



# ESCC NEWS LETTER



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ESCC Foundation  
[www.es.vccs.edu/about/escc-foundation](http://www.es.vccs.edu/about/escc-foundation)  
 Patty Kellam, Executive Director  
 (757)-789-1749

*The mission of ESCC Foundation is to make a positive difference in the lives of all Eastern Shore citizens by helping to provide the best possible learning and teaching environment.*

## Update from ESCC President Dr. Jim Shaeffer



*Welcoming new students for Fall Semester*

It's hard to believe that Peggy and I moved to the Eastern Shore over three years ago. We had no idea that we were entering into such a warm, caring and generous community, and we've seen the kindness of so many.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, ESCC has added over 30 new Career and Technical Education programs since 2019.

Workforce partnerships have resulted in a nearly 50% increase in programs and offerings, contributing to the talented workforce that strengthens our community and economy. Through the hard work of our Student Services team, academic enrollment is up over 5% for Fall 2022, compared to Fall 2021.

While I often make the point that ESCC is a great postsecondary bargain, we are also a great college because we have high quality programs. Our LPN program was ranked #1 in Virginia by NursingProcess.org, and our RN program, operated in partnership with Tidewater Community College, is ranked #2 in the state. Dr. Tompkins provides details on the adjacent page.



*Honoring LPN graduates*



*Drone classes for students with disabilities*

We've added inclusive programs such as our partnership with Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and Sentinel Robotic Systems (SRS) to teach students with disabilities to operate drones and earn their drone pilot certificate. One such student became a teaching assistant for other drone classes and was recently hired by SRS to help inspect ANEC's transmission lines.

In January 2019, the State Board for Community Colleges approved a three-year reboot plan to establish ESCC as a strong, sustainable college that will more effectively serve the educational and training needs of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. In a September 12, 2022 letter VCCS Chancellor Sharon Morrissey informed me that because ESCC has increased the number of workforce credentials earned by our students, an important threshold for college viability, she is "lifting the re-boot status of the college." YES! Your Eastern Shore Community College is moving forward preparing for the next 50 years of service.

Our vision is to be the national model of a community college serving a rural community through diverse programming that leads to better lives and a better Shore. We have a bright future, and we look forward to seeing you on campus in our programs and at our events.

## FastForward Programs: A Closer Look by Dr. Patrick Tompkins

Like a Buffalo nickel, value has two sides, monetary and worth. So it is for Your Eastern Shore Community College as well.

The value of our nursing programs has been recognized with top rankings and certification exam pass rates, but first a little more about money and worth.

The monetary value is what we often call face value or the value expressed in monetary units like five cents. ESCC's monetary proposition is well known—students' tuition is less than one third that of any public college or university in Virginia. And we don't have expensive student housing or meal plans on top of that.



*VP Dr. Patrick Tompkins*



*ESCC LPN Instructor Felicia Blake with graduate Darby Justis*

But ESCC's value is worth much greater than that. ESCC offers small classes with great teachers. Because our instructors know every student, our practical nursing (LPN) program is ranked #1 out of eight-seven in Virginia. NursingProcess.org ranked programs based on pass rates for the National Council Licensure Exam—Practical Nursing (NCLEX-PN) certification exam, academic quality, and reputation.

NursingProcess.org stated, "The college offers a supportive learning environment where...

[students] study under the guidance of a committed faculty."

At the same time, RN Careers has ranked Tidewater Community College's registered nursing program #2 out of fifty-two in the state. TCC offers an RN program on ESCC's campus.

RN Careers noted, "The school is one of the best in the state and... Students benefit from state-of-the-art classrooms and small class sizes." RN Careers added, "The college also houses simulation labs and dedicated faculty that ensure that students are well-equipped with all the technical and theoretical knowledge they'll need upon graduation." Statewide, the three-year average pass rate on the NCLEX-RN exam is 83.6%, but TCC's average is 92.4%, including a 100% pass rate this year for the program on ESCC's campus.

Similarly our nurse aide students had a 100% pass rate on the certifying National Nurse Aide Assessment Program test this year. These pass rates are especially notable given the national decline in pass rates during the pandemic.

So remember, value is not just about money, it's ultimately about worth, and that's what Your Eastern Shore Community College nursing programs provide to our community.

## Dual-Enrollment to a Career in Welding: Connor Henderson



*Connor Henderson pursues his passion as a pipe welder.*

Connor Henderson calls it an epiphany: “Being introduced to welding during dual-enrollment at Eastern Shore Community College was a game-changer for me.” He explains, “I knew right away I wanted to learn everything I could about welding.”

Connor began taking college classes while still in high school through the dual enrollment partnership between Eastern Shore Community College and Northampton High School.

ESCC Welding instructor Lloyd Wagar saw Connor’s enthusiasm and talent immediately and encouraged him to explore the many career paths that would present themselves. Wagar said, “It’s a trade skill that can take you literally across the nation and around the world.”

A Ratcliffe Scholar at ESCC, Connor took full advantage of the required internships of the program, putting in time at both Coastal Precast and JRC Mechanical, all while also working locally with RBW Construction.

When Connor received his Associate in Technical Studies degree, he had already received a full-time offer from JRC Mechanical. “As a pipe welder in the field, I get to use my skills in acetylene cutting, stick welding, fabrication and more. Every day I drop the hood on my helmet, it’s going to be a good day.”

## Nurse Aide to CNA and Beyond: Maesha Johnson

“It’s amazing how much information you can learn in such a small amount of time,” says Maesha Johnson, a temporary nurse aide at Shore Health and Rehab.

Maesha was hired as a nurse aide on an emergency basis during the pandemic even though she did not have her certification. Now, Maesha is enrolled in an accelerated program at ESCC to prepare her for the nurse aide exam.

“What it means for me,” Maesha said, “is that I will be officially recognized by the state for the work I’ve been doing for the last two years. The certification will give me more options to advance in my career.”



*Maesha Johnson hones her skills in ESCC’s Nursing Lab.*

Instructor Felicia Blake oversees the Accelerated Nurse Aide Refresher Course at ESCC. She explains, “Having been hired during the pandemic to cover staff shortages, these students have a great opportunity to test for certification. Although the course is accelerated, we are providing content lectures, practicing skills, and preparing for the exam.”

## Community Partnership Celebrates Student Success

ESCC has partnered with Eastern Shore Regional Jail (ESRJ) and Eastern Shore Community Services Board to implement a re-entry program that provides skills and knowledge to prepare individuals for success as returning citizens.

The goal of ESRJ's re-entry program is two-fold: increase public safety and reduce the rate of recidivism. A primary focus of re-entry is to reduce barriers so motivated individuals can learn skills leading to jobs, acquire stable housing, support their families and strengthen the community.



*Sheriff David Doughty addresses 13 recent graduates of the Re-Entry Program*

The partnership reflects Your Eastern Shore Community College's YES! culture of hospitality, transparency, accountability, and inclusion. ESCC President Dr. Jim Shaeffer shares, "Our adult education staff and instructors are devoted to this program, its values, and its outcomes." Dr. Patrick Tompkins, ESCC Vice President adds, "We are grateful to ESRJ for including the college in this program."

## From ESCC Johnsen Scholar to ODU: Macy Richardson



A 2022 graduate with an Associate of Arts and Sciences degree in Science, Macy Richardson is now a junior at ODU majoring in biology with plans to pursue her masters.

As a Johnsen Presidential Scholar and member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, Macy embraced community service as a full-time student at ESCC. She served as a student ambassador helping with Foundation events such as ESCC's 50th Anniversary Homecoming and 2022 Oyster Roast Fundraiser, explaining, "I enjoyed meeting people at events, making connections and networking."

A highlight at ESCC was discovering her love for biology. Macy reflects, "Even online, Dr. Foxworthy was an amazing teacher. During Covid I was able to take a microscope home and explore with it outside of class." Macy worked as a paid aquaculture intern at VIMS where she raised scallops from spawning until they were released, snorkeled in eel grass to survey mollusks, and assisted scientists with research.

Macy offers this advice for students: "Talk to your professors and advisor so you have people in your circle, and say YES! to opportunities. There are so many great people there to help you at ESCC."

## ESCC Alum Leads Project Horizons

ESCC Foundation welcomes Miriam Cornwell, class of 2006, as the new Project Horizons Coordinator. Miriam has reinvigorated the program from its remote operation during the pandemic.

Project Horizons provides academic, social, and cultural support for economically disadvantaged youth in grades 7-12 through enrichment activities, tutoring and counseling. The program incentivizes students to complete high school and introduces post-secondary education opportunities and a direct pathway to ESCC where two years of free tuition is guaranteed.



*Miriam Cornwell with Kentrelle Walker, a Project Horizons grad, ESCC alum, and ESCC Instructor*

Started by the late Robert S. Bloxom, Sr., an ESCC founder and former Foundation Board member, the program is funded by a small endowment, annual contributions, and a grant from ESAAA/Project Discovery.

Miriam led Project Horizons students on a tour of ODU in August. They will visit NASA Wallops in November and complete hands-on STEM activities, and a trip to YMCA Camp Silver Beach is planned for 2023.

Miriam explains, "We're able to give students in need academic support and life skills, exposure to different career paths, and provide incentives to succeed in high school. We show how they can use their free two years at ESCC to plan a successful career, either by transferring to a four-year school or taking their skills directly to the workforce."

## ESCC Foundation Leaders Recognized for Philanthropy



The Virginia Community College System honored longtime ESCC Foundation Board members Roberta Newman (second from left) and David Landsberger (far right) for their leadership in philanthropy at a luncheon in April.

Dr. Shaeffer explains, "Roberta has given tirelessly as Chair of our Foundation Board of Directors and to the Shore community. Her passion for serving the underserved embraces an important cornerstone of ESCC. Her thoughtful leadership style and attention to detail have brought well needed structure to our Board and helped our Foundation grow."

"David Landsberger has funded building projects, numerous scholarships and other initiatives, as well as student laptops during the pandemic. David's vision, business acumen and support have helped to change lives and create career pathways at ESCC. He is a great friend of the college and is always there when we need support." Congratulations to these Foundation leaders.

## ESCC Foundation Oyster Roast Fundraiser

Join us for live music, local seafood roasted and steamed on site, chowder, BBQ, sides, craft beer and more, plus a new silent auction:

**Friday, January 27, 2023 5:00-9:00pm**

Proceeds fund scholarships and supportive services for students such as tutoring, Healthy Snacks, and emergency aid. Tickets on sale in December.



Thank you to our Lead and Major Sponsors:



Please contact Patty Kellam for sponsorship opportunities:  
757-789-1749

## Leave A Legacy

The ESCC Legacy Society encourages all who support the College's mission to use their financial and estate planning to help ESCC maintain the affordable access and educational excellence that help our students succeed.

When you include ESCC Foundation in your long-term planning, you make a difference for generations to come. Foundation scholarships are critical in helping students reach their full potential and achieve fulfilling careers.



*Nursing students with instructor Bonnie Nordstrom*

If you have included ESCC Foundation in your estate planning, or would like details on how to do so, please contact Patty at 757-789-1749 or [pkellam@es.vccs.edu](mailto:pkellam@es.vccs.edu). Info is also posted online at: [es.vccs.edu/about/escc-foundation/](http://es.vccs.edu/about/escc-foundation/)

**We invite you to show your support to help students access great programs that improve lives.**





## Eastern Shore Community College Nursing Programs Receive Top Ratings!

See inside for details and other exciting news.

