

A-B Tech EDUCATION Journal

SPRING 2019



A-B Tech Culinary Program Makes History

Explore the Value of Public Service Careers

President Dennis King's Message
to the Community

ABTech
Community College

A-B Tech EDUCATION Journal

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A Message from the President



Dennis King

I am grateful for this opportunity to speak directly to the community. For the last several months, A-B Tech has been in the news for reasons beyond our control, reasons that have nothing to do with our mission to provide quality higher education opportunities for the residents of Buncombe and Madison counties.

I moved to Asheville to work at A-B Tech in 1992, and I can honestly say A-B Tech is the best college I have worked for during my career. The A-B Tech I know, the place I have worked for the last 27 years, is one of the finest community colleges in the state and region. The quality

will only continue to improve with support from our dedicated Trustees and from the Buncombe and Madison county governments.

Founded in 1959, A-B Tech is embarking on our 60th year, and we have much to celebrate. First and foremost, we have more than 1,000 talented faculty and staff members who are dedicated to providing education and career opportunities for our students. But on any given day, that also may mean they are helping students with far more than education – in order to attend college, many of our students also need help with finances, personal problems, transportation, childcare, clothing, food and housing. A-B Tech provides professional counseling, a food pantry, a clothing closet, emergency funds, and much more. We also constantly review when and how we offer classes to make college more convenient for working adults since the vast majority of our students are employed full-time. There is a culture of caring at A-B Tech that doesn't make news, but it is critical to our mission.

A-B Tech also provides excellence in education. We offer more than 120 degrees, diplomas and certificates and a vast array of continuing education and workforce development opportunities. We serve approximately 25,000 students a year, including 10,000 curriculum students who are pursuing degrees and 15,000 students enrolled in continuing education and workforce development opportunities. Approximately half of our students are “transfer” students who will attain an associate’s degree and transfer to a

college or university to complete a four-year degree. Through our Career and College Promise program and Early and Middle Colleges, we also provide high school students with college courses and free tuition – increasingly, many students are earning A-B Tech degrees along with their high school diplomas.

I don't have space here to tell you about all of the awards and honors our faculty, staff and students have won over the years, but you will read in these pages about students who won national scholarships, A-B Tech South Director Dr. Jason Fair being named Staff Member of the Year for the entire NC Community College System, our Emergency Services faculty who have decades of experience in public service careers, and our renowned Culinary Arts program, now concluding its 50th year by sending our student culinary team to the American Culinary Association’s National Finals for a record 11th time.

I hope you will look beyond the headlines at the many good things happening every day at A-B Tech. Follow us on our social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube, explore our website at www.abtech.edu, or call our Information Center at 828.398.7900. We want to share our good news with you because we are the community's college!

Sincerely,

Dennis King
President

VISION

Changing Lives, Strengthening Communities

Public Safety Service Offers Rewarding Careers



Public Safety Service Offers Rewarding Careers

It's the one of the first things a child may tell you when they talk about what they will be when they grow up. "I want to be a firefighter. I'm going to be a policeman." However, the recent trends show the younger students aren't always following through on that dream and fewer people are joining emergency and public service jobs.

To help engage students who are considering a career in public service, A-B Tech is offering a Summer Ignite firefighting program, especially for students 16 and older. The classes will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays during the summer, then Tuesday and Thursday evenings with some Saturdays through October.

The college is also starting an associate degree in Administration in Public Service, slated to begin this fall. A-B Tech currently offers CTE pathways through high schools created to help students get a head start on a great career. They can earn college credits toward a job credential, certificate or diploma in Criminal Justice and Fire Protection.

"Virtually every police officer, firefighter, EMT, paramedic you see in Buncombe or Madison county has received either their initial training or their continuing, on-the-job training from A-B Tech," said Clint Gorman, Dean of Emergency Services. "We are proud to be working with the excellent emergency service agencies. We enjoy showing potential students around our state-of-the-art training facility, so if you are interested in law enforcement, fire service or emergency medical service, come see us at A-B Tech Woodfin."

Gorman is one of the many very experienced staff in Emergency Services, starting as a Junior Firefighter in 1977. He got his first job as a firefighter in 1981 and then became a full-time paramedic in 1982. He served at Buncombe County EMS for 29 years, 20 of those as training officer. He started teaching EMT at A-B Tech in 1984 and had been an adjunct for most of those years until being named Dean in 2018.

Anthony Green, Chair of Emergency Medical Science has served 28 years in public safety services and has been teaching for 22 years. "The EMS Program is a good choice for anyone that has a calling for helping others," he said. "Whether it's in your local community or other areas of the country due to a disaster. It takes dedication and hard work to complete the program, however the reward you receive the first time that you help someone that is facing a life-threatening situation, all that you went through in order to be able to assist them is more than worth it."

Sarah Benson is the Chair of Criminal Justice and she received her degree in Law

Enforcement Technology from A-B Tech. She began her career in law enforcement in 1985 as a Special Deputy with the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office under Sheriff Thomas Morrissey.

In 1989, she was hired as a full-time officer with the City of Asheville and retired in 2012 with the rank of Captain. "I was the first female Captain in the history of the Asheville PD," she said. "I love my career from the time I was sworn in as an officer until the day that I retired. The Criminal Justice Program at A-B Tech is outstanding. Our goal is to prepare students for their chosen career in the criminal justice field by providing them with the knowledge and skills that are required to be successful. We are fortunate to have instructors who have the education and experience in all aspects of the criminal justice field."

Darin Jackson, an EMS instructor has 19 years of experience teaching and also serves as a Chaplain for the 165th Airlift Wing of the U.S Air Force. Marty McNeely who is the Director of Law Enforcement Training has 32 years of experience including five years in the U.S. Army as Military Police, seven years in corrections, 14 in law enforcement and other years teaching.

abtech.edu/ignite



Scott Hensley

Madison High Student Earns EMS Certification

Deep in Madison County, just brushing the Tennessee state line, is the Laurel Community. To get there, you have to drive a road that follows the river, full of twists and turns, but the vista makes one realize why Madison County is called the Jewel of the Blue Ridge.

Nestled in the valley is the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department where Madison High Student Scott Hensley felt the calling to serve his community. "I've been a volunteer in the fire department for almost two years. My dad was a volunteer firefighter and I thought it was a great way to give back to my community. I was inspired to pick up where he left off," Hensley said.

When Hensley was 4, his parents were told he had autism but the diagnosis doesn't stand in the way of his goals. Now 18 and poised to graduate from high school in June, he already earned his Basic Emergency Medical Science Certification with plans to earn an associate degree in Fire Protection Technology.

The fire department sponsored Hensley to take the EMS classes since many fire departments require their employees to have the certification. "I was able to pass everything. My instructor was a great teacher. He was someone I could relate to 100 percent."

Hensley recalled the moment he wanted to start medical training. "I had been on the fire department for half a year," he said. "We got called out for a wreck and there was a 6-year-old boy who didn't make it. I knew I couldn't stand there. I had to do something."

Hensley wants to have a career in firefighting no matter where life takes him. "Sometimes it gets rough with the things you see and experience. I love what I do. No matter where I live, I am going to find a small fire department like this to work at until I die."



Roslyn Artis



Jenni Liu



Marta Alcala-Williams

A-B TECH PROGRAMS Celebrate Diversity

Dr. Roslyn Artis, President of Benedict College, discussed the value of Black History Month in our current society and explored the value and diversity of ideas and opinions insights during her presentation, “Why Does Black History Month Matter?” in February.

Artis said the annual observance, while only 28 days, is necessary to help our society achieve complete equality. She cited several historical, but lesser known, figures who also should be studied by Americans.

Carter G. Woodson created “Negro History Week” in 1926 and set it for the second week in February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. “It was a careful, deliberate design to eradicate systemic racism” Artis said.

Artis has twice been named the first-female president at two colleges, making U.S. history. In 2017, she was unanimously appointed by the Board of Trustees as the 14th president of Benedict College, a historically black college in Columbia, S.C. She is the first female president of Benedict, which was founded by a woman, Bathsheba Benedict in 1870.

As part of Women’s History Month in March, local author Jenni Liu read from her novel, “Girls on the Line.” The daughter of Chinese immigrants, Liu has been fascinated by the attitudes, social policies, and

changes in China each time she visits. Her novel, set in contemporary China, is about a teen pregnancy that puts two orphan girls on a collision course with factory bosses, family planning regulators, and a bride trafficker.

The Minority Student Leadership Academy also hosted a panel titled “Women of Color Navigating Race and Gender in Leadership Roles.” The panelists focused on women’s leadership in the context of culture and power structures. They discussed their personal experiences and offered strategies to implement systemic changes.

Panelists included: Alysia Hackett, director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Mars Hill University; Sheneika Smith, Asheville City Council member; Kidada Wynn, Mental Health Liaison; and Marta Alcala-Williams, Parent/Family Engagement Coordinator for Asheville City Schools.

Alcala-Williams also was featured as keynote speaker for the college’s annual Stand Against Racism event in April. Held as part of the YWCA’s annual observance, the program was titled “Sparking a Conversation: No Hate, No Fear.”



Dr. Jason Fair Selected as NCCCS Staff Person of the Year

Dr. Jason Fair, Director of A-B Tech South, has been selected to receive the BB&T Staff Member of the Year Award for the North Carolina Community College System by the State Board of Community Colleges. He was recognized for his student-centered approach to delivering instruction and services at A-B Tech South.

Under Fair's direction, course offerings, student enrollment and support programs have grown since the site opened in 2013. He found ways to expand operating hours without additional staffing and advocated for the use of technology to deliver instruction.

Fair also works with Mars Hill, A-B Tech's facility partner, to maximize use of classroom space and to increase engagement and outreach with the community.

In a letter supporting the award nomination, Dr. Gene Loflin, associate vice president for instructional services at A-B Tech, said Fair's background in both student services and academics makes him uniquely qualified to help students be successful. "Jason has created an atmosphere where students, faculty and staff feel welcomed and supported," Loflin wrote.

Fair had experience in academic affairs and financial aid at other colleges before coming to A-B Tech in 2012. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Carolina University and recently received a doctorate in higher education leadership from Clemson University.



Culinary Arts Have Much To Celebrate

When A-B Tech's student culinary team travels to the American Culinary Federation (ACF) National Finals in Orlando in August, it will be the 11th time the college has appeared in the competition.

A-B Tech teams have won 20 state titles since 1996, achieved a record 11 Southeast Regional titles, and were named National Champions in 2007. No other team in the country has made more appearances in the ACF National Finals.

The year's team members include Jamie Canton, Sudsan Wiley, Abigail Conigliaro, Cheyane Verran, and Captain Brandon Kastelic. The team has been practicing diligently all year and will continue honing its skills until the competition in August. This year's coaches are Chefs Bronwen McCormick and Chris Bugher, CEC. Student Uriah Standish also competed in the Southeast Regionals as an individual and won second place.



Chris Bugher

"We have one of the most renowned student competition team programs in the United States," Bugher said. "I believe competition gives students the extra hands-on experience that you cannot get anywhere else. It prepares them to be organized, professional, and gives them a sense of accomplishment. For me personally, it is a huge privilege to be a part of a program with this reputation."

Bugher also brought acclaim to A-B Tech when he was named ACF Southeast Chef of the Year in 2018 and competed in the ACF National Chef of the Year Finals in New Orleans last summer.

Conigliaro was introduced to national competition as one of Bugher's assistants in that competition. "A-B Tech was the best option for me. I came in with basic cooking knowledge and I was super excited to learn classical cooking," she said.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the food and new techniques at the competition," said Kastelic, who earned a business degree before coming to A-B Tech. He said he enrolled in A-B Tech's culinary program to become a chef after a series of unsatisfying jobs in Charlotte.



Bronwen McCormick



Uriah Standish



Baking and Pastry Arts Capstone event



Ashley Capps

Earlier this year, A-B Tech instructor Ashley Capps was named a semifinalist for Outstanding Pastry Chef by the James Beard Foundation, one of the nation's highest culinary honors recognizing talent in restaurants, bars, and the food-writing industry.

A-B Tech's Culinary Arts department is celebrating its 50th anniversary, marking its creation as the

first culinary program North Carolina in 1968. Even though Asheville was not then the tourism destination it is today, visionaries saw the area's potential and recognized that culinary and hospitality education were integral to realizing the area's potential.

A-B Tech recently recognized Chef Sheila Tillman has one of the key architects of its culinary, baking and hospitality programs by dedicating the main dining room in the Brumit Hospitality Center in her honor. Tillman graduated from A-B Tech's culinary program in 1988 and joined the college in 1990 as an instructor. Tillman, who had a passion for the program and a foresight for its future, was named associate dean for Hospitality Education in 2007 and held the position until her retirement in January 2018. While at A-B Tech, Tillman also forged relationships with the local restaurant and hospitality community. She was the first non-restaurant owner to be named to the Asheville Independent

Restaurant (AIR) Association's board as a member-at-large.

Michel Baudouin, owner of Bouchon and an AIR charter member, said Tillman was a force. "My wife and I visited Asheville and I was told about Sheila by a distant cousin. He told me, you need to meet Sheila Tillman. She gave me a tour of the culinary program and it contributed a lot to us moving our business to Asheville."

Tillman also nurtured a relationship with the ACF and its cooking competitions. She oversaw more than 20 years of student teams that won acclaim on the state, regional and national levels.

"There is no better time or place to be in this field than Western North Carolina," said Chef Cathy Horton, Interim Director and Chair of Culinary Arts and Chair of Hospitality Management. "Hospitality and tourism numbers are breaking records, and that means jobs for our students. This is an industry that can take you anywhere in the world you want to go. If you are passionate about the craft of food, love the idea of taking care of people through hospitality and want a job where every day is something different, then these programs can lead you to an exciting career. If you are passionate about food, we can teach you the technical skills you need to succeed."



Sheila Tillman



Student team after practice



Cathy Horton

College Designed For Your Life

Recognizing that many adult learners must balance work and other life responsibilities with school, A-B Tech has created more options to assist students with obtaining a college education.

"It is critical that we offer flexible course schedules and delivery modes including 100 percent online only and hybrid classes and classes delivered at multiple locations via Zoom technology," said Dr. Terry Brasier, Vice President of Student Services. Zoom is an online synchronous learning software tool that can be used on any computer with a microphone and camera.

A-B Tech also is implementing a new Associate of General Education degree for adult learners, Brasier said. "I am particularly excited about this degree because it is designed for adult learners who have completed college course credits over their lifetime, but not completed a degree," he said.

Dr. Beth Stewart, Vice President of Instructional Services said the degree also can help with promotions and better pay. "Many employers care that you have the degree attainment and this is a simple way to get it."

Stewart also cited the development of new scheduling options, such as Friday only classes, more online options, and guaranteed scheduling, which are aimed at assisting working adults.

100% Online Options

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RADIOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT ACQUIRES Anatomy Visualization System

A-B Tech's Radiology Department has acquired an Anatomage Table, which is a fully segmented real human 3D anatomy system. Radiography students can visualize anatomy exactly as they would on a person without having to dissect cadavers. The table also has programmable options for animals.

Anatmage technology also allows students to interact with young and well-preserved digital cadavers, as opposed to primarily aged and degenerated bodies. The accurate details lead to more effective educational outcomes and the fully interactive software allows for quick analysis and examination.



Scholarships for Short-Term Workforce Training **FUNDED BY SECU FOUNDATION**



A-B Tech has received funds from the State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) Foundation for short-term workforce training scholarships. The SECU Bridge to Careers Pilot program permits the college to award up to 30 \$500 scholarships for targeted short-term workforce programs.

The programs are 96 hours or more and lead to a state-regulated or industry-recognized credential that is offered through Continuing Education. Machining Fundamentals, Industrial Maintenance Academy, and Electronic Health Records were the courses that qualified for the scholarship program. Certified Production Technician was the last class to be offered for

the year.

The program was created to remove financial barriers for students seeking to obtain state-regulated or industry-recognized credentials via a college-defined pathway that leads to self-sustaining wage careers within their local communities.

Apprenticeship Programs Expand AT A-B TECH

Apprenticeship Programs Expand at A-B Tech

According to the American Youth Policy Forum/Changes in the US Economy, research shows there is a significant shortage of skilled workers in the country, a number that is projected to reach eight million by 2030. Along with a shortage of skilled workers compounded by consistently low unemployment rates, companies continue to struggle to recruit and retain talent.

Apprenticeship and other workplace learning programs are solutions to help close the skills gap providing companies strategies to help build that talent pipeline, according to Debbie Cromwell, Workplace Learning Coordinator at A-B Tech. "Apprenticeships allow individuals to gain job experience while working towards a postsecondary degree or industry-recognized credential, an 'Earn While You Learn' approach," she said.

Vernon Daugherty, Dean of Engineering and Applied Technology, said that most of the completers in certain certificates participate in pre-apprenticeship program. "For adult learners it can help cover some of the hours they need for the apprenticeships. For high school students, if they enroll within 120 days of graduation, the tuition is free to complete the apprenticeship," he said. Currently his division offers the program in welding, machining and electrical wiring.

A coalition of community colleges in Western North Carolina – A-B Tech as the lead, Blue Ridge Community College, Haywood Community College, Isothermal Community College, and Southwestern Community College have received an ApprenticeshipNC Collaboration and Expansion grant from the North Carolina Community College System to implement a regional apprenticeship program.

"Employers need a skilled workforce and apprenticeships are an opportunity to invest in the development of an employee who wants to grow with the company," said Shelley White, Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development/Continuing Education.

"A-B Tech is excited to expand our apprenticeship options for students and the community by working with workforce partners and employers to develop these strategic training pathways."

Tim Lampkin has been selected as a consultant to coordinate the regional apprenticeship program. Specifically, his charge is to organize industry and educators to create a regional apprenticeship collaborative which will strengthen the areas workforce for the foreseeable future.

"The key to a successful program is industry leadership. It is imperative the program is led by our local business leaders," Lampkin said. "For students, an apprenticeship can be a great career start. Apprenticeship programs offer an associate degree or credential, on the job experience, a continually increasing wage, and a Journeyman certification. Best of all, students won't leave college with a pile of debt. In most cases, educational costs are covered by grants or the sponsoring company."

Pre-apprenticeship programs offer job seekers direct link to the Registered Apprenticeship program and serve as an additional recruiting tool for employers, according to Cromwell.

"As the Workplace Learning Coordinator at A-B Tech, I work with all components of work-based learning which include internships, special projects, pre-apprenticeship, youth apprenticeship and registered apprenticeships. In addition, we help industry partners and students connect for that "direct hire" need. Outside of contributing to local and regional economies, these components can provide students and graduates with a lifelong ability to support themselves and their families," she said.



News Briefs

STUDENT WINS GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY IN ECUADOR

Sarah Hamby was awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study in Ecuador with A-B Tech this summer. The U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship is a grant program that enables students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad.

Hamby, an Associate in Arts student, plans to transfer to Western Carolina University to major in nutrition and minor in Spanish. The trip to Ecuador is a month-long cultural immersion to learn Spanish and Biology.



STUDENTS BEILER AND BURKINS NAMED COOKE SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALISTS

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation announced A-B Tech Students Chandler Beiler and Adam Burkins have been named semifinalists for its Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. Cooke Transfer Scholars are selected based on exceptional academic ability and achievement, financial need, persistence, service to others, and leadership.

Burkins, an i3-STEM scholarship student, had already been selected for one of 12 2018-19 Community College STEM Scholarships. He was also accepted into the NASA L'SPACE Virtual Academy.

Beiler will graduate with associate degrees in Arts, Science and Engineer and plans to transfer to study electrical engineering specializing in audio digital signal processing in audio equipment.



CONSUMING THE CRAFT PODCAST LAUNCHES

Jeff "Puff" Irvin, director of the Craft Beverage Institute at A-B Tech, has launched the podcast, Consuming the Craft. The podcasts feature Interviews and entertainment in the craft beverage industry. Join Puff as he explores the wonderful world of craft beer!

Learn more at www.abtech.edu/podcasts and look for Consuming the Craft in your favorite podcast app!



Campus Events



FIND YOUR FUTURE COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR

The annual Find Your Future College and Career Fair held April 4 allowed participants to meet faculty and advisors, talk to employers who are hiring, and explore job opportunities with A-B Tech's Career Coach database. Campus tours were available throughout the fair. The following day, high school students from across the area came to the college to learn about possible career choices.



SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEONS CELEBRATE STUDENT SUCCESS

A-B Tech Foundation Scholarship recipients were honored at a luncheon on March 14 and April 4 at the college. This year, the Foundation has taken a new approach to the annual scholarship luncheon. Instead of one large event of hundreds of people, the Foundation now holds multiple smaller events throughout the fall and spring semesters, allowing scholarship donors and recipients a more intimate way to get to know one another. There were two small luncheons for in the fall semester, and two in the spring.



Calendar of Events

May 3-29 **Annual Student Art Show**

May 11 **Commencement**

May 21 **Summer Session begins**

May 27 **No classes, College open Memorial Day**

June 6 **High School Equivalency Graduation**

July 4 **College closed**

July 8 **Fall Registration opens**

August 19 **Fall Semester begins**

Campus Events

SHEILA TILLMAN DINING ROOM DEDICATION

A-B Tech dedicated the main dining room in the Magnolia Building of its Brumit Center for Hospitality to long-time Associate Dean Chef Sheila Tillman on March 27 during a reception with the American Culinary Federation (ACF). The dining room will now be known as the Chef Sheila A. Tillman Dining Room.

Chef Tillman is a 1988 graduate of A-B Tech's Culinary Arts program who had a storied 28-year career at the College before retiring in January 2018. She oversaw the Culinary Arts, Baking and Pastry Arts, Hospitality Management, and Craft Beverage Institute of the Southeast programs. She also was responsible for the design of the Brumit Center, founded the baking and brewing curriculum programs and wrote the curricula for the state of North Carolina, established the College's relationship with the ACF, sent 10 student culinary teams to the ACF National Competition, and was a charter member of Asheville Independent Restaurant Association.



RESTORED SUNNICREST DEDICATED

The newly restored historic Sunnicrest building was dedicated in a ceremony April 22. The exterior restoration was completed recently using funds from the Connect NC Bond Referendum approved in 2016. The restoration was conducted by architect David E. Gall and Danforth Construction. Sunnicrest is the only surviving structure of six model cottages built by George Vanderbilt just before the turn of the century in an area then known as Vernon Hill in the Township of Victoria. The cottages were designed by Richard Sharp (R.S.) Smith, supervising architect to the Biltmore Estate. Sunnicrest could be rented for \$350 a month then, fully furnished except for silver, linen, and blankets.



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