On January 25, during a special called meeting of the Martin Community College (MCC) Trustees, the board voted unanimously to make Dr. Kenneth A. Boham the Interim President of MCC. He will begin work on February 1. Most recently, Dr. Boham was the President of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute (CCCTI) from 1995 until his retirement on July 1, 2016. He will serve as MCC’s Interim President until the Trustees hire a new president to replace Dr. Ann Britt who is retiring on March 14. It is anticipated that this process will take six months or more to complete.

During a February 1 media interview, Boham stated that his first impression of MCC is, “This College has good and competent people working here, and they care deeply about its students. There’s a good strong base to build on.”

When asked about the state’s recent intervention with the MCC’s leadership, Boham stated, “I think the state board worked hard to preserve the College’s autonomy, which has long been the lynch pin of all of NC’s 58 community colleges. The state board exercised restraint but remained diligent in finding resolution. I feel they are to be commended for their actions.”

Looking toward the future, Boham stated, “Right now, MCC has to prove both internally and externally, that it is able and capable of self-governance and I am already working with the Trustees to do that. We also have a SACS re-affirmation of our accreditation on the horizon. That demands our immediate attention. Boham continued on page 2...
Boham cont. from page 2...

“At the moment, it’s like drinking water out of a firehose, but my intention is to address the urgent issues first and gradually create some breathing room for other things. As we move forward, we will make decisions based on the mantra, ‘is everything we do, good for the students.’ I want us to be looking out of the windshield, not the rear view mirror.”

Dr. Boham also noted that he would be reviewing MCC’s organizational chart and working toward making himself the only interim position at the College. “The abundance of long term, interim employees at MCC was of concern to the state board. That needs to be fixed.”

He also acknowledged that “Faculty salaries need to be examined and perhaps, realigned as funds become available.”

When a reporter from the Enterprise stated, “Many in the community feel as though MCC’s days are numbered, Boham immediately replied, “I did not come here to mothball MCC. Yes, there were some concerns at the state level, but they stepped in to address our leadership issues so that MCC will continue to exist. The Trustees would not have been tasked to look for another president if the intent was to shut MCC down. Martin and Bertie Counties need and deserve a vibrant Community College.”

Originally from Northampton County, Boham is a graduate of North Carolina State University with an undergraduate degree from East Carolina University. Prior to his appointment as president at CCC&TI, Boham served as Vice President for Continuing Education at Wake Technical Community College and as interim president for Mayland Community College.

During his tenure at CCCTI, the College saw phenomenal growth in both student population and facilities. Under his leadership, the College became a state model in the development of “seamless education” through the Career Center Middle College, the Appalachian State University Center and the Caldwell Early College High School, all located on the college campus. His pioneering spirit also led to increased funding for significant expansion of campus facilities and technology to increase programming and services within the region.

Boham was named Community College System President of the Year in 2003 and won the I.E. Ready Distinguished Graduate Award from N.C. State in 1998. Boham has also been active in the North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development, NC Association of Community College Presidents, the Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce, Caldwell County Smart Start, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Foundation and the Caldwell 20/20 Board. Upon retirement, Dr. Boham was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for distinguished service to the state of North Carolina.

At the close of his press interview, Boham stated, “I’m here because I love the NC Community College System and what it stands for. I care deeply about the survival of MCC. The entire Community College System is about changing lives and we’re going to keep right on doing that.”

SGA seeks MCC’s Students to assist with Relay for Life

MCC students are invited to sign up for a variety of fundraising activities to support Martin County’s Relay for Life. Relay for Life is an annual event that raises funds for cancer research. The major event, a walkathon, is scheduled for Friday, April 28, from 6 pm to midnight at the Martin County Farmers Market (4001 W. Main St. Ext., Williamston, NC). MCC’s SGA (Student Government Association) is sponsoring a team for the relay. The SGA is also supporting a preliminary fundraiser, a Bingo game, on Thursday, February 16 at the Martin County Farmers Market. Contact SGA president, Amanda Vick to volunteer!
ECSU Chancellor will be guest speaker for MCC’s Black History Month Program on 2/16

Dr. Thomas Conway, Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University, will be the guest speaker at the 30th annual Black History Month presentation at MCC on 2/16/17.

Martin Community College’s (MCC) 30th Annual Black History Month Celebration will be held on Thursday, February 16, at 7 pm in the MCC Auditorium. This free event is open to the entire community and will feature a number of cultural presentations culminating with remarks from Dr. Thomas Conway, the Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University.

Prior to joining Elizabeth City State University, Dr. Conway was appointed in 2008 to serve as Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff at Fayetteville State University (FSU).

He came to Fayetteville State University after his 32 year tenure at North Carolina State University where he served as dean of Undergraduate Academic Programs.

While at NC State University he held various other positions including: vice provost for enrollment management and services (2002-05), associate vice provost for the Division of Undergraduate Affairs (1998-2002); and director of the First Year College (1998-2000).

Conway holds an undergraduate degree in agricultural education (1971) and a master’s degree in guidance and counseling (1976) from NC A&T State University and earned a Ph.D. in counselor education from NC State in 1994.

Active in a number of professional organizations, Conway has served as a consultant for numerous historically minority institutions and has written and spoken widely about academic assessment, mentoring and leadership.

According to Brenda Moore, one of the event’s organizers and MCC’s HRD (Human Resources Development) Program Coordinator, “We are so thankful to Dr. Conway for taking time out of his very busy schedule to share his insights during our program. We are also extremely grateful to the numerous local leaders who have agreed to participate. It is very important for our community to see how diverse and devoted its leadership is.”

The program will also include a variety of local talent. To date, the program includes: the children at Smiling Faces Day Care Center, music by Crystal Waters and a parade of hairstyles provided by MCC’s Cosmetology students.

For more information, contact Brenda Moore at 252-789-0236 or via email at Brenda.morre@martincc.edu.
Pictured above are MCC’s most recent BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training) graduates. From left to right, in the front row are: Patrick Bond, Taylor S. Campbell, Joseph C. Comeaux, Tracy P. Curlings, Daniel E. Folk, Brandon G. Johnson, Tykelli J. Perry, Jonathan Price and Wayland Mitchell, MCC’s BLET Coordinator. The ceremony was held in the MCC Auditorium on January 12. The students came from diverse locales to take this class. Bond, the only student from Chowan County, is from Edenton and Folk, the only student from Beaufort County resides in Washington. Martin County was represented by Campbell from Williamston, and Price from Jamesville. Washington County residents included Curlings from Creswell and Johnson from Plymouth. Hertford County resident, Comeaux, lives in

Eight Cadets complete MCC BLET Course on 1/12/17

Eight BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training) students were recognized for successfully completing the 620 hour course of study at Martin Community College (MCC) on January 12. The BLET program is part of MCC’s Continuing Education Division. Those recognized included: Patrick Bond, Taylor S. Campbell, Joseph C. Comeaux, Tracy P. Curlings, Daniel E. Folk, Brandon G. Johnson, Tykelli J. Perry and Jonathan Price. Upon course completion, they were then able to take the State Comprehensive Examination on January 13. Upon passing this test, they will be eligible for employment in all NC law enforcement agencies. Two of the cadets have already been offered positions pending passage of the exam.

Program Director, Wayland Mitchell, welcomed the audience comprised of friends, families of the cadets and instructors. He praised the students for their extreme hard work and determination over the past six months.

Guest speaker, and an alumna of MCC’s BLET program, Captain Beth Coltrain, then delivered a powerful message to the cadets as they prepared to embark on their law enforcement careers.

“Today you transition from cadet to officer. Not only will you graduate as a police officer but you are now a doctor, phycologist, teacher, preacher, and whatever else you wind up needing to be. BLET was just the beginning. The road that lies before you will be even more mentally and physically challenging. There will be more sacrifices that you will have to make.”

“With this certification you will receive the privilege of seeing life through a whole new lens. You will see people on their absolute worst days. You will see a side of society that the rest of the world is blissfully ignorant to. The side of society that is full of despair, brokenness, and pain. And yes, I call this a privilege.”

BLET Continued on page 3
“Each of you got into this field for a reason and for most of you that reason was because you want to help others. Well, it is in the despair, brokenness and pain of others that you will have the opportunity to help them, to serve them. And, it is in those moments you get to decide what kind of police officer you want to be. You can show them love, empathy and compassion or you can be curt, rude, and emotionless... I challenge you for every bad call that you go to, do something good.”

Coltrain also reminded the cadets to remember their training, stay focused and remain vigilant. She also encouraged them to listen to the people they serve, engage with their fellow officers, continuously pursue training opportunities, stay eager and excited about their work and when at home, put their families first.

And in conclusion, Coltrain stated, “Don’t lose faith. Don’t lose faith in society and don’t lose faith in God. Go to church and stay involved. As law enforcement officers we have a tendency to become withdrawn and to push people and God away. Don’t do that.”

Captain Coltrain started her career in law enforcement after completing the BLET course at MCC and becoming an officer with the Williamston Police Department in 2006. Since then, Coltrain has earned both her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees. She went back to school in 2008 and received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Mount Olive University and in 2010 she graduated with her Master’s Degree in Justice Administration from Methodist University. She received her Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate in 2012 – which was no small feat for someone, who at that time, had only six years of experience.

By 2008, Coltrain was promoted to Detective and quickly rose to Detective Corporal. In 2009 she attained the rank of Detective Sergeant and Detective Lieutenant in 2010. She became a Captain in 2013. In 2014, Coltrain, along with others in the Williamston Police Department received special recognition from the Federal Bureau Investigation for assisting them with a multiple murder case in New York that had ties to Williamston.

Instructor Tamesha Woolard then presented the certificates to the cadets. Three special awards were also bestowed on two students who went above and beyond the call of duty in the course of their studies. Jonathan Price received two of the awards. He was recognized for his academic achievements as well as the Iron Man award for his ability to handle the program’s demanding physical fitness training. Brandon Johnson received acknowledgment as the most improved in the class.

Class Sergeant, Daniel Folk, 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.

The NC BLET program 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 Martin Community College.

A new BLET class will be starting on February 7. 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.

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Captain Beth Coltrain (above) of the Williamston Police Department was the guest speaker during MCC’s BLET graduation ceremony held in the campus auditorium on January 12. Coltrain is also a 2006 alumna of MCC’s BLET program. Below, Cadet Bond’s proud family shows their enthusiastic support.
There are now two officers for MCC’s SGA (Student Government Association), President Amanda Vick and Vice President Amanda Saunders. They are busy planning and scheduling a wide variety of activities for MCC students during the Spring Semester. They are pictured above in the new SGA office which is located in the student lounge area of the Campus Café.

They have already located a number of games and sports equipment which are now available for MCC students to check out in the MCC Bookstore. They have also tentatively booked a number of exciting activities for the Spring Fling. Details will be announced soon.

Vick, a ’96 graduate of Williamston High School, began her term as SGA president during the Fall Semester of 2016. Vick is also active in MCC’s Chapters of Alpha Beta Gamma (ABG) and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honors societies.

Amanda Saunders, an MCC student pursuing an Associates Degree in General Education, is a resident of Williamston and plans to transfer from MCC to PCC’s radiology program.

All MCC students are encouraged to take part in their SGA. The General SGA Meetings are open to all students and are scheduled as follows:

- March 29th at 9 am Building 2 Auditorium
- April 26th at 9 am Building 1 Room 14

Cruz Displays Real Talent in Library

Pictured above is Denia Cruz. She is one of several MCC work study students and is working in the MCC library. Beside her is the display she created for Black History month. Cruz, a resident of Stokes, graduated from North Pitt High School and decided to attend MCC because of small, home-like atmosphere. She a second year college transfer student planning to attend NC State University as an Engineering student.
MCC Foundation Awards Thousands in Scholarships

The MCC Foundation has long been serving students in Martin and Bertie Counties. Each year, the Foundation makes thousands of dollars of scholarship funds available to GED completers and high school seniors throughout the MCC service area. Last year (FY 15-16), the MCC Foundation made the following scholarship commitments:

- Four $500 scholarships to Bertie County High School
- Four $500 scholarships to Plymouth High School
- Six $500 scholarships to Riverside High School
- Six $500 scholarships to South Creek High School
- Two $500 scholarships to Hobgood Academy
- Two $500 scholarships to Lawrence Academy
- Two $500 scholarship to Bear Grass Charter School

The Foundation, which serves as the nonprofit branch of MCC, is also the entity through which people donate horses to the equine program. Thus, the Foundation also makes two $500 scholarships available specifically for Equine Technology students.

And thanks to the generosity of the Ormand and Rogers families, MCC’s Foundation is able to make two $500 scholarships available - one to each of the College’s GED graduates with the highest test scores. All other MCC GED certificate recipients are eligible for a scholarship large enough to pay for up to six credit hours of curriculum courses.

In FY 2015-16, students utilized $2500 for scholarships. In the current fiscal year, students have claimed $6,000 in scholarship funds. The MCC Foundation does great work for our students!
Leadership Training for MCC’s “Man Up” Students

MCC’s “Man Up” Minority Male Success leaders and participants met on Wednesday, February first to engage in leadership training with Mr. John “JJ” Evans, Associate Director of Student Life for the North Carolina Community College System. This session was also held to inform students about the program’s upcoming educational excursions to Washington, DC in March and Atlanta, GA in April.

Evans met with the group on February 1. John “JJ” Evans has served as the Associate Director of Student Life at the NC Community College System for just under a year. Prior to working at the system office, he served as the Academic Support Specialist and SGA Advisor for Alamance Community College since 2008. He received his BA in Elementary Education and his MEd in Counselor Education from Clemson University. He is currently working on his PHD in the Department of Leadership, Policy, Adult and Higher Education at NC State University, focusing on Adult and Community College Education. He has been active in the field of student affairs for over 12 years, and has worked in a variety of educational settings.

Evans encouraged the young men to become involved in their college, community and government. He discussed the many ways in which young people can become positively engaged and take on leadership roles. Among the suggestions for positive engagement were: meet elected officials at all levels, write letters, make phone calls, participate in social media, write op-eds for the news media, sign petitions, man polls, partner with other causes, attend forums, etc. Evans then had the participants join in an exercise that demonstrated the importance of working together and communicating with one another to get things done.

Following Evan’s presentation, Crystal Waters, MCC’s Minority Male Success Coordinator, provided the Man Up members with information about two upcoming trips, one to Washington DC and the other to Atlanta, GA. The trips are each designed to accommodate 24 students. Eligible MCC students will be accepted to go on these trips on a first come first serve basis. All trip participants will have their transportation and accommodations, as well as a stipend for meals, covered by a grant from the Minority Male Success program.

The upcoming trip to Washington, DC will be taken March 6 through March 8. A number of exciting activities are available in our nation’s capital. To date, tours of Howard University, Georgetown University, the US Capitol and the White House are confirmed. Passes for the newest addition to the Smithsonian museums, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, have been requested. Other sites being considered for this excursion include the Martin Luther King Memorial, Ford’s Theatre, the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site and the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site.

The trip being planned for Atlanta, GA is set for April 11 through April 13. Thus far, tours of Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University have been confirmed. Other sites under consideration include; the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, the World of Coca-Cola, a CNN Studio Tour, Fox Theatre, the Historic Marietta Trolley and the Atlanta History Center.

Students interested in joining the Man Up group may contact MCC’s Minority Male Success Coordinator, Crystal Waters at 252 - 792 - 0268 or by email at cpugh@martincc.edu. Water’s office is located in Building 1, office number 22B. Members are assigned mentors and expected to attend leadership development meetings and outings.
Pictured left are several participants in MCC’s Man Up program during a leadership seminar held on February 1. John “JJ” Evans, Director of Student Life for the North Carolina Community College System, was the speaker. All who participated in the Leadership training were Career and College Promise students attending MCC. The students broke into small groups and developed team work strategies.

After the training, Crytsal Waters discussed the upcoming Man Up excursions. The trips are each designed to accommodate 24 students. Eligible MCC students will be accepted to go on these trips on a first come first serve basis. All trip participants will have their transportation and accommodations, as well as a stipend for meals covered by a grant from the Minority Male Success program.

While on these trips students will have an opportunity to visit several iconic sites and prestigious HBCU’s (Historically Black Colleges and Universities).

The upcoming trip to Washington, DC will be taken March 6 through March 8. A number of exciting activities are available in our nation’s capital. To date, tours of Howard University, Georgetown University, the US Capitol and the White House are confirmed.

The trip being planned for Atlanta, GA is set for April 11 through April 13. Thus far, tours of Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University have been confirmed.

Contact Crystal Waters if you are interested in these trips.
Miss Penny (pictured left), is expecting in March. She is a brood mare in MCC’s Equine Technology program. The Student Government Association (SGA) is sponsoring a “Name the Baby” contest for the foal’s barn name. The winner will receive a $25 gift certificate in the Campus Café. The contest is open to all MCC students, staff and faculty. To enter, stop by the MCC Library, complete an entry slip and drop it in the designated box. All entries must be received by March 10. The winner will be announced in the April edition of the Martin Messenger.

Miss Penny, is About to Make Small Change!

One of MCC’s brood mares, Miss Penny, is expecting. A mother to roughly 15 foals (foal is the word for a horse less than a year old), Miss Penny is bay colored, half Quarter Horse and half thoroughbred (referred to as an appendix horse in equine terminology). She was artificially inseminated by the equine students in April of 2016. The gestation cycle for horses is approximately 11 months. Insemination is a common practice in horse breeding because it is considered to be much safer for the mare than natural breeding. The students will witness the birth of the foal sometime in March. The sex of the foal is unknown.

The foal’s father is a North American Spotted Draft Horse Stallion named Big Man Sam. He is owned by Carey Stewart, one of MCC’s equine technology instructors. Big Man Sam has sired many foals throughout the US. Stewart states, “Breeding horses is an important part of the horse industry. It is essential in producing healthy stock and maintaining desirable blood lines. Knowing how it works is of great importance to our students, so we try to breed a horse during every academic year.”

Stewart adds, “Both our Equine Business Technology students and our Equine Training Technology students can use this experience to their benefit once they graduate and start their careers. This is the kind of broad based learning that gives our program real strength and credibility in the equine industry.”

Most horses have a barn name and a show name. The show name is typically a combination of the parents’ names which is used on their paper-work. The barn name is their day-to-day name. Frequently, barn names reference the registered name. Miss Penny’s name reflects her registered name “Certified Treasure.”

With this naming protocol in mind, MCC’s SGA is sponsoring a “Name the Baby” contest for the new foal’s barn name. The winner will receive a $25 gift certificate in the MCC Café. To enter, stop by the MCC library, fill out an entry slip and drop it in the designated box.

Members of the Equine Club and Equine Technology Faculty will select the winner. The deadline to enter is Friday, March 10. The winning name will be announced after the birth of the foal. Since the sex of the foal will not be known until it is born, entrants are encouraged to submit both male and female names.

The winner will be announced in the April edition of the Martin Messenger.
On January 30, the MCC Board of Trustees held a called meeting to elect new officers. Pictured from left to right are Chairman Helen Davis, Secretary Ed Thompson and Vice President Carroll Jones. Davis, a retired teacher and principal, is an appointee of the Martin County Board of Education. She joined the board in July of last year. Jones, an employee of Domtar, was reappointed by the Martin County Commissioners in 2016. Thompson, a Domtar retiree and resident of Bertie County, was appointed by the Governor in 2014. Davis and Jones are both residents of Martin County. This action was necessitated by the resignation of Board Chairman Jackie Gillam on January 27 and the resignation of Vice Chairman Dr. Shirley Fields on January 30. Gillam, had served as Chairman of the Trustees since July of 2014. Upon her announcement, Trustee Jean Stevens stated, “I want to thank Jackie for her wonderful years of service to this board. It has been an honor to serve this College with her at the helm.” Gillam was appointed to the board by the Martin County Commissioners and Fields was appointed by the Martin County School Board. Both organizations have been notified of the need to fill these open positions. If the appointments are made quickly, the new Trustees could be sworn in as soon as the next regularly scheduled Trustee meeting on March 21.
The MCC Foundation Board has approved another day trip to the Durham Performing Arts Center. The Foundation has committed to ten orchestra seats for the Saturday, June 10, matinee performance of The King and I. One of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s finest works, THE KING AND I boasts a score which features such beloved classics as “Getting To Know You,” “I Whistle a Happy Tune,” “Hello Young Lovers,” “Shall We Dance” and “Something Wonderful.” Set in 1860’s Bangkok, the musical tells the story of the unconventional and tempestuous relationship that develops between the King of Siam and Anna Leonowens, a British schoolteacher whom the modernist King, in an imperialistic world, brings to Siam to teach his many wives and children. This trip will cost approximately $130 which will include the theater ticket and transportation. Please contact Judy Jennette at judy.jennette@martincc.edu or via phone at 252-789-0310 if you would like to reserve a seat.

QEP Team is Working Hard

In preparation for MCC’s SACS reaffirmation of accreditation, the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) committee has been meeting for nearly a year now. Pictured in the top photo are committee members Elaine Spellman and Elijah Freeman. Pictured below, from left to right, are Dr. Deborah Wyman (committee chairman), Dr. Rochelle Mabry and Maureen Green. Judy Jennette is also on the committee. Together, they are working on a process by which MCC will enhance its online learning experience. More than 90 percent of MCC’s students take online or hybrid (a combination of online and seated) classes. Therefor it is absolutely essential for us deliver online classes as efficiently and consistently as possible. The committee has already reviewed what other Colleges have done in regard to enhancing online learning and are currently working on a process by which new students can be evaluated as to their readiness for online learning. The team intends to release the draft version of its work at the end of the Spring Semester.
MCC’s Small Business Center is a Proud Co-Sponsor of Martin County’s

Entrepreneur Expo

Saturday, February 4, 10 am to 4 pm
Senator Bob Martin Easter Agricultural Center
2900 NC Hwy 125 S., Williamston, NC
Contact Billy Barber at 252-789-0303 or via email at billy.barber@martincc.edu for more information

Free Admission
Wholesale suppliers
Equipment providers
Free seminars on business planning, taxes, marketing & more
Advice on local and state regulations
Insurance providers
Legal services
Financial services
Engineering solutions
Restaurant suppliers
Microbrewery start-up information
Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. The event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

America’s greatness is a testament to generations of courageous individuals who, in the face of uncomfortable truths, accepted that the work of perfecting our Nation is unending and strived to expand the reach of freedom to all. For too long, our most basic liberties had been denied to African Americans, and today, we pay tribute to countless good-hearted citizens along the Underground Railroad, aboard a bus in Alabama, and all across our country who stood up and sat in to help right the wrongs of our past and extend the promise of America to all our people. During National African American History Month, we recognize these champions of justice and the sacrifices they made to bring us to this point, we honor the contributions of African Americans since our country’s beginning, and we recommit to reaching for a day when no person is judged by anything but the content of their character.

This month was envisioned as a tool to develop and cultivate new awareness and new critiques. It was about unity. I personally take advantage of the national spotlight that Black History Month provides to educate others about the real history leftist scholars rewrite or ignore, and stress the original purpose of Negro History Week. As we rejoice in the victories won by men and women who believed in the idea of a just and fair America, we remember that, throughout history, success has been driven by bold individuals who were willing to speak out and change the status quo.

Woodson’s vision was that someday a special week or month would no longer be required in order to appropriately honor black Americans and their accomplishments. Black history is American history and a year-round school curricula relevant to all. I am thankful for the work and the vision of Dr. Carter G. Woodson. History is indeed a human need. His contribution and that of other black Americans is considerable and far too important to ever be compartmentalized into just one month. Our responsibility as citizens is to address the inequalities and injustices that linger, and we must secure our birthright freedoms for all people.

On February 16th, as we mark the 30th Annual Black History program at Martin Community College, let us reflect on the sacrifices and contributions made by generations of African Americans, and let us resolve to continue our march toward a day when every person knows the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
Martin Community College (MCC), NC Works of Martin County and Martin Enterprises are once again joining forces to sponsor the "GET THE LIFE YOU LOVE" Job Fair and Career Expo on Thursday, March 9, 2017 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Bob Martin in Williamston, North Carolina. Last year, more than 50 business and industry representatives were on hand to discuss job opportunities with attendees.

The purpose of this event is to connect job seekers of all types - current and prospective college students, career changers, veterans, the unemployed, and the underemployed - to local and regional employers. MCC faculty and staff, as well as NC Works personnel, will also be on hand to assist job seekers in developing the skills they need for particular careers.

This event will allow attendees to network with recruiters and gain valuable job seeking experience and confidence. It will also connect attendees to faculty advisors of MCC’s academic programs who will help them gauge their training needs for the jobs they are seeking. NC Works advisors will be on hand to connect job seekers to job training assistance – like resume building, tuition assistance, etc.

It’s not too late for businesses and industries to participate in this event. If you have questions, contact MCC Counselor, Crystal Waters, at (252) 789-0268 or crystal.pugh@martincc.edu. To register online, simply go to the Eventbrite web site at https://www.eventbrite.com/.

Job Seekers may want to prepare for this event by attending one or more of MCC’s ongoing Human Resources Development (HRD) classes. These classes are free and are available in both Williamston and Windsor and provide individualized assistance in developing a resume, job application and interview skills.

In Martin County, the Employability/CRC Lab, located on the MCC campus in Williamston, is open Monday through Thursday, from 8 am until 2:00 pm and on the Bertie Campus in Windsor on Wednesdays, from 8 am to 12 noon.

Training in job searching and resume writing are available at the Martin County NC Works Center in Williamston, Tuesday through Thursday, from 9 am - 1 pm or the Bertie County Works Center on Tuesdays from 9 am to 1 pm and on Thursdays from 9 am until 3:30 pm.

For more information on these preparatory classes and workshops, contact Brenda Moore at brenda.moore@martincc.edu or via phone at 252-789-0236.

Participants are encouraged to bring props, photos, handouts, employment applications, or any other type of visual aids that will provide participants with a better understanding of their career/job opportunities. Job seekers are also encouraged to dress in business-like attire and make arrangements for child care.

Pictured above from left to right in front are Crystal Waters (MCC Counselor) and Brenda Moore (MCC’s HRD Program Coordinator) and on the back row from left to right are Sherrie Bazemore (WIOA Workforce Specialist), Sonona Jefferson (Program Services Manager for Martin Enterprises) and Krista Jernigan Wood (Manager for the Department of Commerce-Division of Workforce Solutions/NC Works Career Center in Williamston) as they plan the 2017 “Get the Life You Love” Job Fair and Career Expo to be held at the Bob Martin Center on March 9. Taking the picture was Judy Jennette (MCC Director of PR and Institutional Advancement), who is also a member of the committee.
February is Black History Month!

Be the first to correctly identify all 11 of these famous black leaders and their historic achievements and win a $25 gift certificate from the MCC Café! Submit your entry to Judy Jennette (judy.jennette@martincc.edu). Contest ends February 28. The prize is provided by the MCC Student Government Association (SGA)!

Martin Memos

Feb. 1 - Man Up meeting, 6 pm, room 14 in building 1 - Leadership Training session with Mr. John “JJ” Evans

Feb. 7 - New BLET program starts (contact Wayland Mitchell for more information)

Feb. 16 - MCC’s 30th Annual Black History Program, MCC Auditorium at 7 pm

Feb. 16 - Relay for Life Bingo Fundraiser, 6 pm, Martin Co. Farmers Market

Feb. 22 - MCC SGA meeting, 9 am, Building 1, Room 14

Feb. 24 - Last day to submit names for

March 1 - Last day to apply for graduation (contact Martha Williams)