

# ForsythTech

FALL/WINTER 2018

*magazine*



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**A BRIGHT  
FUTURE**

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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.

## Dr. Janet N. Spriggs

**FORSYTH TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE** has proudly served the citizens of Forsyth and Stokes Counties for almost 60 years. Being named the seventh President of Forsyth Tech on October 19, 2018 was one of those truly once-in-a-lifetime moments and the professional opportunity of a lifetime.

My predecessor, Dr. Gary Green, led Forsyth Tech for 17 of those years. Under Dr. Green's leadership, the College participated in the renewal and new development of our communities by adapting our programs to meet the needs of our region. We introduced new programs in advanced manufacturing, health technologies, cybersecurity and automotive systems to respond to the changing workforce needs.

Today, our largest employers are medical facilities, and we are among the largest provider of health education programs in the state. We offer 17 health programs and by partnering with clinical and community agencies, we prepare a qualified health care workforce. Our biotechnology program is the national leader among community colleges and our nanotechnology and health information technology programs create new career pathways for graduates and support economic growth.

Forsyth Tech's information technology programs prepare graduates for careers in programming, web development, data management, networking, and cybersecurity. We are a Department of Homeland Security/National Security Administration recognized Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education.

Our transportation technologies graduates build careers in automotive and diesel technologies and we were the first community college in the Carolinas, (1 of only 40 US certified centers), to receive Toyota T-TEN Certification for Automotive Systems Technology.

At Forsyth Tech, we are proud of the success of our transfer students who earn higher GPAs at UNC institutions than the students who started college at the university.

A lot has changed over the years, but one thing has remained constant: our dedication to serving our students, communities, and businesses. We are committed to empowering our students to dream and helping them reach their dreams. We align our degree, diploma, certificate, and workforce programs with the needs of our regional job market. We are catalysts for workforce development and leaders in advancing equity and opportunities for increased social mobility.

I believe community colleges are in the business of creating opportunity and hope. As we look towards the future, we anticipate a world of advanced technologies like artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, robots, regenerative medicine, quantum computing, and other technologies that have not even been imagined yet. We will continue to build upon our solid foundation and our rich history of being a valued and critical partner in the renewal and new development of our communities and we will continue to create new programs and adapt existing programs to meet the needs of our communities and the Piedmont Triad region.

Our rich past has given us the foundation from which we can build a very bright future. A future where every student has the opportunity to create a pathway to their dreams.

### COVER PHOTO:

*Forsyth Tech students Laura Rumpfelt and Britnee Tellez talking with the new President of Forsyth Tech, Dr. Janet N. Spriggs.*





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## GRADUATION 2018

Learn more about our recent graduates

### 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).**

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 Coordinator Sarah Hawks, 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.



# TECH JOURNAL

HERE'S THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT OUR  
**ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS, EVENTS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS!**



John Belk and Sam McCart, Forsyth Tech alumni and husband and wife, both completed the welding program and got jobs at Deere-Hitachi.



# INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

## EdNC, Belk Endowment Visit Campus

**WITH AN INVESTMENT** from the John M. Belk Foundation, EducationNC (EdNC) is taking an in-depth look at how they can support community college development in the state.

Both organizations are dedicated to the betterment of North Carolina education, as well as students' access to meaningful employment. In an effort to understand the integral role of community colleges, EdNC and the John M. Belk Foundation are touring campuses across the state.

"In partnership with EdNC, we have embarked on a community college listening tour to visit each campus, meet with leaders and students, and better understand the role that community colleges are playing across North Carolina," said M.C. Belk Pilon, chairman of the Belk Endowment.

Pilon, along with EdNC Chief Growth Officer Nation Hahn, toured Forsyth Tech on July 18, 2018, meeting with various departments and their staff members. The group met with faculty members and students, including Sam McCart and John Belk, a married couple who both attended Forsyth Tech to pursue careers in welding. (Read more about the couple's life-altering career changes in the story to the right.)

As part of their ongoing investigation of community colleges, EdNC embarked on Awake 58—a week in which the staff visited all 58 community colleges in the state. One of the visitors was Yasmin Bendaas, EdNC science writer and community engagement specialist. Bendaas visited Forsyth Tech on August 31, 2018 and learned about a variety of programs, from cybersecurity to nursing, broadcast, digital effects and animation, and automotive systems. She also interviewed Dr. Gary Green and Dr. Joel Welch, president and vice president of instructional services, about how Forsyth Tech is committed to individual students, their course completion, and future success.

Visitors have been pleased with what they've witnessed and learned at community colleges like Forsyth Tech, including Pilon. "We are continually impressed by the diverse role each institution is playing in serving their local community," Bendaas said. Both EdNC and the Belk Endowment continue to help colleges like Forsyth Tech improve post-secondary education, which strengthens the workforce and, in turn, attracts and creates more jobs in the state. These partnerships are a win-win for everyone involved.



McCart and Belk laughing with Dr. Green during the EdNC/Belk Endowment Tour.

## Welding Together

### Couple Embarks on New Career

After nine years of working a minimum-wage, fast food job, Sam McCart was looking for a new career.

McCart tried her hand at welding and discovered she had a natural talent. Self-taught in the basics, she knew she needed to learn the science and art of welding if she wanted to make it her career. She returned to school at Forsyth Tech and met Dr. Jackie Woods, the department chair of welding technology.

"This is the joy of teaching," Dr. Woods said in regards to McCart and her husband, John Belk, who soon followed in his wife's footsteps. "We all have to make a final assessment in life, and I think when we make that assessment, the question is, 'Did I make life better for someone?'"

McCart earned her Associate in Applied Science in Welding Technologies in May 2018. She now works as a welding technician at Deere-Hitachi. Her new job allowed husband Belk—who was also hired by Deere-Hitachi—to attend Forsyth Tech to become a certified welding inspector.

Belk expressed gratitude for the connections and experience he and his wife gained during their time at Forsyth Tech.

"I truly felt lucky having met a staff of experienced educators in a program that went from explaining the basics to helping us compete in the job field and succeed," Belk said.

The couple's new jobs have helped them enjoy more security and no longer live from paycheck to paycheck.

"It's like we're real adults now," McCart said. Laughing, Belk responded, "It's only taken us 30 years."

**“ I TRULY FELT LUCKY HAVING MET A STAFF OF EXPERIENCED EDUCATORS IN A PROGRAM THAT WENT FROM EXPLAINING THE BASICS TO HELPING US COMPETE IN THE JOB FIELD AND SUCCEED. ”**

**John Belk**  
Forsyth Tech Welding Student





Signing the UNCG and Forsyth Tech co-admission agreement are Dr. Joel Welch, vice president of instructional services, Forsyth Tech; Dr. Gary Green, president of Forsyth Tech; and Dr. Dana Dunn, provost and senior vice chancellor, UNCG.

“ HAVING THIS STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WILL OFFER TREMENDOUS BENEFITS TO OUR STUDENTS AND TO THE COMMUNITY. ”

Gary Green  
President of Forsyth Tech

# NEW UNCG CO-ADMISSION PROGRAM

## Fosters Student Success

ON JULY 24, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) announced a new co-admission agreement with Forsyth Tech. This partnership aims to help students succeed by improving access to undergraduate educational resources, university facilities, and support systems.

“We’re excited to collaborate with UNCG through the ‘Spartan Passage’ partnership,” said Gary Green, president of Forsyth Tech. “Having this strategic alliance will offer tremendous benefits to our students and to the community in demonstrating how higher education works together to improve student completion and success.”

The UNCG-Forsyth Tech “Spartan Passage” partnership allows transfer students to access and complete their baccalaureate degrees in nearly 60 popular majors, including business administration, biology, psychology,

and computer science. On-site admissions and advising address each student’s academic, career, and financial needs while easing the transition between both institutions.

The application process for “Spartan Passage” includes a waived application fee for UNCG; access to campus facilities, events, activities, and services, including the UNCG University Library (in-house and online); the new Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Health and Wellness; academic advising; and financial aid, among other benefits.

Forsyth Tech has similar co-admissions agreements with Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, North Carolina, Bellevue University in Bellevue, Nebraska, and N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University.



Perry Roberts, Derek Abendroth and Jacob Wageman graduated from the 40th class of electrical linemen.

# GOOD ENERGY:

## Congrats to the 40th Class of Line Workers

THE NEXT TIME you see linemen restoring power after a storm, they just might be graduates of the Electrical Lineman program at Forsyth Technical Community College.

This past August, Forsyth Tech congratulated the 40th class to graduate from the nine-week electrical lineman program at the Northwest Forsyth Center in King. The program was a success; all 22 students enrolled in the program graduated and received job offers.

Guest speaker David Fountain, Duke Energy’s North Carolina former president, encouraged the graduates as they prepared to begin their exciting new careers.

“We rely on the skills and expertise of line workers to power our daily lives and depend on this vital role in maintaining and growing the state’s energy infrastructure,” Fountain said. “We’re proud to support Forsyth Tech’s program to train the next generation of line workers.”

Since 2010, Forsyth Tech has trained nearly 400 workers in the nine-week program. The college was one of the first to start the electrical lineman program and is currently the only nationally certified line worker class in the state.

“ WE RELY ON THE SKILLS AND EXPERTISE OF LINE WORKERS TO POWER OUR DAILY LIVES. ”

David Fountain  
Former President of Duke Energy NC



# BIG BROTHER OF THE YEAR

## Makes a Big Difference

**HAVING A MENTOR** can make a huge impact in the life of a child, giving them confidence to reach their potential and shape a positive future.

That's what Jolen says about his mentor, Murray Miller. The two were matched by Big Brothers Big Sisters in Winston-Salem six years ago.

"After I met Mr. Miller, I wanted to be like him," Jolen said. "I was excited when they told me that I was matched with a Big Brother. I was even more excited when I discovered the type of person he was."

This year, Miller was selected as Big Brother of the Year and was introduced by his once-reserved little brother, Jolen, who is now 15 and a high school football player. Each year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America selects one Big Brother and one Big Sister out of thousands of volunteers and recognizes them at their National Conference.

Miller, a part-time adjunct instructor in math in the basic skills program at Forsyth Tech and the branch manager at Winston-Salem Federal Credit Union, says the role he values most is being a big brother to Jolen. At the same time, Jolen looks up to Miller and is grateful for their relationship.

The two have also developed shared interests, from watching football to visiting art museums and talking about history. Sometimes Jolen's mom drops him off at Miller's office at the end of the day on Fridays, so Jolen can see how Miller works.

When they spend time together, Jolen and Miller talk about everything from sports to more serious topics, like challenging obstacles and important life decisions.

"We enjoy talking with each other, and every conversation is open and on the table—whether we talk about sports, school, or life," Miller said. "When it's time for a serious talk, we sometimes take a short hike up Pilot Mountain. I even told him about some of my childhood mistakes, and that made it easy to talk with him about what he's going to face in school and in life."

Miller can tell that Jolen is optimistic about what lies ahead and is grateful for the opportunity he has had to make a difference in his life.

"It's an honor to impact this young man," Miller said. "He is full of hope for the future."

Little Brother Jolen and Big Brother Murray Miller at Wake Forest University's BB&T Field. The two enjoy watching football together.



“ SOME OF THE FRIENDSHIPS I HAVE MADE WHILE BEING INVOLVED WITH THE SGA I KNOW WILL LAST FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. ”

**Mallory Calfee**  
SGA President 2018-2019

## IT'S A WIN-WIN:

### Student Government Association Enriches Students and Campus Life

Student Government Associations for both Forsyth Tech and Forsyth Tech Stokes County Center offer events and celebrations throughout the year for students to meet others and have fun! Both associations also teach leadership, teamwork, and organizational skills.



Students at the Chinese Moon Festival sponsored by SGA, where snacks and origami lessons were offered.



## Forsyth County SGA

*By Ajah Harold, a Forsyth Tech Fine Arts student scheduled to graduate in May 2019*

The Student Government Association (SGA) at Forsyth Tech represents the student body, and all members have a say in student-related activities. They help plan events and workshops, attend conferences and seminars, work on student publications, and gain leadership experience—all while helping to bring campus life to a community college.

Special events, such as the Fall Festival, Constitution Day, Spring Fling, Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, and blood drives are all sponsored by the SGA. And the members themselves benefit, too.

“Personally, it has helped me grow more confident in my ability to lead a team and gets me prepared for what situations I could be placed in after graduation,” said Mallory Calfee, SGA president 2018-2019. “Furthermore, the leadership workshops and conferences have given me skills that will put me one step ahead when I go into the workforce.”

Calfee said she’s also made lasting friendships since joining the SGA.

“Some of the friendships I have made while being involved with the SGA I know will last for many years to come,” Calfee said. “Deciding to join the Student Government Association at Forsyth Tech is one of the best decisions I have made during my time here.”

## Stokes County SGA

Each of the eight Forsyth Tech satellite campuses has their own distinct features. One of them—the Forsyth Tech Stokes County Center—has its own Student Government Association (SGA) and is the only other campus besides the main campus to offer the organization.

Through the SGA, students develop critical leadership skills by learning everything from parliamentary procedures to public speaking skills. The SGA equips them with the tools they need to lead confidently, communicate effectively, and serve the community.

Jack Johnson and Spencer Edwards, both juniors in the Early College program, are co-leads of the Stokes SGA. Johnson is the Stokes Center representative on the Forsyth Tech SGA and is also running for the state community college SGA board.

Both Johnson and Edwards are grateful for the opportunities they’ve been given through their involvement with the SGA.

“Working with the SGA is rewarding for me to learn leadership skills and to do my part in bringing students and faculty together,” Johnson said. “It’s a great outlet to get involved with other students and build student morale.”

Edwards has been involved with the SGA for two years. His involvement has allowed him to take the lead in meetings and events and gain insight through valuable experiences he may not have had otherwise, including working with other students to plan and execute events like Fall Fest.



Stokes SGA members helping a student register to vote.

“I’ve been exposed to opportunities that I don’t believe I would have been able to receive otherwise, such as conducting business meetings, and other various tasks,” Edwards said. “I was tasked with coordinating with the high school for [Fall Fest], which really helped me work on my communication skills.”

Satellite campuses like the Stokes County Center are small enough to foster relationships between instructors, students, and their families, and ultimately serve the Stokes County community as a whole.

“Being part of the Stokes community, we are small enough to know the students’ families, and they know the instructors,” said Sally Elliott, director of operations at the Forsyth Tech Stokes County Center. “As faculty and staff, we’re here to serve students. And in doing so, we serve the whole community.”





Pictured are students and alumni of the Toyota T-ten program. Front row: Rijeji Vines (student), Jacob Holton (alumni). Back row: Cory Manual (alumni), U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx, U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, and Doug Schimmeck (student).

## TOYOTA T-TEN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM PRAISED

**ON MAY 31**, U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta and U.S. Representative Virginia Foxx visited Forsyth Tech to learn more about the Toyota Technician Training and Education Network (T-TEN) program at the Transportation Technology Center.

Representatives from Toyota and Forsyth Tech leaders discussed the partnership, which lets students graduate in two years with Toyota and Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) industry certifications along with job placement opportunities.

“We are pleased that U.S. Secretary Alexander Acosta and U.S. Representative Virginia Foxx are placing emphasis on public and private partnerships,” said Rose H. Bauss, general manager of service support for Toyota Motor North America. “We hope our partnership will serve as a model for industry.”

Toyota T-TEN Program Coordinator David Allgood provided a tour of the Transportation Technology Center. Allgood also introduced current students, and graduates of the Automotive Systems Technology program who now work at Toyota and Lexus dealerships.

Acosta and Foxx commended the students and graduates for their commitment to education, and their decision to employ their skills and talents in a rewarding career.

“Students here develop in-demand skills and earn certification through classroom education and paid internships that prepare them for good, family-sustaining jobs,” Acosta said.

Forsyth Tech is the only college in the Carolinas and one of only 36 centers across the United States to receive Toyota T-TEN Certification for its Automotive Systems Technology program. With 68 Toyota and Lexus dealers supporting the Toyota T-TEN in North and South Carolina, Forsyth Tech has placed 165 students in Toyota and Lexus dealerships over the past five years.

“STUDENTS HERE DEVELOP IN-DEMAND SKILLS AND EARN CERTIFICATION.”

Alexander Acosta  
U.S. Secretary of Labor



Students working in the Toyota T-Ten program at the Transportation Technology Center.



# TREEHOUSE OF DREAMS:

## Amos Cottage's New Addition



Phil McKinney, vice president, Venture Construction and Forsyth Tech Architecture alumus; Debra Allred, Amos Cottage staff psychologist; M. Todd Shoaf, Forsyth Tech Architecture program coordinator; Rachael Due, Furnitureland South/and Forsyth Tech Interior Design graduate; Daniel Turick, Walter Robbs Architecture and Forsyth Tech Architecture graduate and Mary Dame, Program director of the therapeutic day program at Amos Cottage.

**IMAGINE** designing a treehouse that would shape the future for children and bring the community together for a good cause. That's what Forsyth Tech Architecture students Daniel Turick and Rachael Due began in the summer of 2017.

Architecture Program Coordinator Todd Shoaf asked Turick and Due to work on the treehouse after Phil McKinney, Forsyth Tech alumnus and vice president of Venture Construction, approached him about the opportunity.

Their treehouse is not only fun to explore—it's also designed to encourage therapeutic play, specifically for children at Amos Cottage who are being treated for behavioral or emotional disorders. Amos Cottage, an affiliate of Wake Forest Baptist Health Brenner Children's Hospital, offers a day program for children ages three to seven and an outpatient program for students up to age 12.

When it came to the design work, there was a learning curve for Turick and Due, but their hard work paid off.

"They had to 'learn while designing' to understand the therapeutic benefits of play," Shoaf said. "They had to design the treehouse to meet safety codes and not damage the tree structure, while also applying therapeutic challenges for the students. Their design was phenomenal."

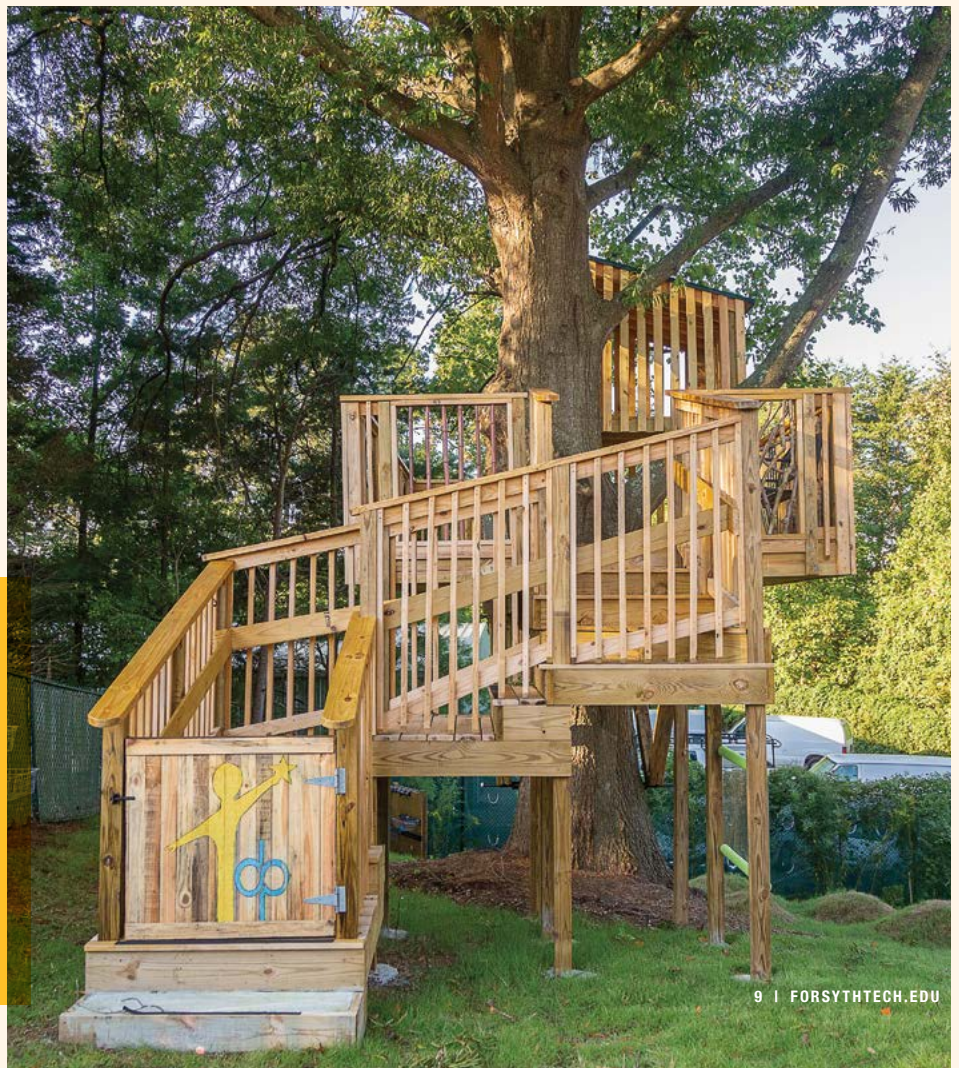
It's clear that Turick and Due's treehouse project inspired numerous people, from those directly involved in the project to people who heard about it locally. McKinney dedicated much of his time to the project and was also encouraged by volunteer efforts from locals who wanted to help.

"The only thing we contracted was the initial structure of the treehouse," McKinney said.

"Whoever we asked wanted to help. It gave me a whole new perspective and faith in our society and in human kindness."

Debra Allred, Amos Cottage staff psychologist, was equally impressed with locals' interest.

"We couldn't imagine that this sort of project could be done," Allred said. "Every step of the way, people in the community said, 'Let us help you!' So we let them—and they did."





# MAZIE S. WOODRUFF'S LEGACY TAKES FLIGHT

**IN CELEBRATION** of the 20th anniversary of the Mazie S. Woodruff Center on September 20, 2018, Forsyth Tech announced the Woodruff Center will be home to its new aviation program scheduled to open in late 2019. Woodruff's family members expressed their excitement and gratitude—sentiments shared by the community at large.

“On behalf of my family, we thank you for continuing to keep her legacy alive,” said Michelle Woodruff, Mazie Woodruff's granddaughter. “My grandmother valued education and spoke for those who could not speak for themselves. She was a beacon of light in the community.”

In 1976, Mazie Woodruff was the first African-American to be elected to the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners and was known as an advocate for the black community.

Keynote speaker and Forsyth County Commissioner Fleming El-Amin described Mazie Woodruff as, “a true public servant and an advocate for education. She was a stateswoman who influenced the lives of thousands in the community.”



Forsyth County Commissioner Fleming El-Amin shared personal, often humorous, stories of Mazie S. Woodruff, his friend and mentor.

The celebration was a true community event honoring the legacy of one of the city's most well-known public figures. Following the presentation, the Carver High School band and drill team performed for the guests. Local agencies and vendors set up tables outside the center, and the Forsyth Tech Grill served a free lunch to all guests. Forsyth Tech Student Life and Engagement provided snow cones and popcorn for the festivities, and student ambassadors greeted the guests and provided tours of the center.

By housing the aviation program at the Mazie S. Woodruff Center and at Smith Reynolds Airport, Forsyth Tech will continue to carry out her legacy for years to come.

**“ ... A TRUE PUBLIC SERVANT AND AN ADVOCATE FOR EDUCATION. SHE WAS A STATESWOMAN WHO INFLUENCED THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS IN THE COMMUNITY. ”**

**Fleming El-Amin  
Forsyth County Commissioner**

## SECURING THE FUTURE

### Students Receive Cybersecurity Scholarships

**EVEN THOUGH** they started on different career tracks, four students at Forsyth Tech discovered a new passion for cybersecurity and were awarded Federal CyberCorps Scholarships for Service Grants in 2018.

Dillon Lewis, Jovan Morgan, Chris Perris, and Sam Wilson will each receive a total of \$61,000 for three years— one year at Forsyth Tech and two years to complete their bachelor's degrees at either North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University or the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

“These scholarships are a terrific way for students to complete their cybersecurity program and be assured a great job,” said Dr. Deanne Wesley, associate dean of the Davis iTEC and Cyber Security Center at Forsyth Tech. “Cybersecurity is an in-demand field with guaranteed jobs.”

Throughout the year, especially during October (National Cybersecurity Awareness month), the four students have been engaged in activities promoting cybersecurity. As members of the CyberGeeks Club, they contributed to the cybersecurity virtual career fair. They also taught West Stokes County middle school students coding and hacking, demonstrated cybersecurity basics to the elementary students at Meadowlark Elementary, and participated in the Cybersecurity Symposium held at Forsyth Tech for several local high schools.

The program offers numerous resources for students, including an annual job fair, a week-long summer training program, and internship opportunities. In return for their scholarship, the students will commit to working for a government agency for three years upon graduation.



“ THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I LEARNED IS THAT EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE. ”

Ming-Yen Ho  
Owner of Who Is It Costume



Launch Challenge finalists were all smiles following their presentations. Clockwise from left are: Vatashea Flournoy, Curtis Harrington, Ron Neal, Ming-Yen Ho, Margaret Morris, and Wanda Bullock.

## LAUNCHED INTO SUCCESS:

### Meet the Winners of the Small Business Challenge

**WHEN YOU'RE TRYING** to start a business, it's always important to have support along the way. That's where resources like Forsyth Tech's Small Business Center come in.

Located at Innovation Quarter, the Small Business Center helps entrepreneurs receive assistance with classes, seminars, and mentors. Since 2017, they've offered a special program called the Small Business Launch Challenge that awards Forsyth Tech alumni, students, and Small Business Center clients with funding for business start-ups. This program is instrumental in helping entrepreneurs establish themselves as they pursue their business goals.

First, participants must register in the program. If selected, they're able to take part in educational events, weekly group meetings, and one-one-one consultations with business mentors for approximately five months.

The finalists of the second Launch Challenge session announced in May, 2018 were: Wanda Bullock, owner of Math Slayers; Vatashea Flournoy, owner of Her Perfections Beauty Studio; Ming-Yen Ho, owner of Who Is It Costume; Curtis Harrington, owner of Families Athletically Striving Together (FAST); Margaret Morris, owner of Triad Speech Consultants; and Ron Neal, owner of Advanced Alternatives, LLC.

All finalists won a share of \$50,000 from the Forsyth Tech Foundation.

"The challenge helped me solidify myself as an entrepreneur and become an official LLC," Harrison said. "The resources are extremely effective to produce growth and success for you in whatever venture you aspire to start, all for free!"

Like Harrington, Morris was also grateful for the Small Business Center and said that, when starting a business, support is key.

"Everyone needs continuing encouragement and new ideas," she said. "There's always one more thing to learn."

The panel of judges—including business mentors from the challenge and Forsyth Tech faculty members—selected winners based on their presentation, the potential success of their business start-up, and the work they had completed throughout the program.

The Launch Challenge is the result of a collaborative effort among six Winston-Salem-based colleges and universities called the Emerging Entrepreneur Funds, including Piedmont International University, Salem College, UNC School of the Arts, Wake Forest University, and Winston-Salem State University.

At Forsyth Tech, the Launch Challenge fosters business start-ups in Forsyth and Stokes Counties. The award pool is \$100,000 per year for three years through 2020, and the award amount is based on successful completion of the challenge. The next session for competitors will run through May 2019.

Scholarship for Service winners for 2018 are (from left) Sam Wilson, Jovan Morgan, Chris Perris, and Dillon Lewis.







## STUDY AWAY: Broaden Your Horizons

Students and advisors enjoying the beautiful hillsides and coasts of Ireland.

While study abroad programs offer the experience of studying in another country, Forsyth Tech established the Study Away program to offer students opportunities to travel and learn in the United States, as well as abroad. These trips can expand students' perspectives while providing life-changing experiences.

Students experienced a trip to Ireland and Argentina in 2018; and in 2019, trips to the same countries will be offered.

### Ireland

Last May, two leaders, five adult students, and 12 Forsyth Tech students traveled to Ireland to study social justice and equality.

The class spent most of their time in the town of Bonduran and the surrounding area in County Donegal with trips to Sligo, Ballyshannon, Donegal Castle, Sliabh Liag Cliffs, and Trinity College in Dublin. Dr. Niamh Hamill led morning lectures that corresponded with the day's activities and participants stepped out of their comfort zones and climbed walls, surfed in the Atlantic, and played Gaelic sports. However, the most impactful moments of the trip occurred at the Free Derry Museum in Derry City, Northern Ireland. There, the story of Bloody Sunday, an incident where 28 unarmed citizens were shot during a peaceful protest, was shared through artifacts, newsreels, and articles.

Gabrielle Johnson, Forsyth Tech student, wrote about her experience, "Therefore, keep an open mind and step out of your comfort zone. Absorb the kindness that exists in humanity and bring it home to give back. You will never regret the time you have spent and will forever have the memories of the country and its people."

The 2019 Ireland Study Away trip will focus on Global Health, and is open to students, faculty, staff, or community members. If you are interested, contact Laura Brannon at [lbrannon@forsythtech.edu](mailto:lbrannon@forsythtech.edu).

### Argentina

Eight students from Davidson County Community College, Guilford Technical Community College, and Forsyth Tech traveled to Villa Maria, in the Cordoba province of Argentina last June through a partnership grant from the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund.

Part of being prepared for the global economy is being an informed and engaged global citizen.

Study Away can be a vehicle for global competence, as students experienced the Argentine people and culture first-hand. Not only did students experience the beauty of Villa Maria, but they also traveled to the global city of Buenos Aires and even spent a day in Uruguay.

"Our trip to Argentina was my first time out of the U.S. and I am glad it was," said student Malia Valentine who took the trip. "I learned a lot about myself and got to connect with my group members as well as other international students from different countries. I left more educated about Argentine history, politics, and culture, which made me fall in love with the country. It also lit a strong desire to continue to learn about myself and others through traveling. I'll never forget this trip!"

The 2019 program will focus on sustainability and the environment, and they hope to add additional site visits, such as a farm that acts as a non-traditional high school. Students interested in Study Away programs should contact Laura Hortal, Chair of the Study Away Committee, for the latest information on upcoming trips at [lhortal@forsythtech.edu](mailto:lhortal@forsythtech.edu).





# FEATURE STORY



## A REMARKABLE PAST, **A BRIGHT FUTURE**

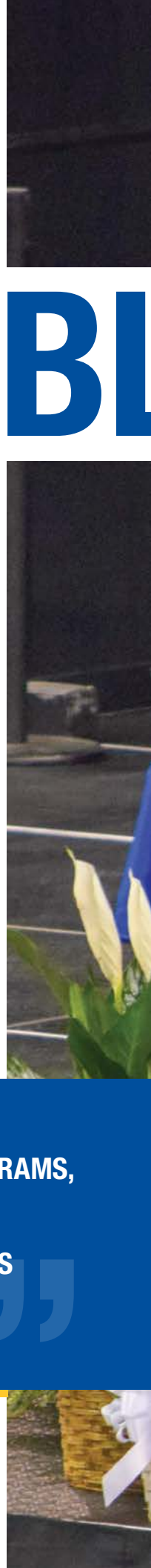
Forsyth Tech has grown tremendously under Dr. Green's leadership having a positive impact on the lives of countless individuals and the community. His legacy will continue for years to come.



# A REMARKABLE PAST, A BRIGHT FUTURE.



**WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO CONTINUE TO ENHANCE OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, WHILE MEETING THE WORKFORCE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY. ONE OF OUR CORE VALUES IS THE RESPONSIVENESS TO THE COMMUNITY AND THAT MEANS RESPONSIVENESS TO CHANGE. FORSYTH TECH IS ON THE RIGHT PATH.**





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Dr. Gary Green relishing Commencement, one of his favorite events at Forsyth Tech.



ON DECEMBER 31, 2018, DR. GARY GREEN, PRESIDENT OF FORSYTH TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, RETIRED AFTER 17 YEARS AT THE HELM. HE IS THE LONGEST SERVING PRESIDENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE.



*Dr. Green is the sixth president of the college since its inception in 1960, succeeding Desna Wallin, who retired in 2001.*

Dr. Green began his community college career at Elizabethtown Community College in Kentucky in 1976. What was intended to be a brief teaching stint became a lifelong career, fueled by Dr. Green’s passion for student success. Talking with Dr. Green, you quickly realize that his career as an educator and helping students succeed is a true calling for him.

## FROM THE BEGINNING

In the summer of 2001, Dr. Green was drawn to Forsyth Tech for several reasons, but two in particular made his decision. First, he knew the North Carolina Community College System was recognized as one of the best community college systems in the nation.

He was also inspired by the positive attitude toward collaboration of institutions, organizations, and businesses working



together for the economic growth of the community. Dr. Green said his arrival at Forsyth Tech reinforced his commitment to community college education.

The year he started, Winston-Salem was undergoing a time of traumatic economic change with the decline of industries like apparel, textiles, tobacco, and furniture in addition to the merger of Wachovia and First Union.

## FORGING PARTNERSHIPS

“When I began at Forsyth Tech, we saw the need for careers in the workforce, and found opportunities within the community for strategic partners in health sciences, biotech, nanotech, and information technology. The College immediately launched on a journey of growth and expansion. What drove me then were the opportunities within these partnerships,” said Dr. Green.

Working with the innovators of Piedmont Triad Research Park, Dr. Green collaborated with Bill Dean; Steve Mizel, Ph.D.; Dr. James Smith; and Dr. Richard Dean, who were instrumental in launching the research park, which eventually became Innovation Quarter.

Through Dr. Green’s vision, The Department of Labor-sponsored National Center for Biotechnology Workforce opened in 2005, which established Forsyth Tech on a national scale as it became involved with

bio- and nanotechnology. The College also developed the first nanotechnology associate degree program in N.C.

“Opportunities for us to serve the needs of business and industry were coming together to educate students not only for today but also for jobs of the future,” Dr. Green shared. “In addition, we became more fully integrated into the effort to attract new industries and provide needed skilled workers.”

He cited the development of partnerships with other colleges and industries that remain in place today such as Reynolds American, Inc., Deere-Hitachi, Grass America, Siemens, Progress Rail (formerly Caterpillar), and Goodwill International as proud accomplishments.

## HOSTED TWO SITTING U.S. PRESIDENTS

During Dr. Green’s tenure, Forsyth Tech had the rare privilege of hosting two sitting U.S. Presidents. President George W. Bush visited the campus in 2003 along with then Congressman Richard Burr (who helped arrange the visit). In 2010, President Barack Obama visited the college.

President Bush participated in a panel discussion regarding jobs and the economy and said, “We’ve got to make sure we’re able to match the skills and talent and drive of North Carolina citizens with the jobs of the





future. And a great place to do that is at the community colleges here in North Carolina and all around the country. It's very important for this type of education to be demand driven."

In addition to helping provide skills for careers in demand, the true measure of success, Dr. Green said, is the impact a community college has on students and their families. "We look at groups and students, enrollment numbers and budgets and funds...but it's about individual people and the lives we're changing," said Dr. Green.

He shares Forsyth Tech success stories like Sam McCart and John Belk (story on page 4) and of Kathy Proctor who returned to school after being laid off in the furniture industry.

Dr. Green tells how Proctor met President Obama when he was here touring the biotechnology program in 2010. Proctor expressed to the President how important Pell Grants and the Trade Adjustment Assistance funds had been for her to go back to school especially because she was supporting two teenage daughters. Two weeks later, Proctor was invited to the State of the Union Address where President Obama told her story and recognized her sitting in the gallery with First Lady Michelle Obama.

"I saw Kathy again a couple of years ago, when she told me all the ways Forsyth Tech had changed her life and the life of her family," said Dr. Green. "Her daughters have attended College and have good careers in front of them. That's how Forsyth Tech helped Kathy Proctor."



## GROWTH IN PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

Forsyth Tech also enlarged its physical footprint during Dr. Green's tenure, opening the Transportation Technology Center with programs in auto mechanics, diesel and heavy equipment, and motorsports. Forsyth Tech built strategic partnerships with Toyota, through the Toyota T-Ten program, SalemNationalLease, and Richard Childress Racing.

With the opening of the Northwest Forsyth Center, the College expanded programs in public safety for law enforcement, fire protection certification, emergency medical technicians, and electrical linemen, offering students even more options for their future.



Clinical Coordinator for Computed Tomography (CT) Jason Lincoln and Dr. Green, discussing the numerous ways simulated models are a training tool for students in health technologies.



Students at the Transportation Technology Center in Collision Repair and Refinishing Technology have a wide range of career opportunities when they graduate.

Under Dr. Green's leadership, Forsyth Tech emerged as a front-runner in cybersecurity education with the first associate degree in IT Security in the state. In recent years, the College's cyber program has been designated a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber-Defense by the National Security Agency (NSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and is one of the six NSA Cybersecurity Regional Resource Centers (CRRC) in the nation.

Forsyth Tech began as an education center to support the important manufacturing employers in the region, and the College has never forgotten its roots. In 2008, through Green's association with the Manufacturing Institute, the College was selected to pilot and implement nationally recognized skill standards in community colleges. The project was sponsored by the Manufacturing Institute and the Gates Foundation. With the opening of the Center for Advanced Manufacturing in 2017, the College upgraded and expanded its computer numerical control machining program and opened a new additive manufacturing/3-D printing lab. Robotics is now part of the manufacturing curriculum as well.

Under Dr. Green's watch, Forsyth Tech nursing and allied health programs continue to grow and are leading health technology education with the use of digital learning tools such as simulated patients. The College's health programs are among the largest in North Carolina Community Colleges, which is beneficial for the community as the largest employers in Winston-Salem today are its health care organizations: Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and Novant Health.

"All of these programs were focused on the workforce and building a pipeline for career opportunities. I think we have worked very hard to make sure the programs that we are offering to our students are aligned with the needs of the community," said Dr. Green.

During the economic recession beginning in 2007-2008, as people were experiencing job layoffs, they turned to community colleges. "We had tremendous growth during that time, because this was the only place people had to turn to for a future, and we stepped up," said Dr. Green.

The growth surge in enrollment at Forsyth Tech leveled off in 2012. However, the College continued to expand into Innovation Quarter which houses both the Small Business Center, and Business and Industry Services, and into the

## BEYOND FORSYTH TECH

Dr. Green is a frequent presenter on workforce development and community college issues regionally, nationally, and internationally, and has made appearances on CNN, C SPAN, and NPR. He has been a presenter at joint US European Union, US Canada, and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation conferences and was a speaker at the White House Conference on the Economy in 2004.

He serves on the North Carolina State University College of Education advisory committee for the community college leadership program and has consulted and presented for the Aspen Institute College Excellence program.

## FOR THE FUTURE

Community colleges are now on a whole new level," Dr. Green said. "We are addressing the numerous barriers to student success while managing funding challenges. We have responsibilities to continue to enhance our academic programs while meeting the workforce needs of the community. And we must be prepared for the rapidly changing digital and technological landscape in education while not losing sight of compassion and care for our students. One of our core values is the responsiveness to the community, and that means responsiveness to change. Forsyth Tech is on the right path.

Regarding his retirement, Green said, "Being president of Forsyth Tech has been the highlight of my professional life. I will always be grateful to the Board of Trustees for this opportunity. I have been fortunate to work with faculty and staff who are exceptionally committed and passionate about student success.

The college is well prepared for the future thanks to Dr. Green's legacy of transformation, growth and success.

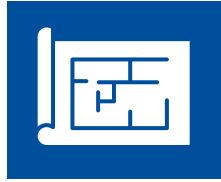
Forsyth Tech Stokes County Center. Design is also currently underway for the Aviation Technology Laboratory at Smith Reynolds Airport. The College has implemented several new transfer agreements with four-year universities to pave the way for college transfer success.

During the last six years, Dr. Green has focused on enrollment, course completion, and the success for all students. He is proud of the passion of the Forsyth Tech faculty and staff and their commitment to transform and become a better college for students and employees.

"Dr. Green has well-served Forsyth Tech as its president, leading some of the school's most sweeping changes in its history," said Alan Proctor, past chairman of Forsyth Tech's Board of Trustees at Dr. Green's retirement news conference. "During his tenure, he tremendously evolved the educational experience for our students, added an array of new curricula, led more than \$100 million in facility expansions, raised more than \$33 million over two significant capital campaigns, and turned the school into a national educational model for biotechnology, cybersecurity, and motorsports technology."



**FORSYTH TECH HAS GROWN TREMENDOUSLY UNDER DR. GREEN'S LEADERSHIP. HERE ARE A FEW OF THE COLLEGE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 2001:**



The college's footprint expanded to almost **ONE MILLION SQUARE FEET OF SPACE ON EIGHT CAMPUSES.**



Forsyth Tech's Health Technology program is among the **LARGEST IN ANY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE.**



The **FIRST CAREERSNOW** graduating class was at Forsyth Tech.



In cyber education, the college earned the **MOST DISTINGUISHED HONOR FOR CYBERSECURITY EXCELLENCE** any two- or four-year college can receive with the designation of Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) in cyber defense education. The college was also **ONE OF ONLY SIX IN THE NATION** to be named a Cybersecurity Regional Resource Center (CRRC).



Through the Economic and Workforce Development division, 41 classes of Electrical Linemen, as part of the **ONLY NATIONALLY CERTIFIED PROGRAM IN N.C.**, have graduated more than 500 linemen.



The college opened the Center for Advanced Manufacturing as a national model for manufacturing training and has **INITIATED AND MAINTAINED** partnerships with manufacturing employers.



Forsyth Tech became the first community college in the Carolinas, and only one of 36 other Centers across the U.S., to receive **TOYOTA T-TEN CERTIFICATION** for its Automotive Systems Technology program.

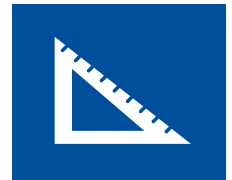
Through the Richard Childress Race Car Technology Program, Forsyth Tech has the **OLDEST AND LARGEST** motorsports technology program of any community college in the state.



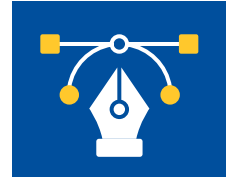
A Forsyth Tech team of six nanotechnology students **WON THE SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE** funded by the National Science Foundation in partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges. Each year, teams continue to attend and perform well in the competition in Washington, D.C.



Forsyth Tech architecture students consistently **PLACE FIRST OR SECOND IN STATE DESIGN COMPETITIONS** that include two- and four-year colleges.



Forsyth Tech was the **FIRST COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN AMERICA** to earn recognition as a Toon Boom Center of Excellence in the Digital Arts and Animation program.



In partnership with IMG College, Forsyth Tech developed a **BROADCAST PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM.**



Forsyth Tech **STARTED A LOW-COST DENTAL CLINIC** for the community, giving dental hygienist and dental assistant students experience while serving economically disadvantaged residents.



**THROUGHOUT DR. GREEN'S TENURE, FORSYTH TECH HAS IMPACTED THOUSANDS OF LIVES.**

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THE FUTURE'S SO  
*Bright*

The Forsyth Tech Foundation's 2018-19 Annual Fundraising Campaign adopted the tagline, "The Future's So Bright" to focus on both the accomplishments during Dr. Gary Green's tenure as president, and on the promising future that lies ahead for our college. Today, Forsyth Tech can provide educational pathways that lead to meaningful, living-wage careers for our students, while meeting the needs of area businesses and industry in ways that promote new and exciting growth in our economy.

We are proud to support the work of our college by funding those things that make us not just good but extraordinary. Foundation funds play a critical role in purchasing modern technology required in today's rapidly changing work environment, and are essential in providing scholarship dollars that make college affordable. The Foundation also helps our faculty and staff secure the continuing education needed to stay current, and supports dozens of important student activities and programs throughout the year.

The Foundation is grateful for the generous support we receive from the community and we pledge to invest your dollars wisely to help ensure the brightest of futures for Forsyth Tech.

—Chris Leak





## Brent Collins

Foundation Board of Directors New Member

Brent Collins is a Senior Vice President and Private Client Advisor with U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management in Winston-Salem. Brent works closely with high-net-worth individuals, families, businesses, and institutions to help address their complex financial needs and distinctive priorities.

He leads a team of specialists who provide in-depth knowledge in multiple wealth disciplines: investment management, trust and estate planning, credit, liquidity event strategies, family office services, and philanthropy.

Brent began his career with Wells Fargo Wealth Management as a discretionary Portfolio Manager in Winston Salem, NC. Prior to joining U.S. Trust, he served as the Investment Strategy Specialist for Wells Fargo's Private Bank in Charlotte, North Carolina. In this role, he helped oversee the wealth strategy and implementation for the entire Mid-Atlantic territory.

Brent earned his Bachelor's degree from North Carolina State University in Business Administration, and his M.B.A. from the Lundy-Fetterman School of Business at Campbell University.

"My vision of service is helping the community see the importance of investing in itself. We have a unique resource (FT) to establish technical/vocational skills or drastically lower the cost of a bachelor's degree. Allowing our students these two opportunities will continue to be the heartbeat of economic development in Forsyth County. We have to do everything we can to remove some of the financial burden on our students," said Brent.

The Foundation Board proudly welcomes Brent Collins as our new member.



## Britnee Tellez

Foundation Board of Directors Student Representative

Britnee Tellez, Student Representative to the Board, brings a unique perspective to the Forsyth Tech Foundation. A single mom with three kids, Britnee also serves as an associate minister at Phillips Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. She was selected to be a Student Ambassador at Forsyth Tech and carries a 3.70 GPA. Because she is majoring in Nonprofit Leadership, Britnee also spends time shadowing our Foundation staff, learning first-hand how a nonprofit organization really works.

Britnee, who by her own account has had to overcome a number of challenges, is a living testament to the importance of the work of our Foundation. "A year ago, we lost our only source of income for our family when my husband and I divorced," she recounted. Without her Ambassador and State Employee Credit Union scholarships, Britnee makes it clear she wouldn't be able to continue to pursue her associate degree. She hopes to eventually earn a dual master's in Divinity and Mental Health Counseling and become a social entrepreneur running her own nonprofit that provides holistic support to students who face the types of challenges she encountered.

"My past is best described as stumbling for purpose in the dark," says Britnee. "For every step and stumble, Forsyth Tech has been a stable institution that offered support and hope in my journey." Britnee's experience at Forsyth Tech has inspired her sixteen-year-old daughter, as she plans to attend Forsyth Tech as a college transfer student in 2019.

The Foundation Board proudly welcomes Britnee Tellez as our new Student Representative.

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“ WE WANT TO THANK DR. GARY GREEN FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO FORSYTH TECH FOR THE PAST 17 YEARS. HIS LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE HAS DEVELOPED THE COLLEGE INTO A STRONG PILLAR IN THE FORSYTH AND STOKES COUNTY COMMUNITIES. DR. GREEN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS WILL BE REMEMBERED LONG AFTER HIS RETIREMENT FOR HIS VISION, INSPIRATION, AND DEDICATION TO THE STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY. ”

**Ann Bennett Phillips**  
Board of Trustees Chair



## Bert Lester Bennett

January 22, 1921 – July 16, 2018

A native of Winston-Salem, Mr. Bennett joined his family business, Quality Oil Company, in 1947. Under Mr. Bennett's leadership, Quality Oil grew to be one of the largest branded oil jobbers in the U.S. In addition to his success in business, Mr. Bennett was committed to the Winston-Salem community and was a loyal friend and supporter of Forsyth Technical Community College. He also demonstrated his love for the state, devoting many hours to politics and meetings while serving the people of North Carolina. As a leader, Mr. Bennett lived with purpose, generosity, and character, and he will leave behind a legacy of integrity. When Mr. Bennett was asked about his greatest investment, he said, without a doubt, every single one of his eight children. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

## Aurelia Gray Eller

June 29, 1932 – September 10, 2018

A lifelong resident of Winston-Salem, Ms. Eller had a favorite saying, "Live so that when you are gone, it will have mattered." Undeniably, Ms. Eller lived her life in that manner and made a difference to many people. As an arts and civic leader, Ms. Eller had a keen ability to inspire and motivate others. She was a champion for diversity, inclusion, and fairness to everyone. Over the course of six decades, Ms. Eller held leadership positions in numerous organizations, including president of the Winston-Salem Arts Council, the Winston-Salem Symphony, and the Winston-Salem Junior League. She served on numerous boards, including Salem Academy and College, the Board of Visitors of Wake Forest University, the Board of Trustees of Winston-Salem State University, and the Forsyth Tech Foundation Board. We extend our deepest sympathies to her family.

## Robert Lewis Strickland

March 3, 1931 – September 21, 2018

A longtime resident of Winston-Salem, Mr. Strickland was passionately interested in expanding accessibility to higher education. To show his commitment to the Winston-Salem community, he and his wife Betty donated \$2.8 million to Forsyth Tech last year – the largest ever by an individual donor. At their request, the funds will support the development of the college's Career Center, including an endowed position of Career Center director. The Center will be located in the Robert L. Strickland Center renamed for him. Mr. Strickland retired from Lowe's Companies, Inc. in 1997 after 40 years of service, and his accomplishments and achievements were numerous. One of the highlights for him was serving in the N. C. House of Representative from 1962 -1964, where he was proud to support the 1962 session's founding of the North Carolina Community College System. We send our deepest sympathies to his family.

# JOHN SHERMAN: FROM STUDENT TO TEACHER

John Sherman and his wife Jamie decided to relocate to North Carolina in order to escape the Midwest winters. Sherman had previously been working in the health care industry and decided to attend Forsyth Tech for respiratory therapy, while his wife took a job as a school counselor at an area high school.

Sherman had been around respiratory therapists in his previous jobs, so the content came easily to him and he began to tutor other students.

“How I caught the teaching bug is beyond me, but I found what I wanted to do,” laughs Sherman.

After receiving his associate degree in applied science in respiratory therapy at Forsyth Tech, Sherman went on to earn his bachelor of science in respiratory therapy at UNC-Charlotte, and his master of health science at Western Carolina University.

After graduating with his master’s degree, Sherman ended up where he started, teaching respiratory therapy at Forsyth Tech, where he says, “the diversity of our programs is unmatched in North Carolina.” This is Sherman’s tenth year at Forsyth Tech, and his fifth year as Program Coordinator. He has been instrumental in implementing an Interprofessional Education Initiative to Forsyth Tech’s health disciplines. In an Interprofessional Education model, students work in a team environment across all health disciplines, which mirrors how care is provided in a real-world health care system.

“I owe Forsyth Tech a lot, personally and professionally. I’m proud of playing a small part in making a difference for students. It’s amazing what the college has done in changing people’s lives, including mine.”

Instructor John Sherman working with respiratory therapy students (from left: Whitney Cox, Teila Bell, and Nour Khalaf.)







Director of the Career Center, Jessica Long assisting Cassandra Hernandez, Forsyth Tech nursing student.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

# JESSICA LONG: A COMMITMENT TO CAREERS

Thanks to a generous \$2.8 million gift from longtime Winston-Salem residents the late Robert Strickland and his wife Betty Strickland, the development of Forsyth Technical Community College's Career Center is underway and includes the college's first endowed position: director of the Career Center.

Jessica Long stepped into this exciting role, becoming the first-ever director of the Career Center. Long's passion is to energize students, faculty, staff, and employers with opportunities for growth in career services.

Long will lead the college in integrating all career services and work-based learning into one area. She also wants to offer students more personalized resources, so they're better equipped with what they need to achieve their career goals.

"We want to transform career services," Long said. "By integrating college-wide career services, we want to tailor our services to individual students. Our goals are to increase internship opportunities, create and maintain relationships with employers, and provide specialized career fairs on campus to offer students more options. We want to meet students where they are."

A Winston-Salem native, Long received her Bachelor of Arts in communication from Wake Forest University and her Master of Science in counseling education from UNC Greensboro. Having worked in career services at UNC Greensboro and Appalachian State University, Long most recently worked at Wake Forest University in the Office of Personal and Career Development. She also completed the Leadership Winston-Salem program in 2016.

Thanks to the generosity of the Stricklands, Long will be able to make improvements to the Career Center that foster student success. In recognition of the gift and Bob Strickland's exemplary career in business and public service, the College Board of Trustees changed the name of the Oak Grove Center to the Robert L. Strickland Center.

"I'm excited to be at Forsyth Tech to remove barriers and promote access to resources and jobs for our students," Long said. With her leadership skills and commitment to career services, the future of Forsyth Tech and its students is brighter than ever.



# 2018 GRADUATION

HERE'S THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT OUR  
**RECENT GRADUATES!**







# BLAKE JOHNSON

## NEW BEGINNINGS

**AFTER AN ACCIDENT** in 2015, Blake Johnson became a quadriplegic and was forced to sell his electrical business. He wasn't sure what to do next.

"While in vocational rehabilitation, I decided I wanted to go back to school to pursue other opportunities," Johnson said. He started at Forsyth Tech and, with the guidance of Disability Services, he was able to take courses on campus and online.

"With the help of advanced technology, I used voice recognition and a mouse attached to a hat to operate the computer," Johnson said. "I

feel like I can help others who are in a similar situation, and my goal is to pursue a master's degree and become a counselor. School was my saving grace—it kept my mind occupied," Johnson said.

Johnson graduated with an associate of arts and currently attends Liberty University.

# NEW BEGINNINGS

## ANGELL MAY

### GIRL POWER

**AS THE ONLY FEMALE** in her Diesel and Heavy Equipment program, Angell May found it hard not to stand out. However, she wanted to be recognized for the skills she brought to the table.

May decided in high school she wanted to be a diesel mechanic. During her first day in HVAC class, she was nervous, but prepared. When the other students looked at her, not sure what to think, she said, "Hand me a ratchet, and I'll take this blower motor apart." Throughout her time in college, she didn't have to say much more—her actions spoke louder.

She participated in two Top Tech Competitions and two National Competitions and was awarded the Women in Trucking Foundation/Ryder Scholarship for Diesel technician

training in January. In school, May maintained a 3.0 grade point average while working full time at Salem Nationallease, where she still works today.

May received her associate in applied science in diesel and heavy equipment technology. She continues to work hard, while her passion and determination help her stand out from the crowd.



# GIRL POWER

# DWIGHT AND HANNAH MABE

## LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER



**AFTER SUFFERING AN INJURY** on the job, Dwight Mabe decided to go back to school to work toward another career. “Choosing Forsyth Tech was an easy decision—after all, my wife and three children attended school here,” Dwight said. “I really enjoyed my time at Forsyth Tech. I was blessed to have great instructors the two years I was earning my associate degree.”

Dwight, along with his eldest daughter, Hannah, participated in commencement in May. Dwight graduated with an associate in applied science in supply chain management/global logistics technology. Hannah completed early college and graduated with an associate in arts. She currently attends Regent University with a major in nursing and business management.

His youngest daughter, Olivia, is now a sophomore in early college. Dwight’s son, Samuel, graduated from middle college and started the radiography program this fall, and his wife, Stacey, will be finishing pre-requisites for the medical sonography program.

With Dwight’s injury in the past and new opportunities on the horizon, one thing is clear: the best is yet to come for this Forsyth Tech family.

# LIKE FATHER LIKE DAUGHTER

**“ CHOOSING FORSYTH TECH WAS  
AN EASY DECISION—AFTER ALL,  
MY WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN  
ATTENDED SCHOOL HERE. ”**

**Dwight Mabe**  
Forsyth Tech Class of '18





# TRAZON MITCHELL

## CHOOSE SUCCESS

**TRAZON MITCHELL** wasn't sure he wanted to attend the early college at Stokes. But then he changed his mind—and he's glad he did.

Mitchell started school in August 2014, determined to achieve academic and personal success. He was offered more than \$1 million in scholarships and accepted to more than 15 universities.

"My education at the early college fortified my ability to think critically, as well as apply conceptual and abstract ideas to real life situations," said Mitchell. "The rigors of the early college also pushed me to rise to the challenge. The faculty inspired us to expand

our knowledge for a lifetime, to become impactful leaders and be the best we can be."

In addition to his academic success, Mitchell served in numerous volunteer roles in the community. He was also nominated as a delegate to represent North Carolina at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders for academic and community achievement.

Mitchell currently attends the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a major in computer science and a minor in statistics. His achievements are proof that all it takes is a little determination, and a lot of hard work, to accomplish great things.

# CHOOSE SUCCESS

# ANGELA DUMONT

## WORKS OF HEART

**WHILE HOMESCHOOLING** four children, Dumont began taking classes at Forsyth Tech in January 2015. In August 2016, she entered the cardiovascular sonography program. Dumont continued homeschooling while attending classes and clinical labs and still maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. "It definitely took a lot of planning and determination," Dumont said. "It was all worth it, though."

In 2017, Dumont became president of the cardiovascular branch of the Student Sonography Association. For her last clinical rotation, she applied to Duke University

Hospital and was hired for an internship—a position awarded to two students per year.

Dumont graduated with an associate in applied science in cardiovascular sonography and is currently an adult echocardiographer at Duke University Hospital.

Through it all, she has always tried to be a model of perseverance for her children. Her efforts paid off: Dumont's daughter graduated from high school this past spring with a full scholarship to Guilford College.



# WORKS OF HEART

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*Community College*

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## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN KERNERSVILLE

The Grady P. Swisher Center of Forsyth Technical Community College celebrated its 20th anniversary on October 30, 2018. Guest speakers for the event were Joe and Eunice Dudley, co-founders of the DudleyQ+ brand. The Dudleys played a key role in the development of the Kernersville location through their generous donation of the land to build the Swisher Center. "We wanted to help Forsyth Tech build a location here for the betterment of the people in Kernersville," said Eunice Dudley. "We are happy you have grown so much."

The center was named for Grady P. Swisher, who served as Forsyth County commissioner for two terms, and in the North Carolina House of Representatives.



*In grateful appreciation to  
Joe and Eunice Dudley*

*for their generous  
support of Forsyth Technical  
Community College*

*Dedicated  
July 30, 1998*