ANNUAL REPORT

2025 – 2026









CENTRAL CAROLINA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Central Carolina Community College
FOUNDATION
INVESTING IN FUTURES. BUILDING COMMUNITIES.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GREETINGS,

At CCCC, our focus is constant improvement, as we work to make the college a first-class opportunity for students, a leading workforce partner for local employers, and employer of choice for faculty and staff.

We are adapting and evolving to meet the **critical needs** faced by our region: preparing students for **crucial careers** in fields such as healthcare, manufacturing, education, and public safety. For just one example, we created a new accelerated track to get qualified medical assistants into the workforce more quickly, due to community needs. Those students all had job offers before graduating.

We are also **expanding access and support** by eliminating barriers that prevent some students from enrolling in higher education: making it easier for them to register, to afford their education, and to gain high school equivalency, if needed.

Our campuses are growing to match the ambitions of our students and the needs of our communities. We are **building opportunity** with facilities designed in close consultation with industry and community partners. This year we celebrated the opening of our new Biotechnology Building and the groundbreaking for our new Harnett Fire Training Tower. On the horizon: new facilities to support skilled trades and fire and emergency services training.

Another reason for celebration this year was the **Pinnacle Award** bestowed on our Caterpillar Youth Apprenticeship Program. Caterpillar Inc. and CCCC received the 2026 Apprenticeship Champion award from the North Carolina Community College System, State Board, and Foundation. The honor showcased how the apprenticeship has trained skilled welders, strengthened advanced manufacturing across the region, and become a model for workforce development across North Carolina.



Throughout it all, the **CCCC Foundation** has been our constant partner, cheerleader, and benefactor. With generous donor support, they have more than doubled the funding they've raised and distributed this year in support of the college.

More than anything, we are proud of what our students have built, from the foundations they have laid for their careers to the legacies they've left on campus, like the life-size metal cougar sculpture now installed near the Lee Main Campus Library. Our **students' stories** of academic excellence, leadership, and resilience challenge us to be our best selves and hearten us for the work ahead.

Thank you so much for all the many ways you support our students, faculty and staff, and college as a whole. Please continue to share your hopes, dreams, and ideas with us and let us know how we can be of service.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Lisa M. Chapman
President, Central Carolina Community College

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PINNACLE AWARD

Caterpillar Youth Welding Apprenticeship

As heavy machinery is built at Caterpillar's Sanford manufacturing facilities, a select group of highly-trained high school students plays an important role in the operation.

These are the Caterpillar Youth Welding Apprentices: Lee County Schools juniors and seniors selected through a competitive application process. They receive training, education credits, and credentials from Central Carolina Community College as well as paid apprenticeship experience and preferred employment opportunities from Caterpillar, with clear pathways for advancement.

The program, established in 2012, recently won statewide recognition for the way it has trained skilled welders, strengthened advanced manufacturing across the region, and become a model for workforce development across North Carolina.

Caterpillar Inc. and CCCC received the 2026 Apprenticeship Champion award from the North Carolina Community College System, State Board, and Foundation, presented by Duke Energy at the Workforce Development Pinnacle Awards ceremony in Raleigh on April 15. The honor celebrates employers and colleges that show exceptional commitment to workforce development across the state's 58 community colleges.



The Caterpillar apprenticeship program stems from an enduring partnership between Caterpillar, Central Carolina Community College, Lee County Schools, and the NC Community College System.

By the program's tenth anniversary, more than 30% of Caterpillar's fabrication workforce had come through the pipeline.

To date, 150 students have graduated — earning welding, apprenticeship, and career-readiness credentials, plus a preferred path to employment at Caterpillar.

2026 graduating apprentice Ronnie Onofre Garcia pointed to valuable skills he and his fellow apprentices learned from the program, such as welding, plasma and torch cutting, and how to read blueprints.

> **"We all came in trying to learn something new and throughout the process we pushed each other to work harder and improve every day."**
>
> Ronnie Onofre Garcia,
> 2026 Graduating Apprentice

> **"Working with Caterpillar to support the right skill development ensures our young people have the education and training they need for a great career with a great company, right here in Lee County."**
>
> Dr. Lisa M. Chapman,
> CCCC President

Caterpillar Fabrications Operations Manager Martin Kegel and CCCC President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman at the Pinnacle Awards

BUILDING OPPORTUNITY

In 2025-26, CCCC continued building for the future, investing in new and expanded facilities to meet community needs, and creating unique learning opportunities for students.

BIOTECHNOLOGY BUILDING OPENING

As North Carolina's biotech industry growth accelerates, CCCC is meeting the moment with a facility that prepares students for highly-skilled biotechnology manufacturing jobs.

The newly renovated Biotechnology Building is part of the E. Eugene Moore Manufacturing and Biotech Solutions Center on CCCC's Lee Main Campus in Sanford. The college kicked off renovations with a wall-breaking ceremony in August 2025 and celebrated the building's opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony in August 2026.

In the Biotechnology Building, students in CCCC's Bioprocess Technology program are developing the knowledge and abilities needed to manufacture complex Life Science products, including pharmaceuticals. They are learning skills that are valuable to area biotech companies, helping ensure the safety and efficacy of the lifesaving products these companies create.

The new facility expands capacity for CCCC's short-term "BioWork" biomanufacturing course to more than 300 students per year, also greatly increasing scheduling flexibility and capacity for CCCC's customized training programs for industry partners.

> **"To have a biotech center like this will be a pillar of future growth in the community. It's going to be amazing."**
>
> Dave Posehn, Site Lead for Pfizer in Sanford



HARNETT FIRE TRAINING TOWER GROUNDBREAKING

CCCC held a groundbreaking ceremony in May for its Harnett Fire Training Tower, which is being built on CCCC's Harnett Main Campus in Lillington. As populations grow and economic development rises in CCCC's service area, there are more lives and property to protect — and more demand for highly qualified emergency responders.

Area firefighters, fire academy cadets, and other emergency services personnel will train on the fire-resistant three-story steel structure to get live-fire experience under realistic conditions without the dangers of an uncontrolled emergency scene. They will face common hazards and obstacles like smoke, heat exposure, and limited visibility, and tackle challenges like stairwell operations and vertical rescue simulations.



"Everyone knows you are only as good as your last training exercise or event," said Brian Heath, Chief of the Summerville Bunnlevel Fire Department and President of the Harnett County Fire Chiefs Association.

Speaking at the groundbreaking, he called the occasion a "monumental day" and stressed he expects to see high levels of use by crews from Harnett and other nearby counties.

> **"With this facility being here in our backyard, it will make a huge difference."**
>
> Brian Heath, Chief of the Summerville Bunnlevel Fire Department and President of the Harnett County Fire Chiefs Association

CHATHAM SKILLED TRADES BUILDING

CCCC's Board of Trustees voted in August to approve the launch of a new construction project to create a skilled trades building on the college's Chatham Main Campus in Pittsboro.

The building would support instruction in electrical, HVAC, welding, and building construction trades.

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners has previously pledged financial support for the project.

Plans, still in early stages, include adding a one-story building of approximately 26,100 square feet, east of the campus's primary entrance driveway, plus about 70 additional parking spaces. The facility would include classrooms, labs, a house construction area, student commons, and administration and support spaces.

FIRE RESCUE & EMS TRAINING FACILITY

In February, President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman announced that the college had secured $5.8 million in federal funding to be used toward the creation of a Fire Rescue & EMS Training Facility at CCCC's Emergency Services Training Center in Sanford.

The design concept is based on a working fire and EMS station. Plans call for bay stations for fire trucks and ambulances, specialized medical and fire training classrooms, office space, and a communal cooking and dining area that reflects how firefighters actually live: together, around the clock, as a second family.



> **"It's an investment in the safety of every resident in our three-county service area."**
>
> Roy E. Allen, CCCC's Associate Vice President for Workforce Development & Continuing Education

Building Opportunity: Students at Work

From in-class building projects to on-the job construction training, students are making lasting contributions while gaining real-world experience.

COUGAR PRIDE, WELDED AND POLISHED

The metal cougar sculpture now installed in front of CCCC's Lee Main Campus Library and Bell Welcome Center was built by Welding Technology students in Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 and then given a professional-grade clear coating by Automotive Restoration students.

CCCC is deeply grateful to these students and their instructors for this life-sized symbol of craftsmanship and school pride.





FRAMING SUCCESS

In 2025-26, CCCC Building Construction Technology students built frames for two tiny homes as part of their coursework. These conventional stick-framed homes are set to be completed by students in Spring 2027.

Students also had the opportunity to build two reassemblable tiny home frames: one made from structural insulated panel and the other from light gauge steel. These new projects increased students' experience with different framing system technologies.

LEARN AND EARN

Fourteen students from high schools in Harnett and Lee counties were honored for completing the 2026 Construction Academy held by Sanford Contractors, Inc. in partnership with CCCC. The students helped build real-life construction projects alongside Sanford Contractors mentors this summer and laid the foundation for future careers while getting paid and earning CCCC college credit. Sanford Contractors was itself honored for the Construction Academy as a recipient of the 2026 Carolinas AGC Community Impact Award.

Critical Needs, Crucial Careers: HEALTHCARE

A 68-year-old woman with pneumonia checks into the hospital short of breath, the skin around her lips tinged blue. That's one of the many scenarios CCCC helped train students to respond to this year.

In North Carolina, the need for healthcare employees is surging, fueled by population growth in older demographics and increasing demand for services.

The state is projected to gain 79,000 jobs in healthcare and social assistance between 2024 and 2034, more than in any other sector. Expansions by major healthcare players will also accelerate demand, further increasing regional job opportunities.

CCCC's Health Sciences Career Community is growing and evolving to ensure area residents are cared for and that area students take advantage of life-altering career opportunities. The department now has nine programs that can be completed at CCCC, plus two options offered in partnership with Sandhills Community College.

In 2025-26, the college celebrated the graduations of 208 Health Sciences students equipped with the skills to help build healthier communities and meet critical healthcare needs. Another 234 students completed a continuing education course leading to a credential.

Many of those students have begun or will soon begin professional healthcare roles in CCCC's service area. More than half of the prior year's class of graduating Health Sciences students are working here in Chatham, Harnett, and Lee counties, according to estimates from Health Sciences leaders at the college.

> **"This program pushed us to work harder than we thought we could. It pushed us to think differently, to be more disciplined, and to hold ourselves to a higher standard."**
>
> Gracie Ekedal, 2026 Physical Therapist Assistant graduate and licensed PTA





NEW PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS

In 2025-26, CCCC welcomed the first-ever graduating class of the college's new Physical Therapist Assistant program. Begun in 2024, the program has now earned full accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

FAST TRACK TO MEDICAL ASSISTING

Another milestone: the creation of a new accelerated Medical Assisting track, designed for students who had already completed their general education requirements. Those students began Medical Assisting classes in August 2025, graduated in May 2026, and all had job offers before graduating.

STELLAR NURSES

CCCC's Nursing program is continuing to flourish following its expansion to the Chatham Health Sciences Center. Students can pursue the Associate in Nursing there or at the Lee Main Campus, and the Practical Nursing diploma at the Harnett Health Sciences Center. Both the Associate in Nursing and Practical Nursing programs had 100% pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for 2025.

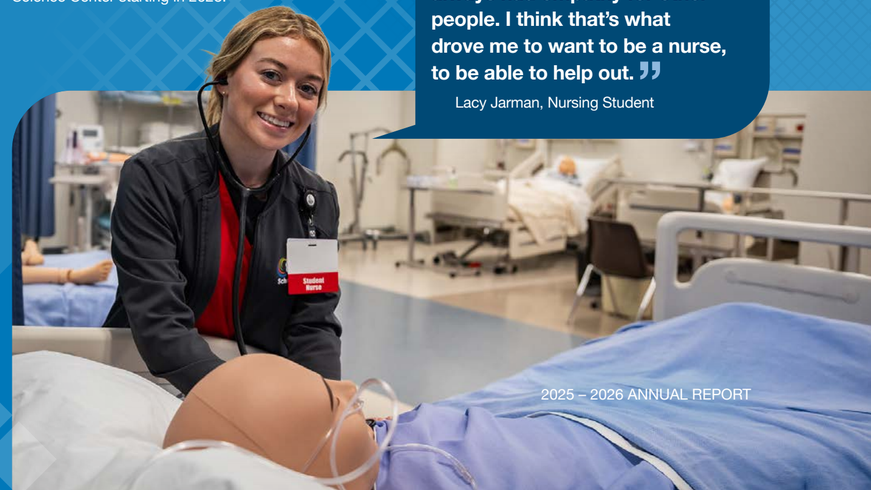
ON THE HORIZON

CCCC is working to create a new Occupational Therapy Assistant program due to a significant need for Occupational Therapy Assistants in the service area and a lack of similar programs nearby. The college expects to be able to offer the OT Assistant program at the Harnett Health Science Center starting in 2028.

A PROMISING FUTURE

Associate Degree Nursing student **Lacy Jarman** previously took part in the Central Carolina Promise scholarship program when she was a high school student in Chatham County. It earned her two years tuition-free at CCCC after her high school graduation, jumpstarting her pursuit of a career as a Registered Nurse.

> **"I've always wanted to do something in the medical field, and I've always had empathy for other people. I think that's what drove me to want to be a nurse, to be able to help out."**
>
> Lacy Jarman, Nursing Student



Critical Needs, Crucial Careers:
MANUFACTURING

From polymers to perfumes, so much gets made in central North Carolina. More than 180,000 manufacturing jobs exist within an hour's drive of one or more of CCCC's three main campuses.

Regional leaders also are working to attract more manufacturers, building on strengths in advanced manufacturing and biotechnology — sectors facing rising skill demands and labor shortages. CCCC prepares graduates for these roles through programs such as Bioprocess Technology, Computer Integrated Machining, Industrial Systems Technology, Welding, and Engineering, giving students paths to family-supporting wages.

The college connects manufacturers, students, and the community through events like National Manufacturing Day and works with AdvanceNC to support manufacturing across an even wider region. The Moore Center — a former industrial site in Sanford — is becoming a workforce hub that trains students, supports industry, and attracts investment.

Meanwhile, the college is responding to key industry needs by developing a new microelectronics manufacturing certificate and utilizing new CNC machines for student and employee training.

Short-term training is central to CCCC's industry response. Manufacturers are the top clients of its Customized Training program, which trained more than 1,500 employees in 2025-26. BioWork, one of CCCC's largest continuing education programs, graduated 113 students last year, preparing them for process technician roles in life sciences manufacturing.







FACULTY OF THE YEAR

Industrial Technologies Instructor **Scott Butcher** was honored as CCCC's Faculty Member of the Year at the college's annual employee convocation.

He is known for challenging students to think critically, solve real-world problems, and develop the technical skills employers demand.

> **"The majority of my classes are geared to be hands-on the majority of the time … You've got mechanical gears, you've got molten steel, electricity … It's all fun."**
>
> Scott Butcher,
> Industrial Technologies Instructor

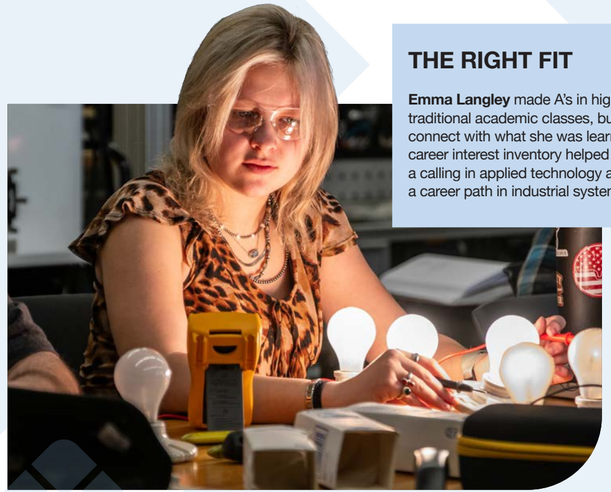
SPOTLIGHT: INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

Maintenance mechanics and technicians keep industry humming at factories and other industrial sites by troubleshooting, diagnosing, and repairing machines and electrical and mechanical systems.

Demand is high, both from employers looking to fill these roles and from students seeking training from CCCC's Industrial Systems Technology program.

In summer 2026, the college began its new Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship Accelerator, which provides apprenticeship opportunities for students in the Industrial Systems Technology field. Participation includes both classroom instruction and on-the-job learning with employers such as Pfizer.

"Being a graduate of the program, I'm always going to be an advocate for it," said Erik Bender, a maintenance manager at Pfizer's Sanford site, who earned an associate degree from CCCC. "I feel like it's opened so many doors for me."



THE RIGHT FIT

Emma Langley made A's in high school in traditional academic classes, but didn't always connect with what she was learning. CCCC's career interest inventory helped her discover a calling in applied technology and led her to a career path in industrial systems maintenance.

Critical Needs, Crucial Careers: EDUCATION

While filling in as a teacher, Amanda Morse looked at her students and thought, "I can do this." That moment helped lead her to enroll in CCCC's teacher preparation program.

Early childhood and K-12 teachers lay the groundwork for all students' future success and play key roles in ensuring their development and well-being. However, North Carolina faces a crisis in childcare and early education affordability and availability, as well as persistent shortages of K-12 teachers. CCCC offers degrees, diplomas, and certificates that students can complete while living and working locally. This helps to lessen financial and geographic barriers that can keep students from completing their coursework. The college has also made a series of key moves to help address the educational crises and shortfalls faced by the state and region.

TA TO TEACHER

In 2025-26, CCCC joined with Lee County Schools, The Lee County Education Foundation, and East Carolina University to introduce the TA to Teacher Pipeline and successfully recruit current teaching assistants to CCCC.

The TA to Teacher Pipeline is a pathway by which teacher assistants can earn an associate degree in teacher preparation at CCCC and then a bachelor's degree in education from ECU, through ECU's Partnership Teach program, while continuing to work in their district with no need to relocate.

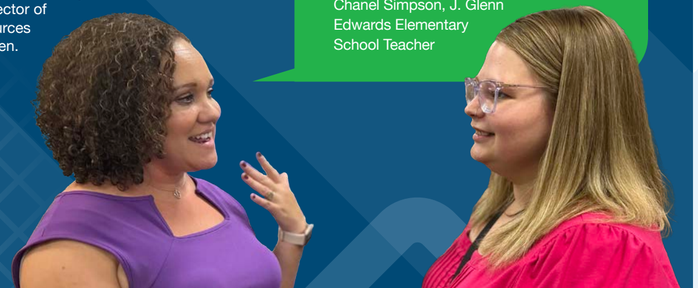
It's one of multiple paths that students can take with help from CCCC to gain the education and experience they need to become certified teachers.

"The best way to staff our schools is to grow our own," said Lee County Schools Executive Director of Human Resources Patricia Coldren.

TERRIFIC TEACHER

Chanel Simpson, a teacher at J. Glenn Edwards Elementary School and graduate of the Partnership Teach program, said her transition from CCCC to ECU was seamless, and she was able to complete both her teaching practice and internship in Lee County.

> **"When I graduated, I felt well-prepared and confident to enter the classroom as a teacher."**
>
> Chanel Simpson, J. Glenn Edwards Elementary School Teacher



RESIDENCY LICENSURE

In summer of 2025, CCCC completed a series of signing ceremonies formalizing agreements with Chatham, Harnett, and Lee County school districts for eligible employees to participate in CCCC's Elementary Education Residency Licensure Certificate program.

Residency Licensure is a pathway for people who hold bachelor's degrees in subjects other than education, and who are currently working in classrooms, to be able to earn full teaching credentials.

It combines academic coursework with real-world teaching experience, allowing participants to continue working at their schools while progressing toward state licensure. Seven students began the program in fall 2025.

"Together, we are building instructional capacity and fostering long-term success for our schools and community," said Dr. Kelly Batten, Superintendent of Chatham County Schools.

CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS · hcs · LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS

CHILDCARE ACADEMIES

In spring and summer 2026, 76 students completed one of CCCC's new Child Care Academy courses, held in Chatham, Harnett, and Lee counties.

That marked an overall 90% completion rate among those who enrolled, with especially high completion rates among participants in the Spanish-language version of the program.

The academies provide a short-term option to equip successful graduates to get their North Carolina Early Childhood Credential, making them eligible to serve as lead teachers in licensed childcare facilities in North Carolina.

CCCC is continuing the program through Continuing Education with a plan in place to crosswalk the course so that students can gain credit and smoothly transition into CCCC's early childhood education associate degree programs if desired.



Critical Needs, Crucial Careers: PUBLIC SAFETY

When a 911 call comes in at 2 a.m. in Pittsboro or Sanford — or a structure fire breaks out on a farm road in Harnett County — the response depends on the preparation of the region's public safety professionals.

Population and economic growth across Chatham, Harnett, and Lee counties have accelerated demand for law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services employees. Meanwhile, CCCC has become the sixth-largest public safety training provider in North Carolina and stepped up as the state's leading center for rural public safety training.

In 2025-26, 3,762 firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, police, and correctional officers built vital skills by participating in CCCC's public safety continuing education programs.

Another 48 students graduated from CCCC's Public Safety curriculum programs, earning credentials in Criminal Justice Technology, CJT Forensic Science, and Basic Law Enforcement Training.

Among the BLET students, 100% passed the state certification exam in 2025-26, continuing a standard that the college has upheld since January 2023.

CCCC's public safety offerings are driven by the needs of the departments and agencies serving the communities of central North Carolina.



ALL FIRED UP

Twenty-six cadets graduated in February from CCCC's Fire Academy — the largest graduating fire academy class in the college's history.

Donations helped provide cadets with critical training resources, including turnout gear, firefighting equipment, classroom materials, and tuition assistance.

Another major milestone for CCCC's Fire and Rescue Training program came in May with the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Harnett Fire Training Tower, which will help provide highly-desired closer-to-home training to local crews.

EMS: ADAPTING TO SERVE

CCCC's EMS programs are moving to combine online coursework with scheduled laboratory sessions offered across the college's campuses. It is a change that makes EMS education more accessible to students throughout Chatham, Harnett, and Lee counties while still maintaining essential hands-on training.

Meanwhile, leaders are investing heavily in simulation equipment and technology to allow students to participate in increasingly realistic patient-care scenarios.



DREAM ACHIEVED

Rob Brown graduated from CCCC's Basic Law Enforcement Training in June, cheered on by family and neighbors. Brown said at 49 he was the oldest member of the class, fulfilling a longtime dream to become a law enforcement officer after 25 years in human resources.

"I didn't know what to expect when I got into it, but I came in prepared and was able to persevere and get a job before I graduated," he said.



EXPANDING ACCESS

Central Carolina Community College continues to expand access to higher education in central North Carolina by removing the logistical stumbling blocks, financial hurdles, academic obstacles, and language barriers that dissuade many students from ever even beginning the journey.

ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET

In 2026, CCCC's spring Red Carpet Registration helped nearly 450 graduating seniors at 13 local high schools take their next step toward college, more than double the roughly 200 students that were served when the program launched in 2022. More than 75% of participants registered for Fall 2026 classes during the spring events.

These events bring the CCCC enrollment process directly to students at their local high schools, offering personalized help with admissions, financial aid, advising, and registration. The college puts out a literal red carpet for these prospective students, symbolizing the value CCCC places on them as people.

Following the launch of the spring events, CCCC also added an on-campus summer edition of Red Carpet Registration, which serves about 100 additional students per year.

That move came in recognition of the wave of applications CCCC receives between June and August, and the need for a one-stop shop assistance option at the college for those students as well.

Together these efforts are helping the college break down the registration-related barriers to entry experienced by some students, while simplifying the transition to college and contributing to CCCC's record enrollments over the past five years.



AND SUPPORT



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

CCCC is privileged to help veterans and military-affiliated students enroll and succeed in college.

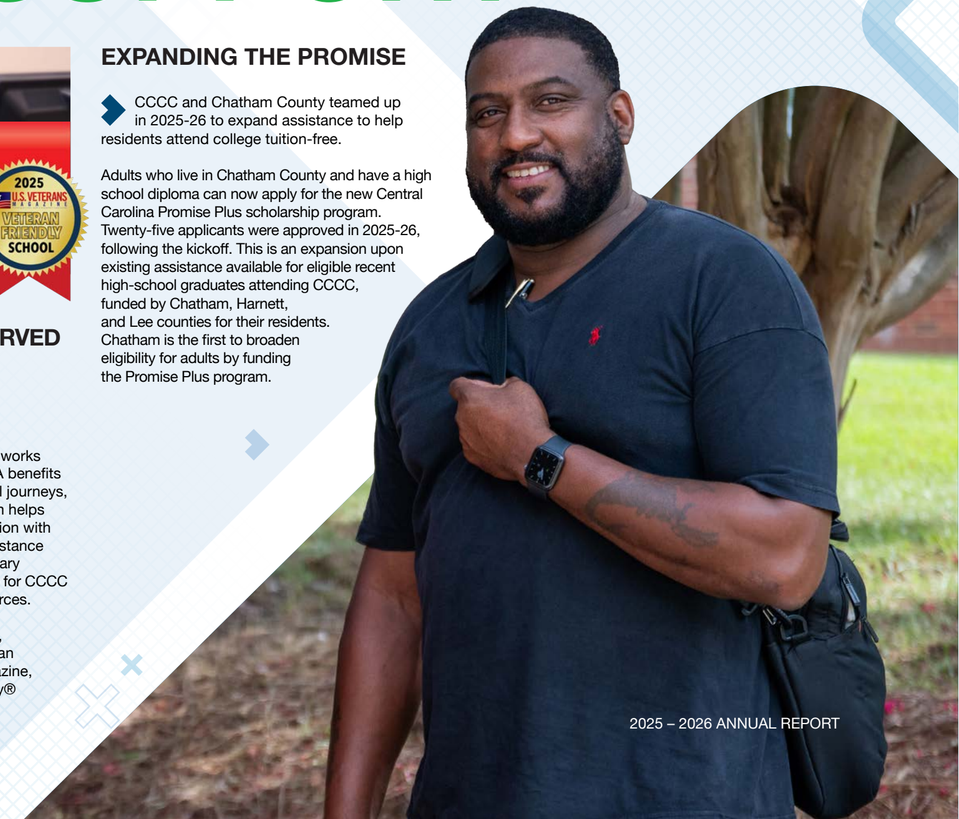
The college's Veterans Affairs Coordinator works with service members to maximize their VA benefits at CCCC and to foster smooth educational journeys, while the Veterans Upward Bound program helps veterans prepare to enroll in higher education with tailored advice and support, including assistance with academic skill development. The Military Affiliated Resource Center provides a place for CCCC students to relax, recharge, and find resources.

For its continued service and commitment, the college was recognized as a Top Veteran School in Fall 2025 by U.S. Veterans Magazine, and earned the 2026-2027 Military Friendly® Schools Designation and Silver-level recognition in Spring 2026.

EXPANDING THE PROMISE

CCCC and Chatham County teamed up in 2025-26 to expand assistance to help residents attend college tuition-free.

Adults who live in Chatham County and have a high school diploma can now apply for the new Central Carolina Promise Plus scholarship program. Twenty-five applicants were approved in 2025-26, following the kickoff. This is an expansion upon existing assistance available for eligible recent high-school graduates attending CCCC, funded by Chatham, Harnett, and Lee counties for their residents. Chatham is the first to broaden eligibility for adults by funding the Promise Plus program.



BUILDING SUCCESS

CCCC's federally funded YouthBuild program helps youth who dropped out of school get the credentials they need to enter college or a career.

The program aims to help students gain their high school equivalency diploma, earn a trade certification in construction or culinary arts, complete 30 hours of community service, and participate in leadership development training, all in the span of six months. It then helps place students in jobs or higher education.

During the 2025-26 year, CCCC's YouthBuild program continued to expand educational, workforce, and leadership opportunities for young adults throughout the community. YouthBuild students achieved 28 educational and workforce credentials, including high school equivalency diplomas and vocational certifications, while contributing more than 300 hours of volunteer service to the community.

YouthBuild Student Services Director James Thomas said his favorite part of working with YouthBuild participants is, "watching them come in and be nervous about coming back to school and not sure if they made the right decision, and then watching them succeed and do great things."

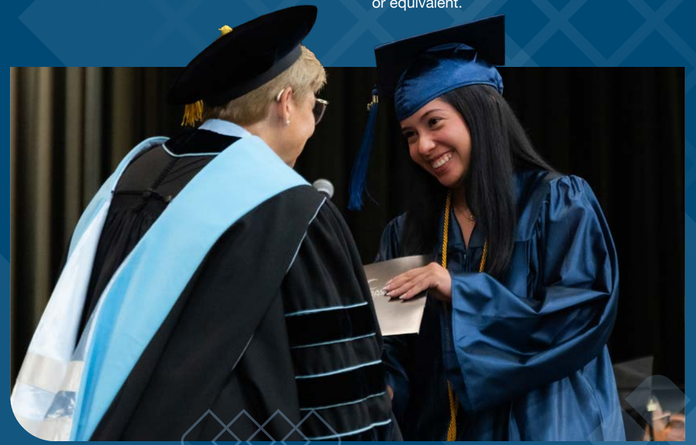


LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS

- 175 area children and teenagers were registered for CCCC's educational summer camps, exploring topics ranging from cooking to electronics engineering.
- 1,371 participants attended CCCC Small Business Center seminars to support local business growth and development.
- CCCC's Small Business Centers provided 128 clients with counseling and support, supporting the opening of 24 new businesses as well as the creation or retention of 117 jobs.



- 261 students enrolled in personal enrichment classes to explore new interests or grow existing ones.
- 1,607 students were served by CCCC's College and Career Readiness program, taking classes to improve their English language skills, learn adult basic education, or to work toward a high school diploma or equivalent.



ON A ROLL, EN ESPAÑOL

CCCC's HSE en Español program allows students to complete their coursework in Spanish to obtain a high school equivalency diploma, unlocking the door to job opportunities and higher education. In its first two years, the program has served 210 students and produced 49 graduates.

One of the 2026 graduates was Jarely Janeth Zavaleta Carbajal, who previously graduated from high school in Mexico in 2018 and went on to earn a law degree and a graduate diploma in litigation strategies and moral advocacy.

She enrolled in CCCC's High School Equivalency in Spanish program to earn her HSE diploma so that her education could be recognized. Her plans included pursuing a college degree in the U.S. and working in a field related to law.

> **"Many of us may have heard that we had lost our chance, or that it was already too late to start over. And yet, today we stand here as living proof that time does not determine the value of a dream."**
>
> Jarely Janeth Zavaleta Carbajal,
> 2026 HSE en Español graduate

STUDENT STORIES:

2026 North Carolina Community College System Annual Awards

Central Carolina Community College is proud to celebrate three outstanding students recognized in 2025-26 for their academic excellence, leadership, and resilience.

RAMON GOMEZ

2026 Academic Excellence Award

Ramon Gomez received the system's highest academic honor, awarded to one student per college, for his extraordinary academic record, positivity, and support of other students.

Gomez graduated this spring as a dually-enrolled student at Lee Early College and CCCC. Early College Coordinator Nick Testa, who nominated him, called Gomez one of the strongest students with whom he has ever worked.

At CCCC, Gomez said he faced moments when material felt overwhelming, but found that the more practice he got at working to comprehend, the more his fears subsided.

Following his graduation, Gomez joined NC State's mechanical engineering program.

"This is only the beginning for him," Testa said. "That's what's so exciting."



"This environment allowed me to thrive academically in ways I never thought possible. I've grown from a shy student to a confident leader, ready to take on the challenges coming my way."

Ramon Gomez, 2026 CCCC and Lee Early College graduate

KAYLE MAXFIELD

Governor Robert W. Scott Leadership Award, Region 4 winner and state finalist

Student government representative. Nonprofit co-founder. Mentor to other young leaders. These are among many roles embodied by Kayle Maxfield, a CCCC and Chatham Early College 2026 graduate.

Maxfield rallied fellow student lawmakers to advocate for student representation on community college boards and co-founded an organization with her mother that supported causes from art therapy to environmental protection.

Following her graduation, Maxfield enrolled at NC State and is attending on a full-ride Park Scholarship.



"It's such a tight-knit community, no matter the space you are in, especially as an Early College student."

Kayle Maxfield, 2026 CCCC and Chatham Early College graduate

SHELTON STRIDER

CCCC's Dallas M. Herring Achievement Award nominee

Growing up on a farm, animals were always central to Shelton Strider's life — a passion that led him to pursue an Associate in Applied Science in Veterinary Medical Technology at CCCC.

Living in Asheboro and working at a veterinary emergency clinic in Winston-Salem, he balanced coursework with full-time work, even after losing his home to a fire.

Following his graduation, Strider passed his licensure exam to become a Registered Veterinary Technician. He has said he hopes to eventually teach and pursue further degrees in veterinary education.



"Always be on your toes. Always be open and willing to learn, just in general."

Shelton Strider, 2026 CCCC graduate

CCCC FOUNDATION

2025 – 2026 Overview

The 2025-26 fiscal year was an extraordinary year of generosity and impact for the CCCC Foundation. Donors contributed **$2,660,624** to support CCCC and its students, while the Foundation disbursed **$2,730,326** back to the college. That money supported CCCC students, provided for faculty and staff development, and helped serve key college priorities.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

In 2025-26, the CCCC Foundation awarded more than $475,000 in scholarships to students and expanded future opportunities through the establishment of additional scholarships.

The Foundation also provided direct support to students facing unexpected financial hardships through its James French Dreamkeeper Fund ($31,584) and Finish Line Grants ($47,447), and provided food assistance to students in need through the Ruby McSwain Cougar Markets.

Foundation donations assisted programs like Red Carpet Registration, New Student Orientation, and Week of Welcome that help students successfully transition into college. They also provided resources for military-affiliated students, strengthening support for veterans, active-duty service members, and military-connected students at the college.



INVESTING IN FACULTY AND STAFF

Students' success depends on the quality of instruction and service provided by CCCC faculty and staff. The CCCC Foundation continued to prioritize supporting the professional growth of CCCC employees this year. That included providing employee tuition assistance and financially supporting New Faculty Orientation, the Department Chair Summit, Career Communities, and the Student Success Committee.

BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CCCC's value to its students and to the communities it serves also stems from the cross-community connections it weaves.

The CCCC Foundation supported these efforts in a myriad of ways this year, such as sponsoring field trips for students and breakfasts with CCCC's industry partners. It also worked with other key partners, like the Let's Do It Together Foundation, to inspire and support area youth, helping them understand that they are welcomed and valued by the college and greatly needed in their communities.

MOORE CENTER MOMENTUM

The CCCC Foundation is proud to help raise funds for the E. Eugene Moore Manufacturing and Biotech Solutions Center, a transformative investment that will expand educational opportunities, strengthen workforce development, and support the continued economic growth of our region.

The Moore Center will prepare students and workers for high-demand careers in advanced manufacturing and biotechnology while helping businesses recruit, train, retain, and upskill the workforce they need to grow. It will also provide manufacturers with space to test technologies and solve operational challenges. CCCC is in the midst of a capital campaign to renovate the Sanford facility, a former industrial site.

During the 2025–26 fiscal year, the CCCC Foundation raised over a million dollars in support of the Moore Center and its future impact on our students and communities.



To make a gift in support of the Moore Center, contact the CCCC Foundation at **(919) 718-7230** or scan the code to give online.

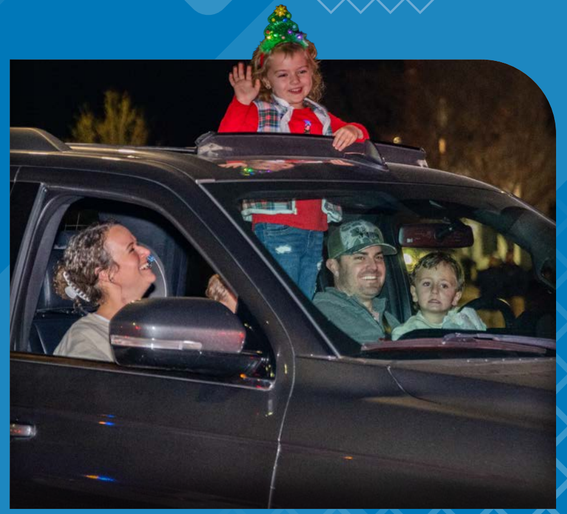
Events

BACK TO SCHOOL CELEBRATION

The CCCC Foundation proudly supported the Let's Do It Together Foundation's Back to School Celebration, which provided backpacks, school supplies, and community connection for area families.

COUGAR EXPRESS

At the CCCC Foundation's Cougar Express drive-thru holiday event, families had the opportunity to drive through a series of stations, collecting goodies and giveaways on their way to a rendezvous with Santa Claus.





GOLF CLASSICS

The CCCC Foundation held three Golf Classic events, one each in Chatham, Harnett,and Lee counties, to raise money for the college.

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

The CCCC Foundation's Scholarship Luncheon provided an opportunity for donors and student scholarship recipients to meet one another, and for the foundation and college community to express gratitude for the donors' generosity.

Employee Giving

The Foundation's 2026 Campus Fund Drive raised more than $32,000 through the generosity of CCCC employees. Employee giving is an important part of the CCCC Foundation's mission and provides valuable support for scholarships, emergency assistance programs, and opportunities that make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students. The Foundation is incredibly grateful to every employee who contributed and helped make this campaign a success. Every gift demonstrates our employees' commitment to the success of our students, college, and community. Together, we are making a lasting impact on the future of CCCC.



"I support the Foundation because it supports ALL of us at the college. Not only does the Foundation help with instructional and collegiate needs, but it has helped so many of my students succeed when they would not have been able to succeed alone. The Dreamkeeper Fund represents the heart of the community college system — helping students achieve their goals and dreams, improving their lives and opportunities even when the student may not have had all of the resources to do so on their own. I have had the honor of many of my wonderful students mentioning to me how the Foundation scholarships are the only reason they finished their credentials and achieved a dream they never knew they could reach. I give with the hopes that because of my giving, another student has that opportunity to dream big, work hard, and do what they thought was impossible."

Alyson Cochrane, Department Chair, English & Humanities



To contribute this year, visit **www.cccc.edu/give**

Giving Levels Recognition

The following giving levels recognize the generous individuals, businesses, and organizations who supported the CCCC Foundation during the fiscal year of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The Foundation is deeply grateful for the commitment of our donors whose philanthropic support fuels opportunity, innovation, and student success.

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$5,000+

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Daryl Walker
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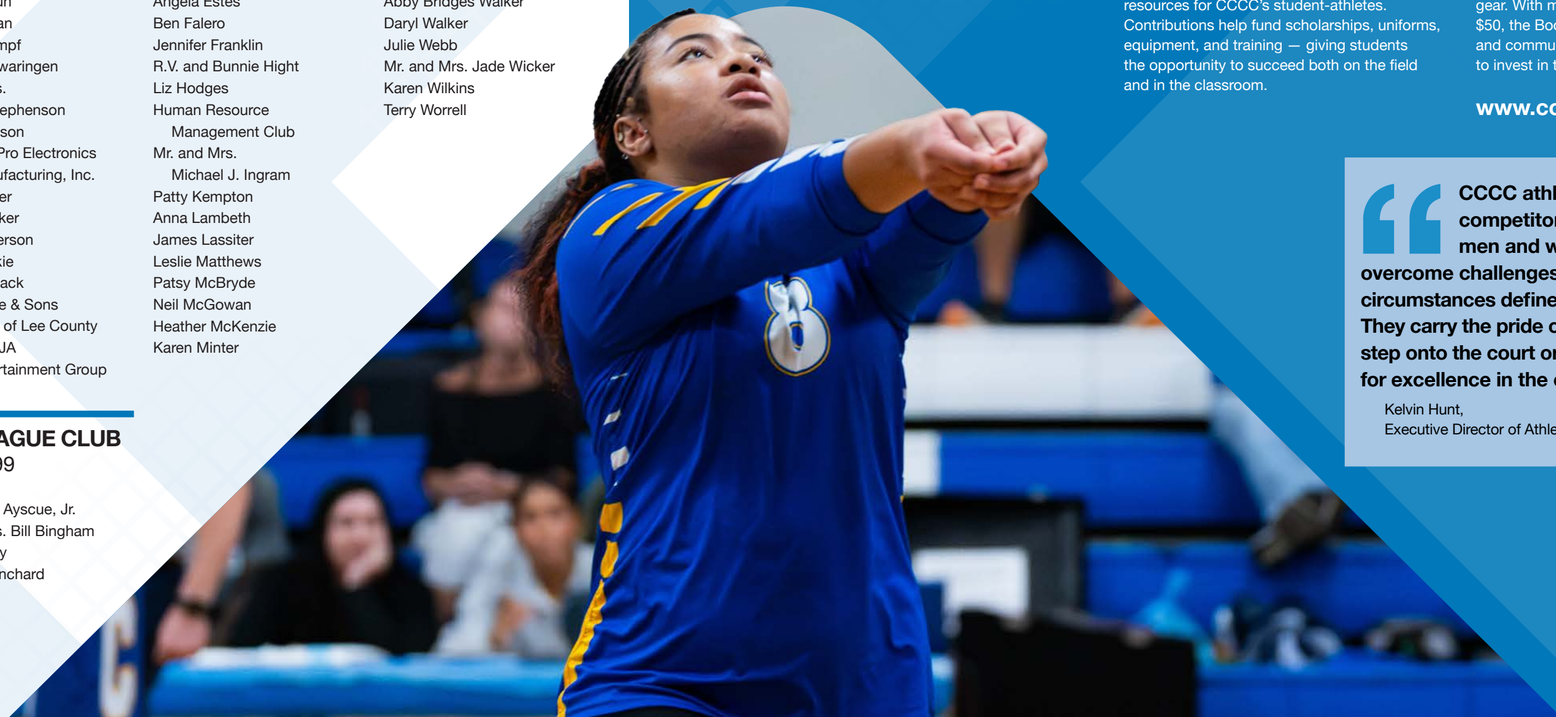

Cougar Blue Booster Club

INVESTING IN STUDENT ATHLETES

The Cougar Blue Booster Club, supported by the CCCC Foundation, provides critical resources for CCCC's student-athletes. Contributions help fund scholarships, uniforms, equipment, and training — giving students the opportunity to succeed both on the field and in the classroom.

Booster Club members also enjoy perks such as recognition, tickets, and exclusive Cougar gear. With membership levels starting at just $50, the Booster Club offers alumni, parents, and community members a meaningful way to invest in the success of Cougar Athletics.

www.cccc.edu/cougarblue

"CCCC athletes are more than competitors, they are young men and women who work hard, overcome challenges, and refuse to let circumstances define what they can achieve. They carry the pride of CCCC every time they step onto the court or field, while striving for excellence in the classroom and in life."

Kelvin Hunt,
Executive Director of Athletics and Student Outreach

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