Larry Johnson is new full time Fire Training Coordinator at MCC

Larry Johnson joined MCC on June 15 as the new Fire Training Coordinator. He has 30 years’ experience as a professional and volunteer firefighter. Prior to accepting the position at MCC, he worked for the City of Rocky Mount Fire Department (RMFD) as a Battalion Chief in the Operations Division.

Johnson began his career in the fire service in 1986 as a firefighter and continued to pursue his education by obtaining his AAS in Fire Science Technology from Wilson Technical Community College and his BS in Business Management from Mount Olive College.

His responsibilities with RMFD included overseeing the emergency operations for seven fire stations and 40 personnel. He served as Incident Commander for multi-agency and multi-jurisdiction emergency incidents and provided overall leadership and performance review for his shift. Additionally, he developed and administered programs for the department, which included an overtime module for staffing, enhancing the E911 communication center through policy development and training, and served as program administrator for the department’s community hazard analysis program.

In addition to his career accomplishments, Johnson is also a certified Peer Assessor for the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and has assisted with site visits for other fire departments in the United States and Canada. He holds a variety of fire service certifications from the NC Office of the State Fire Marshall, National Fire Academy, and the Emergency Management Institute.

MCC President, Dr. Ann Britt, commented, “To have attracted an instructor like Larry Johnson, a man with so much relevant experience and commitment to the profession, is a real coup for MCC. Mr. Johnson will surely enhance our fire training program at the College.”

Larry and his wife Jo Ann are lifetime residents of Edgecombe County. They have one son and two grandchildren.
David Birdo, a welding student at Martin Community College (MCC), and resident of Washington County, stepped forward this spring to be the first person at MCC to take the Career Readiness Certification (CRC) test online. MCC is now prepared to make the online version of the test available to all test takers beginning on July 7.

Since its inception in 2005, CRC testing has grown from a small consortium of six states and the District of Columbia, to a nearly-nationwide (48 states) industry standard. The concept was simple, identify the basic skills needed to be a successful employee and then develop a test that would measure them in potential employees. The power of this system lies in its: 1) objectivity, 2) simplicity, 3) compliance with federal law (ADA, EEOC), and 4) legal defensibility.

With input from industries, the WorkKeys test was developed by ACT, Inc to help employees identify their skill levels as they relate to reading, applied math, and locating information. The test results also help employers make better decisions during the hiring process.

The state of North Carolina issues career readiness certificates to individuals who have taken the WorkKeys tests and tested at or above the third WorkKeys level on all three tests. In North Carolina, there are four career readiness certification levels: bronze, silver, gold and platinum. Birdo attained silver certification, but he only missed gold by one point. He plans to take the test again soon and go for the gold.

Birdo stated, “Although I studied for the test, it was a little harder than I thought it would be. Now that I’ve taken it once, I know that I’ll be better prepared to take it again.” He added, “Taking it online was a good experience for me. I’m comfortable with computers.”

Test scores also help test takers identify areas where they need additional training. Once these areas are identified, MCC is able to connect the test taker with the tutoring, workshops, labs, classes – whatever they need – to enhance their skills and prepare them to take the test again. Nearly all of these training opportunities are free.

When asked why he decided to take the CRC test, Birdo noted that everywhere he went in search of a job, the employer asked him for his CRC credential. He didn’t even know what it was initially, but soon found out that it was essential to even be considered for a well-paying job. With assistance from MCC, Birdo prepped for the test and offered to be the first to take it online at the College.

To earn a Career Readiness Certificate, individuals undergo testing related to reading, applied math, and locating information. Bronze level signifies that the recipient has the necessary foundational skills for 16% of the jobs in the WorkKeys database. **Birdo continued on pg 3**
New MCC billboard goes up in Windsor

A new billboard featuring Cedric Young, a recent graduate of MCC’s Refrigeration Technology Program, has been erected on Highway 17 in Windsor. Cedric is working full time for Eastern Equipment Company in Greenville. The billboard is facing east and is located near the State Employees Credit Union. With 25% of MCC’s curriculum students residing in Bertie County, it is a vital market for the College.

Birdo continued from page 2

Silver level rates the recipient as being prepared for 67% of the jobs and Gold places the recipient in the 93% eligibility category. The Platinum level signifies a preparedness level of 99%.

The test fee is $30. ALL test-takers must attend an open lab and be pre-registered by the instructor at least one day in advance. The online test is administered by appointment, in a computer lab on the MCC campus. To learn more about the online CRC test or to register to take the test, contact Brenda Moore via email at bmoore@martincc.edu or by phone at 252-789-0236.

MCC also offers Applied Technology and PSA (Personal Skills Aptitude) testing. These tests gauge respectively, a potential employee’s knowledge of engineering concepts and their “soft skills.” Brenda Moore is also the contact for scheduling these tests.

MCC LibGuide is a great resource

The MCC library has created an online "LibGuide" with links to all job and career resources available to students in the library and on campus, as well as selected websites.

You can get to the guide by going to the library’s website and clicking on the tab "Job and Career Resources at MCC."

Please let students know about this resource and, if you think there are campus resources missing from the LibGuide, please let Mary Anne Caudle know and she will add them. You can access the Library website at: http://www.martincc.libguides.com/library
Martin Community College (MCC) will offer five New Student Orientation sessions this summer. These workshops are designed to assist new students (preregistered) in navigating the procedures and processes of attending college, and to create an environment of success for every MCC student.

The orientation will include three distinct areas of interest for a new student; a tour of the campus to learn the locations of important campus resources, familiarization with Blackboard (online class interaction) and student email, and class registration. However, new students are strongly encouraged to take the necessary placement and diagnostic tests before registering for classes.

The orientation sessions will be available as follows: Thursday, July 16, a morning session from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon and an evening session from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Thursday, July 30, a morning session from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon and an evening session from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.; and Thursday, August 13, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The last session will offer the campus tour only.

To be eligible to attend a new student orientation, you must be registered for the fall semester at MCC. This can be done in building 1 of the MCC campus from 8 am until 5 pm, each Monday, from now through August 10. The fall semester begins on Monday, August 17. All new students who are interested in applying for financial aid are strongly encouraged to do so now so that there will be time to process the application.

New students will also receive a small gift bag for attending one of these sessions. Among the items in the gift bag will be a flash drive loaded with the College catalog and new student handbook. For more information about the New Student Orientation sessions or to register for one of the sessions, please call Martha Williams at (252) 789-0245 or email Murray Elliott at melliott@martincc.edu.
Wayland Mitchell, the new Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) director at Martin Community College (MCC) is pleased to announce that when the program starts anew on July 7, the students will be meeting in a freshly painted classroom, equipped with new furniture, training equipment, and technology. This is all in keeping with MCC’s plan to provide current and cutting edge technology to its students and professionals,” stated Mitchell.

The BLET Curriculum is designed to prepare entry-level individuals with the cognitive and physical skills needed to become certified law enforcement officers in North Carolina. BLET covers 620 hours of study within 36 total blocks of instruction including; Physical Fitness, Firearms, Law Enforcement Driving Training, Laws of Arrest, Search and Seizure, Motor Vehicle Law, Techniques of Traffic Enforcement, Patrol Techniques, Sheriff's Responsibilities, Rapid Deployment, etc. All of these classes are conducted on the MCC campus with the exception of driver training.

Although this program has been dormant for more than a year, the hiatus has made it possible to make improvements to the classroom space and modernize the training equipment.

“This with a new fleet of cars, classroom furniture, a smart board, weapons, mats, vests, batons, riot gear, communication devices, as well as a freshly painted classroom - this program will be launched into a new orbit of professionalism,” stated Mitchell.

The course contains the most current law enforcement information available and is filled with practical exercises and an extensive ethics section that is woven throughout the training experience. It takes approximately 16 weeks to complete and concludes with a comprehensive written exam and skills testing. This course of study is mandated by the state for all certified law enforcement officers.

Upon successful completion of the BLET State Comprehensive Written Examination, the BLET trainee has one year from the date of the State Comprehensive Examination to be duly appointed and sworn as a law enforcement officer in North Carolina. However, most agencies include an additional period of field training.

In order to accommodate people who work during the day, this BLET course will be offered at night, Monday through Friday, and every other weekend during the day time. According to Mitchell, “These hours make the profession of law enforcement more accessible to those who are seeking a new and fulfilling career.”
MCC continues fight against HB390

On March 30, 2015, House Bill 390 was filed in the NC legislature by Representative Paul Tine. Tine represents Beaufort Hyde, Dare and Washington Counties. In essence, this bill calls for the State Board of Community Colleges to designate all of Washington County in the service area of Beaufort County Community College (BCCC).

Martin Community College (MCC) has shared the delivery of college services to Washington County for more than 40 years. MCC has provided Basic Skills, Fire, and EMS training while BCCC has provided all other services. Losing this service area would have a very detrimental effect on MCC as well as the people served by MCC in Washington County.

The introduction of this legislation was unexpected by MCC and was disturbing in that BCCC and the Washington County Chamber of Commerce had been working with Rep. Tine for nearly three years to set it in motion. It was even more disturbing that MCC was never invited to prepare a counter-proposal of singular service to Washington County.

The local reaction was swift. Within 24 hours, of the bill’s introduction, the Martin County Commissioners, Martin County School Board, Martin Community College Trustees, and the Town Board of Williamston all prepared resolutions of opposition and called for special meetings to approve them. A large contingent of Martin County’s leaders also attended one of the Education subcommittee meetings on April 15 in Raleigh and spoke in opposition to HB 390. However, the bill continued to make its way through the House.

Martin County Representative Shelly Willingham managed to amend the bill to prevent future service area grabs without study or recommendations from the NC Community College System, but was unable to stop the proposed loss of MCC’s service area in Washington County. On April 21 the amended bill moved over to the Senate side and languished in the Rules Committee until June 4, when it was moved to the Senate’s Education Subcommittee, and where it still awaits consideration.

The NC Legislature is still in session, so it is not too late to let your legislators know that you want MCC to maintain its service area in Washington County. Thanks to modern technology, it’s very simple to weigh in on any legislative issue. Simply go to the NC legislature web site at http://www.ncleg.net. Under shortcuts (on the right side of the web page), click Senate Standing Committees. Once there, click on Education / Higher Education. Everyone on that committee will be listed and you can click on their name, go to their web page, and send them an email.

If you are inclined to weigh in on this issue, there are a number of talking points you may wish to use in formulating your comments. These talking points can be found on page 7 of this newsletter. If you would like to see the minutes from the March 2 and March 13 Washington County Commissioners meetings, or the April 1, 2015 Roanoke Beacon Article titled “Chamber Continues its ‘Behind the Scenes’ Efforts you may contact Judy Jennette, MCC’s Director of PR and Institutional Advancement. HB 390’s exact wording can be found on the NC legislature web site at http://www.ncleg.net.
MCC talking points in opposition to HB390

The Washington County Commissioner minutes from March 2, page 40, state “Chair Sexton said he was approached by Rep. Paul Tine about having one Community College to serve the County. The deadline for offering up a resolution for a new bill is March 18.” Thus proving that the county’s resolution seeking service from one college emanated from Rep. Paul Tine, not the County Commissioners.

In his comments to the legislative subcommittee on April 14, Representative Paul Tine stated that he had been working toward this legislation for nearly 3 years (the same length of time Dr. Tansey has been at BCCC).

The Washington County Commissioner minutes from March 13, page 1, candidly describe a long list of promises from BCCC’s president, as well as a site visit to Windows on the World in Roper which, again demonstrate lengthy consideration and planning on the part of BCCC and Rep. Tine to usurp MCC’s services in Washington County.

Rep. Tine stated that MCC had declined to come to the table four times between the time they were first invited in late February, 2015. However, Washington County extended only two invitations for a meeting - the first one they cancelled due to inclement weather - and the second one was cancelled by MCC due to the president being ill with the flu. At no time, did Washington County request a presentation from MCC. (Tine’s comments to the House legislative subcommittee on April 14)

The Director of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce stated at his March Board meeting that he had actively worked with the BCCC President and Representative Paul Tine behind the scenes and was disappointed that his efforts were not acknowledged. (Roanoke Beacon article dated April 1, 2015).

MCC has successfully provided Washington County with Continuing Education programs for nearly 40 years. MCC deserves a chance to make a presentation in regard to serving Washington County.

MCC will lose approximately $100,000 annually from the loss of its Continuing Education programs in Washington County. This is a tremendous loss for one of the smallest colleges in the NC Community College system. Why take away a successful program from a small college and hand it over to a college twice its size.

In his comments to the legislative committee, Representative Paul Tine noted that this legislation was not being motivated by the quality or lack of service from MCC. So why take it away or at least give MCC the opportunity to be the sole service provider?

If you go the Washington County website at http://www.washconc.org/, this is among one of the items you will read: “Martin Community College is offering FREE High School Equivalency (HSE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Classes are designed to help students refresh or learn new skills in reading, writing, and math; prepare for the High School Equivalency (GED) diploma or study English as a Second Language (ESL). We serve adults 18 years or older, high school graduates needing to brush up on their skills, and students between the ages of 16 and 18 who have officially withdrawn from high school. Limited transportation is available.” Thus, Washington County does acknowledge and use the services of MCC.

Rep. Paul Tine argues that MCC returned $2 million to the state. The fact is, these funds were returned over 2 fiscal years and was money that had not been spent on vacant positions and purchases that did not arrive by June 30 – the end of the state fiscal year. These funds were in no way related to services in Washington County.

MCC took the initiative to place classroom space in the Town of Roper (at their own cost – not the county’s - as is the usual procedure). MCC sought and used significant grant funds to enhance their facilities and services in Washington County. Why has BCCC never invested funds in any facility in Washington County?
Meet Student Services Counselor

Crystal Pugh

Crystal Pugh, MCC’s Student Services Counselor since August of 2014, is the focal point of Student Services. Nearly every new MCC student works with Ms. Pugh to be tested and placed in the proper curriculum classes. Crystal hails from the town of Lewiston in Bertie County. She graduated from ECSU with a BA in English, from Cambridge College with an MEd in Psychological Studies, from ECU with a MS in Counselor Education and, as of this summer, a Doctorate of Philosophy in Counselor Education candidate at Regent University. As a former 9th and 10th grade English teacher, and as an active leader for the Praise Team and liturgical dance teacher in her home church - Weeping Mary Baptist Church - Ms. Pugh understands the needs and challenges of young adults. She is also a bereavement counselor, a member of the American Counseling Assoc., the Assoc. of Student Conduct Administration, and the NC Counselors Assoc. She is also a Safe Zone LGBQT Ally. MCC is fortunate to have Ms. Pugh on its team!

Registration Mondays are now underway for MCC Fall Semester

Registration Mondays for fall semester classes at Martin Community College (MCC) are now underway. The MCC Registrar’s office is now open from 8 am until 6 pm each Monday, from now through August 10, to enroll new and returning students. The fall semester begins on Monday, August 17.

New applicants may complete the application form online prior to coming in to register. However, they may also complete the form in person. If placement testing is needed, students will be scheduled for the appropriate test on a Tuesday.

All new and returning students who are interested in applying for financial aid are strongly encouraged to do so now so that there will be time to process the application. Returning students must re-apply for financial aid each year.

MCC is offering a new degree program this fall, the Associate in Science (AS) degree which complements the Associate in Arts (AA) degree. The former emphasizes Science and Math, and the latter emphasizes Humanities/Fine Arts and Social/Behavioral Sciences. This allows MCC to serve a broader base of students. The entire Fall Semester schedule is now online at www.martincc.edu.

Tuition for in-state students is currently $72 per credit hour and student fees at $5.50 per credit hour for a total of $77.50 per credit hour. Tuition for out-of-state students is $264 per credit hour and student fees at $5.50 per credit hour for a total of $269.50. However, this rate may be subject to change by the NC Legislature. For more information on registering for the Fall Semester classes please call 252-789-0293 or 252-789-0268 or email Crystal Pugh at cpugh@martincc.edu.

Online tutoring available at MCC this fall

MCC’s Academic Skills Coordinator and Math Instructor, Maureen Green (pictured right), reports that online tutoring will be available at MCC this fall! Maureen needs a list of subjects for which you would like to have tutors available. She is working with a company called Upswing, which she reports, “is eager to please and will try to find us tutors in whatever subjects we need. This includes things like licensing exams!” Maureen adds, “I want Upswing to have plenty of time to find what we need, so I'm giving them as much time as possible. We will have training in the Fall to help us navigate this new service.” If you have suggestions for Maureen, please contact her at mgreen@martincc.edu.
NC Volunteer Fireman’s Association Supports MCC

A regional chapter of the NC Volunteer Fireman’s Association (NCVFA) met on the campus of Martin Community College (MCC) on, Thursday, June 25. Immediately following their meeting, the group’s president, Mr. William Harkley, and other member’s of the organization, presented MCC’s Director of Basic Skills, Jeri Griffin, with a generous gift of $1,200. The money will be used to pay for GED (General Education Development) testing fees which, over the past year, have increased from $35 to $104 – making it impossible for many to obtain their high school equivalency credential. The NCVFA has supported the work of the MCC’s Basic Skills department on at least four other occasions. The group is dedicated to furthering education throughout the state. Prior to the check presentation, Griffin thanked the group for their many years of support and noted that past gifts had paid for building an inventory of caps and gowns for GED diploma recipients. “Thanks to you,” Griffin stated, “our GED students can experience the pride and joy of walking across the stage in academic regalia and receiving their diploma. This means a lot to our students.”

MCC Instructor, Naomi Roberts, Wins Patients’ Choice Award

Naomi Roberts, Emergency Room RN at Martin General Hospital (MGH) and NA (Nurse Aid) Instructor for Martin Community College (MCC), was presented with the hospital’s annual Patient Choice Award on June 1. Among the comments submitted with her nominations were; “compassionate, efficient, dedicated, thorough, encouraging, always willing to help, goes above and beyond the call of duty, and the best nurse ever!” Roberts has worked for MGH for 15 years and has trained Nurse Aids at MCC for 5 years. Callie Northern-Herring, Continuing Education Instructional Coordinator, commented, “Our College is blessed to have such an experienced and professional nurse training Martin County’s future Nurse Aids.”
Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) will bring changes to MCC

On October 20, 2014, the United States Department of Education published the final regulations for the Violence Against Women Act amendments to the Clery Act. The regulations expand rights afforded to campus survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. These changes will be felt on campuses across America.

The critical elements of the new regulations are as follows:

- Law enforcement relationships and jurisdiction
- Addition of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking policy statements
- Programs to prevent dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking
- Procedures institutions will follow when an incident of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking is reported and written information provided to victims
- Procedures for institutional disciplinary action in cases of alleged dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking
- Confidentiality in record keeping
- Reporting of crime statistics
- Hierarchy of crime reporting

VAWA continued on page 11
Steve Anderson is the new full time coordinator of Emergency Medical Services at Martin Community College (MCC). Anderson brings a vast array of EMS training experience to the campus and his full time status is a welcome addition within the EMS community.

Anderson has been a NC Paramedic since 1995 and on the National Registry for Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) since 1997. He has been an NC Level II Paramedic Instructor since 2003 as well as an American Heart Association (AHA) Instructor for CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation), Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS). He is also an International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) Instructor.

Anderson also has served as a Level II North Carolina Firefighter since 1993 and as a NC Level II Firefighter Instructor since 2001. He is also a Live Burn Instructor.

Prior to accepting the position at MCC, Anderson worked at College of the Albemarle as the EMS Training Coordinator for four years. He also worked as the Currituck County Fire/EMS as the Training Officer. Before moving back to Eastern NC in 2007, Anderson worked in Kings Mountain, NC. In all, Anderson has worked for EMS agencies in NC over the past 22 years.

Anderson and his wife Melanie have lived in Camden, NC for the past eight years and have been married for 31 years. They have three children; two married daughters Stefanie and Krista and son Steven, a recent high school graduate and future community college student. They also have one grandson, another grandchild due in October and one dog, Lucky.

Steve Anderson, MCC’s new EMS Instructor is looking forward to building a program that will not only enhance health care and save lives throughout MCC’s service area, but will also produce EMT’s and Paramedics that can use their skills anywhere they go.

Billy Barber is the coordinator of this program and its associated activities on the MCC campus. He and a committee are developing a series of workshops, training sessions, and printed materials which will assist students, staff and faculty in understanding the law.

Brochures and educational materials are in the process of being evaluated for distribution to faculty and students when they return to campus this fall.

For more information on the Clery Act or VAWA, please contact Billy Barber at bbarber@martincc.edu or visit their respective websites online.

VAWA continued on page 10
CBD Team in Washington, DC

MCC’s Completion by Design (CBD) Team attended a meeting in Washington DC, June 3 - 5. The meeting was hosted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Now entering the fourth year of the CBD grant project, the nine schools involved came together to report on their progress and discuss the presentation of their collective findings. Non-completion is a common problem within all community colleges. The CBD project aims to identify best practices to keep students enrolled and engaged long enough to complete their program of study. Pictured above, from left to right are; Rhonda Breed, Joe Phipps, Judy Jennette, Murray Elliott, and Ashley Howard.

Martin Memos

July 2 - MCC closed in observance of Independence Day
July 6, 13, 20, 27 - Monday registration for new students continues
July 15 and 29 - Cafe Cookouts (must buy tickets in advance)
July 7 - BLET classes begin
July 17 - Lunch and Learn session on Defensive Driving classes
July 24 - Deadline for submitting news for the Martin Messenger