ESCC Launches Alumni Association Newsletter

Eastern Shore Community College has launched the ESCC Alumni News to keep in touch with alumni, share success stories, and report on ESCC activities and events. The quarterly ESCC Alumni News is mailed to alumni, and is also available online at www.es.vccs.edu.

The ESCC Alumni Association was established in 2012 by ESCC President Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover. All graduates are inducted as Alumni Association members at the annual commencement ceremony. If you graduated before 2012, please send an email with your contact information to alumni@es.vccs.edu so we can add you to the membership list.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

ESCC Graduates Over 150 at 2013 Commencement Ceremony

Over 150 degrees and certificates were awarded to Eastern Shore Community College students at ESCC’s 42nd annual commencement ceremony held on May 15. Commencement Marshal Wanda Smith, a recently retired Assistant Professor of English, led the graduates to the ceremony held on the college lawn.

The commencement address was presented by Jeffrey K. Mitchell, a member of the Virginia State Board of Community Colleges. In his address Mr. Mitchell discussed the similarities between the Eastern Shore and his home in Southwest Virginia, including the distinct cultures and the economic challenges.

Diplomas and certificates were presented to graduates by ESCC President Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover, College Board Chair Lloyd Kellam, Jr., and Robin Rich-Coates, Assistant to the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. Awards presented include 48 Associate of Arts & Sciences degrees, 43 Associate of Applied Science degrees, 31 Certificates, and 40 Career Studies Certificates.

ESCC’s 2013 Valedictorian was Courtney Brittingham. Special guests in attendance included former ESCC President Dr. Richard Jenkins, philanthropists Barbara and Steve Johnson, and members of the Eastern Shore Community College Board and the Eastern Shore Community College Foundation Board.

FAQ’s for ESCC Alumni Association

What is the ESCC Alumni Association?

The ESCC Alumni Association was established in 2012 to create a community for ESCC graduates that helps them keep informed about each other’s accomplishments and successes.

How do I tell the ESCC Alumni Association about my professional and personal accomplishments?

To share your professional and personal accomplishments with the ESCC Alumni Association, send an email to alumni@es.vccs.edu. You can also reach us on Facebook and Twitter.

Will the ESCC Alumni Association be holding special events such as class reunion?

The ESCC Alumni Association is interested in holding special events. Please let us know what type of special events you would like to participate in.

How do I become a member of the ESCC Alumni Association?

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ESCC Alumni News

Eastern Shore Community College Alumni Association

Volume 1, Issue 1
Summer 2013

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• SMART Scholarship
• NASA Rocket Launches
• Student Payloads
• National Science Foundation Grant Awarded
• Faculty Members Elected and Retire
• FAQ’s for ESCC Alumni Association

Tell us your ESCC Alumni News and Stories:

• New Jobs
• Promotions
• Continuing Education
• Scholarships & Awards
• Community Service
• Marriage & Family
• Special Interests

Send to: alumni@es.vccs.edu
Grant Spence Receives SMART Scholarship

Grant Spence, ESCC 2011, has received a national Science, Mathematics And Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship in recognition of his academic performance at Virginia Tech. In addition to other benefits, the SMART Scholarship provides a $24,000 cash award for each year he continues his education, pays his full tuition, and includes a paid internship. The SMART Scholarship for Service Program supports students pursuing degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Grant, who is the son of Dr. Linda Baylis Spence of Exmore, completed his Associates of Arts and Science degrees in General Studies at ESCC before transferring to Virginia Tech to study computer hardware engineering. Congratulations, Grant!

Grant Spence, ESCC 2011

Faculty Members Deal and Smith Retire

The close of the 2012-2013 academic year brings the retirement of two ESCC faculty members. John R. Deal, Jr., Associate Professor of Information Systems Technology, retired after teaching for 10 years at ESCC. While teaching at ESCC, Mr. Deal worked to improve the Information Systems Technology program. Mr. Deal is now teaching for Johns Hopkins University. Wanda T. Smith, Assistant Professor of English, first became associated with ESCC in the 1970’s as an adjunct English professor. Ms. Smith began working full-time at ESCC in 1986, and retired in May after 26 years. Ms. Smith is enjoying her retirement, with more time for family and friends, reading at the beach, gardening, and playing with her grandchildren.

NASA Sounding Rocket Launches ESCC Student Payloads

Scientific experiments built by two Eastern Shore Community College (ESCC) teams were launched from Wallops Island aboard a NASA sounding rocket on June 20th. The ESCC teams joined over 75 students and faculty members from colleges and universities across the country in NASA’s RockOn and RockSat-C programs.

The sunrise launch carried 18 experiments to an altitude of 73 miles before splashdown and recovery off Wallops Island. The ESCC RockOn team’s payload was assembled from a kit with an array of sensors to measure environmental conditions during flight. Students Paul Proctor and Amanda Thomas, and faculty advisor Greg Armstrong, were on ESCC’s RockOn team.

ESCC’s RockSat-C payload was designed to test radio transmission of real-time flight data from space to earth using low-cost, off the shelf components. The project was custom designed and built by electronics technology students, with guidance from faculty advisor John Floyd. Student project leaders Nygel Mceee and Chase Riley were at the launch.

Project funding was provided, in part, by a MentorLinks grant from the American Association of Community Colleges and by the ESCC Foundation.

National Science Foundation Grant Awarded to ESCC

The National Science Foundation has awarded an Advanced Technological Education grant of $198,248 to ESCC for the “Linking Employers and Academic Needs” (LEAN) Internship Project. The project will develop internships to prepare students for entry-level science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers and complete certificates or AAS degrees in STEM.

The project will also increase opportunities for women and under-represented students, develop an internship guidebook, and provide on-site faculty professional development at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility and the Navy Surface Combat Systems Center. ESCC President Dr. Linda Glover said, “This grant will help the College address one of our major challenges—meeting the workforce needs of an economically distressed rural area.”

Dr. Linda Thomas Glover

Distinguished Alumni: Wendy Marshall

When Wendy Marshall began attending classes at ESCC in 1996, she was working several part-time jobs and her goal was to have one job with a decent salary and good benefits. Two college degrees later and a successful career at Edward Jones Investments, Wendy has more than achieved her original ESCC student goal.

As one of ESCC’s outstanding success stories, Wendy was inducted this year into the Distinguished Alumni Program. Wendy, a 1999 ESCC graduate, credits many people along the way for helping her achieve success and says, “I’m indebted to the folks at ESCC for showing me that hard work pays off, and especially for believing in me.”

While she had many favorite ESCC faculty and staff members, Wendy singles out Robin Rich Coates and Pat Phillips and says, “I am forever grateful for their passion for learning, their support, and their guidance.”

Wendy Marshall

ESCC Alumni News

Courtney Brittingham, 2013 ESCC Valedictorian

Attendees at ESCC’s 42nd Annual Commencement Ceremony weren’t expecting a karate demonstration, but 2013 ESCC Valedictorian Courtney Brittingham provided one.

In her valedictory address, Courtney spoke about overcoming obstacles in life and how she has learned to keep fighting when obstacles get in the way. To illustrate her point at the end of the address, Courtney’s karate sensei joined her onstage and assisted her in “breaking a board” to cheers from the audience.

A science student at ESCC, Courtney was also a Phi Theta Kappa member. As a Student Ambassador, she spoke on two occasions at the General Assembly in Richmond on behalf of ESCC.

Courtney will attend the University of Mary Washington to study biology and chemistry, and has received scholarships from the Academy of Lifelong Learning and Phi Theta Kappa.

Courtney Brittingham, 2013 ESCC Valedictorian

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