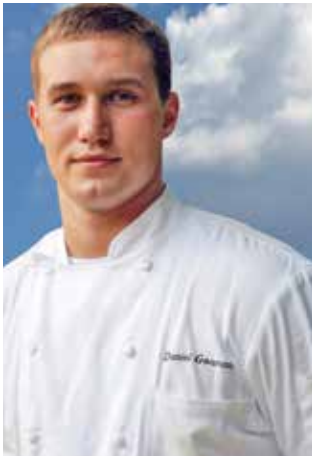


ABTech

Community College

2013-14 PRESIDENT'S REPORT



FROM PRESIDENT

DENNIS F. KING



Dennis King

The 2013-14 academic year marked my 22nd year with A-B Tech. As the year came to a close, it was my honor to be selected as the College's sixth president. Over the last two decades, I have seen A-B Tech double in size and dramatically expand our academic, continuing education and workforce training offerings. We now serve approximately 25,000 students a year from our main Asheville campus and locations in Madison County, Enka, South Asheville, West Asheville and Woodfin.

Everything we do at A-B Tech is designed to meet the needs of our students and the employers in our region. Approximately 40 percent of our students enroll to obtain two-year degrees that qualify them to transfer into four-year colleges and universities for further education. A statewide agreement guarantees that any public college or university in North Carolina will accept 100 percent of their credits. Even more of our students turn to A-B Tech for quality education and training that enables them to get good jobs, advance in their careers, or transition to new careers.

Despite budgetary challenges, A-B Tech is vibrant and thriving. We are constructing new buildings, opening exciting new programs, and partnering with employers such as GE Aviation to provide customized training for a 21st century workforce. And, thanks to our generous donors, we are able to provide more scholarships for deserving students than ever before.

With declining public support for higher education, our need for philanthropic support has never been greater. We hope that you will read this report to learn more about A-B Tech and our outstanding students, partners and endeavors. I also want to extend an invitation to contact me with any questions or to schedule a visit and tour. We welcome your interest and participation at A-B Tech.

Dennis King, President

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Joe Brumit

As I look back on the 2013-14 academic and fiscal year, I am pleased to report that it was a time of growth, introspection and teamwork at A-B Tech. The Board of Trustees made an excellent decision when we hired Dennis King to usher in a new era at the College. Dr. King had been with A-B Tech since 1992 as Vice President of Student Services and knew the College, its employees and the Asheville community. He was able to hit the ground running and provide the leadership we needed.

Last year also began significant expansion of A-B Tech's services. In addition to constructing new buildings and expanding to more locations, A-B Tech was able to provide a record number

of scholarships to deserving students.

We deeply appreciate the generosity of our donors. You have provided scholarships, faculty professional development and sponsorship of critical activities. And Jack and Carolyn Ferguson were recognized nationally for their philanthropy to the College, which has included a \$5 million gift toward construction of the new Ferguson Center for Allied Health and Workforce Development and nearly \$2 million for scholarships.

My wife Janice and I are firm believers in never asking for money from people unless we have given ourselves. As a longtime supporter of A-B Tech and as a member of its Board of Trustees and Foundation Board, I can assure you that the College is an excellent steward of your donations. It is a win-win proposition: Our community is fortunate to have a community college of A-B Tech's caliber to educate and train the region's workforce; and A-B Tech is fortunate to have the support of the many individuals, organizations and employers who assist our endeavors.

Joe Brumit, Chair

KING NAMED SIXTH PRESIDENT OF A-B TECH



Dennis King became the sixth president of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College (A-B Tech) on August 1, 2014. He joined the College in 1992 as Vice President for Student Services and held the position for 20 years. He was appointed Special Assistant to the President for Reaccreditation in 2012 and served as Interim President from January to July 2014.

Previously, Dr. King was Vice President for Student Services at Lake City Community College in Florida (1982-92), including a stint as Acting President in 1987, Dean of Students at Florida Institute of Technology at Jensen Beach (1979-92), and Head Residence Counselor and Assistant Dean of Students at Jacksonville University (1973-79).

Dr. King also has been an adjunct instructor in the graduate school of higher education at Western Carolina University (2007-12), the University of North Carolina at Asheville (1998), Lake City Community College (1984-92), Florida Institute of Technology (1980-82) and Jacksonville University (1975-79).

During his tenure with A-B Tech, Dr. King has received several awards and honors, including N.C. Community College Student Personnel Professional of the Year in 2000, A-B Tech Administrator of the Year in 1998 and N.C. Community College Institute for Future Presidents in 1998.

Born in Franklin, N.H., Dr. King received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University, a master's in teaching from Jacksonville University, and a doctorate in education from the University of Florida. He served in the U.S. Army from 1968-72, achieving the rank of Company Commander and earning a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service in 1972. He is married to Jan Clarson King and has two sons, Grant and Benjamin.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2013-14

OPERATING AND NONOPERATING REVENUES

1	State Aid	26,372,652	39.35%
2	Other Revenues	16,738	0.02%
3	Sales and Services, net	3,111,266	4.64%
4	Student Tuition and Fees	7,855,016	11.72%
5	Investment Income	31,921	0.05%
6	Noncapital Gifts	822,735	1.23%
7	Noncapital Grants	15,630,126	23.32%
8	County Appropriations	7,083,462	10.57%
9	State Capital Aid	2,110,341	3.15%
10	County Capital Aid	1,202,854	1.79%
11	Capital Grants	151,053	0.23%
12	Capital Gifts	2,635,491	3.93%
TOTAL		67,023,655	100.00%

OPERATING AND NONOPERATING EXPENSES

1	Instruction	26,659,062	39.78%
2	Academic Support	5,725,859	8.54%
3	Student Services	3,712,188	5.54%
4	Institutional Support	9,452,233	14.10%
5	Operations and Maintenance of Plant	7,202,996	10.75%
6	Student Financial Aid	7,252,762	10.82%
7	Auxiliary Enterprises	3,940,573	5.88%
8	Depreciation	2,955,049	4.42%
9	Other Expense	114,188	0.17%
TOTAL		67,014,910	100.00%

STUDENTS 2013-14

CREDIT STUDENTS: 10,844

Males: 43.2%
 Females: 56.8%
 Full-Time: 33.8%
 Minorities: 15.3%
 Buncombe/Madison Residents: 79.6%
 Average Age: 27.9

DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES BY SECTOR



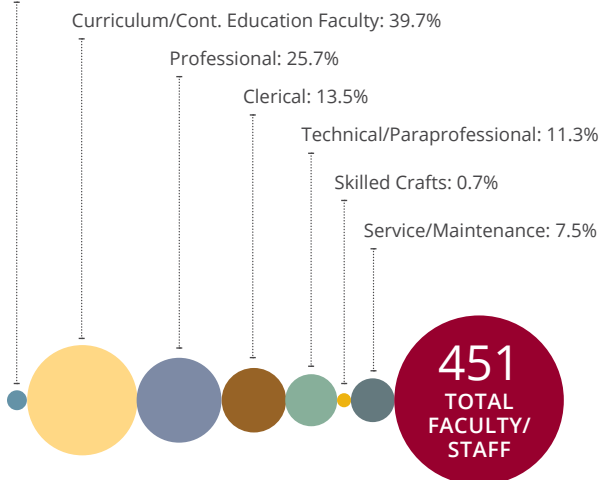
NON-CREDIT STUDENTS: 15,203

Males: 49.5%
 Females: 50.5%
 Minorities: 18.5%
 Employed (full & part-time): 64.3%
 Buncombe/Madison Residents: 79.3%
 Average Age: 40.6

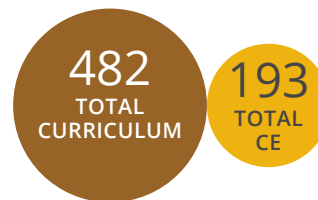
FALL 2013 FACULTY/STAFF

FULL-TIME FACULTY/STAFF

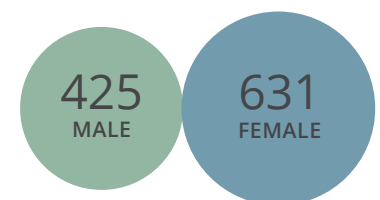
Senior Administrators: 1.6%



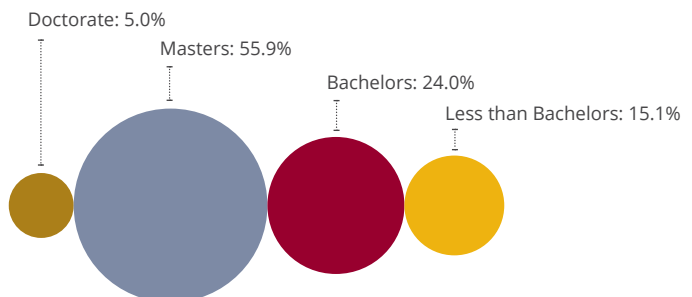
TOTAL FACULTY



TOTAL EMPLOYEES



FULL-TIME FACULTY CREDENTIALS



FERGUSONS RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY FOR A-B TECH SUPPORT



Jack and Carolyn Ferguson began their charitable giving to A-B Tech more than 10 years ago. Upon gifting more than \$5 million dollars in April 2013, Jack Ferguson said, "What we do for our young people is our hope for tomorrow." The College's new Ferguson Center for Allied Health and Workforce Development will honor these benefactors by bearing their names on the building when the doors open in 2015.

To honor their dedication to A-B Tech, the Fergusons were acknowledged by the Council for Resource Development as 2013 Benefactors of the Year during its annual conference in Washington, D.C.

The CRD Benefactor Award recognizes individuals, foundations, or businesses/corporations for outstanding contributions to community colleges. The CRD Benefactor

Award embodies the ideals of philanthropy, leadership, and volunteerism in the service of community, technical, and junior colleges.

The Fergusons have a long history of involvement with the College, dating back to 1959 when A-B Tech was established. As a salesman at Lowe's, Jack Ferguson worked closely with the builders who constructed and remodeled campus buildings. The couple's two daughters graduated from A-B Tech's Nursing program, and both their sons attended the College.

"It is heartwarming to see the love and support Jack and Carolyn Ferguson have for our A-B Tech students. They know students come to A-B Tech to earn credentials that will lead to a brighter future for themselves and their families. They are making a difference for our students, our College and our communities. We are truly grateful for their love and support," said Sue H. Olesiuk, Foundation Executive Director.

Beginning with the creation of Charitable Remainder Trusts, the Fergusons' support of A-B Tech grew to include endowed scholarships and general support. By 2012, the couple's gifts to the College had exceeded the \$1 million mark, easily the largest donations in the school's history. Their generous contributions have supported not only the College's students, but the larger community, as well.

Jack Ferguson has given of his time serving on the Foundation's Board of Directors. His guiding voice has helped direct A-B Tech through a sustained period of growth. When he and his wife came forward with their gift of \$5 million in unrestricted funding for the College, they also presented an additional gift of \$100,000 for four more endowed scholarships. Their gifts, totaling more than \$6.5 million, have been truly transformational for A-B Tech.

"Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson's generosity will allow me to owe less money due to student loans when I graduate from nursing school. This will allow me to pay their kindness forward and donate money for a scholarship much sooner," said Logan Simmons, a Ferguson Scholarship recipient.

DUKE ENERGY AWARDS

\$195,000 TO CRAFT BEVERAGE INSTITUTE



Duke Energy and A-B Tech announced a \$195,000 investment from the Duke Energy Foundation to be used to further develop A-B Tech's Craft Beverage Institute of the Southeast by purchasing a seven-barrel brewhouse, a distillation system, wine making system and sensory lab.

"The College is dedicated to meeting the region's demand for workforce training and business development in the booming craft beverage industry," said Dennis King, A-B Tech President. "The overall goal of the Craft Beverage Institute is to create workforce capacity, support existing industry, and help attract new business."

Located at A-B Tech Enka, the Institute provides entry- and enterprise-level training, business development, and quality control testing in the craft beverage industry sectors of brewing, distillation, viticulture and natural products, including degree and continuing education options.

"We expect there to be a craft beverage 'bloom' effect that spills into

other related industries, including hospitality and ecotourism, value-added foods, agriculture, sustainability and other beverage-related sectors," said Scott Adams, director of the Craft Beverage Institute.

This grant is part of Duke Energy's \$6.7 million investment in the North Carolina Community College System's focus on technical education and support of business and industry.

GOLDEN LEAF FOUNDATION PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING TO ESTABLISH COMPOSITES TRAINING CENTER



"The Golden LEAF Foundation is proud to have awarded over 8,000 Golden LEAF Scholarships to help North Carolinians attend our state's community colleges," said Dan Gerlach, Golden LEAF President. "Our hope is that these scholarships will help build the talent, knowledge and skills of our current and future workforce, especially in the rural areas of our state."

Golden Leaf also helped fund the College's new Composites Training Center of Excellence with GE Aviation (see story on page 7).

The Golden LEAF Foundation awarded a \$200,000 grant to assist with purchasing and installing equipment in the center and to support development of the training program.

The Golden Leaf Foundation supported A-B Tech with scholarships and funding for a new program last year.

Five students received scholarships through the Golden LEAF Scholarship program for the North Carolina Community College System. Students from Madison County awarded scholarships are Becky Gattis, Marvette Flasher, Ashley Kent, Crystal Arrington, and Ronnie Rager. The total amount awarded to curriculum students for the fall semester was \$3,462.

Gerlach said Golden Leaf has made considerable investments to support advanced manufacturing and workforce development in Western North Carolina.

"From the quality of the mountains to the quality of the workforce, I think companies will continue to grow in advanced manufacturing in the region," he said.

A-B TECH PROVIDES TRAINING FOR GE AVIATION EXPANSION



GE Aviation built a new 170,000 square-foot facility in Asheville last year and became the first in the world to mass-produce ceramic matrix composites (CMCs), with A-B Tech training its employees on the new process.

A-B Tech created a composites training center of excellence for GE Aviation on the College's Asheville campus and through the program, A-B Tech provides training for GE Aviation's existing workforce and prospective GE employees.

The materials used are one-third of the weight of the existing super alloy component currently used in aircraft and are much more heat resistant. It is estimated that the lighter components create fuel savings of \$1 million per airplane.

The training begins by establishing a technical foundation for individuals going through the program, according to Michael Meguiar, Asheville Plant Leader for GE Aviation. "It covers how to read and follow technical documents, quality procedures, use of precision gauges and other measuring devices," he said.

The training then addresses specific skills in creating composite materials using different operations. "To complement the technical skills, we also want to grow them in other areas such as Lean Manufacturing, business management,

financials, and other areas that support our Teaming environment we have at GE Aviation," Meguiar said.

"Together with GE Aviation, we are bringing cutting-edge technology to Buncombe County," said Kevin Kimrey, Director of Workforce Development at A-B Tech. "The advanced material known as CMCs mandates new manufacturing processes and thus new training programs."

The training program allows current and prospective GE Aviation employees to train in a hands-on environment with state-of-the-art machinery. Facilities include 5,000 square feet for training floor/lab spaces to accommodate 20 participants with an adjacent classroom. There is a dedicated lead instructor to facilitate the training, with adjuncts and state trainers on the faculty.

The N.C. Community College System and the State Legislature provided \$1.3 million to fund training activities for the GE Aviation/NCWorks Customized Training Program project. The Golden LEAF Foundation also awarded a \$200,000 grant for equipment and development of the training program.

Andy McNeal, who has 43 years of aircraft experience, is the lead instructor for the training center. He first started working with airplane composites in 1974 when he was in the Air Force at Langley.

"A-B Tech has a good foundation of technical knowledge, but does not have the specific experience with composites and ceramics. We can partner with them to create the technical program specific to GE Aviation, which will be given to current and future employees," said Meguiar.

The Asheville plant's initial component slated for CMCs is the high-pressure turbine shroud, which is a stationary component that directs exhaust gas through the hot section of the LEAP engine. The LEAP engine, which will enter airline service in 2016, will power the new Airbus A320neo, Boeing 737 MAX and COMAC (China) C919 aircraft.

"A-B Tech trains GE's existing employees who transition to the new technology, as well as new hires for the expansion of the new facility. Between incumbent employees and new hires, we plan on training at least 300 people," Kimrey said.

abtech.edu/composites



A-B Tech Madison Employees: Jude Cestraro, Jerome Moriarty, Sherri Davis, Sharon Cupstid

Madison site is a favorite find

Readers of the Weaverville Tribune and Leicester Leader weekly community newspapers voted A-B Tech Madison First Place in Education in the annual North Buncombe Favorite Finds poll.

Volunteer Edwards receives Governor's Service Award

Maddy Edwards, a volunteer at A-B Tech, was named a recipient of the 2014 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards. The volunteer recognition program is celebrating its 36th year in the state and seeks to acknowledge individuals, groups and businesses that make a significant contribution to their community.



Phi Beta Lambda Wins Awards

A-B Tech's chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) won five awards, including recognition as a National Gold Seal chapter, during the National Leadership Conference June 22-26 in Anaheim, Calif. PBL is the Future Business Leaders of America collegiate organization with more than 11,000 members nationwide.

Member Jennifer Heath won second place in the Computer Applications category. Ken Driggers and Albert Tumash also won second place for Network Design. Driggers took sixth place in Telecommunications and Heath and Tumash won eighth place for their Free Enterprise Project, "Your Business Building Resource Guide."

Adviser Kathie Doole was the event administrator for the Network Design event and also recognized for 16 years serving as an adviser.

COLLEGE RECEIVES BLUE RIDGE COUNTRY AWARD

A-B Tech Community College was voted Gold Best Continuing Education Opportunities by the readers of Blue Ridge Country magazine in the 2013 Best of the Mountains poll.

"We are honored to be recognized for our program, which offers a large variety classes and training for our community," said Shelley White, Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development/Continuing Education.

A-B Tech's Office of Economic and Workforce Development/Continuing Education offers classes and training through three departments, which includes Community Enrichment, Workforce Programming in healthcare, business and technology, skilled trades, employment basics and emergency services and Customized Training for business and industry.

Instruction within those areas is designed to support the economic and cultural development of the community and its citizens. Courses are built upon the concept of lifelong learning and for convenience, are offered at a variety of times and locations. More than 17,000 students are served each year through Continuing Education at the College.

Conducted once every five years, the Best of the Mountains poll featured a variety of other reader selections, ranging from best waterfall to best southern cooking. Readers submitted their votes online over a two-month period, producing a list of nearly 250 platinum, gold and silver awards for cities, attractions, people and activities in the Blue Ridge Mountains region.

CULINARY TEAM

HEADS TO HOT FOOD TEAM NATIONALS



A-B Tech Community College students headed back to nationals for the American Culinary Federation's Hot Food Team competition in Kansas City in July 2014.

Continuing a tradition of excellence, team members Alex Harris, Caroline Williams, Ruth Solis, Jay O'Hannon and Kristina Costa, were judged on their skills and cooking, while floor judges evaluated their organization, sanitation, teamwork, workflow, and cooking techniques and knife skills.

This was the eighth time an A-B Tech team made it to the national finals, more than any other student team in the history of the competition. An A-B Tech team won first place in 2007.

Competitors were judged on such criteria as the flavor, taste, texture and doneness of their foods; serving methods; portion sizes and creativity.

"They were an incredible team - truly. They are professional, focused and well-skilled," said Chef Sheila Tillman, Associate Dean of Hospitality Education. "A-B Tech comes with a standard and our students continually raise the standard at competition. This team didn't have to be motivated. They had the drive to push themselves toward excellence."





A-B TECH CULINARY GRADUATES WIN GOLD AT STATE COMPETITION

Ashley Sweeney and Josh Page, recent A-B Tech Community College Culinary Arts graduates, both won gold medals at the North Carolina American Culinary Federation state conference in Winston-Salem during individual competitions, in October 2013.

Page won a gold medal in the Cold Food platter competition and Sweeney won gold in the Sweet Potato hot food competition. Sweeney also was selected as the N.C. Student Chef of the Year. She was eligible to compete at the Southeast regional competition and then for the National Student Chef of the Year. Both graduates were members of the 2013 Student Hot Food team that won gold medals at the state and regional level and second place at the National American Culinary Competition in Las Vegas.

"The faculty was supportive of Ashley and Josh since the day the students said they wanted to compete. These students were amazing competitors, highly motivated, professional

and appropriate to the nth degree and very respectful of all that they gained from their chefs and A-B Tech," said Chef Sheila Tillman, Hospitality Education Associate Dean at A-B Tech.

"I had the pleasure of working with both students as they prepared for this competition. Their drive and professionalism was truly remarkable. I'm very excited to see how they progress beyond culinary school and come in to their own as chefs," said Chef Michelle Kelley, Culinary Arts Instructor.

CULINARY GRADUATE WINS NATIONAL COMPETITION

A-B Tech Culinary Arts graduate Daniel Gorman won the 2013 National Jeunes Chefs competition in Chicago and advanced to the international championship in Istanbul, Turkey.

Gorman, a 2007 A-B Tech graduate, became sous chef at the Inn at Little Washington in Washington, Va.

In 2012, he also won the World Association of Chefs' Societies Junior Chefs Challenge earning the title "best young chef in the world" after beating six chefs in international competition in Daejeon, South Korea. He also held the American Culinary Federation Southeast Region Student Chef of the Year and National Student Chef of the Year titles.

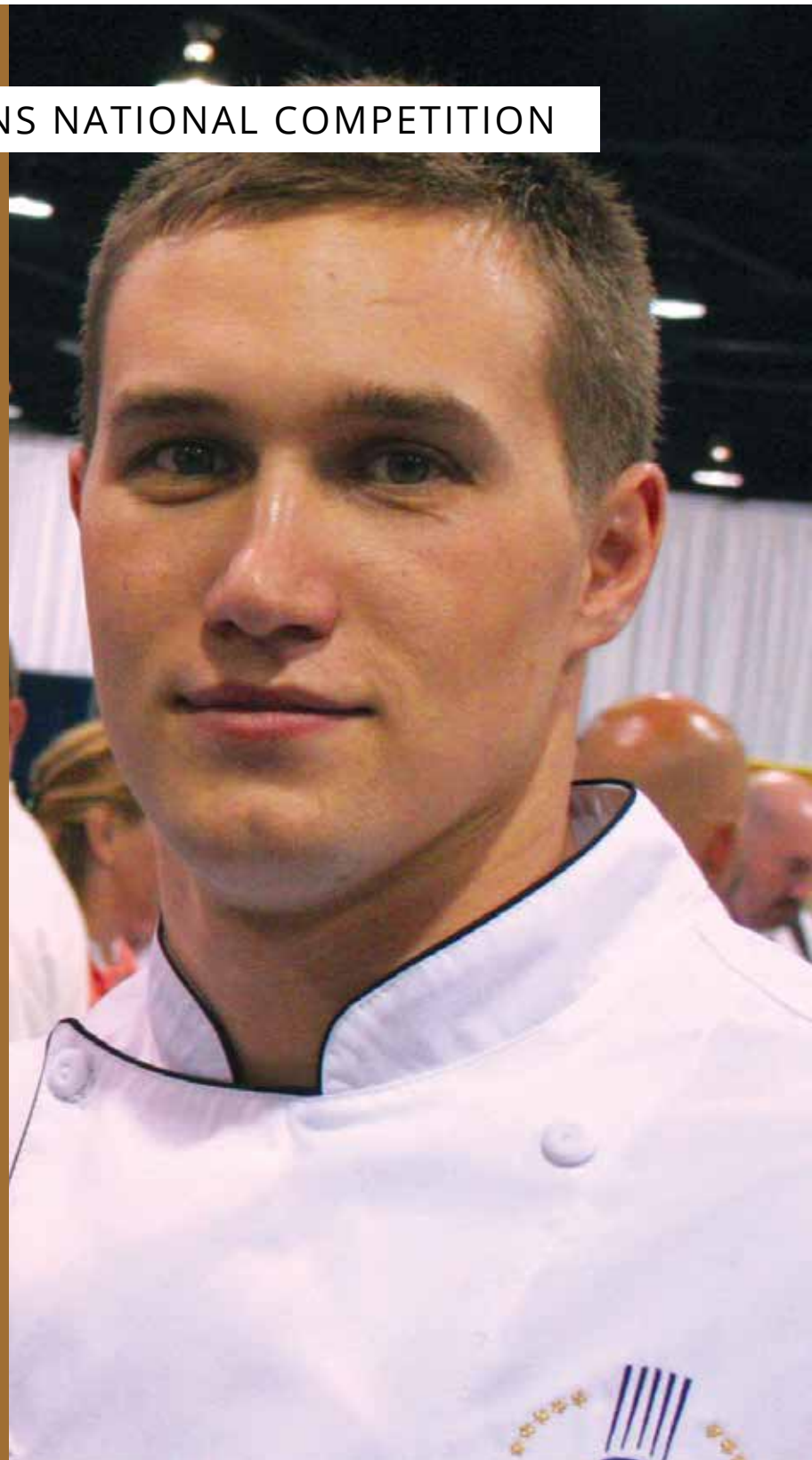
"Daniel's consistently great attitude, along with ever increasing skills and knowledge has paved the way of his many successes. He is amazing on all levels yet remains humble," said Chef Sheila Tillman, Associate Dean of Hospitality Education at A-B Tech. "We really appreciate that he acknowledges his A-B Tech training as a first step in his successful career."

Charles Gardiner, another A-B Tech Culinary Arts graduate, also was one of 10 competitors on the national level after winning the regional South Central Young Chef competition for the second time.

The annual event offers young chefs the opportunity to demonstrate their culinary skills in a competitive environment with their peers. The competition is open to chefs up to 27 years of age with less than five years professional experience. Competitors must be working in one of the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs member establishments.

The national and international contests require competitors to plan, prepare and plate three courses in four hours using a mystery basket of ingredients. The international field averages 24 contestants from among the 80 member nations.

Confrerie de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs is an international gastronomic society, founded in Paris in 1950, dedicated to honoring the preservation of the traditions and practices of the old French guild.



HOSPITALITY GRADUATE EMMA LEDBETTER



Emma Ledbetter, a 2007 graduate of A-B Tech's Hospitality Management program, has a great view of Asheville from her workplace. As director of food and beverage of Aloft Asheville Downtown, she gets to be in the heart of the city.

When she graduated high school, Emma's father, an A-B Tech alumnus, brought her to visit the campus. "I decided I didn't want to go to a four-year college. I had wanted to enroll in the Culinary Arts program but decided I wanted to do more of the front of the house side. So I stuck with the Hotel/Restaurant Management (now known as Hospitality Management). My teachers, Mr. (Walter) Rapetski and Mr. (Gary) Schwartz were wonderful. I knew I was in the right program," she said.

Emma's A-B Tech education started in the Birch Building, shortly before the Magnolia Building and Brumit Center for Hospitality Education was completed. "I was the lodge manager in Magnolia. It was fun to see the lodge come together. It was a great transition how A-B Tech grew and the students adapted to that," she said.

After graduation, Emma worked at a Courtyard hotel and was recruited for the manager-in-training program. "I stayed about two weeks at each hotel and learned the different brands that McKibbon has management contracts with and that we owned. I learned anything Marriott to Hilton and learned about the different McKibbon ways. Even though we were a Marriott hotel, we were still managed by McKibbon."

After the 10 weeks of training was finished, Emma was placed as the assistant general manager at a Residence Inn in Chattanooga where she was in charge of housekeeping, maintenance, the front desk and a bit of everything. "I was still learning the ways of being a manager – especially a young manager. It can be hard to manage people who are older than you or have been doing something longer than you. It was really my learning curve," Emma said.

From that Residence Inn, Emma received a position as operations manager at a hotel in Tampa that was twice the size of her last hotel. As a member of a strong management team, McKibbon sent her to work at Aloft in Tallahassee after the hotel lost its general manager. "I stayed there for about three weeks and would come back to Tampa for a week and go back until they found a GM," she said.

Emma was offered the assistant manager position if she would move to Tallahassee. Even though it wasn't the location of her choice, she knew it would put her in the running to come back to Asheville. After a year and a half in Florida's state capital, Emma returned to Asheville to open the Aloft Asheville Downtown in April 2012.

She was willing to put in the travel and time to get back to Asheville. "So one big roundabout circle to be able to get back home. Another advantage is Residence Inn and Aloft are pet friendly. When going to help out, I could take my dog," she said.

Emma puts in 50 to 60 hours a week at Aloft and wouldn't have it any other way. After working at the slower-paced, extended stay Residence Inns, she found Aloft to be alive with activity. "A 12-hour day feels like a six-hour day. I get to interact with guests and I don't mind working events because I feel like I am at the events. To be able to orchestrate them the way I want them to flow, it's better than having a day off some days," she said.

Emma credits her education for her success. "The program at A-B Tech is so intense and it teaches you that nothing is going to be easy. I worked two jobs while I was at A-B Tech. Your instructors are your best and harshest critics. If you don't do something right, they are going to tell you because they want you to succeed, too. They are not there to you be your friend. They are there to support you," she said.

MINORITY STUDENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

RECEIVES \$20,500 NCCCS GRANT

A-B Tech Community College's Minority Student Leadership Academy received a \$20,500 grant from the North Carolina Community College System to provide mentoring and coaching services to minority males. A-B Tech started its Minority Male Mentoring Program in 2009 to address low retention and graduation rates of minority male students.

Major components of the Academy include assistance with course scheduling, creation of a graduation plan, academic preparation workshops, career development workshops, and leadership development opportunities.

Terrence Brown was the recipient of the Office Administration academic award and has been listed on the President's and Dean's lists numerous times.

"Terrence has been one of our most loyal Academy members and has taken advantage of the many resources the Academy offers," said Tim Geib, Student Life Advisor. "He regularly attended meetings, worked with our coaches, took advantage of educational traveling opportunities, and was always happy to offer advice and assistance to students in the group who were taking a class he had completed. He is truly an engaged student who exemplifies the power of taking advantage of the opportunities that come his way."

The purpose of the mentoring program is to create a networking opportunity for the Minority Student Leadership Academy's members with individuals currently working in various occupations throughout the Asheville area. Mentors are asked to share their work related experience with mentees, provide advice pertaining to gaining entry into the field, and to assist with business networking opportunities.

Free monthly bus passes also are provided to members in order for them to use the Asheville Transit System in the event participants do not have a personal vehicle. Funding also made it possible to create three cohort sessions of ACA 115, Success and Study Skills, in which minority students were recruited to take the course together. The book for the course, as well as a portion of the instructors' salary, was paid through the grant.

Any student may join the Academy, but special emphasis is placed on the needs of minority students, diversity issues, and cultural awareness.

Retention rates among participants have continued to be high. The retention rates of male participants have been as follows:

- Fall 2009 to Fall 2010, 62%
- Fall 2010 to Fall 2011, 70%
- Fall 2011 to Fall 2012, 82%

The retention rates of female participants have been as follows:

- Fall 2009 to Fall 2010, 76%
- Fall 2010 to Fall 2011, 78%
- Fall 2011 to Fall 2012, 79%

For more information about the program, contact Phyllis Utlej at phyllislutley@abtech.edu.

abtech.edu/msla



A-B TECH STUDENTS WIN COVETED

SPOTS IN NASA'S AEROSPACE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

A-B Tech Community College students Kris Ridenour and Mike Blackwater were two of 40 students in the United States chosen by NASA to participate as Aerospace Scholars at the Marshall Space Flight Center February 26-28.

Community and junior college students from across the nation apply to be part of the National Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) project. Participants apply what they have learned during the year to work with NASA engineers.

"The NASA NCAS engineering contest was the most challenging fun we have ever experienced. The three-day contest, coupled with the three interactive engineering lab tours, was very educational and will most likely end up being a career changing experience," said Blackwater.

They competed for a spot in Huntsville through an application process and scores from online lessons, where they created plans for their own Mars mission including a 3D rover design.

Ridenour and Blackwater were encouraged to apply for the program by instructors Tammy Sullivan, Math Chair and Jim Sullivan, Civil Engineering and Geomatics Technology Chair. "I wouldn't have tried to do it if it weren't for her (Tammy's) encouragement," Ridenour said.

Ridenour is studying computer engineering after 10 years in the Army where he served as a scout. "I decided to come to A-B Tech to get something more out of life," he said.

"Kris is extremely bright, dedicated and loves to learn. He is such a wonderful addition to our class with his real-world knowledge and experiences. For example, when we were studying Laws of Sines and Cosines, he shared with the class how this is used in the Army during different missions and in-field training," Tammy Sullivan said.

Blackwater was in the rental real estate field and wanted a bigger challenge. He said his dream job has always been to work at NASA. "As long as I've known him, he's been interested in space and

NASA, and at one point he was signing his e-mail with, 'Mike Blackwater - Future NASA Scientist,'" Jim Sullivan said.

"He's a pleasure to have in class, in many ways a catalyst who makes the entire class more engaged with his enthusiasm for learning. He's taken the initiative to form study groups for many of his classes, which improves the performance of everyone in the group. He's a great student and a natural leader, gregarious and fun to be around," Jim Sullivan said.

While at NASA, students form teams and establish fictional companies interested in Mars exploration. Each team is responsible for building a functional prototype rover and forming a company infrastructure, including budget, communications and presentations. A-B Tech was represented on the team that won the rover competition held at Marshall. The on-site experience at NASA includes a tour of facilities and briefings by NASA subject matter experts.



A-B Tech President Dennis King, student Kris Ridenour, Civil Engineering and Geomatics Technology Chair Jim Sullivan, Math Chair Tammy Sullivan and student Mike Blackwater.



A-B Tech Students Mike Blackwater and Kris Ridenour at the Marshall Space Flight Center.



KRIS RIDDLE RECEIVES A-B TECH'S ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

A-B Tech student William 'Kris' Riddle was selected as the recipient of the Academic Excellence Award from the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS).

Riddle, a student in the Radiography program at A-B Tech, was nominated by Angela Goodwin, interim chair of the Radiography program. The final selection was made by Dr. Terry Brasier, Vice President of Student Services.

Goodwin said Kris has overcome a number of obstacles in his life. "He's worked super hard and is dedicated to the school and his family. He has a young daughter yet still works and maintains his grades. He's inspiring, she said."

Goodwin said Kris is the type of person the radiography field needs, because of his maturity level and the compassion he has for

people. "He honestly cares about people and wants them to get better. He excels at patient care and can relate to people, and that's not something you can teach.

At 41, Kris Riddle is the oldest of the 31 students in the Radiography program, and admits to being kidded by younger students. He's the only one not on Facebook. He says he has too much going on to spend time on social networks.

Kris said being selected for the Academic Excellence Award has been really exciting. As the oldest in his class, he felt the need to excel and says the award is a kind of validation.

Kris said going back to school at his age has been quite an experience. He didn't know what to expect, so he had taken a few core curriculum courses before going full time. That opened his eyes to what college life was like. "I knew I liked the instructors and liked the environment."

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM HAS 100 PERCENT PASS RATE



A-B Tech Community College's Surgical Technology program received an annual merit award from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) for achieving a 100 percent pass rate on the Certified Surgical Technologist examination for the cycle of Aug. 1, 2012 through Aug. 1, 2013. It was the third cycle in a row the program has posted a 100 percent pass rate.

Surgical Technology prepares individuals to assist in the care of patients in the operating room and to function as a sterile member of the surgical team. "Our program has historically had pass rates of 90 percent or better, which is the national benchmark requirement for CAAHEP (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs) accredited programs to receive a merit award," said Daniel Stokoe, Clinical Coordinator/Surgical Technology Instructor. The CAAHEP passing benchmark is 70 percent.

"This is a difficult exam that focuses on the hazards of the operating room, microbiology, anatomy and physiology, pathology, pharmacology, surgical procedures, surgical instrumentation, robotics, and many other specialized categories. To obtain a 100 percent pass rate on this exam is an extraordinary example of the dedication of our students and their willingness to be the best patient advocates possible."

A-B TECH AWARDED MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOLS® TITLE AND OPENED NEW VETERANS CAFÉ



Veterans, volunteers, faculty and staff dedicated a newly renovated Veterans Café space in the Ferguson Building on the Asheville campus last fall. The Veterans Café was created to serve the more than 300 students with veteran status at the College. It is a place for veterans to take a break, network with other veterans, study and receive tutoring, and have access to a full computer lab and other College resources.

The Café was first established in early 2013, using vacant classroom space. The new Ferguson location is reserved full-time for veterans. The Café is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and a volunteer tutor is available at various posted times.

A-B Tech also was redesignated a Military Friendly® School by Victory Media, the leader in successfully connecting the military and civilian worlds. The list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

A-B Tech has a Coordinator of Veterans Services on campus to assist those students. "We want to ensure the process for veterans receiving their education benefits is as smooth as possible," said Mary Albert, Coordinator of Veterans Services at A-B Tech. "I also work with a specialist at the Employment Security Commission, who works with veterans to find them jobs upon graduation."

The 2014 list of Military Friendly Schools® was compiled through extensive research and a data-driven survey of more than 10,000 schools nationwide approved for VA tuition funding.

abtech.edu/veterans



KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION NAMES A-B TECH TO "SLINGSHOT NETWORK" FOR SUCCESS IN ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

A-B Tech Community College was one of 10 U.S. community colleges selected by the Kauffman Foundation for its Slingshot Network, a resource initiative established for colleges that are standouts in the field of economic and workforce development.

The Kauffman Foundation, known for its support of entrepreneurship, established the Slingshot Network with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Center for Workforce and Economic Development and the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE).

"Your College was selected through your relationships with Kauffman, AACC and NACCE, as well as for exhibiting strong presidential and economic development staff leadership, a history of disruptive and inventive programming, and the ability to launch new ventures quickly," NACCE President & CEO Heather Van Sickle wrote in the invitation letter to A-B Tech.

"The Slingshot Network is named for the group's ability to convene and activate one another, then return to their campuses and communities more informed, and on a faster trajectory by nature of their collaboration," Van Sickle said.

Kauffman Foundation representatives are excited about building strong relationships with community colleges, she said. "They realize that we have ongoing conversations with our communities and that we are constantly innovating to meet changing needs. Kauffman's Jonathan Robinson said they see this as an opportunity to play in our sandbox. My response is that A-B Tech is ready to play, create and innovate in support of entrepreneurial success."

A-B TECH REACCREDITED BY SACSCOC UNTIL 2024



DESIGNATION AFFIRMS QUALITY OF PROGRAMS AND CREDENTIALS

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) officially announced the reaccreditation of A-B Tech for the next 10 years in January 2014.

A-B Tech has been continuously accredited by SACSCOC since 1969. SACSCOC is the recognized regional accrediting body for 11 southern states and Latin America for higher education institutions that award associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees.

"This is wonderful news that affirms the quality of programs, faculty and staff at A-B Tech," said President Dennis King, who oversaw A-B Tech's reaccreditation process last year. "A-B Tech's reaccreditation assures our students and community that we are effectively fulfilling our mission. SACSCOC accreditation is significant because it determines whether our students' degrees, certificates and coursework are accepted by four-year institutions and potential employers."

A-B TECH EXPANSION

New construction projects on A-B Tech's Asheville campus and at Woodfin began to take shape in 2013-14. A 1/4-cent sales tax approved by Buncombe County voters provided funding for three new facilities, a parking garage and several renovations, all of which were managed by Buncombe County and its building contractors. The projects include:

- A new building for A-B Tech's Emergency Services Division at the Buncombe County Public Safety Training Facility at Woodfin.
- The Ferguson Center for Allied Health and Workforce Development on the College's Asheville campus.
- A new 800-seat event center and 650-space parking garage on the Asheville campus.
- Renovation of the Ivy Building, formerly the auditorium and gymnasium for St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines, located next to the new Ferguson Center for Allied Health and Workforce Development.
- Renovation of several existing structures, including the Rhododendron building on the Asheville campus.

The new Emergency Services facility opened in January 2015 and the Ferguson Center for Allied Health and Workforce Development, event center and parking garage are scheduled for completion in Fall 2015. The Ferguson Center, which will house all Allied Health programs and some Workforce Development and Continuing Education programs, will open for use in January 2016. The new event center and parking garage also are expected to open for College and public use in January. The Ivy Building initially will be occupied by the College's construction management, building construction and sustainability programs, but future use may include event and meeting space. Other renovation projects are scheduled for completion over the next few years.



EVENT CENTER



FERGUSON CENTER FOR ALLIED HEALTH AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



WOODFIN

APRIL IN ASHEVILLE BECOMES AUTUMN IN ASHEVILLE



More than 200 guests and members of the College community participated in the A-B Tech Foundation's first Autumn in Asheville fundraiser last year. The gala event, formerly called April in Asheville, was moved from spring to fall to better coincide with culinary students' courses and schedules.

With Harvest Moon its theme, Autumn in Asheville showcased the talents and expertise of students and faculty in the Culinary Arts, Baking and Pastry Arts, Hospitality Education and Brewing, Fermentation and Distillation programs. Brinda Caldwell of A-B Tech's Continuing Education division was chief decorator for the event.

Funds raised during Autumn in Asheville support the Foundation and departments involved in

the event. Thanks in part to Autumn in Asheville donations, the A-B Tech Foundation was able to award more than 378 scholarships totaling more than \$479,800 last year.

"The people who give to these scholarships are, for many of us, the only people who have ever believed in us," said a scholarship recipient who volunteered at Autumn in Asheville.

To learn more, visit abtech.edu/autumninasheville.



NO LIMITS ON WRES 100.7

A-B Tech Community College started a bi-weekly radio show on WRES 100.7 FM in 2013. "No Limits" broadcasts at 11 a.m. every other Wednesday to reach a more urban audience.

Hosted by James Lee, Workforce Outreach Coordinator for A-B Tech, and Phyllis Utley, the College's Diversity Recruiter, the show kicked off with a segment on financial aid and how to afford a college education. Under the production of station CEO and President Elder John Hayes, the show

spends 30 minutes educating residents of Asheville on the services available at the College.

Shows have covered the Minority Student Leadership Academy and the Workplace Readiness Certification, which can verify a student's skills to potential employers. The show has also discussed how the community can support our students and where an A-B Tech degree can take you with special alumni guests who both work in the nonprofit sector, Kevin Montgomery

of United Way and Bill Murdock of Eblen Charities.

<http://www.wresfm.com>



PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY WINS NUMEROUS AWARDS

A-B Tech Community College's Alpha Upsilon Eta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa received 18 awards and recognitions during the Carolinas Region Hallmark Awards Convention and seven awards at the International competition.

Dr. Beth Stewart, Dean of Arts and Sciences, received the Paragon Award for New Advisors and lead advisor Lisa York, Communications Instructor, received the Distinguished Advisor Award and Horizon Award.

At the organization's International Convention, Stella Galyean also received the 2014 Distinguished Regional Officer Award; Stewart received the 2014 Paragon Award for Advisors and York received the 2014 Distinguished Advisor Award.

The chapter also received the following awards:

- 2014 Distinguished Honors in Action Project Award
- 2014 Distinguished Theme Award: Honors in Action
- Theme 3: Too Big to Fail: Competition and Economics
- 2014 Distinguished Chapter Award
- 2014 Most Distinguished Chapter Finalists (Most Distinguished Chapter: Second Finalist)

MESSAGE FROM A-B TECH FOUNDATION CHAIR

MICHAEL R. KRYZANEK



Michael Kryzaneck

Although I have served on the Board of Directors for the A-B Tech Foundation since its inception, I was first introduced to A-B Tech in 1994 when I took a conversational French class. At that time I worked at what is now the Renaissance Asheville, and soon learned A-B Tech had a Hospitality and Culinary Department. I got involved and have been on the department's advisory council for nearly 20 years. I was also an adjunct instructor in 1997 and taught "Introduction to Hospitality." I have a degree in Hospitality Administration from Florida State University, yet I was amazed at the amount of information we had to cover, and in fact, I learned so much from teaching that course. Quickly, I realized the high quality of instruction A-B Tech students receive.

However, the College's effect on my life doesn't stop there. I've taken classes at A-B Tech to upgrade my real estate broker's license, served as a guest lecturer and capstone project judge for Hospitality students, and, as I continued my career at the Holiday Inn SunSpree, partnered with A-B Tech to provide English and Spanish classes to our employees and managers, respectively. My significant other obtained his first-level LPN Nursing Degree at A-B Tech, and my daughter is currently a second-year student in the College's Hospitality Department.

I bring all of this up to highlight the impressive impact A-B Tech has had on my life. But I am just one person who decided to settle in the Asheville area. The impact it has had on tens of thousands of our fellow residents has been even more tremendous. Ask our local health care workers, EMS, public safety, veterinary workers, and hospitality and culinary professionals, and I suspect you'll find a high percentage of them are A-B Tech graduates. These alumni are the folks who stay in our community and make our area a better place to live for all of us.

This past year the A-B Tech Foundation awarded 378 scholarships totaling \$480,000, but our mission to the College does not end there. With cutbacks in state funding, we've been able to provide support for new academic programs, faculty professional development, and other issues of importance to the College, such as maintaining the staff to continue A-B Tech's volunteer program.

We hope you will review the report to see how your support of A-B Tech is making a difference.

Gratefully,

Michael R. Kryzaneck
Chair, A-B Tech Foundation

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2014 BUDGET

Distributions for Scholarships	\$460,278	50%
Distributions for Program Support	89,671	10%
Operating Expenses	55,227	6%
Grant Expenditures	307,015	34%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$912,191	100%

Other Revenue	\$32,394	3%
Contributions	529,746	43%
Grant Reimbursements	81,157	6%
Investment Income	593,748	48%
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	\$1,237,045	100%

NET ASSETS 7/1/2013: \$13,352,844
 NET ASSETS 6/30/2014: \$14,014,814



Lavender Fund Recipient, Jaherya Figueroa

LAVENDER FUND RECIPIENT

Jaherya Figueroa started working when she was 14, primarily in retail management, until one day her body gave out. She discovered she had a rare bone disorder and she had to stop pushing herself so hard.

For Jaherya, that was difficult because she was used to working and providing for herself. Going on disability was not a favored option but it was necessary. She saw it at as an opportunity, rather than a roadblock. "I thought this was the chance to go back to school. I wanted to go to college after high school but I didn't have the opportunity. I needed to pay rent," she said.

She started attending classes at A-B Tech in 2009, right after she started receiving full legal disability. "Then as soon as I started that first semester, I ended up having to have major surgery on my femur. I didn't know anything about withdrawing (from classes) and just stopped coming."

After the surgeries, Jaherya was able to see how hard it was to live in poverty. "I have a daughter. I said, 'whoa, this is not going to work when you go on disability at 23.' I just wanted to give myself the chance to make it," she said.

As soon as she was able, she reentered A-B Tech and started studying the Digital Media Technology program, with help from a Lavender Fund Scholarship for single parents.

"A-B Tech has a great digital media program where you can pretty much be your own boss. I'm trying to give my daughter and myself a chance. I am almost done and really excited. Looking to go ahead and start working and get off of disability," Jaherya said.

After graduating, she plans to transfer to UNC Asheville to study media. "A lot of this technology is emerging and every year they have a new version and you have to learn the clicks and ticks of that so it's really exciting. And it promotes self-learning. I mean, you can't really get bored in it," she said.

abtech.edu/donate

FOUNDATION

THE K. RAY BAILEY

A-B TECH FOUNDATION INVITATIONAL GOLF CLASSIC

The 11th annual K. Ray Bailey Golf Classic was held in early June at the Mt. Mitchell Golf Course. Since its inception, this tournament has raised over \$300,000 for student scholarships at A-B Tech. In 2013, the K. Ray Bailey Invitational Golf Tournament Scholarship was awarded to 40 students who may not have been able to attend college otherwise.

Thank you to all the local businesses, community volunteers, staff and faculty who continue to help make this tournament a success.

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A-B TECH WINS GRANT

TO HELP STUDENTS GRADUATE



A-B Tech was awarded a \$233,497 grant under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to support students enrolled in the College's Associate in Applied Science programs.

A portion of the Perkins funding will be used for faculty development. "Most of the faculty here did not complete education programs. They teach here because they are experts in their fields. So we use some of the grant money to help provide the faculty opportunities to hone their teaching skills," said Gene Loflin, Associate Vice President of Instructional Services.

Some of the Perkins funding will be used to buy or update equipment for the technical programs to make

sure students are being trained on state-of-the-art equipment. Loflin says these programs typically have high equipment costs.

Some funds were spent on "Manufacturing Awareness Week" in April when the College held sessions to educate high school students and their parents about careers in manufacturing. Loflin believes there is a mindset among some in the community that manufacturing careers are low paying and dirty jobs. "We want our community to understand that manufacturing is a high tech field with good pay for qualified employees."

GATES FOUNDATION GRANT

HELPS COLLEGE BETTER SERVE STUDENTS

A-B Tech Community College was one of 16 colleges in the nation awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support its retention program to assist students in staying on track toward completion of educational goals.

The grant will assist advisors at A-B Tech with counseling and academic intervention for students with Integrated Planning and Advising Services (IPAS) technology applications.

The IPAS system will support A-B Tech's commitment to helping student complete by giving advisors and students the tools for success from the day students walk in our door until they walk across the stage at graduation.

A-B Tech will be able to use the software for education planning, counseling and coaching and risk targeting and intervention, according to Rebecca Howell, Director of Student Advising and Support Services. "Targeted messaging would notify students of what they need to do next and give them helpful reminders whenever they may get off track toward completion," Howell said. "We hope to more effectively and personally reach out to students in need of support."

The system will also free up valuable advisor time to effectively interact with students and provide support and encouragement, rather than spending time combing through paper files and multiple databases to find crucial information.



2013-2014

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THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS! YOU ARE OPENING DOORS FOR OUR STUDENTS!

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