

Celebrating six decades of service to Columbus County



A special publication of
The News Reporter

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past and present, for 60 successful years,
and we thank the students for eating
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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It's truly an honor to serve as the 10th president of Southeastern Community College. Serving in this role for the past four years has allowed me to witness firsthand the remarkable legacy this institution has built over the past 60 years.

Since its founding in 1964, SCC has been a source of opportunity for so many in Columbus County. Everywhere I go, I meet someone who shares how their life was changed because of the education they received at SCC. Whether it was earning a degree, acquiring a skill, or simply finding a path forward, this college has touched the lives of countless citizens in our community.

The incredible impact of SCC would not be possible without the tireless dedication of our faculty and staff, both past and present. Their unwavering commitment to student success has been at the heart of what we do. They have poured their hearts into ensuring that every individual who walks through our doors leaves equipped for both career success and a meaningful life. This dedication is the cornerstone of our reputation as an institution that transforms lives.

The leadership from our former presidents, trustees, and foundation board members has established the foundation for our continued growth and success, allowing us to build a strong, thriving workforce and make Columbus County a better place to live, work, and play.

Looking forward, I am confident that SCC will continue to be a vital part of Columbus County that citizens can count on for the next 60 years and beyond. I am incredibly proud to represent a part of the college's long-standing success.

Thank you for trusting Southeastern Community College to be your community's college. Together, we will continue to create opportunities, shape futures, and make an even greater impact in the years to come.

With gratitude and pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris English". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Chris English
President, Southeastern Community College

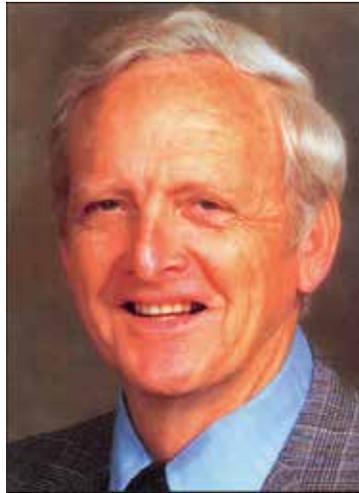
Saluting the 10 presidents of



Dr. Warren A. Land
1964 to 1966



E. Philip Comer
1967 to 1969



Dr. William T. Cottingham
1969 to 1973



Dr. W. Ronald McCarter
1973 to 1982



Dr. Dan W. Moore
1982 to 1988

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Southeastern Community College



Dr. Stephen C. Scott
1988 to 1999



Dr. Brantley Briley
2000 to 2004



Dr. Kathy Matlock
2004 to 2014



Dr. Anthony Clarke
2014 to 2019



Dr. Chris English
2020 to Present

Southeastern
Community College has
made a positive impact in
our community for 60 years.
We thank you for making
a difference.

Congratulations

FROM THE

City of Whiteville



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on 60 years of Excellence**


Columbus County
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From crusade to campus: How SCC became a reality 60 years ago

In the early days of 1963, Dr. C. Horace Hamilton, Reynolds professor of rural sociology at N.C. State University, prepared a survey for Gov. Terry Sanford's Commission on Education Beyond the High School. The survey was called Community Colleges For North Carolina and addressed the needs and possible locations for potential community college service areas around the state.

Fourteen primary locations were established, with Columbus County number two behind Burke County and the Morganton area. Local businessman Jesse Fisher was finishing his doctoral work at UNC Chapel Hill when he saw the results of the survey discussed in a newspaper. He was looking to relocate to Whiteville and came as an informed transplant.

Fisher said that, once in Columbus County, he set about talking



Groundbreaking ceremonies

about the idea of the local institution of higher learning "to anyone who would listen."

By April 1963 a committee appointed by the county commissioners was having its first meeting. Besides Fisher, the committee consisted of Flora Singletary, Martin Schulken and Jesse M. Gudger, all of Whiteville; Sam G. Koonce and Martin Lowe of Chadbourn; Shay P. Smith of Tabor City; Cora Jane Ward of Clarendon; Jack Council of Lake Waccamaw and Tom Clayton of Fair Bluff.

In May 1963 the Omnibus Higher Education Act became law and effectively created the community college system of today. The junior colleges had purged industrial/vocational training but those centers had begun offering remedial college courses and were working in a parallel direction.

▶ SEE **SCC'S HISTORY** PAGE 7

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SCC'S HISTORY

Continued from page 6

The Higher Education Act of 1963 brought them together into a more cohesive unit.

On the local front, bills from both State Sen. Carl Meares and State Rep. Arthur Williamson for a \$500,000 appropriation went to the General Assembly requesting the establishment of a two-year community college in the county. The Columbus County Community College Committee — chaired by Fisher — was present.

The Community College Crusade

The primary criterion for selection was the availability of land, at least 50 contiguous acres. The first site offered came from John and Howard Singletary, a tract near the old New Hope school some four miles south of Whiteville, in the family since 1837. Committee member Flora Singletary was



One of the earliest commencements on the new campus

wife of Howard.

Seeking to create a curriculum before college construction was complete, the committee involved the county and Whiteville school systems in the discussion. The Nakina and New Hope schools were suggested as early class sites and the Singletary tract seemed promising.

On Sept. 15, 1963, the committee launched what was called The Community College Crusade, an eight-day effort to obtain 12,000 county signatures of support — roughly 25% of the population — to take to Raleigh to assure Columbus County a spot on the final list. Nineteen area chairmen worked with 500 canvassers to

On Sept. 15, 1963, a committee launched what was called The Community College Crusade. It was an eight-day effort to obtain 12,000 county signatures of support — roughly 25% percent of the population — to take to Raleigh to assure Columbus County a spot on the final list.

reach the public. L.P. Ward Jr. of Clarendon was chair of the crusade. Ward pointed out that endorsements from other counties were equally welcome.

That same week Fisher announced that Rep. Williamson of Chadbourn had offered a 50-acre tract between Whiteville and Chadbourn with frontage on both Old Chadbourn Road and the four-lane U.S. 74-76. Unlike the Singletary tract, the

▶ SEE **SCC'S HISTORY** PAGE 12

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**Thank you SCC for 60 years of serving
Columbus County**

1964: First classes offered at Whiteville High School & Hallsboro High School.

1966: SCC's first graduation ceremony was held in the Chadbourn High School auditorium on August 19th. Twenty-two students from the vocational division were awarded certificates: thirteen in automotive mechanics, four in electronic servicing, and five in welding.

1964 -



1965: Registration was held on Sept. 7 and 8, and classes began on Sept. 9.



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1973



1967: Graduation ceremonies were held to confer the first associate degrees on June 4. SCC was granted full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in December 1967.



Did You Know

Full-time students paid approximately \$150 per year for tuition and books in 1965.

WE KNOW THE VALUE OF SCC...

When Southeastern Community College started sixty years ago, we were a small welding and repair shop. We took advantage of their advanced welding classes a couple of years later, and soon after began manufacturing horse trailers.

Just as SCC has grown to become a major influence in Columbus County life, we have grown from that small welding and repair shop to become a major Columbus County manufacturer with our trailers being sold all over the United States and overseas.



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Thanks SCC for your help!

1974 -

1980: SCC revitalized its cooperative education program, enabling students to alternate between part-time work and part-time college attendance. The Dual Enrollment program also launched, allowing high school students to take college credit courses at SCC.



1976: Arthur W. Williamson, a prominent Columbus County farmer-businessman and former state legislator who gave the land for the present SCC campus, donated an additional portion of land along the northeast corner of the campus. The library, shown here, was named for William in 2014.

We thank SCC for 60 years of service and look forward to a bright future.

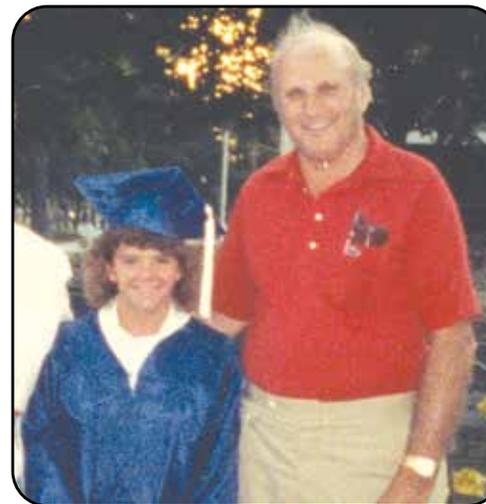
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“A solid foundation in your college journey is necessary for a successful career in life. You can get that foundation at SCC. I did!”



I am so proud to say I am an SCC Graduate.”
Congratulations on 60 Successful Years!

Jackie Ray-Pierce

Southeastern Community College Graduate 1987, A.A.

University of North Carolina at Wilmington, 1989, B.S.



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1983



Did You Know

In 1981, 48 students were dually enrolled in high school while also taking SCC college classes.



1980: Dedication of the Chadbourn Bell in honor of Arthur W. Williamson Sr., who donated the land for the current campus. The bell, which had been a part of the old Chadbourn High School since 1924, was given to SCC by the Columbus County Board of Education as a historical artifact for the community.

Congratulations SCC on your 60th Anniversary



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We salute SCC on 60 years of outstanding service to the Columbus County community and the people of Southeastern North Carolina. We're committed to supporting SCC, as together, we help Columbus County grow and prosper.

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SCC'S HISTORY

Continued from page 7

new offering had cleared as well as wooded acreage.

Fisher related an almost Road-to-Damascus-type epiphany. He said as he was driving one day "the idea of a College Crusade came to my mind." That crusade was successful and "we were among the first five new ones!"

More land offered

By October 1963, the recommendation was made by the director of the state community college department of the N.C. Board of Education that a community college be approved for Columbus County. Colleges for Moore and Rockingham counties had already been approved, and further recommendations for either Morganton or Lenoir and Mt. Airy or North Wilkesboro were included with Columbus. Decisions were

coming fast. Additionally, other sites were offered: 50 acres in Cerro Gordo Township by W.H. Shelley; a choice of 50 acres just north of Hallsboro or 30 acres near old New Hope school, from County Commissioner L.P. Ward and his son; and 43 acres in the Oakdale community north of Chadbourn from Roland Hinson. A 75-acre tract within the town limits of Lake Waccamaw — offered by Council Tool Company — would bring the total number of sites to 10. Chairman Fisher said: "We are deeply gratified for these expressions of support in the interest of better educational opportunities for the county and others whom the college may serve."

Making the case

The local community college committee prepared a bound



The 1967-68 SCC Marshals

report for the State Board of Education containing all pertinent information, including the canvassing. Essentially, all that remained by the end of October 1963 was preparing the financial data.

The county commission was working toward a bond referendum, and the state was to cover nearly 65% of the cost.

The Nov. 7 issue of The News Reporter reprinted the formal

request to the State Board of Education in its entirety. It pointed out that the newly formed Columbus County Committee of 100 had been a close advisor to the college committee. The financial data showed that the building for the college would cost \$1 million and that the state and county would split that outlay equally. Administrative and teachers' salaries would come from the state, and maintenance costs from the county.

The plan to have "every person in the county" form a cavalcade to Raleigh that day fell far short, with only 20 determined county folks attending.

But the 67-page report was thorough, and the 12,000 signatures conclusive enough that the public's attendance was extra icing on the cake. It was a done deal, contingent on the

The Jan. 6, 1964 issue of the The News Reporter featured a front-page editorial promoting the upcoming bond vote, citing the 12,000-signature petition as answer to the question "Do We Want College?"

passage of the \$500,000 bond referendum on Jan. 14, 1964.

Bond vote makes college 'a done deal'

The final days of 1963 found the Community College Committee prosecuting a get-out-the-vote campaign, with the county blanketed with flyers and canvassers. The Jan. 6, 1964 issue of the The News Reporter featured a front-page editorial promoting the upcoming bond vote, citing the 12,000-signature petition as answer to the question "Do We Want College?"

More positive front-page editorials would appear in the

▶ SEE SCC'S HISTORY PAGE 20

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Auto mechanics was a major draw at SCC during the 1970s and 1980s.



Basketball



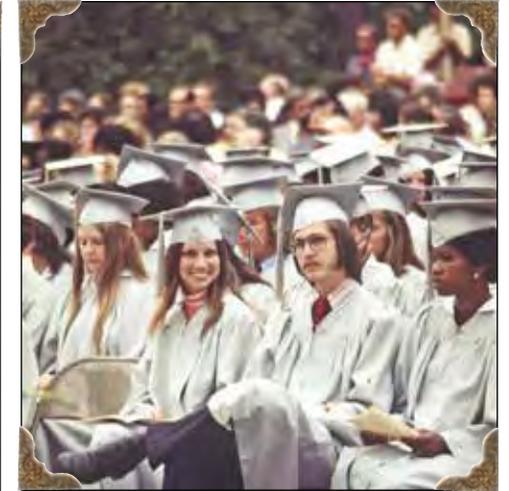
Friends hanging out at a picnic table during a break



Showcasing different career paths on the SCC front lawn



SCC students on a field trip with the SCC bus



Graduation ceremonies

COLUMBUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Congratulations and Thank You, SCC, for 60 years of service to education and a better quality of life to our citizens.



Front row: Clerk to the Board Jana Nealey, Commissioner Lavern Coleman, Commissioner (Chair) Ricky Bullard, Commissioner Chris Smith. Second row: Commissioner Brent Watts, Commissioner (Vice Chair) Giles E. "Buddy" Byrd, Commissioner Barbara Featherson, Commissioner Scott Floyd, County Manager Eddie Madden and County Attorney Amanda Prince.



Working together for the citizens of Columbus County

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Highlights from SCC's 60th year

Excerpts from news releases submitted by SCC. Read them in their entirety at scnc.edu.

January

SCC unveils new 60th anniversary logo design

In celebration of 60 years of opening doors to opportunities in southeastern North Carolina, Southeastern Community College has a new 60th anniversary logo. The college has seen an evolution in its logo designs with the use of triangles in the 1980s, circles in the 1990s, a globe in the 2000s, and most recently, the Chadbourn Bell.



“The college has had a significant impact on the community in the last 60 years with building a workforce, providing college transfer opportunities and having an athletics program,” said Dr. Chris English, SCC president. “We’ve been embedded in this community for a long time and celebrating 60 years is a celebration of greatness and importance to this community.”

February

'A dream come true' – new fire training tower facility opens

Fire and rescue training received a significant upgrade in Columbus County when SCC cut a ribbon in celebration of the college's newest facility on Feb. 17. The multi-story fire tower features tools needed for every practical skills requirement, other than burning, associated with the firefighter certification program at SCC.

“This really is a dream come true,” said Dr. Sylvia Cox, SCC executive vice president. “This dream has been, at least, a decade in the making.”



Ground breaks for new Chadbourn Bell structure

SCC celebrated its 60th anniversary with a ground-breaking ceremony on Feb. 6 for the construction of a gazebo-like structure that will replace the current site of the Chadbourn Bell. Through the Raise the Bell campaign, organized by the SCC Foundation, the Chadbourn Bell will be placed at the top of the new structure surrounded by engraved brick walkways.

SCC Board of Trustees member Henry Edmund recalled his experience with the Chadbourn Bell to a large audience assembled at the groundbreaking ceremony. He said he used to ring the Chadbourn Bell at Chadbourn High School in the 1960s before it was moved to SCC's campus in 1980.

“This bell signifies the unity of our community,” Edmund said. “It’s a symbol of SCC’s past, present and future.”



March

SCC Foundation receives \$200,000 gift from Jewish community

Members of the former Beth Israel Synagogue in Whiteville donated \$200,000 to the SCC Foundation at its regular board meeting on March 7. Representing the Jewish community and presenting the check were Gary Kramer, Ricky Leinwand and Terry Mann to SCC Foundation Board Chair Brett Gore.

“We’re so fortunate that the Jewish community, who used to attend the Beth Israel Synagogue, have decided to support the college with this nice gift of \$200,000,” SCC President Dr. Chris English said. “When the synagogue was torn down, they decided to take the proceeds and split it among different organizations; we happen to be one of the recipients of that money.”

SCC Foundation Executive Director Terrie Priest said that \$125,000 of the donation will be used



to establish the Beth Israel Synagogue Endowment Fund. Proceeds from this fund will be used annually to provide education and programming to students, faculty and staff of SCC with a special emphasis towards education about antisemitism.

April

Rocco's Reveal: SCC's beloved mascot unveils newest look

SCC's ram mascot, Rocco, transformed his appearance with new shoes, new clothes and a new head. Since 2008, Rocco has seen three costume changes. This third iteration of Rocco made his official debut at SCC's first homecoming event on April 27.



SCC President Dr. Chris English said that Rocco's new design plays a large part in SCC's rebranding vision. He said that Rocco represents vitality and athleticism, and children recognize the ram as SCC's mascot at campus and community events.

June



'Figuring it out together' – SCC hosts first human resources task force meeting

SCC welcomed 31 human resources directors and staff members to campus on June 5 for a breakfast and workshop discussion, the first of its kind for the college. The main goal of the breakfast event was to compile a list of roadblocks that local employers and industry partners hit when recruiting and retaining new employees.

SCC President Dr. Chris English made opening remarks and highlighted the apprenticeship and short-term workforce development programs at SCC that are training qualified candidates and creating pathways for them. He said that work-based learning opportunities are going to "grow our own" in meeting the needs of employers.

July

High school summer campers gain work experience in technical and healthcare fields

After five weeks of classes, 80 students earned certificates from the High School Summer Camps program at SCC. Simulating a real-world workday in the technical and healthcare industries, campers got a taste of working in their career fields while gaining industry-recognized credentials. More than 160 certifications were earned.

The camp, in partnership with Columbus County Schools and Whiteville City Schools, saw students explore careers in electrical engineering, healthcare, welding, agribusiness, automotive, construction and Emergency Medical Responder.



August



'Going that extra mile' – SCC Transitional Studies partners with Black's Tire Service for high school equivalency

With the mission to serve as many students in our community as possible, SCC established a pathway for Black's Tire Service employees to earn their high school equivalency diploma at their corporate office in Whiteville. Through the Transitional Studies program, BTS employees are completing their HiSET exams in math, reading, writing, science and social studies for free.

"We're very fortunate that our local businesses and industries recognize the pool of employees who come into their facilities who need upskilling," said Dr. Chris English, SCC President. "Some of that upskilling are the basics like math and English and sometimes English as a second language, but they understand the needs of their employees."

September

Tabor Correctional ranks third highest in state for high school equivalency test pass rate challenge

Tabor Correctional Institution made the highest score in the 2023/2024 North Carolina Department of Adult Correction HiSET and Vocational Challenge for the south-central region with a 233% increase in pass rate. Ranked third highest increase in North Carolina, these incarcerated students earned their high school equivalency diploma through the Transitional Studies program at SCC.

"This remarkable accomplishment highlights the exceptional efforts of our team and the positive impact of our educational programs on the lives of those in our care," said Larry Everette, Transitional Studies recruiter/HSE chief examiner. "Their efforts have not only brought pride to our region but have also set a high standard for correctional education statewide."



Cosmetology students give free haircuts to children heading back to school

SCC's salon was full of smiling faces and new haircuts on Aug. 21 during the cosmetology department's free back to school haircut event. Cosmetology students styled hair for children ages kindergarten through 12th grade.

Cosmetology student Zemii Nunez said that hearing each child's excitement about their new haircuts, hearing their stories about entering a new grade level and hearing their appreciative farewells while leaving the salon was the best part of the free haircut event.

"Giving them their haircuts and hearing them say 'thank you' makes me feel 10 times more helpful than just a regular cut," Nunez said. "Today, I did two boy haircuts and one girl haircut, and they were all so excited."

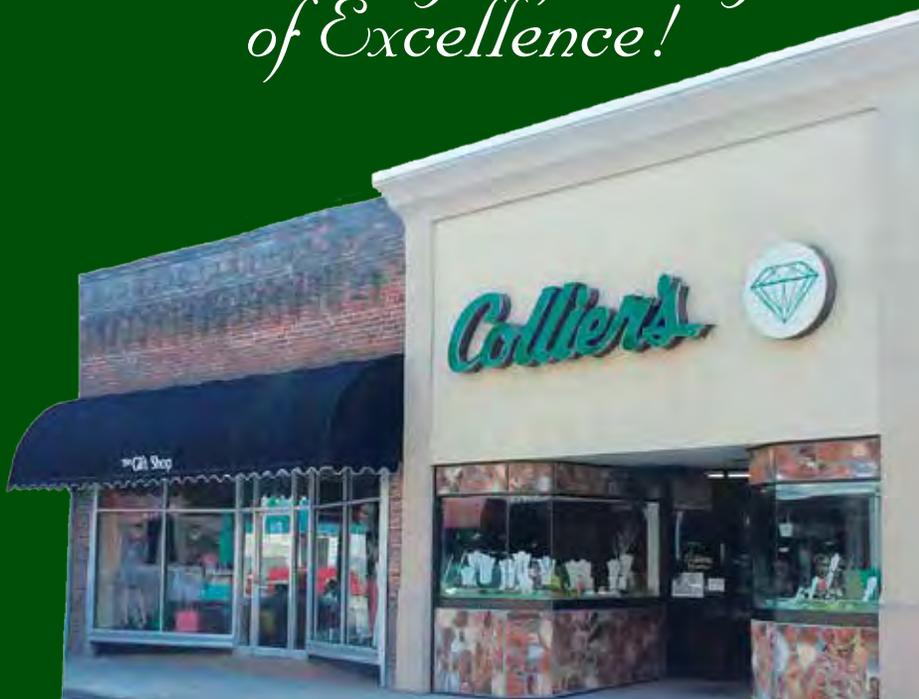
1984 -

1986: In December, SCC's library relocated to a new 12,000 square foot library, constructed at a cost of \$666,000, as highlighted during the college's thirtieth anniversary.



1988: In March, renovations began on A-Building's former library space to centralize student services such as admissions, financial aid, registrars, dean of students offices, and career counselors. A January 1987 issue of The News Reporter highlighted the convenience for new students finding answers in one location. Simultaneously, B-Building was remodeled, relocating the daycare to M-Building and updating classrooms for cosmetology, electrical engineering and basic skills.

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1993



1989: The SCC Ambassadors, SCC's student leadership program, was established.



Did You Know

In 1996, SCC's Williamson Library was described as one of the most modern libraries in the North Carolina Community College System with a comprehensive collection.

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1998: SCC offers its first
online course in the
Spring semester.

1994 -



Did You Know

High school classes at SCC expanded dramatically from four courses with 85 students in 1999 to ten diverse offerings with 327 enrolled students by 2002.



1995: A groundbreaking ceremony was held in April for the new nursing and allied health building (R-Building) following 1993 state bond referendum approval.

Our Very Best Wishes to



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on your 60th anniversary
and your continued success

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Congratulations

TO

Southeastern Community College

FROM THE

Mayor,
City Council and
Citizens of Chadbourn



"You Mean So Much To Our Community"

2003



1995: The James Allen Cartrette family donates two acres adjacent to SCC for a new business and industry skills training center. In August, a groundbreaking ceremony is held for the center, heralded as the start of a new economic era for the county in a prominent News Reporter article.

2001: SCC reaffirmed its accreditation with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), maintaining a tradition of excellence.

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SCC'S HISTORY

Continued from page 12

two subsequent issues prior to the vote.

To save \$8,000 in election costs, the college vote had been piggy-backed with a constitutional amendment issue to increase the number of seats available in the Legislature. Populous counties in the state had 20 more House seats than the 100 counties in the state, and the plan was to give one to each county, no matter the size, and increase the Senate seats from 50 to 70. It is ironic that this sort of problem was the reason Columbus County had been formed as a sectional compromise back in 1808. The legislators from Columbus County in 1964 were "for" the amendment, and there seems to have been an interest on their part to include the college vote on the ballot to boost voter turnout.

The referendum passed with a 7 to 1 margin. Only Ransom



Technology has always played a big role at SCC.

Precinct, the Acme-Delco area, voted against it. The constitutional amendment and a 15-cent tax increase for college maintenance and operations passed with a 4 to 1 margin.

The community college was a "done deal." A statewide trend of low voter turnout was noted, and locally only 5,900 of 19,000 registered voters cast ballots.

First trustees named

Much work still lay ahead. The State Board of Education was tasked with choosing a site; only seven of the 10 offered were "free" sites. Twelve trustees would be appointed, four named by the county board of commissioners, four by the combined Whiteville and county school boards, and four by the governor.

Within a week the local appointments were done: the county commissioners named Jim Lattay of Lake Waccamaw, Henry Wyche of Hallsboro, Ross Williamson of Tabor City and Sammy Koonce of Chadbourn.

▶ SEE **SCC'S HISTORY** PAGE 21

We salute SCC for your contribution to a better quality of life for Columbus County.



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for 60 years of
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**Town of
Tabor City
NORTH CAROLINA**

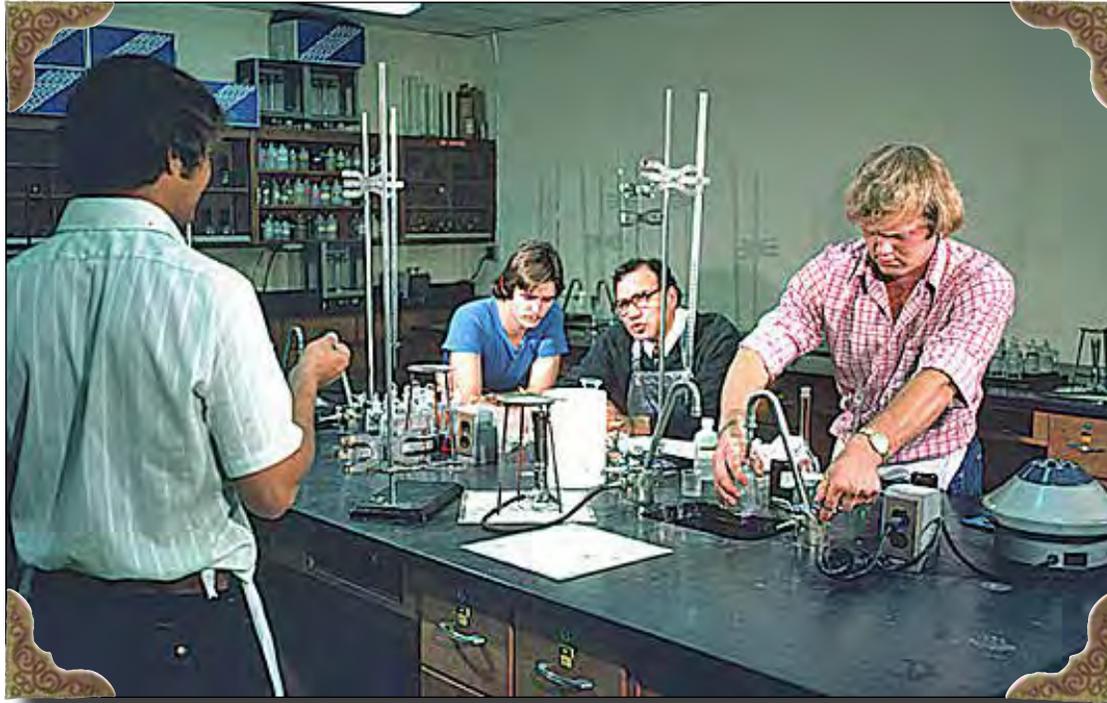
SCC'S HISTORY

Continued from page 20

The local school boards named Bion Sears and Jesse Fisher of Whiteville, P.O. Gore of Fireway and H.G. Dameron of Tabor City. Fisher's appointment coincided with his selection as Jaycee Man Of The Year for 1964 and receiving the Distinguished Service Award for his instrumental work bringing the community college to the county.

By February, Gov. Terry Sanford completed the board of trustees with his appointments, all from outside Columbus County: H.P. Bell of Currie in Pender County, P.A. McRae of Proctorville in Robeson County, Jimmy Green of Clarkton in Bladen County and Mrs. Henderson Rourk of Shallotte in Brunswick County.

These selections made the new community college truly "Southeastern," the name decided on unanimously in



A chemistry class at SCC in 1977.

March. The charter for SCC had come on Feb. 6. The college board was launched with oaths taken Feb. 17, 1964.

President hired

Murphy Bowman of Lumberton had come forward to offer a 50-acre site near the Arthur Williamson site between Whiteville and Chadbourn, in the area called the "Sweet Farm."

This and the Williamson site were the final two selected by the State Board of Education. The final decision was left to the SCC Board of Trustees.

The tract from Rep. Arthur Williamson grew to 100 acres, which the board of trustees had deemed the minimum size for selection. His brother, board member Dr. Ross Williamson, assured the trustees that Arthur would provide whatever land was necessary. Rep. Williamson also paid for the survey of the property.

By mid-year 1964 the first SCC president was hired: Dr. Warren A. Land. The 34-year-old Land came to SCC from his

▶ SEE **SCC'S HISTORY** PAGE 26

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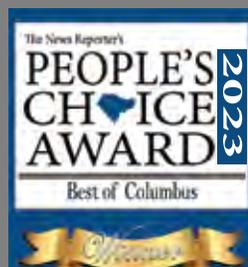
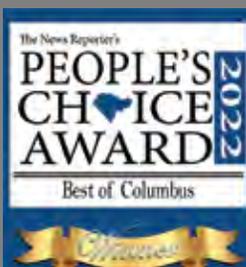
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2004 -



2012: SCC received a \$3.5 million gift from Ben and Lucy Nesmith to transform G-Building into the Nesmith Student Center, which included a fitness center, bookstore, classrooms, and Rams Cafe. At the time, this gift marked the largest unrestricted donation to the SCC Foundation and the third largest in the N.C. Community College System.

2010: In March, the college celebrated the grand opening of the Health and Human Services building dedicated to the region's "local heroes". Spanning 17,269 square feet, the building featured classrooms and laboratories dedicated to the college's emergency services, fire, law enforcement, and nurse aid programs.

"Congratulations SCC on 60 years of providing an Excellent Educational Opportunity- Locally"



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2013



Did You Know

The Cartrette building was the first building to be named after a benefactor of the college.

2004: The James Allen Cartrette family donated a 20-acre tract of land to SCC, situated along the east side of the campus in a north-south direction. The groundbreaking ceremony for the \$4 million Cartrette Building took place on Sept. 19, 2006.

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2014 -

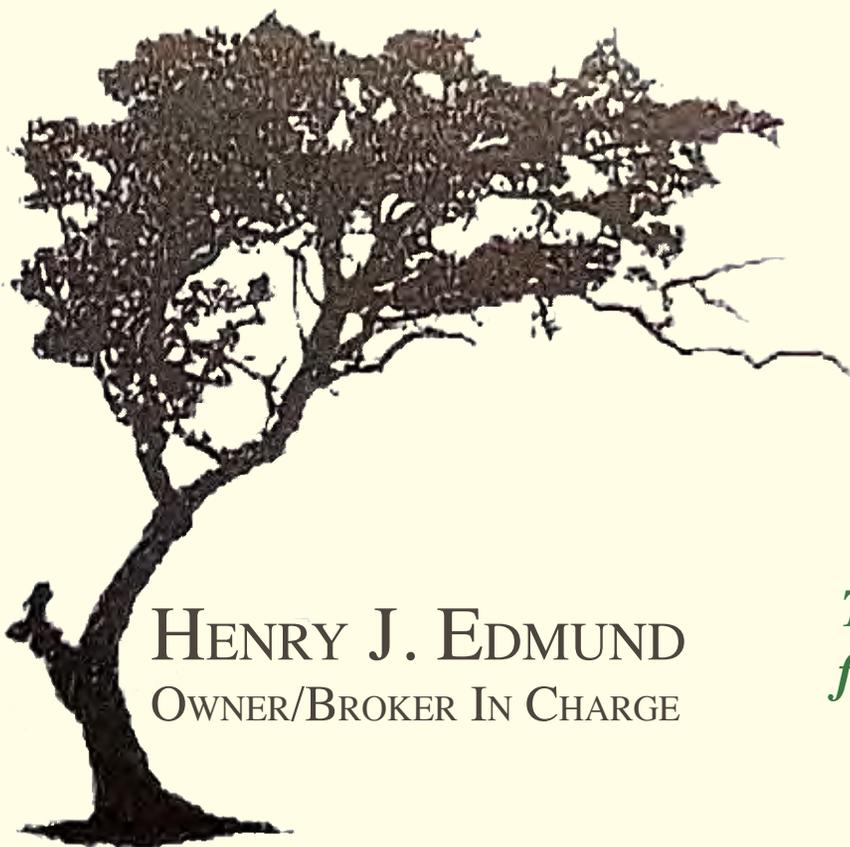
2014: SCC names the library in memory of Arthur Williamson. The Williamson Library, noted in a News Reporter article, serves as a vital resource for SCC students and as the primary archives for Columbus County history.



Did You Know

In 2024, SCC completed a state-of-the-art fire training tower, revolutionizing fire and rescue training in Columbus County.

2014: SCC names bookstore after longtime SCC benefactor Lelanie Sutton Orcutt.



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We extend our thanks to Southeastern Community College for 60 years of service to our county.

The dedication demonstrated by the college for educating our students and workforce is to be commended.

We look forward to the future of SCC.

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2024

2023: SCC experiences significant growth with the establishment of the Truck Driver Training Program, new welding mobile lab offering hands-on learning to high school students, and the groundbreaking of a 30 by 60-foot greenhouse.



2019: The Advanced Manufacturing Training Center, a more than 7,000-square-foot addition to SCC's T-Building, is unveiled. An article by The News Reporter states that the programs within the building aim to help Columbus County attract new employers, support the growth of current employers and provide a trained workforce.

We join with many others in honoring
Southeastern Community College
on their 60th Anniversary.
We recognize the positive impact
SCC has had on
Columbus County and beyond.



SCC'S HISTORY

Continued from page 21

position as assistant professor of education at the University of Kansas. A month later the Wilmington architectural firm of Ballard, McKim and Sawyer was hired to design the five buildings of the new community college.

Initial offerings, campus construction

A five-county survey was instituted to determine the curriculum to be established. President Land told a Civitan meeting: "We plan to offer a full college program in temporary quarters by next fall (1965)."

Though 18 courses were established early in 1965, mostly non-credit courses like typing, speech and other commercial pursuits were offered in facilities at Whiteville, Central, Chadbourn and Tabor City high school campuses. Southeastern Community College would be-



SCC's machine shop in 1986

gin construction in February 1966. The temporary facilities

were isolated to Chadbourn in September that year. Two hun-

dred thirty-four full-time and 91 part-time students participated

By mid-year 1964 the first SCC president was hired: Dr. Warren A. Land. The 34-year-old Land came to SCC from his position as assistant professor of education at the University of Kansas.

that first year.

That first SCC class would award 51 associate degrees and 43 vocational diplomas in June of 1967. The newly completed school was occupied in August of the same year.

Because of construction completions, the start of the first quarter on the new campus was delayed two weeks. In September 600 full-time students had enrolled at SCC, 400 of them freshmen.

This story was adapted from an article that the late Robb Cross wrote for The News Reporter's publication that honored the 50th anniversary of Southeastern Community College in 2014.

"The aim of education is to teach us how to think . . . and thus, to make our world a better place to live."

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