

NETC Insider

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First Citizens Foundation Awards NETC Grant



Standing from Left to Right: Steve Jacobs, Senior Vice President/Retail Market Executive; Mike Wolfe, Executive Vice President/Division Executive; Hamilton Hutto, Pageland Branch Manager; Mike Caskey, Chesterfield Branch Manager; Ray Stephens, Dillon Branch Manager; Lon Lester, Bennettsville Branch Manager; Gregory Sanderson, Cheraw Branch Manager; Damian Ashe, Cheraw Highway 9 Branch Manager; Dr. Ron Bartley, President of Northeastern Technical College; Herbert Watts, Area Commission Chairman.

First Place Winners!

NETC SGA Christmas Decorating Contest

Door Winner:
"Stimulus Funds"
Debbie Cheek
Chief Business Officer

Area Winner:
"Let it Snow"
Student Services

First Citizens and the First Citizens Foundation recently awarded a \$100,000 grant to Northeastern Technical College (NETC) to support the college's nursing program.

A presentation was made to NETC President Dr. Ron Bartley at a special ceremony at the Cheraw campus.

"We at First Citizens recognize the educational opportunities provided by Northeastern Technical College to citizens living in the Pee Dee area, and we are pleased to contribute at this level to the college's very worthwhile nursing program," said Mike Wolfe, First Citizens Executive Vice President and Division Executive, during the presentation.

The grant will be used by the college to maintain basic instructional equipment and to purchase advanced equipment including hands-on clinical items, laptop computers with specialized nursing

education software, and a patient simulator.

"The continued reduction in state funding, combined with growth in our nursing programs, has made it difficult for the college to provide our students with the training equipment desired to support a successful program," said Dr. Ron Bartley, President of Northeastern Technical College. "However, with this type of support from First Citizens, we will now be better prepared to provide modern instruction to our nursing students and to answer a growing need for skilled nurses in the Pee Dee region."

Northeastern Technical College offers a diploma program in practical nursing which prepares graduates to take the licensure exam to become a licensed practical nurse (LPN) and a (see FOUNDATION AWARD on pg. 4)

President's Message



Dr. Ron Bartley, President

Even though we are living during austere times, exciting things are happening at NETC. Enrollment for the Spring 2010 semester is about 20% higher than the same time last year. The practical nursing program graduated 14 students in December. More students are enrolled in online courses than ever before. NETC has dual credit students enrolled from more schools than at any time in the past.

In January, First Citizens Bank presented \$100,000 to the college to buy equipment and supplies for the nursing program. The NETC community campus at Bennettsville is scheduled to expand its facilities this winter to include three classrooms (one is a computer lab) to accommodate as many as 90 additional students at any given time. The South Carolina Budget and Control Board gave approval to a 4800-square foot expansion of the NETC Dillon campus. The nursing classrooms

have been upgraded and renovated to better facilitate instruction on the Cheraw campus. Everyone is engaged in activities for the campus and the community. Students (SGA) sponsored a door decorating contest for Christmas, collected food for the needy, and took donations to help the Haiti earthquake victims. Faculty and staff participated in leadership activities, donated to United Way, and served on advisory boards and professional groups. In fact, the SGA door decorating contest created more excitement among both students and employees than we have seen at NETC in a long time.

We are not without challenges. NETC has experienced two reductions in state funds available to the college since the beginning of our budget year. The reductions amount to 9% to date and it is not known if further reductions are forthcoming.



Atticus Simpson

Simpson completes Leadership Program

Atticus Simpson, Director of Institutional Advancement, recently completed a certificate program in higher education leadership from the University of South Carolina. The certificate is an academic credential approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education to advance the knowledge and competencies of professionals in the South Carolina Technical College System.

The certificate is a two-year (six semester) program that requires participants to take classes in areas of higher education including finance, educational assessment, college teaching, legal affairs, and leadership. The program is targeted toward those who have been identified as possible future leaders within the technical college system.



Pam King and Kenneth Wingate

Instructor Recognized as Professor of the Year

Pam King has received the 2009 Governor's Distinguished Professor of the Year award for Northeastern Technical College.

King is an instructor in the college's nursing department and has been with the college since 2000 teaching in the practical nursing program. She was nominated by faculty colleagues and the college administration for her teaching excellence and commitment to higher

education.

Mr. Kenneth Wingate (standing in photo on right), chairman of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, presented King with the award during a luncheon held at the University of South Carolina. King was accompanied to Columbia for the luncheon by Dr. Forest Mahan, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Northeastern Technical College.

NETC Prepares Boomers for a Second Career

As the nation struggles through the current economic downturn and industries go through major overhauls, many citizens in Chesterfield, Marlboro and Dillon counties are facing unemployment. Many of these capable workers are taking the opportunity to explore new avenues of education and career by taking courses at Northeastern Technical College (NETC) in Pageland, Cheraw, Bennettsville and Pageland.

These returning or transitioning students are opening doors to new and exciting careers while enriching the culture at NETC through their wealth of life experience and knowledge.

“Many people are looking at courses

to help them transition into new, stable jobs,” said Sherrie Chapman, Dean of Continuing Education at NETC. “Baby-boomers are the bulk of the population and as they reach retirement age they still have the will and need to work, but they need help learning the skills required to start second careers.”

NETC student Danny Robinson, of Bennettsville, spent decades working at a facility that recently relocated out of the country. By pursuing an associate’s degree in industrial electronics at NETC, he is preparing himself to enter a new career in heating, ventilating and air conditioning. Robinson, who plans to start his own business using the skills he has learned at



Danny Robinson, of Bennettsville, earned an associate degree with academic honors in Industrial Electronics.

NETC, found returning to school a worthwhile and enriching experience.

Robinson said NETC has made him realize how much he loves learning and that NETC provides a challenging and supportive environment to more mature students who are returning to college.

Students Graduate from NETC Practical Nursing Program

Students completing the practical nursing program at Northeastern Technical College (NETC) were formally “pinned” and recognized recently at a ceremony in front of more than 150 family members, friends, and college administrators gathered on the college’s campus in Cheraw.

After an invocation delivered by the Reverend Dr. Johnnie McLendon, of Fisher Hill Community Baptist Church, Dr. Ron Bartley, President of Northeastern Technical College, commended the students for their hard work and recognized their families for their support. He congratulated the graduates on doing what was necessary to get the job done and encouraged them to never stop learning.

Shirley Dockray, a registered nurse who teaches courses in the NETC practical nursing program, was selected as graduation speaker. She encouraged the graduates to continue their education and offered words of wisdom by which to guide their careers.



Front Row (seated from left to right): Amy Snipes, of Sellers; Tiffany Tyner, of Cheraw; Ashley Harper, of Cheraw; Lori Crocker, of Patrick; Jessica Griggs, of Patrick; Angellica Ford, of Cheraw; Michelle Herring, of Pageland. Back Row (standing from left to right): Cheryl Douglass, NETC Nursing Department instructor; Theresa Wright, NETC Nursing Department Head; Courtney Gilmore, of Darlington; Kimberly Kelly, of Cheraw; Patricee Sims, of Darlington; Shara Goodwin, of Cheraw; Alison Laney, of Pageland; A. Felicia Kirby, of Bennettsville; Whitney Belcher, of Bennettsville; Pam King, NETC Nursing Department instructor.

Two of the fourteen graduates were recognized with special awards during the ceremony. The Jean L. Harris Award for Outstanding Clinical Performance was presented to Jessica Griggs, of Patrick, for the positive attitude and caring expressed

toward patients and their families during her clinical rotation. Shara Goodwin, of Cheraw, received the NETC Award for Practical Nursing Academic Excellence for her outstanding performance in the classroom and knowledge of nursing skills.

Student Government

The NETC SGA has been very active this academic year. In an effort to become more involved with the students and staff, the SGA began the fall semester with the annual Fall Field Day. This event provided games, food, and prizes for students and staff. For Halloween there was a costume contest and a drawing for a gift basket as well as a canned food drive for Thanksgiving. Non-perishable food items were

donated to local agencies in Chesterfield, Marlboro, and Dillon counties to help with feeding families in need. Still in the giving spirit, the SGA members gave warm blankets of love to residents at Palmetto Ridge Assisted Living (formerly Cheraw Manor) for Christmas. At NETC, joy and laughter spread throughout the halls with the door decorating contest. There were several winners for this event with great prizes.

As the second semester begins, the SGA has several events planned. They include Valentine's Day, The Black History Program, and Spring Field Day.

Student government is open to any enrolled student and participation is encouraged. Officers for 2009-2010 are Desmond McManus, President, Jeffery Walker, Vice President and Stacia Barton, Secretary. Currently there are 19 active members in the 2009-2010 SGA.

Nursing Students Receive Tolar Scholarships



Dr. Jerry Robertson (far left), Vice President of Student Services at Northeastern Technical College, and Sheryll Marshall (far right), Financial Aid Officer, met with NETC students Angela Teal Carpenter (left) and Brittany Grooms (right) to award them the William Carson Tolar III Scholarship.

Angela Teal Carpenter, of Cheraw, and Brittany Grooms, of McColl, were recently awarded the William Carson Tolar III Scholarship named after long time Pee Dee resident, William "Bill" Carson Tolar III. This scholarship is presented to a student beginning Northeastern Technical College's (NETC) Practical Nursing (PN) program.

The scholarship was established in 2001 by Tolar's wife Jane, a retired public health nurse who lived with her husband in Bennettsville for more than 30 years. She and her husband decided to establish the scholarship just prior to Tolar's death.

Carpenter is enrolled as a full-time student in NETC's PN program and works part time at Cheraw Health Care as a certified nursing assistant (CNA). Upon completion of the PN program, she plans to continue her dreams of becoming a nurse and giving back to the community.

Grooms is also enrolled as a full-time student in the college's PN program and works part time as a CNA at Scotia Village in Laurinburg. She plans to pursue an associate degree in Nursing after completing the PN program at NETC and hopes to one day become a licensed nurse working in a federal prison or in a trauma unit of a local hospital.

Foundation Award (Continued from front page)

certified nursing certificate program which prepares students for a career as a certified nursing assistant (CNA). The college also recently graduated the first class of students from its Associate Degree in Nursing program which prepares graduates to take the licensure exam to become a registered nurse.

"Northeastern Technical College reached an historic educational milestone in offering an Associate Degree in Nursing that now allows citizens in the Pee Dee to pursue a nursing degree at a more affordable tuition rate with fewer miles to travel to class," said Stephen S. Jacobs, a Senior Vice

President and Retail Market Executive for the bank. "First Citizens is committed to promoting growth in our rural communities and saw this as an opportunity to give back to the Pee Dee where many of our customers live and work."