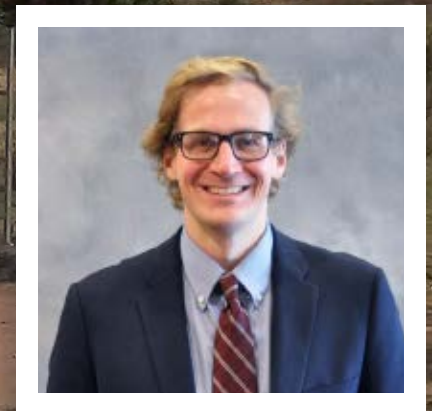


# A-B Tech EDUCATION Journal

FALL 2016



**History Instructor  
David Dry Named  
Fulbright Scholar**

New Asheville Film  
Festival at A-B Tech

**Dr. Beth Stewart Named  
Vice President for  
Instructional Services**

**ABTech**  
Community College

# A-B Tech EDUCATION Journal

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128,500 copies printed at a cost of .16 cents each.



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ASHEVILLE FILM FESTIVAL, PAGE 11



DR. BETH STEWART, PAGE 14

# A Message from the President



Dennis King

The Fall Semester at A-B Tech is always a time of hope and great optimism as thousands of students descend upon our main campus in Asheville and our other locations in Madison County, Enka, Woodfin, South Asheville and the Goodwill Center in West Asheville.

I'm pleased to report that fall enrollment in curriculum programs was up slightly to approximately 7,300 students this year. This was especially good news given that Buncombe County once again has the state's lowest unemployment rate, which typically means people are working and less likely to enroll. In Continuing

- Fully online Associate of Arts, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration, and Associate of Applied Science in Fire Protection Technologies (beginning in January) degrees
- Campus status for our Woodfin location, which houses the Emergency Services Division
- Our highest-ever enrollment of high school students in the Career and College Promise program; these high school students are enrolled at their high schools and A-B Tech simultaneously and their college courses are free

Education, where there is ongoing enrollment, we also serve about 15,000 people in certification, workforce training and personal enrichment courses over the course of a year.

A-B Tech also received excellent news about one of our many gifted faculty members. History instructor David Dry, featured in this issue, has become one of very few community college instructors to be named a prestigious Fulbright Scholar. David is spending this year teaching in Kyrgyzstan and you'll read about how he is sharing his knowledge with A-B Tech instructors and students, as well as soaking in the Kyrgyz culture. We are extremely proud of David and his accomplishments.

There are several new developments at A-B Tech this academic year, including:

- A new Occupational Therapy Assistant program
- 24 new Transfer Pathways in the Arts & Sciences Division
- Four new Computer Technologies Pathways

A-B Tech is a college where everyone who wants an education is welcomed and encouraged. We invite you to explore all we have to offer, talk with our faculty and advisors, and tour our campuses. To paraphrase our campaign slogan, your dreams truly are our mission.

*Dennis King*  
Dennis King  
President

**VISION**  
Changing Lives, Strengthening Communities

**MISSION**  
Dedicated to student success, A-B Tech delivers quality education to enhance academic, workforce, and personal development.

**VALUES**  
Excellence, Integrity. Supportive Learning Environment, Innovation, Service and Engagement

# A-B Tech Welcomes Four Members to its Board



Gene Bell



Jacquelyn Hallum



Bill Murdock



Robin Ramsey

A-B Tech Community College welcomed four new members to its Board of Trustees: Gene Bell, Jacquelyn Hallum, Bill Murdock and Robin Wilson Ramsey.

Bell was appointed to the A-B Tech Board by the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners on August 1. He joined the Asheville Housing Authority as the Director of Maintenance and Construction in 1994. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Asheville Housing Authority and Executive Director of Brevard Housing Authority in October 2005. He graduated with a degree in Business Management from Xavier University. Gene was employed with IBM for over 20 years, and owned a construction company before coming to Asheville. He has served on the Asheville City School Board for eight years where served as Chair for six of those years. Gene currently serves as the President of the North Carolina Housing Authority Directors Association, Board of Directors of Muddy Sneakers. He is a trustee on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Housing Authority Risk and Retention Pool (NCHARRP). He serves as chairman to the Buncombe County Planning Board.

Hallum was appointed by the Boards of Education on September 19, to fill the remainder of the term for the late Dr. Don Locke. She is the director of Health Careers and Diversity Education at the Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC). She is a native of Asheville and has been employed with MAHEC for 21 years. Her healthcare background spans more than 30 years with special interest in health parity, culturally appropriate care, and workforce diversity and inclusion. She is an advocate for social justice and enjoys the experience of mentoring and working with marginalized youth. She graduated with a degree in Business Administration and a concentration in Marketing from NC A&T. She received Masters degrees in Business Administration and Health Administration from Pfeiffer University.

Murdock was appointed by the Board of Education on August 1. He is the CEO of Eblen Charities and the Eblen Center for Social Enterprises, a non-profit organization whose outreach extends throughout the counties of Western North Carolina and through its numerous programs has helped thousands upon thousands of families each year with medical and emergency assistance. A proud graduate of A-B Tech, he has served as a commencement speaker for the college and was an inaugural member of the A-B Tech Foundation when it was established in 1996.

Ramsey was appointed by the Governor on May 2, to fill her husband Nathan Ramsey's vacancy. A native of Asheville, Ramsey is a graduate of Mars Hill College and The Institute of Political Leadership. She worked for Long, Parker, Warren, Anderson and Payne, PA until 2013, then worked for a year and a half in the General Assembly and transitioned to Western Field Representative for Senator Richard Burr in May of 2013. She currently serves on the Development Committee and the Governance Committee of Asheville Humane Society; Children's Welfare League; Associate Member of The Junior League of Asheville; Board of The Governor's Western Residence; and Women's Society for Mission Hospital.

# A-B Tech Library Dedicated to Don C. Locke

A-B Tech Community College dedicated its campus library on October 17 in honor of Dr. Don C. Locke, former trustee for the college in the Ferguson Auditorium on the Asheville campus.

Locke, who passed away June 8 from complications due to lung cancer, had served on the A-B Tech board since 2010, most recently as vice chairman. The Board of Trustees voted unanimously rename Holly Library in his honor. The library will carry numerous books Locke authored.

“Don embodied much of what we value as universally good. He was an intellectual who valued education,” said Dennis King, President of A-B Tech. Other speakers at the dedication program were Locke’s close friend Gene Bell, mentee Brandon Priester, graduate student Deborah Harmon and UNC Asheville Chancellor Mary Grant, who was representing UNC General Administration.

King said Don was an excellent educator but his main passion was devoted to the issues of equality and brotherhood. “It is not an exaggeration to say he dedicated his life to the noble aspirations for the good of society as a whole,” he said.

A-B Tech Trustee Bell said, “Don was a wonderful husband, a friend and a tremendous leader. Don was also an advocate for equity in education and racial diversity in the workplace. I ask each of you to honor Don’s legacy by addressing both of those critical issues.”

Locke’s wife Marjorie encouraged the audience to remember Don through their actions. “Whatever Don was for you, whatever he did for you; go and do likewise. Be to someone else like he was to you. That, my friends, is the highest tribute you can make to honor his memory.”

Locke retired in 2007 from UNC Asheville as director of Diversity and Multiculturalism. He also served as director of the Asheville Graduate Center and director of the N.C. State University doctoral program in Adult and Community College Education at the Asheville Graduate Center.

Former Student Government Association President and A-B Tech Trustee Brandon Priester was mentored by Locke while navigating college education. “I want to recognize a man who has sown seeds in the community that will grow and resonate in the years to come. It’s up to us to carry on his legacy,” he said.



**“Don embodied much of what we value as universally good. He was an intellectual who valued education,” said Dennis King, President of A-B Tech.**

In 2015, Locke received the community service award from the Martin Luther King Association of Asheville and Buncombe County. He was also awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2016.

During Locke’s tenure as a trustee, he also served as chairman of the search committee during the search for a new president. “Dr. Locke served A-B Tech through his knowledge and experience from a lifelong career in higher education, as a champion for diversity and as a mentor for many of our students,” King said.

# Competitive Allied Health

## APPLICATION PERIOD BEGINS FEBRUARY 1

Certain programs have a competitive selection process which opens each spring for students to start in the fall semester. Prospective students will be required to meet specific criteria and take entrance exams.

A-B Tech will accept applications for the competitive Allied Health programs listed below from February 1 through March 3, 2017. Students should contact a GOT Pre-Allied Health advisor to discuss steps to take now to be ready to apply. For assistance, e-mail [gotadvising@abtech.edu](mailto:gotadvising@abtech.edu) with the subject line "Allied Health."

### Programs are:

- Associate Degree Nursing
- Associate Degree Nursing Advanced Placement Option
- Dental Assisting
- Dental Hygiene
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Medical Sonography
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Radiography
- Veterinary Medical Technology

A-B Tech also partners with Western Carolina University for WNC RIBN to assist students in earning a baccalaureate nursing degree.

Contact the program advisor, Carol Douglas, at (828) 398-7534 or [caroladouglas@abtech.edu](mailto:caroladouglas@abtech.edu).



## LIMITED SEATING PROGRAMS

The programs listed below have limited capacity due to clinical site, resource, and/or lab space availability. Students are accepted into these programs on a first-come, first-served basis once minimum program eligibility requirements are met.

A-B Tech will accept applications in Spring 2017. Look for program admission details in January 2017.

### Business & Hospitality Education

- Brewing, Distillation & Fermentation Criteria
- Cosmetology
- Cosmetology Instructor
- Esthetics
- Manicuring

### Emergency Medical Sciences

- Emergency Medical Science

### Allied Health Programs

- Central Sterile Processing
- Medical Assisting
- Pharmacy Tech
- Phlebotomy
- Surgical Tech
- Therapeutic Massage

# Math Lab & Writing Center

## MAKE SERVICES AVAILABLE REMOTELY

Students at A-B Tech Madison, South and Woodfin now have the ability to work with the Writing Center through Skype. A-B Tech provides a laptop for the session and a room for privacy so each student gets a one-on-one session.

The Math Lab is also available via ITV between A-B Tech Madison and South from 4 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"I am very excited to now have tutoring via Skype with the Writing Center. I appreciate Ron Layne, Lisa Johnson, and Jason McLaughlin for getting this set up for us," said Sherri Davis, Director of A-B Tech Madison.

Madison student Jessica Harwood was able to use the service to receive assistance with a diagnostic essay in her Writing and Enquiry class. "It was great. It was like being there in person. I will definitely go back and use it again in the future," she said.

Students call the Writing Center to start the process, email their paper to the writing center, then set up an appointment time with a tutor via Skype. Students can set up a Skype appointment by calling the Writing Center at 398-7218.



# A-B TECH OFFERS 100% Online Degrees



For students who need to pursue a college degree around work, life and family demands, A-B Tech Community College is now offering three 100 percent online degrees, as well as several 100 percent online certificates. The online degrees include Associate of Arts and Associates of Applied Sciences in Business Administration and Fire Protection Technology.

The **AA (General Pathway) degree** is being offered to new students as part of a strategy to create streamlined Transfer Pathways in the Division of Arts & Sciences. Students who intend to earn four-year degrees can save up to 75 percent by completing the first two years at A-B Tech.

The **AAS in Business Administration** is one of A-B Tech's most sought after degrees, but many business students work full-time and require the flexibility to juggle college and work. This degree also transfers to any full-time public college or university in North Carolina.

Beginning in January, the **Fire Protection Technology Degree** will be offered in a 100% online format. Distance learning allows the degree to be completed around the student's personal schedule without the burden and extra expense of being at a physical location.

Fully online certificates include: Human Services and Substance Abuse Studies, Human Services and Youth Studies, Early Childhood, Special Education and Fire Protection Technology will be available January 2017.

Registration is open for Spring classes that begin January 9. Visit [abtech.edu/register](http://abtech.edu/register) or call 828.398.7900.

## Online Continuing Education

Community Enrichment Programs offers individuals the opportunity to take online classes in areas such as Art, Photography, Music, Test Prep, Languages, Finance, Writing and more. Visit Online/Distance Learning Classes to learn more.

# Global Education Offering SUMMER TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Global Education at A-B Tech is offering trips to Spain and Ireland for summer travel in 2017. Trips are open to any interested community member.

## Study Spanish abroad in Cuenca, Spain

Travel dates:

June 3-18 (2-weeks) or  
June 3-July 2, 2017 (4-weeks)

Application deadline:

March 1, 2017

Trip summary: Study abroad and practice your Spanish in Cuenca, Spain! Students attend classes Monday-Friday 9:00-1:00 as well as participate in various cultural activities including, but not limited to, Spanish cooking classes, dance classes, "tapas" nights, and weekend-day excursions while living with a Spanish family observing and learning about the cultural customs of Spain.

## International Business and Culture in County Donegal, Ireland

Travel dates:

June 5-19, 2017

Application deadline:

March 1, 2017

Trip summary: This program will focus on two tracks: Irish culture or national and international marketing, business and economics. The trip will include informal 'cultural breakfast' presentations, field trips to places of historical interest, combined with visits to business sites, from small craft businesses to multi-national companies. A deeper understanding of the historical, economic, and political issues of Ireland and this region will give context to Irish business



Global Education students visiting Scotland

and entrepreneurship. Also, opportunities to view art, participate in outdoor activities, and learn about civil rights issues of Northern Ireland. You will experience all things Irish: culture and history, music and pub entertainment, surfing and Gaelic sports, and rural towns. We complete the program with a visit to the city-based museums of Dublin.

For more information on any of these trips visit [abtech.edu/trips-abroad](http://abtech.edu/trips-abroad) or contact Global Education at [globaleducation@abtech.edu](mailto:globaleducation@abtech.edu).

Welcome to the annual symposium  
on translation studies and semiotics



# A-B Tech Instructor David Dry Receives Fulbright Scholarship

A-B Tech history instructor David Dry is spending the 2016-17 academic year as a prestigious William J. Fulbright Scholar teaching in the Kyrgyz Republic. Dry is one of approximately 1,200 U.S. citizens, and one of very few community college instructors, who will teach, conduct research and provide expertise abroad this year through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program.



While a Fulbright typically is identified with elite institutions, the U.S. State Department is doing more to make sure that community colleges also benefit from the exchange program, with the goal of getting more international perspectives into community college classrooms. The department says the initiative also dovetails with the recent White House spotlight on the importance of two-year colleges. Fulbright recipients are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as record of service and demonstrated leadership in their respective fields.

Dry's Fulbright project is titled, "Forging Connections: American History, International Class Partnerships, and English Language Education." He is teaching American Culture, Religion and Politics, American Society, and American History to 1865 and also leads English-language talking clubs.

"At A-B Tech, I do international collaborations with Germany, Taiwan and Russia in my classes," Dry said. "I am always interested in international education and Fulbright was a great opportunity to establish another connection. (Recently), I was honored to give one of the keynote addresses at the 2nd Annual Conference on Semiotics and Translation Studies. My talk was entitled 'History, Culture, and Meaning in Intercultural Communication,' and it centered on aspects of the international class collaborations I have done at A-B Tech."

"It's very rare for community college faculty to get a Fulbright," said Randee Goodstadt, A-B Tech's Social Sciences Chair and Dry's supervisor. "David is a marvelous instructor and he'll be back teaching for us come Fall 2017. Imagine what his international experience is going to add to every class he teaches."

Meanwhile, Dry is Skyping, blogging and sharing pictures to inform his A-B Tech colleagues and students. He and his students Skyped with students of political science instructor Kasey Baker to discuss American and Kyrgyz politics and foreign policy and with students of humanities instructor Lori Seiderman to discuss Central Asian history and culture during International Education Week.

Dry has shared many photographs of the astounding natural beauty, architecture, and people in Kyrgyzstan, located in Central Asia and bordered by Kazakhstan, China, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. His most recent update discussed the influence of nomadic traditions on Kyrgyz culture:

*Prior to Russian imperial expansion into Central Asia in the 19th century, most Kyrgyz people lived as nomadic pastoralists, raising sheep and horses. Although few Kyrgyz people maintain a nomadic lifestyle today, Kyrgyz culture is heavily influenced by nomadic traditions.*

*... In August, Kyrgyzstan hosted the World Nomad Games in which participants from around the globe competed in a variety of nomadic sports. One of the most popular sports is Kok-Boru, a form of polo played with the headless carcass of a goat. Two teams of horsemen compete for control of the goat carcass and try to score points by getting passed defenders and tossing it into a large cement container. A group of American cowboys actually competed in Kok-Boru at the World Nomad Games; however, as it was the first time most of the Americans had ever played the sport, they had trouble outstripping their Central Asian opponents.*

*The yurt, a portable dwelling used by the historical nomadic people of Central Asia, can be seen in the design of major monuments and museums in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, and the Kyrgyz flag is even designed to resemble the center interlocking portion of a yurt. In the countryside, yurts are still used by some people.*

*Finally, there are a number of historical sites that document the history of the region, including petroglyphs and the Burana Tower, which was part of an 11th century Silk Road city.*



Dry attends a traditional Kyrgyz wedding with friends



Lake Kol Tor



Dry holds two eagles used for falconry



The Monument of Victory commemorates those who died in WWII and features a woman standing over an eternal flame

# A-B TECH OFFERS NEW Drone Applications Classes



Students in Drone Flight School

A-B Tech Community College's Continuing Education and Workforce Development Division offered two new classes focused on drone technology for the business climate this fall. Classes were taught by Michael Doornbos, FAA-authorized commercial unmanned aircraft systems pilot and private aircraft pilot.

Drone Flight School required students to bring their personal electric quad copter. "This class is for those graduating from drone hobbyist," said Doornbos. "It gives an understanding of federal requirements and airspace and students learn how to capture images and obtain data for clients."

Class included outdoor supervised flight instruction and exercises, as well as cover weather factors, flight safety, airmanship and aeronautical decision making.

Drone Applications for Emerging Markets covered current FAA regulations, drone class categories, applications for use, preparation steps for commercial operation and commerce opportunity.

"We are fortunate to have such an experienced instructor in our region with the latest information on this emerging field" said Maria Spadaro, Business and Hospitality Coordinator. "These classes offer high value for the training dollar to our local industry and business market sectors."

To register for future classes, visit [abtech.edu/ce](http://abtech.edu/ce) or contact Spadaro at 828-398-7935 or [marialspadaro@abtech.edu](mailto:marialspadaro@abtech.edu).

# A-B TECH PROVIDES FREE CLASSES In Partnership with Green Opportunities

A-B Tech Community College and Green Opportunities have partnered to offer free courses for restaurant job skills training through the College's Human Resources Development Program.

A seven-week course titled Table Service Essentials is designed to give students the skills, experience and confidence needed to launch a career in Asheville's thriving restaurant service sector. The course covered fine-dining service techniques, restaurant professionalism, and traits of an excellent server and includes hands-on experience.

The 15-week GO Kitchen Ready program prepares graduates for employment in the culinary industry and food service. Classes cover basic food service and technical skills including food safety, basic knife skills, culinary math, equipment identification, production method cooking, food station assembly and break down, basic culinary techniques, and appropriate kitchen communication, teamwork and cleanliness.

Kitchen Ready students earn the ServSafe food handler's certification from the National Restaurant Association and participate in a mentoring program supported by premiere Asheville restaurants and chefs. A portion of the program is devoted to essential life skills training, including resume writing, interviewing, job search and job retention skills. Upon program completion, Kitchen Ready students receive a Foundations of Culinary certificate from A-B Tech.

As of November 28, A-B Tech is offering a new class called Working Smart, developed by the Charlotte Mecklenburg Workforce Development Partners. The course is designed for individuals with barriers to employment, providing them with opportunities to learn critical, work-related interpersonal skills and insights. Each lesson teaches a specific soft skill or insight in-demand with area employers, including self-management, communication skills and problem solving.

For more information about HRD classes, visit [abtech.edu/hrd](http://abtech.edu/hrd)



# First Asheville Film Festival

HELD AT A-B TECH



Best Supporting Actor Austin Frye with his award for his role in *In Critical Condition*.

A-B Tech Community College served as host for the first Asheville Film Festival, which is an outgrowth of the Eastern NC Film Festival held at Pitt Community College. More than 30 films were shown at the campus on October 15.

"The Asheville Film Festival came at a great time. I've watched around five films already and they are inspiring creativity for my future projects. The films I saw today were awesome," said A-B Tech graduate and UNC Asheville student Brandon Priester.

The festival is a one-day celebration of independent films from around the world

Offering a first-look at some of the best local, national and international films, the AFF is a champion of local filmmakers, committed to bridging the gap. Eno River Media Productions and the Asheville Area Arts Council were also sponsors of the festival.

"We attract some of the biggest players in film from around the world. All of our film selections are chosen with our community in mind and our special events are designed to bring us, the independent film industry, all together," said Ron Cooper with Kaleigh Group Entertainment, who spearheaded the festival.

The winners of the 2016 Asheville Film Festival were: Best Supporting Actress, Anna Nalepka, *Where We're Meant To Be*; Best Supporting Actor, Austin Frye, *In Critical Condition*; Best Actress, Nancy Daly, *Coming to Terms*; Best Actor Jacob Crickenberger, *A Thousand Acres* and the Judge's Award went to *My Luchador*.

"Our goal is to showcase thought-provoking films and offer a venue where movie lovers who appreciate independent vision can celebrate this unique art form," Cooper said.

"We are dedicated to bringing unique, interesting, quality, challenging and entertaining films to Western NC by providing a cultural hub for an emerging film-artists community to showcase their works to the region's top producers, peers, investors and viewers."

For more information, please visit [ashevillencfilmfestival.com](http://ashevillencfilmfestival.com)



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# Ruth Solis

Ruth Solis, a 2014 Culinary Arts graduate now working as a chef at Cherokee Town and Country Club in Atlanta, contended for the American Culinary Federation's (ACF) Student Chef of the Year Competition in Phoenix this year. She won Southeast Regional Chef of the Year earlier in the year and was the Southeast representative in the national ACF competition.

Ruth also was a member of the award-winning 2014 A-B Tech Student Hot Food team, which won the ACF's North Carolina and Southeast Regional competitions and competed in the National "Final Four" Contest held in Kansas City that year.

In this year's ACF competitions, Ruth said the biggest difference was that she had to fly solo. "I had to make two portions of one dish with as many skills as I could work in it. I used so many skills I learned at A-B Tech that it put me over the top," she said.

A native of Mexico, Ruth's love for the kitchen started around the time most children head for kindergarten. "I always enjoyed being with my mom and grandmother in the kitchen. That was the gathering room in my family. I would always want to help them," she said. By the age of 7, she was cooking solo.

"I am so excited, not only because my hard work paid off, but for all of the chefs at Cherokee who have competed at a national level," Solis said. "A-B Tech always has someone representing at nationals whether it be a team or an individual or an alumni. There are renowned chefs who know me because of A-B Tech."

To share your Alumni Spotlight story, contact Martha Ball, Communications Coordinator, via email at [marthagball@abtech.edu](mailto:marthagball@abtech.edu) or call 828.398.7852.

## New Engineering and Arts & Sciences Building TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON ASHEVILLE CAMPUS



Construction will soon break ground on a new \$18.5 million building that will house Arts and Sciences and Engineering programs at A-B Tech.

Plans call for the new 97,300-square-foot academic building to be built near the Elm and Sycamore buildings on the Victoria Road campus. The building will be on the west side of the new parking garage.

The three-story facility will replace the Elm and Rhododendron buildings, which Buncombe County determined would not to be cost effective to renovate. Rhododendron has already been demolished.

Rhododendron, which was renamed the Haynes building last year, housed Allied Health programs that were

relocated to the new Ferguson Center for Allied Health and Workforce Development in December.

The new building is being designed with input from faculty members. Construction is expected to take 18 months.

The project is funded by revenue generated from the county's quarter-cent sales tax. Buncombe County is overseeing the project.

# Autumn in Asheville celebrated the Farmers Market

“Autumn in Asheville,” held September 29, highlighted the amazing skills of A-B Tech’s award-winning Culinary Arts, Baking and Pastry Arts, and Hospitality Management departments, along with the Craft Beverage Institute of the Southeast. The A-B Tech Foundation event paid homage to Asheville’s vibrant and diverse restaurant scene, with a variety of interactive mini-restaurants located in and around the Culinary Arts and Hospitality departments’ facility.

Proceeds from the event support the success of A-B Tech’s students through the Office of College Advancement’s scholarship programs, as well as the Culinary Arts and Hospitality departments.



# News Briefs

## SPRING REGISTRATION

Spring 2017 registration opened **November 28** for new students. With more than 60 curriculum programs through five academic divisions, A-B Tech offers something for everyone.

At New Student Welcome Day on **December 7**, students may register for Spring 2017 classes and enter to win a \$1,000 scholarship! Register for the scholarship drawing in person at the Bailey Student Services Center on A-B Tech's Asheville Campus. A drawing will be held for two scholarships, two gift cards, and other prizes. Registration and Financial Aid staff will be on hand, and iHeart Radio's STAR 104.3 FM and WKSF 99.9 FM will join us with music, food, drinks and other prizes. You must be registered for Spring 2017 classes to qualify for the drawing.

Before registering for classes, new students should complete the following enrollment process:

- ❶ Apply to A-B Tech
- ❷ Apply for Financial Aid
- ❸ Complete New Student Orientation
- ❹ Complete Placement
- ❺ Select a Program
- ❻ Meet with Program Advisor
- ❼ Register for Classes
- ❽ Pay for Tuition

For help with enrolling at A-B Tech or registering for classes visit [abtech.edu/register](http://abtech.edu/register) or call 828.398.7900 or email [info@abtech.edu](mailto:info@abtech.edu).

## STEWART NAMED VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Dr. Beth Stewart has been appointed Vice President of Instructional Services at A-B Tech Community College. She will replace Dr. Melissa Quinley, who is retiring at the end of the fall semester.

A native of Hot Springs National Park, Ark., Stewart joined A-B Tech in 2011 as Dean of Arts and Sciences. She has a Bachelor's degree from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Ark., a master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas and a doctorate in education from Vanderbilt University. She is also a certified chief instructor by the Southeastern Kenpo Karate Jujitsu Association. She was selected as staff member of the year for the college by her peers.

"Dr. Stewart has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues and employees through her supportive leadership abilities and innovative thinking," said A-B Tech President Dennis King. "She has long been an advocate of data-driven decision making to lead to continuous improvement. I have witnessed Beth dedicate herself to serving as an intentional, thoughtful change leader that leaves a positive, lasting impact on the entire college."

"One of my top duties will be to serve my colleagues and our students. Whether it is removing barriers to student success, securing additional resources for faculty, or helping deans deal with difficulties in their jobs, my most satisfying days are those in which I can make someone's life easier. Enabling the success of our students is my greatest reward," Stewart said.



## FALL FESTIVAL

Fall Festival is a great time for students to get to know fellow classmates and the campus. The festivities on September 1 included free food, chair massages, booths on student organizations, a DJ, free t-shirts, College resource booths, and fun activities.

# News Briefs

## A-B TECH EMPLOYEES GIVE BACK THROUGH UNIVERSAL CAMPAIGN

A-B Tech's Foundation has started its annual Universal Campaign, where employees can choose to contribute to student scholarships, the local United Way or Eblen Charities.

Last year's campaign raised more than \$47,000 and \$25,000 of it went to directly assisting students and employees on the A-B Tech campus through either Foundation Scholarships or the Employee Emergency Fund. Funds also went to support the community through United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County's Community Programs.

Established with the assistance of Eblen Charities, the Employee Emergency Fund is a resource for employees, ensuring that they all have access to emergency support in times of need.

Managed through the Human Resources Department, the Employee Emergency Program offers financial assistance with emergency needs in areas such as rent and utilities, gas and transportation costs, child care costs, and groceries. These funds are available to all full and part-time staff and faculty at A-B Tech.

## EDWARDS NAMED COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR



Amanda Edwards joined A-B Tech September 1 as the Executive Director of College Advancement. In her position she will head the College's Foundation, which is celebrating its 20th year.

Edwards previously was the executive director of the American Red Cross Asheville-Mountain Area Chapter for four years. During Edwards' first six months with the agency, she surpassed the previous year's charitable gifts total by 236 percent and doubled the average gift size in one year.

Edwards earned her Mass Communication bachelor's degree from UNC Asheville and her master's degree in Public Administration from the University Tennessee. She achieved Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) designation in December 2015.

"A-B Tech is very important to Buncombe and Madison counties in so many ways. A-B Tech provides high-quality education that trains our workforce,

prepares students for good jobs in a variety of academic areas, and provides personal development opportunities for anyone in our community all in a supportive learning environment. I am excited to be a part of a College that truly changes lives," Edwards said.

Prior to joining the Red Cross in 2012, Edwards was the executive director of the Literacy Council of Buncombe County for eight years, where she helped grow the organization's budget by 165 percent and increased the staff from three part-time employees to six full-time employees, she said.

## Calendar of Events

November 28      **Registration opens for Spring 2017 Semester**

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December 19-30      **College closed for Holidays**

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January 9      **Spring classes begin**

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