Mary Carson joins MCC Staff and Faculty

Mary Carson is the new Academic Skills Coordinator at Martin Community College (MCC). She started on January 4 and is replacing Maureen Green who became MCC’s Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness in August of 2015. Prior to accepting this position, Carson taught math at North Pitt High School. Her responsibilities include coordinating and supervising the MCC tutorial and computer lab, tutorial services and teaching both developmental and curriculum Math classes.

Carson’s training and experience in math education make her a great fit for this position. She earned her BS Degree in Math Education and graduated magna cum laude from ECU in 2010 and her Master’s Degree in Mathematics Education in 2014. Carson was also a NC Teaching Fellow from 2006 through 2010.

Carson has taught a broad spectrum of math classes ranging from remedial to honors pre-calculus. She was also the Co-coordinator for the National Honor Society Club at North Pitt High School as well as a participant in the school’s mentor program.

Carson states, “I am excited about making the jump from teaching at the High School level to the Community College arena. Although I have loved my time at North Pitt, I am happy to have this opportunity at MCC. The learning environment of a college campus has always been appealing to me.”

MCC President, Dr. Ann Britt, states, “Mary is a welcome addition to the MCC family and our faculty. The person in this position often makes the difference in keeping a student academically engaged and on a path to graduation as opposed to dropping out in frustration. The Academic Skills Coordinator plays a vital role in our students’ success.”

Carson grew up in Belvoir but now lives in Bethel with her husband and new baby. In her spare time, Carson likes to go to the beach and read a good book.
MCC’s Small Business Center adds office hours in Bertie County

Larry Biggs (pictured above), Director of the Martin Community College (MCC) Small Business Center (SBC) has announced that he will maintain established hours at the MCC campus in Windsor starting in January 2016. He will be available on Wednesdays from 8 am until 12 noon. Biggs started his new hours on January 13 and already had two appointments scheduled for that day.

The Martin Community College SBC is a part of the North Carolina Community College Small Business Center Network (SBCN). The objective of the SBCN is to increase the success rate and the number of viable small businesses in North Carolina by providing high quality, readily accessible assistance to prospective and existing small business owners which will lead to job creation and retention. Martin Community College SBC is a community-based provider of education and training, counseling, referral and information.

The SBC conducts free or low-cost seminars, workshops and short-term courses designed to educate budding entrepreneurs as well as small business owners on how to meet the ever-increasing challenges of starting and maintaining a small business. Core programs offered twice a year and include: How to Start a Business, Financing Your Small Business, How to Write a Business Plan, Market Research and Marketing, and Record keeping and Taxes. Training in other topics, like Social Media, How to Start a Nonprofit Business and How to Write a Grant are also offered throughout the year.

The SBC also offers free, one-on-one, confidential counseling by appointment. Biggs can assist your new or existing business in a number of areas including but not limited to financial planning/evaluation, business plan preparation, securing funding, marketing, company structure and many other areas.

Biggs received his BS degree in Business Administration from NC A&T State University and his MBA in finance from Clark-Atlanta University. Prior to joining Martin Community College, Biggs worked as a Small Business Counselor at Pitt Community College for two years. His prior work experience also includes 15 years’ experience as a commercial real estate broker where he brokered and syndicated over $500 million dollars in multi-family property transactions. Biggs also worked as a commercial banker with Wachovia Bank for 13 years in commercial lending, manager of the corporate leasing group and other capacities. Larry is also an entrepreneur with ownership interest in a real estate company, retail and other businesses.

The SBC is also a valuable resource in the way of books, periodicals, and other up-to-date business education materials. Access to a personal computer for business planning and research is also an SBC service. The North Carolina Small Business Center Network website at https://www.ncsbc.net offers additional links and resources.

Biggs states, “I am excited about maintaining a physical presence on the Windsor campus. The SBC and MCC are all about community service and growth. This will give both entities an opportunity to better serve the good people of Bertie County.”
In keeping with MCC’s commitment to giving students the best service possible, several MCC Instructors were on duty in room 14 on January 5 to advise students and help them get enrolled in the right classes for the Spring semester. Pictured above Marty Flynn discussing the advising and registration process with her co-worker Cathy Warren. They are both Medical Assisting instructors and Marty is the Director of the program. Accurate advising plays a key role in student success and is a key component of the Completion by Design grant program.

**Face-to-face registration is key to student success**

**Opinions and ideas about the future of MCC are needed**

Do you have strong opinions? Great ideas? MCC is beginning the process of updating our Strategic Plan. We want your input about the direction we are going. We would like to hear from faculty, staff, students, alumni, the public. Please contact Maureen Green for a chance to voice your opinion. You can call 252-789-0297 or email mgreen@martincc.edu to set up an appointment.

**FAFSA Day set for Feb. 20**

MCC will host a workshop on Saturday, February 20, from 9 a.m. to noon, to assist potential students in completing applications and understanding the process of applying for financial aid to attend college during the 2016-2017 academic year. Financial aid officers and specialists will be on hand in the lobby of Building 1 on the MCC campus to assist all attendees. In order to be fully prepared to complete the FAFSA forms at the February 20 event, participants should file their 2015 federal taxes in advance, if possible, and bring the following items to FAFSA Day: either the student’s or the student’s parents’ federal 1040 tax forms for 2015 (or W-2 forms and other income and asset documents if completed tax forms are not available); the student’s or parents’ Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) obtained in advance from the U.S. Dept. of Education website, www.pin.ed.gov; a FAFSA on the Web Worksheet with as much information entered as possible, which is available online at www.fafsa.gov.

**Apply for financial aid now and start college this fall!**

**Get All Your Ducks in a Row**
On January 4, a Student Success Audit was conducted by JFF (Jobs for the Future) on the MCC campus. This process was an open dialogue about MCC’s policies and business practices and how they affect our students. The audit’s results will serve as a catalyst for making improvements to the way we collectively serve our students. The audit was provided by funds from MCC’s Completion By Design (CBD) grant.

The audit was initiated by the MCC CBD team with the selection of audit participants (roughly 40 people) and the distribution of an online survey to prior to the audit. The data collected from the survey was used to compare MCC to other colleges and serve as a starting point for discussion during the audit.

Participants were also assigned to one of four subgroups. The subgroups were Connection (how MCC reaches out and connects to potential students), Entry (the process by which new students enroll at MCC), Progress (the way MCC tracks students during the critical first five weeks of starting college and how we respond to students in

Audit continued on page 5...
Audit continued from page 4...

...and Completion (the manner in which MCC keeps students on track toward earning their degree in terms of cost effectiveness and time efficiency). Members of the CBD Team served as facilitators and recorders for each of the subgroups.

The JFF facilitators are now in the process of analyzing the data from the online survey and the day of the audit to create a commendations report for senior leadership.
Campus Café gets face lift!

Over the holidays, the campus café was transformed into a more modern looking facility. The old tables and chairs were removed, the floor was buffed and waxed and new furniture was installed. Pictured below are David Birdo, an MCC Industrial Systems and Welding student from Washington County. David is taking a break in the lounge area to watch TV. Seated at the table, taking a lunch break, are Josie Garris from Beaufort County and Tyra Smallwood from Windsor. They are both NERSBA students. Both Tyra and Josie noted that they really enjoy the college campus atmosphere - especially Mr. Price’s math class.

Connect NC bond referendum ballot wording

The referendum will appear as follows on the ballot:

[ ] FOR  [ ] AGAINST

The issuance of two billion dollars ($2,000,000,000) State of North Carolina Public Improvement Bonds constituting general obligation bonds of the State secured by a pledge of the faith and credit and taxing power of the State for the purpose of providing funds, with any other available funds, to fund capital improvements and new facilities for the State, including, without limitation, the construction and furnishing of new facilities and the renovation and rehabilitation of existing facilities for, without limitation, the University of North Carolina System, the North Carolina Community College System, water and sewer systems, the State’s National Guard, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, attractions and parks, and the Department of Public Safety."

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with this issue and be prepared to vote on 3/15/16. More details about what the Connect NC bonds could do for MCC can be found on page 9.
Three new billboard designs go up for Spring 2016 semester

Three new billboard designs went up in November to advertise the start of MCC’s Spring Semester. Each design features a student or students who are either in or graduated from the advertised programs. Ashley White and Kaylinn Slade are featured on the Cosmetology board. Instructor Al Dawes and graduate Brandon Day grace the Automotive billboard and Matthew Swain is the student representing Refrigeration Technology. The Equine program’s billboard in Robersonville remained the same with Jesse Bunting on a horse. There are two Refrigeration Technology billboards - one on Highway 125 in Williamston and the other on Highway 17 South in Windsor. The Cosmetology board can be found on the highway 64 business bypass in Williamston and the Automotive Technology board is located on Highway 64 near the Jamesville turnoff. MCC is very grateful to these students for their willingness to pose for these pictures and allow the College to use them in their spring advertising campaign!
Sexual Assault and Stalking

Leading facts and statistics on sexual assault and stalking related to domestic violence.

January 07, 2015, By domesticshelters.org

Sexual assault, assault and stalking are all forms of domestic violence, and often happen at the hands of a current or past partner as opposed to a stranger. Data indicates these activities happen more often to female victims and often happen in an escalating pattern, where stalking leads to assault that then leads to murder.

One in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape. [1]

Approximately 1 in 6 women (16.9%) has experienced sexual violence other than rape by an intimate partner in her lifetime; this includes sexual coercion (9.8%), unwanted sexual contact (6.4%) and non-contact unwanted sexual experiences (7.8%). [2]

Nearly 7.8 million women have been raped by an intimate partner at some point in their lives. [3]

Sexual assault or forced sex occurs in approximately 40-45% of battering relationships. [4]

More than one in 10 women (10.7%) and more than one in 47 men (2.1%) have been stalked by an intimate partner during their lifetime. [2]

81% of women stalked by a current or former intimate partner are also physically assaulted by that partner; 31% are also sexually assaulted by that partner. [5]

More than three-quarters of the women who report being stalked by an intimate partner in their lifetime received unwanted phone calls or text messages (77.4%), unwanted visits at home, work or school (64.8%), and 37.4% report being watched or followed by a current or former intimate partner. [2]

76% of female homicide victims had been stalked by the person who killed them; 54% of the victims reported stalking to police before they were killed by their stalkers; and 89% of the victims who had been physically abused had also been stalked in the 12 months before the murder. [6]


This article is part of MCC's commitment to educating students on how to stay safe.

Need help?
Center for Family Violence Prevention
24 Hour Crisis Line (252)752-3811
TOLL FREE (800)537-2238
Greenville, NC
As noted in the last edition of the Martin Messenger, NC’s citizens will have the opportunity to vote on the issuance of Connect NC public infrastructure bonds in the primary election on March 15, 2016. Connect NC is a $2 billion bond proposal for strategic investments in our state’s public infrastructure – higher education, state parks, agriculture, safety, and water and sewer infrastructure – that will cultivate a stronger economy, improve quality of life, provide improved facilities for education and training, and enhance the safety of our food and our citizens.

It’s been 15 years since the last general obligation bond was authorized to upgrade our state’s infrastructure and since then North Carolina has added 2 million people in population. This $2 billion bond will connect North Carolina to the 21st century through statewide investments in education, parks, safety, recreation, and water and sewer infrastructure.

The Connect NC bond will allow us to pay for 50-year assets with 20-year financing. No tax increases are necessary to finance the bond, given our strong revenue growth and ample debt service capacity. We will continue to balance the budget and uphold our position as one of only 10 states to have earned the coveted Triple A bond rating from all three major ratings agencies.

So how will these funds impact Martin County Community College (MCC)? Based on a state funding formula for capital improvements to Community Colleges, MCC would receive $6,566,722. These funds may be used for new construction, renovations, and repairs. The state will require a local match of $1 per $3 of bond funding.

The top three projects identified in MCC’s Facilities Master Plan, which was developed in 2008 and updated in 2012, calls for the construction of a 15,938 square foot (sf) building as well as extensive renovations and repairs to the MCC campus entrance and buildings 1, 2, 3 and 4. However, the MCC Trustees will ultimately determine which projects outlined in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) get top priority. Among the items in that plan are:

- **Construct a new 15,938 sf building**
  - Centralize administrative services in one building
  - Add four new classrooms
  - Add parking spaces
  - Create a visual centerpiece for the campus

- **Reconfigure classrooms**
  - Create greater efficiencies for students, staff and faculty
  - Consolidate Allied Health program (except Dental Assisting) into building 1

- **Reconfigure landscaping and signage at the campus entrances**
  - Improve traffic flow on campus
  - Create a central entrance and focal point for the campus

- **Renovations and Repairs**

The MCC Trustees have also made campus security a top priority and may well include some safety enhancements in the building renovations.

If you would like more information on the Connect NC bond proposal, please visit the website at http://www.connect.nc.gov/. If you would like to schedule a presentation for a civic group or club, please contact Al Cochran at 252-789-4370 or via email at al_cochran@ncsu.edu. If you would like a presentation specific to MCC, please contact Judy Jennette at 252-789-0310 or via email at jjennette@martincc.edu. The ballot wording can be seen on page 6.
Ten MCC BLET Cadets Earn Certificates

After nearly two years of program dormancy, ten BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training) students were recognized for successfully completing the 620 hour course of study at Martin Community College (MCC) on January 4. Those honored included Kevin Banks, LaShonda Bond, Andrew Conger, Ashley Holliday, Joshua Holliday, Aaron Lanier, Jean Marin, Shoyka McDowall, Tonya Todd and Seymore Whitaker, Jr. They are now eligible for employment in many NC law enforcement agencies.

Program Director, Wayland Mitchell, who became MCC’s BLET Coordinator in April of 2015, welcomed the audience comprised of friends and families of the cadets and praised the students for their extreme hard work and determination over the past six months.

Guest speaker Eddie Buffaloe, Chief of the Elizabeth City Police Department, then offered the cadets some words of encouragement. Having followed in his father’s footsteps as a law enforcement officer, and having served in numerous law enforcement capacities himself, Buffaloe welcomed the class to, “the best profession in life.” He encouraged them to, “maintain their faith, stay in touch with their family, and take care of themselves.” He also encouraged the group to stay focused and prepared for their work.

BLET continued on page 11
He quoted Abraham Lincoln in saying, “Give me six hours to chop down a tree, I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.”

Buffaloe received his BS Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from University of Mount Olive College. He began his law enforcement career as a correctional officer with the North Carolina Department of Correction at Odom Correctional Institution. He later became a Drug Enforcement Agent in Northampton County and was later promoted as the Drug Enforcement Supervisor in Halifax County and the Lead Investigator for the East Force Drug Task Force through the United States Attorney’s Office in Raleigh, NC. He was also employed with the Forensic Tests for Alcohol as the Assistant Director of Operations.

Mitchell then presented four special awards to students who had gone above and beyond the call of duty in the course of their studies. Joshua Holliday was recognized for his academic achievements, Andrew Conger was given the Top Gun award for the best collective scores on the firing range, and Aaron Lanier and La-Shonda Bond were presented with the Iron Man and Iron Woman awards respectively, for their ability to handle the program’s demanding physical fitness training.

Class Sergeant, Shoyka McDowall, then offered some comments to the audience. She noted that, “BLET training had taught this group to work as a team” and she thanked the other students for, “uplifting her” throughout the months of rigorous training. McDowall then presented Mitchell with a plaque from the entire class in appreciation of his hard work and commitment to coordinating great instructors and activities to make them the best law enforcement officers they could be.

Mitchell then closed the ceremony by thanking everyone for attending and noting that his, “First BLET class was a great class!”

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. 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 and is offered through the Division of Continuing Education at MCC.

Those interested in applying for admission to the BLET program must complete and submit a packet of information and forms. The packets may be obtained in person from Wayland Mitchell or online at www.martincc.edu. To obtain a packet or for more information about the BLET program at MCC, contact Mitchell at wmitchell@martincc.edu or 252-789-0267.
Get the Life You Love!
Job Fair & Career Expo - March 31

Sponsored by Martin Community College & NC Works Career Center of Martin County

10 am - 2 pm

MCC Campus
1161 Kehukeee Park Rd. Williamston, NC
Visit www.martincc.edu or call 252-789-0268 or 252-792-7816

Thanks to the efforts of counselor Crystal Pugh, MCC is joining forces with the NC Works and Career Center to host a Job Fair and Career Expo on our campus on March 31. To date, Pugh has commitments from more than 30 employers to set up booths at the fair. Please encourage your students, especially your “soon-to-be” graduates to attend this event. This is a great opportunity for our students!

Martin Memos

Feb. 1 - MCC Literary and Creative Arts Club meeting - 3 pm, bldg. 4, room 17
Feb. 9 - New start date for BLET at MCC
Feb. 6 - Open Horse Show
Feb. 18 - Presentation by Retired Chief Judge W. Rob Lewis, II on 2/18 at 7 pm
Feb. 19 - Deadline to submit items for the Martin Messenger
Feb. 20 - FAFSA Day at MCC from 9 am to 12 noon

MCC is an equal opportunity employment institution.