

Alumni news from Danville Community College for alumni from *Danville Technical Institute, VPI-Danville and Danville Community College*

You are an alumni of Danville Community College. Upon passing one credit class at DCC or the former institutions—Danville Technical Institute and VPI-Danville, you became an alumni.

Danville Community College is yours for life. You can exchange news, share stories, look up a friend or find a career possibility on the alumni web site. As a member of the Danville Community College family, you are encouraged to stay connected with classmates, to sign up for a class, to investigate programs and to volunteer for campus or alumni initiatives.

Success: How does DCC promote positive student learning experiences?
Every area's objective is positive, continuous student achievement

Construction update: Health Sciences building, student center aid student success with state-of-the-art facilities; fitness center open, operating

On April 12, 1970, Danville's local newspaper, *The Register*, reported that nineteen buildings were part of the long-range plan for Danville Community College's campus. Today, the tenth and eleventh buildings are under construction with the twelfth scheduled for construction bidding in October. The tenth building, the Health Sciences building, is rising out of the ground near where the first original DCC building stood. That previous building, known locally as The Castle, was the class building for many alumni.

With steel girders spreading like star wars spacecraft along the front campus facing Kemper Road, present students envision classes in a twenty-first century, glass-front castle boasting the contemporary design emblematic of a forward-moving community college. Local residents and students driving toward Kemper Road see a construction crane rising high above the girders on a daily basis. This steel building skeleton, indicating construction is on target for completion in the first quarter of 2009, causes students to constantly comment, "It's going to be so-o-o tall," said Buddy Rawley, DCC Foundation Director.

"The beautiful exterior, according to Rawley, "is an indication of how spectacular the inside will be with reflected light harmonizing with the newest design in furnishings and lab equipment chosen to enable the latest techniques in instruction and technology to be utilized. For instance, one of the new teaching methods will be carried out with anatomically correct dummies of the human body. The dummies carry technology capable of being programmed with symptoms of a variety of

diseases, operation aftermaths and human medical traumas. Students will be able to determine through class simulations how they should proceed or react to each human medical problem.”

Nursing, dental and other medical specialty students will find the new facility contains a 75 seat auditorium for large group instruction daily and for after hours instruction from medical professionals throughout the state and from across the United States. “This facility will house both our practical nursing instruction and a bridge program for Registered Nursing. With the dental and other medical programs planned, we will have one of the finest medical buildings in the state on a community college campus, a medical facility we expect will lure many students from beyond our region as well as from within our region to study medicine,” Rawley added.

Equipment and furnishings will be supplied through funds generated from interest on the \$9.7 million grant from the Danville Regional Foundation which was presented to the college a year ago. Interest will have accrued to approximately \$600,000 by the time the costs for furnishings will be needed. That interest is another way the Danville Regional Foundation helped the region and its students move forward with acquiring new skills once the building opens for instruction.

Furnishings are already complete and in place for the Fitness Center which will be part of the physical therapy program. Treadmills, elliptical equipment, exercise cycles, free weights, and men’s and women’s bathrooms and locker rooms were all funded by approximately \$315,000 from Tobacco Commission funds allocated to the college. College staff and faculty are already using the equipment daily before and after hours and during lunch breaks.

Near the Fitness Center and eventual Health Sciences Building, a new parking lot was completed before fall semester classes began at the Hill Building. This lot adds needed parking as expanded student numbers over the years will require further parking, plus clients seeking dental and physical therapy will require parking spaces.

Between the EIT and LRC buildings off Kemper Road, the site for the Student Center awaits construction beginning in November with a planned ground breaking. Construction bidding begins October 1. If adverse weather conditions do not interfere, construction of the Student Center can be complete some time in fall 2009.

One building project on campus is expected to be complete in October of this year. The long-awaited maintenance building will open, equipment from the present buildings will be moved and those buildings dating from World War II will be demolished. After landscaping of the property, DCC will have a future building site available.

“Pathways to Success” grant helps Trade Act students complete degrees, attain diplomas

Often students who are in college because of job loss created through outsourcing of jobs to other countries find themselves in very difficult situations because of time or money restrictions in the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (Trade Act). Some students receiving benefits cannot finish programs in the required time frame or they find that they exhaust health and transportation benefits before their classes can be completed. These students’ success in completing training depends on sources beyond NAFTA.

In an effort to assist students exhausting NAFTA benefits, the Danville Regional Foundation awarded \$1,850,355 to Danville Community College and Piedmont Community College in Yanceyville, N.C., March 31, 2008. Those funds titled, “Pathways for Success: A Cross-Border Collaboration,” have a two-year dispensation period which began May 27, 2008, to help approximately 330 students—260 at DCC and 70 at PCC. During the summer session, Camille Lovelace, who works with the students, said that 71 students were served. The fall session applications for assistance presently number 99 applications.

Students are served by the DCC office if they reside in Danville, Pittsylvania County or Caswell County. Students who drive from as far away as Pittsville, Virginia, 40 miles, and those who drive from Pittsylvania County to Central Virginia Community College at Lynchburg, Virginia, are being served with help in funding transportation needs. Lovelace explained, “We are most concerned with providing them help, so they can finish their classes. If students live in the region the grant serves and they are Trade Act qualified, they are eligible for help whether they are on DCC’s campus or on another community college campus.”

“Pathways for Success” includes funds for specialized services that include supplemental unemployment payments for students needing extended benefits in order to prevent their dropping out before completing degrees or certificates, health insurance assistance in the form of 25 percent of the 35 percent federal regulations require students to pay, dropping their payments to 10 percent for health insurance, and educational costs for training fields not covered by Trade Act funds. Those fields include nursing assisting, medical technician, truck driver, rural entrepreneurship, advanced computer skills and business ownership.

Beyond those three areas, the “Pathways to Success” grant also provides transportation assistance along with funds for assessing skills for career readiness certification.

Finally, students are not graduated into a world where they have to determine how to find job openings alone, but they are guided through job placement support from the office overseeing the “Pathways to Success” funding. That office has a director and two assistants who manage individual students’ needs.

Success Center created

Oversees, develops programs advancing student learning, retention, graduation attainment

- **In 2006, DCC was recognized as the Virginia community college having the best three-year average for graduation rates in the Virginia Community College System with a 30.6 percent graduation rate as opposed to the system-wide average of 19.3 percent.**
- **In 2004-2005, DCC's transfer rate for students transferring to four-year colleges was 58.8 percent as opposed to the system-wide average of 52.1 percent.**
- **In 2004-2005, the college also placed in the top four for student retention rates, greater than 60 percent retention; in 2007, the college placed in the top six in student retention rates.**

Even though these statistics show quality outcomes at DCC, they also indicate that there are numerous students who begin a program and never finish it, or take classes but never receive their diplomas, or don't pursue education beyond the two-year level. To increase student success rates through awareness of campus opportunities and offerings, the college established a Student Success Center in 2007 under the direction of Dr. Janet Laughlin.

The Success Center coordinates interventions and strategies for student success, helps students become aware of avenues available and promotes faculty reinforcing all opportunities available. An intervention for all students is the College Success Skills course (SDV 100) which is required for all program-placed students. SDV 100 was developed to specifically target areas where students were having difficulties and train them how to surmount those difficulties. During the SDV 100 course, students participate in discussions and activities related to college/career success planning; human relations skills development; expectations related to college; academic skills including studying methods, note taking, test taking approaches, learning styles, and time management; information literacy and library research; ethics, values and academic integrity; wellness; finances; basic computer operations; and student obstacles, pitfalls and distractions.

Learning communities were established several years ago and have been a method to increase student success through keeping a group of students together in a set of classes to promote their interactions and building of trust and sharing of information and study activities. Students in learning communities must take a minimum of two classes together. These communities are especially important for students in math and English classes because they learn and share study strategies. Instructors use the communities to identify problems of individuals and the group and seek solutions to those problems through the group dynamics.

The college provides free tutoring services through the college's nationally-certified Tutoring Center, a mentoring program, and promotion of study groups, workshops, seminars and guest lecturers.

Beyond these offerings, the college is one of 57 community colleges nationwide participating in the Achieving the Dream initiative, funded by the Lumina Foundation and its partners. Students of color and low-income students learn how to close achievement gaps and surmount barriers to success. They as well as all students on campus learn about the opportunities in continuing to pursue degrees beyond the two-year degree. Many had not known about articulation agreements with colleges that allow students to seamlessly transfer from the community college into various programs with a specified grade-point average. Knowing early about these opportunities as well as available funding options, promotes students' desires to achieve to a level that will allow them to transfer with funding options available.

With the SDV 100 class along with other avenues for success having been taught for a year, DCC is aware that students are already more knowledgeable about how to effectively approach college, how to find funding sources, how to surmount class obstacles. One very simple method for success was the college providing student planners for every student and teachers enforcing the use of student planners so students learned to effectively organize their days, prioritize their upcoming activities and evaluate where their time slots for effective study might be found in lives that include not only college classes, but family and often jobs, both full time and part time.

Alumni excel, attain success - Brooks, Fulp attain national recognition as 2008 Outstanding Incubator Client

One-Stop Cellular has been named the 2008 Outstanding Incubator Client in the nontechnology category by the National Business Incubation Association. This category captures mixed use-incubators who host technology and nontechnology companies. The winner of the prestigious award was announced at NBIA's 22nd International Conference on Business Incubation in San Antonio before representatives from over 50 countries representing the best in the industry from over 5,000 incubators and their tenants' world-wide.

A client of the Dan River Business Development Center (DRBDC) of Danville, Va., One-Stop Cellular is one of the largest privately held retailers of wireless phones and pagers on the East Coast, with locations in Virginia and North Carolina. One-Stop Cellular was formed in 1995 by Charles Fulp from South Boston, Virginia, and Scott Brooks, of Danville, Virginia, who both still serve as senior executives of the company and who are both Danville Community College graduates.

The firm entered the DRBDC to receive incubation services for its headquarters and distribution center in 2004. One-Stop Cellular established a unique approach to the provision of multiple wireless carriers for customer convenience. The company specializes in sales to the cellular phone and pager retail market. It is significant to this market because it offers a convenient way for a customer's needs and demographics to be factored into the buying model. It also provides for a more diverse array of offerings, enabling the company to remain on the leading edge of wireless innovation.

The vision was based on customer service and satisfaction—an ingredient often overlooked by other retail stores. It prepared the young company to catapult to the top of east coast wireless deliverers. The aggressive approach, launched from a rural area of Virginia, proved successful in major metropolitan areas as well. One-Stop's executives have continued their commitment to the rural community from which they started—their climate for entrepreneurial creativity has resulted in the start-up or acquisition of five additional companies. They now serve as mentors and coaches for other nascent entrepreneurs.

Business incubation programs like the Dan River Business Development Center catalyze the process of starting and growing companies by providing entrepreneurs with the expertise, networks and tools they need to make their ventures successful. NBIA estimates that in 2005 alone, North American incubators assisted more than 27,000 start-up companies that provided full-time employment for more than 100,000 workers and generated annual revenue of more than \$17 billion. Approximately 5,000 business incubators operate worldwide.

The relationship with the DRBDC has proven beneficial for One-Stop Cellular. The incubator accommodated the needs of the firm's distribution facility and provided contacts with local economic developers to obtain incentives for the company as it added jobs in the community. The center hosts the Danville Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce's Hall of Fame for entrepreneurial award winners—One-Stop Cellular owners, Brooks and Fulp, are recognized on this wall of champions as Enduring Entrepreneur Award Winners. Many older and equally innovative pioneers are joined by this young and energetic team, who prove that innovation and entrepreneurial vigor are the keys to economic revitalization in the region!

One-Stop Cellular currently has a team of over 200 employees. Their well managed growth is balanced with low debt to equity ratio and high return on investment. Their success is because of a customer service model and significant investment in the professional development and training of their team. Their customer model for wireless delivery is unique in a market generally driven by commodity product sales.

The National Business Incubation Association is the world's leading organization advancing business incubation and entrepreneurship. Each year, the NBIA Incubation Awards honor the business incubation programs, graduates and client companies that exemplify the best of the industry, and One-Stop Cellular joins this esteemed group of high performers.

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Keith Logan's dream of college graduation becomes reality through DCC, VPI attendance*

Poet Langston Hughes wrote about the agony of a dream deferred and what it does to an individual's life. Keith Logan, Pittsylvania County native, stopped deferring his dream after a year of manual labor.

For most of his life, Keith Logan felt the need to hide the fact he was a good student.

"I had to overcome the peer pressure," he says. "People at school would talk because I wasn't doing the things they did." His peers frequently labeled him "Teacher's pet." That, and financial pressure, prevented him from pursuing the opportunities that were opened by graduating from Chatham High School as the 2005 valedictorian.

Instead, he spent the summer working the third shift at a paper company—hard labor that intensified his dream to pursue a college education but also took a toll. "I would come home with a sore back, because I had to lift and stack boxes. I also missed being with my family during the day, because I had to sleep."

With the dual enrollment credits he earned in high school, Logan was able to graduate from Danville Community College after only one year of full-time study. He also fulfilled his dream of attending college at no expense to his parents by earning the DCC Board Academic Excellence Scholarship and the Kenneth L. Neathery Memorial Endowment Scholarship awards.

His success continued after transferring to Virginia Tech, where he was enrolled in the Pamplin College of Business. There, he earned the Lifeline Scholarship, awarded on academic merit and given to VCCS graduates with the highest grade-point average.

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Success for alumni operations: Alumni Council officers elected; official council membership set

Five officers now lead the Danville Community College Alumni Association for the 2008-2010 officer term which began July 1. Those elected at the July 14 Alumni Council meeting include Debra Creasy Carlson, president; Robin Jones, president-elect, Connie Wann, secretary; Shannon Hair, treasurer; and Jim Lindley, liaison to the DCC Foundation Board.

President Carlson, a 2008 Outstanding Alumni recipient and a 1984 DCC graduate, has nineteen years experience as an attorney practicing residential real estate law in Danville. Presently affiliated with Wilkins & Company as a realtor, she also teaches real estate law for Averett University and DCC.

President-elect Robin Jones, a 1988 DCC graduate, is executive director of Little Life Pregnancy Medical Center in Danville. Secretary Wann, a 1971 and 2003 DCC graduate, is administrative assistant to the vice president for Academic and Student Services for DCC. Liaison Lindley, a 1991 DCC graduate, is an admissions counselor in the Admissions Office where he also handles student activities and athletics.

At the beginning of the Alumni Council meeting, the full council was officially installed with memberships staggered over a three-year period according to the bylaws. Council members can be reelected to the council when their terms expire. Members of the Alumni Council and their present term lengths include:

- Bobby Roach – SGA President – one-year term
- Hannah Bennett – Student Representative – one-year term
- Amy Yesalavich – one-year term
- Carolyn Price – three-year term
- Martha Flanagan – three-year term
- Diane Waters – one-year term
- Jimmy Wade – one-year term
- Anita Wyatt – one-year term
- Robin Jones – three-year term
- Connie Wann – one-year term
- Ed White – one-year term
- Jolane Dunlap – two-year term
- Jim Lindley – one-year term
- Ann Taylor – two-year term
- Nancy Taylor – two-year term
- Harry Kolendrianos – three-year term
- Cathy Pulliam – two-year term
- Beverly Scruggs – three-year term
- Shannon Hair – three-year term
- Debra Carlson – three-year term
- Shelby Irvin – two-year term
- Barbara Dameron – two-year term
- Jim Lowe – one-year term

At an Executive Session held August 11, committee memberships were created for eight committees: finance, by-laws, membership, nomination, communication, resource development, special events and recognition and scholarship. Notifications are underway for designated individuals. Committee assignments and duties will be reported upon in the September *Link* after all membership nominations are acknowledged.

If you are interested in being a part of the DCC Alumni Council in the future or a member of an Alumni Committee or subcommittee or would like to volunteer services to the DCC Foundation or Alumni Association, please notify the alumni relations coordinator at alumni@dcc.vccs.edu or call the Alumni phone line at 434-797-8499 and leave your name, phone number and message, so the coordinator can return your call.

Alumni career opportunities available, expanding successes, lifetime potential

A Job/job training opportunity in the telecommunications field is available for you, family members, or other interested individuals. CAD operators/drafters are needed to participate in exciting, complex projects in the telecommunications field for premiere telephone and data contractors. *Potential to increase base earnings if you are a highly motivated individual with excellent project management skills. Excellent benefit package. Will train CAD operators in the field.* We adhere to national training standards. FAX resume to 434.797.9606 or submit online at econdev@discoverdanville.com

Job postings in the Danville/Pittsylvania/Halifax region for alumni can be viewed at http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/careercenter/Employers/Business-jobs/bus_jobs.html.

Other job postings, nationally and statewide through college career sites, can be accessed through the DCC Alumni web site. Register and post your resume for opportunities nationally and locally by going to www.https://alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/DVL/ or go to the DCC home page at [www.http://dcc.vccs.edu](http://www.dcc.vccs.edu), select *Foundation/Alumni* from the menu on the left side of the page and choose *Alumni*.

Christy Yaple, DCC's director of Tech Prep and Career Placement, receives numerous requests for resumes from employers seeking candidates for job openings. To post a resume on the DCC home page site:

- Go to www.dcc.vccs.edu
- Click on Student Services
- Click on Career Center
- Click on Student/Alumni tab
- Click on Submit a Resume
- Complete Resume Template
- Click Post Resume

If you have any questions, contact Christy at cyaple@dcc.vccs.edu

Alumni web site offers connectivity; job, networking opportunities:

If you have not registered to use the alumni web site and its many opportunities for connecting and research, go to www.https://alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/DVL/ or go to the DCC home page at www.dcc.vccs.edu, select *Foundation/Alumni* from

the menu on the left side of the page and choose *Alumni*. The Alumni information window will then open to explain use of the web site and to direct you on how to access the alumni web site.

We encourage you to spread the word to your friends from DCC about registering on the web site. The web site allows you to post information as well as access information.

You may also communicate with the Alumni Relations Coordinator at alumni@dcc.vccs.edu concerning services the office could seek and access for alumni. Such services can include specific classes or small seminars needed on specialized subjects, group travel rates, group insurance, week end meetings on special topics, reunions, etc.

If you have needs or ideas, don't hesitate to send your comments and requests.

Feedback?

We hope you as a DCC, DTI or VPI-Danville alumni find information provided monthly from Danville Community College to be informative and helpful. Comments, questions, requests concerning alumni operations or *The Link* can be directed to Marie Harris, alumni relations coordinator, at alumni@dcc.vccs.edu