



Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

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A-B Tech Has Given More than \$9,000 to Students Through Finish Line Grants

College Awarded \$50,000 Finish Line Grant from NC Department of Commerce

Eleven students at A-B Tech Community College have been assisted this fall through Finish Line Grants that help students overcome economic hardship in order to complete their studies. The Finish Line Grant program was announced by the Governor's Office in July and A-B Tech received \$50,000 in September.

“Many students often ‘stop-out’ of their program of study when faced with unexpected financial hardships such as medical, transportation, housing, utilities, childcare, and other unforeseen expenses,” said Terry Brasier, Vice President of Student Services. “The Finish Line Grant eases financial concerns and gives these students an opportunity to focus on program completion which will lead to enhanced career opportunities and in the end, improved quality of life.”

A-B Tech, in partnership with the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board, was awarded the Finish Line Grant in September to assist students who have completed 50 percent or more of their degree or credential. So far, \$9,285 has been given to students to pay for financial emergencies they may face through no fault of their own. The North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of the Workforce Solutions, awarded the grant.

“We know many students experience challenges on their educational journey and are thankful to have the Finish Line Grant program to help bridge some of life’s financial hurdles. It is our hope that the FLG program will help students remain focused on completing their coursework even when life throws a curve ball,” said Shelley White, Vice President for Economic and Workforce Development and Continuing Education

In some instances, Finish Line funds were combined with monies from A-B Tech’s Student Emergency Fund, which has been in place for more 10 years and is funded

primarily through individual giving at the college. Students are eligible for assistance if they are enrolled in a program of study and maintain a minimum of a 2.0 GPA. The College also operates three additional programs that have their own funds to help with costs outside of tuition and fees, but are crucial to student success.

These programs are STEP (Skills Training and Employment Program) aimed at SNAP recipients; Jumpstart, serving students seeking both a high school equivalency and credential program concurrently and the Lavender Fund, serving single parents.

About A-B Tech

One of 58 colleges in the North Carolina Community College System, A-B Tech offers associate degrees, diplomas and certificates in more than 60 curriculum programs through its six academic divisions: Allied Health, Academic Success and Public Service, Arts and Sciences, Business and Hospitality, Emergency Services and Engineering and Applied Technology. The Division of Economic and Workforce Development/Continuing Education offers opportunities for workforce partnerships, specific job training and retraining, as well as personal enrichment classes. A-B Tech enrolls more than 25,000 curriculum and continuing education students in programs at its Asheville, Enka, Madison, South, Woodfin and Goodwill locations.