode online video series called *Acing the Undergrad: The Show* that's available on YouTube.

"In our first year, our book was used by one college for freshman orientation class," says Emeka. "Our college success book is now being used by multiple high schools and college prep organizations, such as Upward Bound and Crosby Scholars, as well as by two colleges." Although they launched the business on their own, the Anazias have since sought help from Forsyth Tech's Small Business Center (SBC).

The SBC, located in Innovation Quarter, offers free, confidential, one-on-one business counseling to small business owners and those considering entrepreneurship. SBC counselors advise business owners on strategic planning to help them grow and weather whatever economic storm comes their way. They also counsel entrepreneurs on marketing and offer a number of workshops that provide information and guidance to sharpen entrepreneurs' business skills.

"We asked for feedback on our logo, our website and our LinkedIn profile, and we've attended SBC workshops," Emeka notes. Additionally, the business owners consulted the SBC about ways to gain exposure through networking. "They connected us to networking opportunities, including the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, which we are now members of."

On September 17, Forsyth Tech and Wells Fargo co-hosted Venture Innovation Café™, an all-day event that brought together prospective entrepreneurs and representatives from community, state and federal agencies, institutions and businesses.

"This spring, a group of 20 organizations formed the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem of Forsyth County," explains Allan Younger, director of the SBC. "Members all offer resources for small businesses. We thought it would be wise to launch the organization with an event that would make everyone aware of the services all of us provide," he adds. The group's members share information and serve as catalysts for the expansion of small business in the Triad.

Allan gives an example of how the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem members collaborate. "At the Small Business Center, we interact with people every day. And when we identify that they need a particular skill, we suggest different ways and where they can go to acquire that skill," he explains.

Allan, winner of the 2015 Small Business Advocate Award from Kernersville's Chamber of Commerce, planned the event, along with his team. Wells Fargo's participation stems from the company's growing interest in providing services to small business owners. "Venture Innovation Café™ gave key stakeholders and entrepreneurs an opportunity to network, attend classes, and learn about the many resources our community offers," emphasizes Alan Proctor, Winston-Salem market president for Wells Fargo.

### Instruments of Change

It was an email Michael Ayers just had to share with his staff. Michael, Dean of Math, Science & Technologies, received the email from Tara Stanley, who had recently earned a degree from Forsyth Tech after overcoming many hurdles.

In the course of raising her autistic son, now a teenager, Tara became fascinated with understanding the biochemistry of the brain. Although she already



With the help of the Forsyth Tech Small Business Center, entrepreneurs Carrie and Emeka Anazia (pictured here) are showing more students how to succeed in college.

**10.02.14**

U.S. Department of Education announces Forsyth Tech will receive a \$449,343 Strengthening Institutions Grant to help serve low-income students



**10.08.14**

Business & Industry Services Division opens at 525@vine in Wake Forest Innovation Quarter

**11.14.14**

Forsyth Tech students help local residents by participating in a free dental clinic in Winston-Salem



**11.28.14**

Long-time Board of Trustees member Gordon B. Hughes is honored by having his name added to the Electronic and Computer Engineering Technology Department

**12.12.14**

Forsyth Tech partners with Goodwill Industries of Northwest North Carolina to establish the Access Center Adult High School



**12.21.14**

Small Business Center Network of the NC Community College System celebrates 30 years of providing support and assistance to small businesses and start-ups across NC

holds two degrees – a bachelor's in English and a master's in creative writing – Tara decided to go back to school after 20 years and enroll in math and science classes at Forsyth Tech. Her goal was to earn a second undergraduate degree, this time in science. Little did she know that she was embarking upon a much different – and difficult – academic journey than she had originally planned.

In her letter to Dean Ayers, Tara expressed her admiration and gratitude for her instructors, detailing the impact they had on her life during her tenure at Forsyth Tech. She singled out Dr. Cheryl Burrell and Tatjana Jovanovic-Grove, in particular. “Not only are they stellar teachers, but they became mentors and pillars of support. They open the world to students through science and became two of my biggest role models,” she wrote.

Tara also went on to praise staff member Tami Sappenfield, manager of Retention and Workforce, who supported her throughout her time at Forsyth Tech. “Tami is a true friend to adult students,” she says. “I had just enrolled in my first class in 20 years and was feeling a bit of angst. While discussing the Science Skills Lab over the phone, Tami told me that adult students held a special place in her heart. I found out later these were not just simply words, when she invited me to take part in special events. Tami made me feel like a true part of this school,” emphasizes Tara.

During her time at Forsyth Tech, Tara experienced several personal crises: She lost four close family members, including her stepmother and her grandmother. In addition, Tara's father nearly died in a fall and is now disabled. Tara manages his care. Added to that was her autistic son's transition to middle school.

“Those semesters, I was taking biology, chemistry and math classes from Dr. Tamara Starobina, Dr. Chris Dometrius, Tatjana Jovanovic-Grove and Dr. Cheryl Burrell,” she remembers. “They showed they understand the crushing load that adult students sometimes bear, and they worked with me through some very tough times. I cannot thank them enough for helping me succeed in their classes despite the circumstances,” Tara says.

Tara also praises her “first cheerleader” at the college, Dr. Shelton Charles, who encouraged her to pursue a graduate degree rather than a second undergraduate degree. “I told him I could never do it, especially since I had a disabled child. Nobody would want me. I thought he was crazy! But he said an emphatic, ‘Yes you can do it.’ He believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself. He built my confidence and that was the starting point,” she recalls.

“Tara is truly an inspiration,” says Dean Ayers. “Her instructors and I have admired her spirit, tenacity, dedication and intelligence. As dean, I appreciate her recognition of our hardworking and caring faculty,” he adds.

“The faculty invests much intellectual and emotional energy in our students,” he continues. “I know they make a difference in people's lives and, ultimately, in our community. However, it is always rewarding to learn about specific instances such as Tara's. She is one example of the impact Forsyth Tech has here.”

When Tara requested letters of recommendation for graduate school programs she was applying to, Dean Ayers and department faculty members were happy to oblige. “Tara has what it takes to make a difference in autism science. I am glad Forsyth Tech was able to help move her closer to her goal.”



Michael Ayers (center) shares an email from former student Tara Staley with colleagues (L-R) Tami Sappenfield, Cheryl Burrell, Tatjana Jovanovic-Grove, Shelton Charles and Chris Dometrius.

2015

01.05.15

Oak Grove Center Phase 2 opens, offering state-of-the-art labs and classrooms and the Dewitt E. Rhoades Conference Center



02.28.15

Forsyth Tech's first ever Farm Health and Safety Institute is held in Stokes County



03.11.15

Shugart Women's Center on Main Campus celebrates its 15th anniversary



**03.23.15**

Student-run radio station 105.1 WFOZ-FM, The FORSe, begins broadcasting from a studio on Main Campus



**03.28.15**

Forsyth Tech hosts Open House and Cruise-in at the Transportation Technology Center

**04.27.15**

Forsyth Tech announces plans to construct the new Stokes County Center building



Andrea Kepple (right) created the C. David Kepple Memorial Faculty Award to honor her late husband, Reneé Rogers (left), program coordinator, Nonprofit Leadership & Management, won the award in 2015.

### Putting Faculty First

A lifelong educator, Andrea Kepple spent her 30-year career teaching grade school, middle school, high school and college students. “I’ve always thought of teaching as a higher calling,” she says.


Her husband, stockbroker David Kepple, had a special attachment to Forsyth Tech. He was appointed to the college’s Board of Trustees, and became a regular visitor on campus. “He would even go to eat lunch there, to meet students and talk to faculty,” Mrs. Kepple reminisces. Her husband was especially sensitive to issues affecting teachers, having witnessed his wife’s challenges, such as a lack of classroom resources, over the years.

After Mr. Kepple died suddenly in 1998, his wife created the C. David Kepple Memorial Faculty Award. “I thought it was only natural to establish an award in his memory that would help instructors,” Mrs. Kepple recalls.

The award isn’t designed to pay for the completion of a degree. It’s meant to give faculty the opportunity to expand their horizons. “This award is open to faculty members who wish to enhance their time in the classroom.”

She offers some examples. “We’ve covered fees and travel costs for instructors to attend workshops. The award has paid for trips to Russia, Spain and Mexico and bought a piece of equipment that helped an instructor in the classroom,” she recalls. “The more imaginative the idea, the better,” says Mrs. Kepple.

Once Mrs. Kepple retired from teaching in 1999, she had time for involvement in community organizations. She accepted an invitation to serve on Forsyth Tech’s Board, since she is deeply invested in education. She now serves on the Foundation’s Board of Directors and the college’s Board of Trustees.

“We do so many good things at Forsyth Tech,” she observes. “We offer hope, pride, self-respect, the ability to get a better job, affordability, and diplomas and degrees for students who are sometimes the first in their family to attend college. I’m so enthusiastic about the college.” 



**05.07.15**

Gov. Pat McCrory is keynote speaker at Forsyth Tech’s 2015 commencement

**05.19.15**

New ultrasound needle training device, developed by Forsyth Tech students and Wake Forest Baptist Medical, is unveiled and demonstrated



**06.30.15**

US Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez and Rep. Virginia Foxx tour Northwest Forsyth Center’s Electrical Lineman training facility and participate in a roundtable discussion on Main Campus





Carrie Southern,  
Stokes Early College graduate

# PAYING IT FORWARD

Forsyth Tech educates a new generation of students, starting in high school, who will leave their mark on the community, making economic, social, political and environmental impacts on generations to come.

What if you'd gone to high school on a community college campus? What if you'd taken college courses for credit while earning your high school diploma and even graduated with an AA, AS or AAS degree? How might it have affected your future? Two graduates and a current student who chose one of Forsyth Tech's innovative high school pathway

*(continued next page)*



Tyler Duncan,  
Middle College graduate

options – Stokes Early College, Early College of Forsyth, and Forsyth Middle College – are in the process of finding out.

### **When Life Doesn't Follow a Straight Line**

Carrie Southern heard about the Stokes Early College program at her Walnut Cove middle school at age 13. Once she decided to attend and was accepted, the transition from middle school was a challenge.

From her first year on campus, in 9th grade, Carrie took college as well as high school courses. She had four to five hours of homework each night and on weekends. "The amount of work they gave students was intimidating, but it showed me I had the self-motivation to do it," she says.

Along with rigorous academics, a strong rapport existed between teachers and students. "The teachers gave us so much personal attention and the school was so small (40 students in her graduating class), I began to feel comfortable asking for help when I needed it."

Those relationships were a life preserver when Carrie found out she was pregnant her senior year. She thought her dream of becoming a lawyer was over. But the support, acceptance and encouragement of her teachers and fellow students buoyed her. Last June Carrie gave birth to a healthy little boy, then returned to school in August to complete her senior year.

On May 7, 2015, she received both a high school diploma and AA degree. But she also got a surprise: Governor Pat McCrory, the graduation speaker, announced that Carrie was getting the Stokes Early College High School Student Dean Award. Carrie sat in the audience, stunned. "It gave me hope. It made me feel good to know that teachers and staff members realized that with support, students can finish what they start, even when they have a rough time in their life." The single mom, now at Salem College majoring in Criminal Justice, believes she can make it through law school and have an impact on the community working as an attorney.

### **From Class Cut-up to Class Leader**

For Dylan Tally (class of '16), enrolling in Early College of Forsyth was like taking a crash course in behavior modification. To put it mildly, middle school was not a good time for Dylan. "I didn't have problems academically; I was in the honors class and I got As without having to try," he explains. But he also developed a habit of disrupting classes, clowning around, challenging teachers, and getting suspended. "In retrospect," he says, "I probably had too much free time."

Now he's too busy maintaining a high grade point average and serving as president of Forsyth Tech's Student Government Association to get in trouble. One of his many duties is to serve on Forsyth Tech's Board of Trustees, and he plans and organizes school activities.

What the future holds for this "turnaround kid" is still up in the air. He's leaning toward becoming an orthopedic surgeon or going into politics. In either case, the leadership skills he's developed at Early College of Forsyth will serve him, and the community, well.

### **Leading the Way**

In addition to the Early College programs, Forsyth Tech also offers a Middle College program that allows high school students to transfer in for their junior and senior years and take college credit courses while finishing high school. But for 20-year-old Tyler Duncan, now a senior at Voorhees College in South Carolina, entering Middle College had more to do with wanting academic stimulation.

"My previous high school was easy and not much of a challenge. So when I went to Middle College, I had to work harder. But I loved it," Tyler maintains.

The teaching style of Middle College is very different from that of Early College, however. It's essentially an individualized education plan. "Teachers give you a list of assignments you have to complete by the end of the semester," Tyler explains. "You meet one-on-one with the teacher to learn the fundamentals. Then you go back and do your assignment on your own."

Learning to study and think independently has helped Tyler succeed at Voorhees, where she was an ambassador to the White House for President Obama's Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Her role is to help advance his goal of ensuring that more African Americans complete college.

Now about to graduate from college herself, Tyler wants to earn a master's degree in zoology. She plans to work with wild animals, and may someday have an environmental impact in protecting endangered species.

### **Ranked Among the Best...Again**

In August, *Newsweek* named Early College of Forsyth one of the top high schools in the country in its 2015 High School Rankings. It ranked 103rd out of more than 16,000 high schools, placing it in the top .6 percent of all U.S. high schools. To celebrate, an event was held on Thursday, October 1st, at Dewitt E. Rhoades Conference Center on the Main Campus.

Early College of Forsyth opened in 2008 and graduated its first class in 2012. Early College of Forsyth and Stokes Early College students can earn both their high school degree and their Associate in Arts (AA), Associate in Science (AS) and/or Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in four years, tuition free.



Dylan Tally, Early College of Forsyth student and Student Government President



Our alumni are an important part of who we are – they are our ambassadors in business, public service, the sciences, healthcare, teaching and all the other professions we prepare students to enter. *The Alumni Oval* is a place to celebrate those alumni. Here you'll read profiles of past graduates, get a chance to find out what our alumni are up to and learn about local businesses our alumni have started.

## 1960s Alumni Notes

**Gary Alley, '68, AAS** in Business Administration, is a retired veteran after working in management his entire career.

**2010s David Purser, '10, AAS** in Biotechnology, is working as an Instrument Specialist at Carolina Liquid Chemistries, and was recently the lead engineer in charge of installation, training, and servicing the current family of CLC clinical analyzers.

**Ananda Bennett, '11, AAS** in Web Technology, is now a Web Design Intern at iCom Design in Greensboro.

**Alex Saddler, '11, Lineman Academy,** is now employed as a Class A lineman for Utility Lines Construction Services.

**Joanna Tesh, '11, AAS** in Horticulture Technology, is working as Manager at Reynolda Nursery & Landscaping Supplies. In 2015, she and her husband decided to build and co-own a new event center, Donnaha Valley Farm, with her son and his wife. The center promotes local beauty with stunning views of the Yadkin Valley River basin.

**Wesley Beauchamp, '14, AAS** in Horticulture Technology, is working as Assistant Grower at Metrolina Greenhouses, the nation's biggest greenhouse production center supplying all Wal-Mart, Lowe's and Sam's Club locations on the East Coast. He

currently takes care of 12 acres of growing space. In the past year, he helped to grow 500,000 mums, 350,000 calibrachoa, poinsettias and many other plants.

**Elizabeth Burton, '14, AAS** in Environmental Science, went to Salem College, where she graduated magna cum laude in May 2015 with a BA in Integrative Studies, Environmental Policy, Advocacy, and Water Resource Management. After campaigning for clean, drinkable water in the Dukeville, NC, area hurt by well contamination, she moved to Visalia, California, to work for Self-Help Enterprises as a Community Development Specialist, assisting residents with the ongoing drought.

**José Moctezuma, '14, Certificate** as Facility Maintenance Technician, is currently employed by the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem as a maintenance technician, but considers his greatest accomplishment as being father to his beloved son, Antonio Moctezuma-Garcia.

**Alan Shelton, '15, AAS** in Architecture Technology, is co-Founder/CEO of Winston-Salem MIXXER, Inc., a community makerspace set to open in 2016 in downtown Winston-Salem. MIXXER has recently received 501(c)(3) status from the IRS and is eligible to accept tax-deductible donations.

## What's Happening?

Would you like to tell everyone about a significant event or achievement in your life, such as getting a new job or promotion, getting married, receiving an honor or award, or earning a new degree?

If you have something you would like to share, please send the following information to [alumni@forsythtech.edu](mailto:alumni@forsythtech.edu)\*:

- > Your name
- > The year you graduated and your degree
- > The event or accomplishment you would like noted
- > Any other information you would like included in the listing

\*Submissions may be edited for brevity. Solicitations, advertisements or editorial statements will not be used.

Please help us spread the word about Alumni Notes by telling anyone you know who is a Forsyth Tech alumnus to submit his or her update today!

## Alumni Marketplace

Over the years, many of our alumni have started successful businesses here in the Piedmont Triad. In Alumni Marketplace, we give those alumni the opportunity to tell the world about those businesses. If you're an alumnus with a business you'd like to have listed here, please send the following information to [alumni@forsythtech.edu](mailto:alumni@forsythtech.edu):

- > Business name
- > Your name and year of graduation
- > Brief (30 words or less) description of the product or service your business provides
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**Acing The Undergrad**  
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Chantal Mullen, '12, AAS Horticulture Technology

**CULTIVATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE** Growing up in a small New Hampshire town, Chantal Mullen had one goal – to become an artist. But when she received early admittance to the Art Institute in Boston, she realized that her family could not afford the six-figure tuition. Suddenly, she was at a loss about what to do with her life.

She tried a number of things, but nothing stuck until she relocated to Winston-Salem, where she began asking herself, “What do I enjoy doing?” One of her fondest memories was planting a garden with green beans and other vegetables and watching them grow. “I was amazed that something so small could grow big and that you could eat it,” she says.

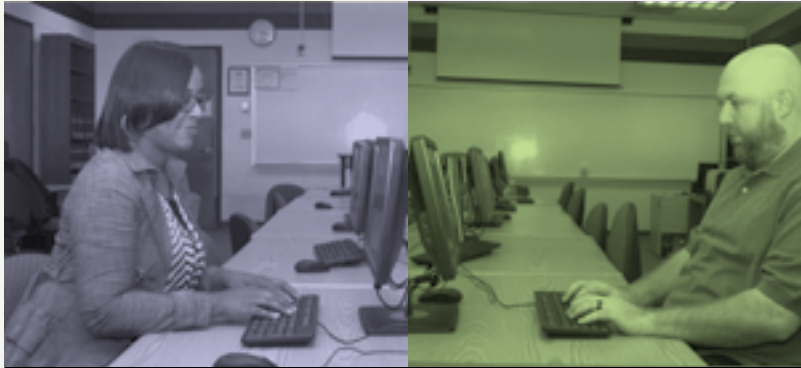
So she took a horticulture class at Forsyth Tech, then another, until she decided to pursue an AAS degree in Horticulture Technology. “Staff and faculty were extremely supportive, all the while pushing me to do better,” recalls Chantal. “Thanks to them, I was able to gain a strong foundation in horticulture that better prepared me for jobs and allowed me to build upon that knowledge as I continued my education.”

After graduating, she transferred to North Carolina A&T State University to pursue a BS in Agricultural Education. “You have to understand the history of agriculture and food systems to avoid repeating past mistakes,” she maintains.

Once she'd completed her degree, she moved to Roanoke, Virginia. There, she created an organization called SEED2SEED, teaching local residents to practice Back to Eating gardening, a form of sustainable gardening that requires no watering and very little weeding. “We use a covering of wood chips and fertilize with horse manure. We don't use chemicals or pesticides, and we disturb the soil as little as possible.”

A recent three-week immersive trip to Vermont introduced her to dairy farming and how farmers turn a commodity like milk into a value-added product, such as cheese or ice cream, to make a better living. She also admired the collaboration among Vermonters.

Now in Kernersville, where she and her husband, a woodworker and blacksmith, have settled, Chantal is pursuing a distance learning master's program to earn a Master's in Sustainable Food Systems from Green Mountain College in Vermont. “I looked at other institutions, but I didn't want to end up in a lab practicing crop science,” she explains. “God has directed me to where I am now and will continue to lay my path ahead of me. Whatever I do, I want to connect with the public and be at the crossroads between food policy and agricultural production.”



Calissa Hooper (left) and Stacy Bradley, '15, AAS Global Logistics Technology

**OVERCOMING OBSTACLES, ONE STUDENT AT A TIME** Global Logistics students Calissa Hooper and Stacy Bradley were *this* close to graduating. They both needed one final course, Math 110, to earn their degree. When Demetria Ledbetter, program coordinator, Global Logistics, Business Administration - Logistics Management, Import/Export Compliance, noticed that months had gone by and neither had taken the class, she contacted them to find out why.

Calissa, who works full time as a supervisor of three McDonald's restaurants, explained her situation: "I work during the day. I'm a single mom. I have five girls; my eldest is 24 and the youngest are 9 and 11. I'm trying to balance mommy duties with the job, finishing my degree and managing everything else," she told Demetria. "It's hectic, but also a blessing, because my older girls help with the younger ones. But I can't sit in a face-to-face class two nights a week. I need something online."

Stacy's personal situation was also the reason he hadn't yet graduated. "I work for a third-party logistics company as an account manager. My schedule can be unpredictable," he told Demetria. For the father of three who works in Winston-Salem and lives in Mocksville, taking an evening class was out of the realm of possibility. "With my job, commuting, the kids and the ministry work I do, I couldn't take a class two evenings a week," he recalls.

Were it not for Demetria, this might have been an "oh well, that's too bad" moment. But in addition to being a passionate advocate for her students, she also grew up watching her mom, a single parent, earn her degree. "I remember my mother going to Forsyth Tech; if it hadn't been for the instructors and the other people who helped her through it, she wouldn't have graduated," she says.

On behalf of her students, Demetria went into action, contacting Dr. Sharilyn Owens, Mathematics Department chair, Associate in Engineering program coordinator and Faculty Learning Communities facilitator. Sharilyn was not only receptive to the idea of creating the online math course, she made it a priority. Within two months, Mathematics Instructor Ruby Johnson had put together the course and posted it online. Needless to say, Calissa and Stacy both aced the class, and in July 2015, they graduated with an AAS degree in Global Logistics Technology.

"When the college created the course, it felt like I wasn't in this alone. Somebody cared," says Calissa. Stacy expresses his gratitude for Demetria. "She made sure I could graduate. That's not something you expect at a big institution, that level of flexibility and caring."

## Alumni Marketplace

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The Foundation of Forsyth Tech offers alumni, friends, corporations and others a way to show their support for the work we do through financial and other types of gifts. *Our Foundation* is a place where we can recognize our supporters.

## Teaching Teachers

Mary Tucker doesn't remember exactly when her passion for Forsyth Tech was first kindled, but as a one-time teacher of middle school science and the daughter of a mother who taught language, she has always believed in the power of education to change lives. From her first association with Forsyth Tech, she was inspired by how dedicated the college's instructors were to helping their students learn. To show her support, she started donating to the college, earmarking funds to areas where the need was greatest. Her generosity has helped create a language lab in her mother's memory and provided support to the welding and interior design programs.

"If I'm shown where a need is, that's where I go," she says.

She has also endowed the Montgomery Tucker Faculty Professional Development Fund, which awards grants to faculty for professional development.

### Listening to Understand

On an idyllic Indian summer afternoon in October, Mrs. Tucker is sitting in Forsyth Tech's Board Room on Main Campus with three faculty members. These instructors received \$1,000 each from the Montgomery Tucker endowment to participate in innovative professional development programs this past summer. Each expresses gratitude to Mrs. Tucker, assuring her they wouldn't have been able to attend the trainings were it not for her support. An informal but animated conversation ensues, with the instructors sharing the outcomes of their summer courses. Mrs. Tucker listens intently.

Amy Davis-Moore, program coordinator for Broadcasting & Production Technology, describes the online version of her Introduction to Broadcasting course, which she developed and piloted this fall, in order to expand options to students who are juggling home, school and work schedules.

Science Skills Lab Instructor Tatjana Jovanovic-Grove, originally from Serbia, explains how she enhanced her effectiveness as an online instructor and developed engaging pre-lab activities for students.

Respiratory Therapy clinical education coordinator Cynthia Wiggins says she learned how to incorporate inventive instructional technology and teaching strategies into an online environment in order to redesign a class.



"If I'm shown where a need is, that's where I go."

~ Mrs. Mary Tucker  
Long-time Forsyth Tech Supporter

Mary Tucker (center) meets with faculty members to discuss her support of their professional development.

All three demonstrate how they have already put into practice what they learned.

### Making a Difference

Mrs. Tucker quietly absorbs the conversation, impressed by what she's learned from the instructors. As her meeting with the grant recipients winds down, Mrs. Tucker becomes reflective.

"Science and technology are developing so fast, faculty must constantly update their skills," she observes after hearing firsthand how her support is making a difference.

"This conversation has been so interesting. It reinforces the good feelings I've always had about the school. I am more enthusiastic than ever about Forsyth Tech."

On this October day, Mrs. Tucker is clearly gratified to see how she is helping Forsyth Tech faculty incorporate leading-edge teaching practices into their courses in order to improve student learning and success.

## Make A Real Difference ~ Give To Forsyth Tech

Education changes lives, and your gift to Forsyth Tech can help provide an opportunity for deserving students to receive an education that would otherwise be out of reach. Tuition costs continue to rise, and even the smallest gift helps. Your gift helps pay for:

- > Scholarships for deserving students
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Give online at [Foundation.ForsythTech.edu](http://Foundation.ForsythTech.edu) or send a check, payable to **Forsyth Tech Foundation**, to 2100 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem, NC 27103-5197.

To have an even bigger impact, establish a scholarship in your or your company's name, or honor someone who has touched your life in a profound way. To learn about other giving opportunities, call Mamie Sutphin, executive director of the Foundation, at 336.734.7520 or email her at [msutphin@forsythtech.edu](mailto:msutphin@forsythtech.edu).

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Susan Cameron  
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Campaign Co-Chair

## Building Capital Partnerships

Building hope, opening doors, changing lives...that's Forsyth Tech's mission. To produce the highly skilled employees the market demands, however, requires financial support above and beyond the support we receive through the state and county.

Forsyth Tech is in the early stages of launching a new capital campaign, Pathways to Possibilities, a fundraising effort focused on updating technology and equipment and providing student support. We will be sharing more about this campaign in the coming months, but, for now, we are excited and honored to introduce three pillars of leadership in our community and champions of Forsyth Tech who have agreed to guide this campaign.

Susan Cameron, president and CEO of Reynolds American Inc., will serve as honorary chair. She believes in the college's training programs and believes an investment in Forsyth Tech is an investment in our community.

Ed Welch, president of I. L. Long Construction and current Forsyth Tech Board of Trustees and Foundation Board member, and Heather Robinson, regional operations manager for Caterpillar in Winston-Salem and current Forsyth Tech Foundation Board member, have agreed to co-chair the campaign.

Ed brings a wealth of experience to this role. He is the immediate past chair of the Board of Trustees and will contribute insights and knowledge gained as co-chair of the college's last capital campaign.

Heather's strategic thinking, experience in workforce readiness initiatives and passion for the relationship Caterpillar and Forsyth Tech have forged since day one will be a major asset to the campaign.

Ed and Heather are currently helping the college define its value story and determine what investments are needed long term to ensure that the infrastructure is in place to support workforce innovation and student success.

"Forsyth Tech is an integral part of our community. This is not just a capital campaign to raise money but an opportunity to build capital partnerships," says Ed.

"Businesses want to invest in organizations that can help ensure their future," adds Heather. "That's why it's important for us to demonstrate how Forsyth Tech can do just that."



# The 2014-2015 Annual Campaign: Our Donors

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