

A-B Tech EDUCATION Journal

FALL 2019

**A-B Tech President Dennis King
to retire**

Barber Academy launches in January

A-B Tech Celebrates 60th Anniversary

ABTech
Community College
60th Anniversary | 1959 - 2019

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ABTech
Community College
60th Anniversary | 1959 - 2019

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BARBER ACADEMY OPENS IN JANUARY, PAGE 8

A Message from the President



As I prepare to retire from A-B Tech in January, writing my final letter to the community is a bittersweet task. While I look forward to spending more time with my family and traveling, my 28 years with the College were the culmination of a 45-year career in higher education and truly a labor of love.

Prior to becoming President in 2014, I was Vice President of Student Services and, at times, also an instructor. Throughout my career, I have always derived the greatest fulfillment from helping students get a college education and succeed in life. It is especially meaningful in a community college setting, where our students range from

teenagers to adults in their 50s who are changing careers. Because I know how challenging it is for many of our students to afford college, it was especially touching to me when the A-B Tech Foundation and many friends recently established an endowed fund – the Jan and Dennis King Student Emergency Fund – to assist students who are in the greatest need.

As I look back over my years as President, there are many highlights: opening the A-B Tech Woodfin campus; launching the barbering, aviation, health & fitness science, occupational therapy assistant, and associate of engineering programs; obtaining grants from Duke Energy to expand the Craft Beverage Institute of the Southeast; dedicating and restoring a number of college buildings; working with the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Coalition to recruit New Belgium Brewing and other companies; providing customized training for GE Aviation; establishing our Advanced Manufacturing Center; and more. We also adopted a four-year strategic plan, conducted a master facilities study, and helped secure passage of the statewide Connect NC bond referendum.

I also am proud of the activities that comprise what I refer to as “The Welcoming College” culture: working with our employees to define and adopt the RISE (Respect, Integrity and Support for Everyone) program, which has led to many

improvements for employees and students; establishing faculty and staff professional development funds; and reinstating the Staff Association and President’s Council.

There are so many people I want to thank: my wife Jan, Board of Trustees and Foundation Board members, donors, community partners, colleagues, and employees. We are all bound by a common goal – the desire to change the lives of our students. As I prepare to retire, my hope is that our village will continue to work together to support A-B Tech and our students.

It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve as A-B Tech’s President. I leave you with this thought from Nelson Mandela: “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Sincerely,

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 Celebrates 60 Years!

Founded in 1959, A-B Tech began offering programs in the 1959-60 academic year from two offices in Asheville City Hall. Sixty years later, the College has expanded to five locations and 32 buildings in Buncombe and Madison counties.

President Emeritus Harvey Haynes, who was appointed after the death of A-B Tech's first president Thomas Simpson, served from 1975 until 1990. He was hired in 1961 as a counselor/coordinator and assigned to recruit students from high schools in a 14-county region. A-B Tech was then known as the Asheville-Buncombe Industrial Education Center and was part of Asheville City Schools.

"The students would be bused here and then returned to their main campuses after half a day," Haynes said. "We were running a lot of adult education, including electronics in an old building behind Lee Edwards High School. We inherited a practical nursing program from St. Genevieve's and that is the oldest curriculum at A-B Tech."

By April 1961, A-B Tech was located in two buildings – named A and B – on Victoria Road. Haynes moved from City Hall with Simpson, who was then a director, and his secretary Jane Smith. "The manager of the school system sent us a janitor and a lawn mower and we didn't have a single blade of grass," Haynes said. "During that period from April to September, we had to do all the staffing and get the equipment. The days were long and it was not unusual to work 12-15 hours a day and half a day on Saturday, but I never once heard one person complain about the long hours."

Haynes said the most significant change he witnessed while at A-B Tech happened on July 1, 1963, when the College was converted from an Industrial Education Center to a Technical Institute. Overnight, the College was moved from Asheville City Schools and given its own nine-member board of trustees. "That was the big day and everything changed. Overnight, Tom Simpson's title changed from Director to President."

Haynes said one of his proudest moments was standing on stage in the auditorium of Stephens-Lee High School (Asheville's African-American secondary school) in April 1961, when he invited its entire student body to be a part of the Industrial Education Center. "This College never, ever operated



one single day in its history as a segregated institution," he said.

President Emeritus K. Ray Bailey was hired in 1966 as Director of Adult Basic Education by Simpson. "It was a small institution, but the President convinced me in a few years it would be bursting at the seams, and he was right," Bailey said.

Bailey became President after Haynes retired. "One of the things I wanted to do was get the College immersed in the community, so I joined every board that I could," Bailey said. "The second thing was to develop new programs that were needed in the community." During Bailey's tenure from 1990-2007, the College added numerous buildings on the main campus in Asheville and new locations in Madison County and Enka, earning recognition from Community College Week as one of the fastest-growing community colleges in America.

Dennis King was hired as Vice President of Student Services in 1992 and appointed President in 2014. His favorite memories of 20-plus years at the College are of students and employees. "What makes an institution great are the people," he said. "I used to advise students on a regular basis, seeing as many as 20 to 25 students a day, helping them register and get classes. Those interactions were very rewarding."

One of King's lasting traditions was to establish the medallion program for academic award winners while he was Vice President of Student Services. "Students who are the best in their program get to wear this medallion at graduation and we are continuing the tradition now," he said.

During King's tenure, the College opened the A-B Tech Woodfin campus and began eight new programs, including Aviation, Health & Fitness Science, Associate of Engineering, Occupational Therapy Assistant and the Barber Academy.

A-B Tech is now the largest higher education institution in Western North Carolina, serving more than 23,000 students a year in Buncombe and Madison counties. One of 58 community colleges in the NC Community College System, A-B Tech offers more than 120 degrees, diplomas and certificates, as well as a wide range of workforce training and continuing education programs.

1959

Trade and Industrial Vocational Education Program established by Asheville City Schools

1960

Thomas W. Simpson becomes Director, then President

1961

First two buildings are completed on Victoria Road and the new name Asheville-Buncombe Industrial Education Center

1962

School year ends with a total of 107 classes and enrollment of 2,046

1963

A third building opens and the College becomes Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute

Exploring the Growing Hemp Industry

THROUGH CDB BASICS

The Workforce Development/Continuing Education Division at A-B Tech is offering a popular new class on CDB Hemp Basics: From Seed to Sale. Industry experts Melissa Clark and Andrew Capps led the three-week class, which covered the basics of growing, producing, processing, and sale of CBD products. The popularity of the class has prompted the college to offer it again in the spring.

"A-B Tech strives to be a leader in workforce program offerings that serve our local industry and community interests. This class reached capacity enrollment with a waiting list," said Maria Spadaro, Associate Director, Workforce Continuing Education.

Clark is CEO of her own NC-based CBD extraction/sales operation. Her passion for optimal health led her into the CBD field of natural products. She is currently working with state legislators to push high quality standards for hemp products in North Carolina. She has since become PCQI certified in CGMP manufacturing.

Capps, an FDA regulatory consultant, has a degree in Microbiology from NC State University and several Food and Beverage certifications. He served as Test Kitchen Coordinator and Industry Trainer for Food, Beverage & Natural Products for the NC Community Colleges' BioNetwork. He trained and worked with FDA and USDA FSIS regulated companies including the dietary supplement and pharmaceutical industries. He has also previously served as a Quality Assurance Specialist, Microbiology Supervisor, and Chief Microbiologist at the NC Department of Agriculture: Food and Drug Protection Division.

"Anyone interested in CBD Hemp would benefit from the class. Consumers of CBD and aspiring entrepreneurs interested in growing, manufacturing, and or/ retailing CBD hemp products will gain insight into the basic considerations of the industry and the science behind CBD," Capps said.

Students leave with the understanding of the first steps needed to launch a CBD business or partner with an existing



Andrew Capps and Melissa Clark

business, as well as an understanding of the different types of legal CBD products, current research on health effects, and how to legally steer clear of making health claims.

"The class offered an abundance of information from setting up grow operations to the processing and manufacturing of goods from hemp," said student Frank Stewart. "This class provided an extraordinary opportunity to learn from industry professionals about the standards and obstacles expected to be met as one starts out in the hemp/CBD industry."

Hemp has been important for industrial uses for thousands of years and was one of the earliest plants cultivated for textile fibers, according to Capps. China has had continuous hemp cultivation for over 6,000 years. "Recently, research has proven that many animals, including humans have an endocannabinoid system that provides balance to other body systems."

The next CDB Hemp Basics: From Seed to Sale class will be on Thursdays starting April 16 from 3 to 6 p.m. on the A-B Tech Asheville Campus.

For more information, contact marialspadaro@abtech.edu.

1967

Fourth building for unique hotel-motel training program opens

1969

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools grants accreditation

1970

Basketball team called Atomics established

1971

Administration and Paramedical buildings completed. Practical Nurse Education program moves to campus

1973

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaffirms the Institute's accreditation; the American Dental Association grants full accreditation to the Dental Assistant program



Dr. Terry Schmidt in the exam room and while playing for the Chicago Bears

From Chicago Bear to Trailblazer Bear: SCHMIDT LEAVES NFL FOR DENTISTRY

Dr. Terry Schmidt joined A-B Tech’s faculty to teach part-time in the dental clinic after retiring from a few careers. His most recent position was working as the Chief of Dental Services at the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Johnson City. Prior to that he served in Asheville, Tampa, and Chicago VA Medical Centers.

“The nice thing about the VA is you have an opportunity to transfer,” Dr. Schmidt said. “My wife and I got tired of

the Chicago winters and so we moved to Tampa in 2001. Then I got tired of the Florida summers and we had some friends that had a place in Bryson City. We came up in the fall and fell in love with the mountains.” In 2009, there was an opening in Asheville for the Chief’s position and Schmidt transferred to the Charles George VAMC.

Schmidt grew up in South Indiana as a middle child and always knew he was going to either be a physician or a dentist. “I was blessed athletically and played basketball, football, and ran track. I played baseball all the way through high school. I was recruited by Ball State to play football. I had every intention of going to dental school- I had been accepted by Indiana University Northwestern Dental School. But I was drafted by the New Orleans Saints and I said, ‘What the heck, I’ll give this a shot.’”

He played cornerback at Ball State University, where he was an All-American, before playing for the New Orleans Saints from 1974-75. In 1976, he joined the Chicago Bears. “I had been playing for 11 years, but I never gave up my desire to be a dentist. Some guys that play football, I think they feel like the dance is never going to end but you have to plan for life after football,” Schmidt said.

While playing for Chicago, he was introduced to the Associate Dean of Loyola Dental School through the Bears’ administrative office, who suggested that he start taking classes in the off season.

“During my freshman year, my academic load wasn’t as much as other freshmen,” he said. “Another thing I decided to do was negotiate with the Chicago Bears to include money for dental school in my contracts. When I graduated from dental school, I had no debt.”

Schmidt finished his last season with the Bears in 1984. A few years later, he graduated first in his class from Loyola Dental School. He wanted to do a hospital-based residency and going through the Department of Veterans Affairs allowed him to rotate through hospital dentistry and medicine, anesthesia, and radiology.

In 1996, Schmidt’s life took another new direction. “I became a Christian and started doing medical mission trips to do dental work with patients in third-world countries,” he said. He’s been to Cameroon, Togo, Ecuador, Brazil, where he was on the Amazon River for 10 days, Dominican Republic, and Haiti.

The teaching position at A-B Tech fits in nicely with his plans. He gets to continue practicing dentistry between mission trips to keep his skills sharp. “I wasn’t sure I would like teaching but I really do. I get to share my 29 years of clinical knowledge.”

Dr. Schmidt and his wife traveled to Chicago in June to join in the Chicago Bears 100th year anniversary celebration. He said it was an enjoyable time reconnecting and reminiscing with his former Bears teammates.

60TH ANNIVERSARY TIMELINE CONTINUED

1974

The Institute purchases Asheville Catholic High School property, adding 78 acres of land, a gymnasium, classroom building and two historical homes to the existing 28-acre Victoria Road campus

1974

The ABTI basketball team posts 22-5 record, ranks 1st place in the Western Technical School Tournament and 6th nationally in the National Little College Athletic Association

1975

President Thomas Simpson dies. Harvey L. Haynes, Dean of Instruction, becomes second president

1979

Board of Trustees approves changing the College name to Asheville-Buncombe Technical College



A-B Tech Set to Re-Open Ivy Building

DONORS HELP RESTORE HISTORIC ST. GENEVIEVE'S AUDITORIUM

A-B Tech will reopen the Ivy Building on its Asheville campus in January, preserving the last remaining building of the former St. Genevieve's and Gibbons Hall school. Alumni from the schools helped assure the restoration of the building, donating funds to supplement A-B Tech's contribution from the NC Connect bond referendum.

The main floor of the building, which once housed an auditorium and gym, will be a public space for lectures, choral productions, pop-up art classes, as well as film, theater, and other Continuing Education Community Enrichment classes. The A-B Tech Foundation, which has offices on the bottom floor, will host an official dedication next spring.

"Saving and restoring the Ivy Building has long been a priority for A-B Tech as part of our ongoing mission to honor the past while planning for the future on our Asheville campus," said A-B Tech President Dennis King. "The Ivy Building has historic value for the community and it also has a prolonged history with A-B Tech as the former home of our Decorative Painting and Restoration Program."

A-B Tech dedicated \$1.3 million to the project from the state Connect NC bond referendum and a fundraising initiative led by St. Genevieve and Gibbons Hall alumni was begun to raise an additional \$500,000. To learn more and contribute, visit abtech.edu/ivy.

"In its heyday, hundreds of students passed through the doors of the St. Genevieve/Gibbons Hall Auditorium," said Stuart Camblos, co-chair of the Ivy Renovation Project Steering Committee and member of the St. Genevieve's class of 1966. "The building was the center of the school, and now serves as a symbol of the many schools that thrived on Victoria Road. The restoration of the 'Ivy Building' will continue providing opportunities for current and future A-B Tech students and the community, while weaving the important history of St. Genevieve's and Gibbons Hall into Asheville's tapestry."

ABOUT ST. GENEVIEVE'S AND GIBBONS HALL

In the early 1900s, nuns from the French order of Religious of Christian Education received a request to come to the United States and establish an orphanage in Wheeling, West Virginia. Once the orphanage was securely in place, the French Sisters chose Asheville as a location for a school for young women. Founded in 1908, St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines flourished in various incarnations for over 75 years. In 1949, the school expanded its campus and focus to include Gibbons Hall, a school for boys. At peak popularity, it enrolled 500 students and the campus expanded to include classrooms, physical education fields, dorms for boarding students, a cafeteria, and residences for the nuns. St. Genevieve/Gibbons Hall merged with Asheville Country Day School and, in 1987, the Asheville Country Day School site on Hendersonville Road became Carolina Day School. The Victoria Road property was then sold to A-B Tech.

1980

Emergency Medical Science curriculum established

1987

Board of Trustee members change name to Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

A \$6 million bond referendum was overwhelmingly approved by Buncombe County voters

1988

A-B Tech begins transfer curriculum, known as the Associate in Science degree

1990

President Harvey L. Haynes retires
A-B Tech Madison location officially opens; K. Ray Bailey named President



Darryl Cannady, owner of Legends Unisex Beauty and Barbershop, gives President Dennis King a trim.

A-B Tech Barber Academy TO WELCOME FIRST CLASS IN JANUARY

A-B Tech Community College has announced a new Barber Academy that will begin in January 2020. The continuing education workforce training program will prepare students to apply for and pass the licensing examination offered by the North Carolina State Board of Barber Examiners (NCBBE).

The new program is one of few barber training programs in the state offered by community colleges and the only one offered west of Shelby. Local barber shops and cosmetology salons that want to provide professional barbering services have expressed great interest in the new program.

"We're beginning the barbering program in response to requests from the community," said A-B Tech President Dennis King. "We have heard from African-American barber shops in particular that this is a program they'd like to see us offer, but we've also heard that most barber shops and even

cosmetologists are interested because they all need more licensed barbers."

Joseph "Jay" Kaufmann of Kannapolis has been hired as Coordinator and Lead Instructor of the Barber Academy. Kaufmann is a licensed registered barber and barbering instructor in North Carolina, and formerly was head instructor at the Hair Styling Institute in Charlotte and a barbering instructor at Roffler Hair Design in Jacksonville, Florida. He also has a bachelor's degree in history from the University of North Carolina.

"I'm excited to join A-B Tech and look forward to growing the Barber Academy into a premier institution for student barbers and the community," Kaufmann said. "Our mission is to prepare students to pass the NC Barber Licensing Exam and achieve a lifelong career in the barbering industry."

60TH ANNIVERSARY TIMELINE CONTINUED

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| <p>1997 A-B Tech converts from quarters to semesters to allow students to more easily transfer credits to four-year institutions</p> | <p>1999 At 40th anniversary, A-B Tech includes 22 buildings on a 145-acre campus and is a fully accredited institution with 49 technical and pre-baccalaureate programs</p> | <p>2000 BASF Corporation donates nearly 37 acres and three buildings at its Enka site to A-B Tech</p> | <p>2002 A-B Tech earns superior rating under new performance measures mandated by the General Assembly</p> | <p>2003 Community College Week recognizes A-B Tech as one of nation's fastest-growing community colleges First A-B Tech Foundation Invitational Golf Classic is held at the Mount Mitchell Golf Club</p> |
|---|--|--|---|--|



Barber Academy Coordinator, Jay Kaufmann

The barbering program is a comprehensive study into the profession of barbering. The program is designed to give students a strong foundation of history, theory, and the business of the profession, while gaining the practical proficiencies and

technical skills necessary for a career of leadership in the Barbering industry.

North Carolina state law defines barbering as one or a combination of the following services: 1) Shaving or trimming the beard, or cutting the hair; 2) Dyeing the hair or applying hair tonics, permanent waving or marcelling the hair; or 3) Giving facial or scalp massages, or treatments with oils, creams, lotions or other preparations either by hand or mechanical appliances.

Requirements for a NC barbering license include at least 1,528 hours of training at an approved barber school and a passing score on clinical and written examinations conducted by the NCBBE. Upon passing the NCBBE exam, successful students will receive an Apprentice Barber license and will be qualified to work in an entry-level position in a barber shop or related business. After at least one year of on-the-job-training and completion of the NCBBE Registered Barber exam, the successful student will become a Registered Barber.

The Barber Academy is a full-time day program that will take, on average, 15 months to complete. Information sessions that prepare prospective students for enrollment will be held on December 16 from 1-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. in room 326 of the Ferguson Center for Allied Health and Workforce Development on the A-B Tech campus. Admission is capped at 20 students per class. King also announced that A-B Tech will cover tuition for the first class of students, but students will be responsible for their fees, books, uniform, and tool kit.

The Barber Academy is located in the former massage therapy space in the Birch Building on A-B Tech's Asheville campus. Learn more at abtech.edu/barber.



WRIGHT LAUDED FOR Academic Excellence

Melissa Wright, who graduated in May with a Radiography degree, was the A-B Tech recipient of the Academic Excellence Award, which is consistent with Phi Theta Kappa Honors.

Melissa decided to change her life by going back to school at the age of 40. "In 2010, I lost my partner after a four-and-a-half year battle with breast cancer. A few years later, I decided to sell our company and begin the journey into a new career," Melissa said. Even though Melissa was nervous about being surrounded by younger classmates, she was excited about new challenges.

In 2017, after three years of working full-time and taking classes part-time, Melissa was accepted into the Radiography program. "Since beginning this program, I have had so many amazing experiences," she said. "While working alongside some of the best professionals in the field, it is clear that A-B Tech is going above and beyond to make sure we are ready to enter the workforce upon graduation."

2005

President Bailey named President of the Year by NC Community College System

2007

President K. Ray Bailey retires; Dr. Betty Young named the fourth President of A-B Tech in August

Student Culinary Team wins American Culinary Federation national championship in Orlando, FL

2010

Dr. Hank Dunn, Chancellor of Ivy Technical Community College's Central Indiana Region in Indianapolis, is named A-B Tech's fifth President

2011

Veterinary Medical Technology students begin classroom studies at the new Buncombe County Animal Shelter

Buncombe County Voters approve a 1/4-cent sales tax for new construction at A-B Tech

2013

Jack and Carolyn Ferguson donate \$5 million to the A-B Tech Foundation, marking the largest gift in the College's history

FINISHING HIGH SCHOOL

Can Be the Key to a Better Year

Is finishing high school on your bucket list? It may be easier than you think. A-B Tech's Transitional Studies offers classes, coaching, tutoring, and distance learning for the over 25,000 adults in our service area who are lacking a high school credential. Each year, students in our program discover more about themselves as students and employees, finding encouragement and financial support to explore new opportunities.

"For many years, I kept this journey a secret in fear of judgment and ridicule by others," said HSE graduate Michael Crennan. "Through uncontrollable failures and successes, triumphs and even tragedies, I knew that education was the way out of not only physical and financial poverty but out of mental and emotional poverty. Growing up I never knew what it

was like to sit a dinner table in the company of friends or family, but every day at the Hemlock Building was like coming to the dinner table." Crennan has since enrolled in college and serves as A-B Tech's Student Government Association Vice President.

Earning a high school credential is one of the best things you can do for your career, your independence, and your family. With a new year approaching, you can study with A-B Tech to get expert support and specific coaching for your goals. All test prep is free.

The College offers flexible scheduling, excellent teaching, personal encouragement, and accountability. A-B Tech also

provides scholarship opportunities for graduates to continue their college education. Graduation is held each year in June and you could make 2020 your year to walk and celebrate!

The High School Equivalency tests offered at A-B Tech include GED® and HiSet®. These exams are of equal levels of difficulty, but have some differences. HiSet® tests are offered in a paper and pencil format and cost \$15 each. GED® tests are offered on the computer at our secure testing center and cost \$20 each. If you have been studying for the high school equivalency tests through A-B Tech's HSE program, you may be eligible for financial assistance with the HiSET® and GED® test fees.

"Students are often surprised by how well they do when they commit to coming. They begin to hear about programs and jobs and scholarships that they never realized would be available to them, and all kinds of doors open from there," said Rebecca Loli, Director of Transitional Studies.

Online Adult High School courses are free and are offered through OdysseyWare software. Students interested in the Adult High School program must submit an official transcript from the school they previously attended in order for prior credits to be evaluated. For the best success, students should have personal access to a computer and the internet.

A-B Tech offers classes, independent study labs, and online courses year-round. Typically, students who make progress towards their goals attend at least six hours per week for at least three consecutive months. The more students participate, the sooner they graduate!

During enrollment, students take placement tests in English and math to help determine their academic needs. Progress testing is given intermittently to inform students' study plans and to evaluate the effectiveness of our program's services. Students may take GED® or HiSet® exams as soon as they are prepared to succeed – no need to wait for group testing sessions or the end of the semester.

Take your next step towards graduation and call (828) 398-7433 or email AdultEd@abtech.edu



Michael Crennan

60TH ANNIVERSARY TIMELINE CONTINUED

2014

Culinary Arts program celebrates 45 years, Craft Beverage Institute of the Southeast is launched, A-B Tech South opens on Airport Road

President Hank Dunn resigns; Dr. Dennis King named A-B Tech's sixth President

A-B Tech begins bi-weekly "No Limits" radio show on WRES 100.7 FM

2015

A-B Tech dedicates Ferguson Center for Allied Health and Workforce Development, Conference Center and 650-space parking deck, A-B Tech Woodfin Public Safety Training campus, Veterans Café and Composites Training Center

2017

Holly Library renamed to honor late Trustee Don C. Locke

2019

President Dennis King announces retirement, effective January 31, 2020

Academic Learning Center and Writing Center HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED

A-B Tech has two important resources on campus to help students succeed academically – the Academic Learning Center and the Writing Center. Both are free services available to all students.

The Academic Learning Center provides tutoring in math, chemistry, physics, engineering, statistics, accounting, and other courses. A-B Tech also has an online tutoring service, Thinkingstorm, which is especially helpful for students in online and hybrid classes.

Tutoring labs for math, science and accounting are located in the Ferguson Auditorium building on the main campus. Tutoring is available for any A-B Tech math course from introductory courses through Calculus and for science courses, including all chemistry, physics, biology, A&P, and early engineering.

“All tutors strive to give students a safe place to go through the learning process,” said Sharon Smith, Coordinator of the Academic Learning Center. “Tutors meet students where they are individually and give them the skills to reach their goals.”

Students may drop into any ALC lab without an appointment, but they are required to sign in and out for auditing purposes. Students should bring specific questions and any materials they may need. Tutors work with students using skills exercises designated by instructors, old textbook editions, or made-up examples. Learn more at abtech.edu/alc.

The Writing Center helps students develop strategies for planning, organizing, drafting, and revising papers, reports, or other documents. It also helps with résumés, scholarship letters, and creative writing projects not associated with a specific class. The Writing Center has four types of tutoring available: in-person tutoring, remote tutoring, online tutoring, and RISE sessions.

In-person sessions are 50 minutes starting on the hour in Locke Library. Tutors provide feedback and offer strategies for addressing students' writing objectives. No referral is required and all students may schedule an appointment at any time.



Students may also schedule remote tutoring sessions via video chat and receive support at any stage of the writing process.

“The goal of the Writing Center is to empower students to become more confident, thoughtful, and intentional communicators,” said Emily Smith, Coordinator of the Writing Center. “We work to provide a space that is welcoming and inclusive so that students feel comfortable asking questions, seeking feedback, and experimenting with their writing process.”

Online tutoring is available throughout the academic year. During online tutoring, students will receive written feedback from a tutor within 24 hours of their listed appointment time.

RISE sessions are a referral-based service meant to support students in developing proficiency in writing fundamentals. RISE-recommended sessions are available for students who would benefit from regular practice in grammar, punctuation, mechanics, and sentence/paragraph construction.

Learn more at abtech.edu/writingcenter.



WNC Chancellor Kelli R. Brown and A-B Tech President Dennis King



Catamount Trailblazer Promise GUARANTEES ADMISSION TO WCU

Leaders of A-B Tech and Western Carolina University signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Catamount Trailblazer Promise, which guarantees admission to WCU for all A-B Tech graduates who satisfy specific requirements.

The direct-entry admission program, which derives its name from the mascots for both institutions, builds upon the existing North Carolina Comprehensive Articulation Agreement governing the transfer of credits between the North Carolina Community College System and the University of North Carolina System.

“Western Carolina University has long been an important partner of A-B Tech, since many of our graduates have continued their education at WCU,” A-B Tech President Dennis King said. “We are happy to enter a new phase of this beneficial partnership with the Catamount Trailblazer guaranteed admission agreement. With this agreement, the two institutions provide an even clearer pathway for our graduates to benefit from the guaranteed high-quality education available just down the road at Western Carolina University.”

The agreement also represents the latest step in a history of collaboration between the university and A-B Tech, which was the top feeder institution for students transferring to WCU for the fall 2018 semester. Of the 818 students who transferred to WCU from community colleges last fall, 130 of them – or 15.9 percent – came from A-B Tech.

“We want to make the process of transferring to Western Carolina University as smooth as possible for students who graduate from all of our community college partners across the region and the state,” WCU Chancellor Kelli R. Brown said.

For more information, see abtech.edu/transfer.



EMPTY BOWLS

Chef Instructor Stephen Hertz, CEC, and five first-year Culinary Arts students helped to serve soup at MANNA FoodBank’s 18th annual Empty Bowls. A-B Tech students served 500 people at the dinner.

“The crowd and MANNA were very excited to see us there supporting the cause,” Hertz said. “This is one of MANNAs biggest fundraising events of the year. We are also exploring other ways that both ACF and the program can assist with future programs.”

Empty Bowls celebrates community, art, and collaboration, while bringing awareness to the very real problem of hunger in Western North Carolina. Guests select a



bowl hand-made by local artisans and enjoy a seasonal meal of delicious soups, breads, desserts, and coffee. To complement the experience, local musicians provide live music. The souvenir bowl guests take home reminds them of the many WNC families that are currently struggling with hunger.

“I was so delighted to see our students volunteering their time to this event,” said Cathryn J. Strohm-Horton, Chair of Hospitality Management and Culinary. “Between work, family and job commitments, their schedules are grueling. And yet they took time to give back to those in need. Additionally, Chef Hertz has made it a priority to connect us with MANNA and other non-profits dedicated to address hunger and food insecurity in our area. I’m so proud of all of them.”

News Briefs

SHELLEY WHITE NAMED HCC PRESIDENT

Dr. Shelley White, Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development/Continuing Education at A-B Tech, was selected as the seventh President of Haywood Community College. She begins her position in January.

Dr. White, a 17-year resident of Haywood County, has served as Vice President for five years and has been with A-B Tech for 18 years. In her role, she led a dynamic division serving more than 14,000 students and clients annually through workforce continuing education, community enrichment, customized training programs, the small business center, and business incubation programs.

During her tenure, Dr. White oversaw the development of the Composites Training Center of Excellence for GE Aviation's expansion in Asheville, as well as creation of A-B Tech's Advanced Manufacturing Center. She also led partnerships and grant development to bring supportive services to short-term workforce training for students facing obstacles.

A graduate of Isothermal Community College, Dr. White received her Doctorate in Education with a concentration in Community College Leadership from Western Carolina University. She has served as state-level President of the North Carolina Community College Adult Educators Association, an organization supporting the work of all continuing education programs through professional development, networking, and advocacy.



Shelley White

A-B TECH PHLEBOTOMY PROGRAM RANKED SECOND IN NATION

A-B Tech's Phlebotomy program has been ranked second in the nation for 2019 by **Nursingprocess.org**. The ranking was established after evaluating more than 363 phlebotomy schools across the country.

Nursingprocess.org is an online resource that simplifies access to nursing and health care education information with the goal of helping students make better education choices. Currently, the site reaches more than 100,000 students every month, from all over the country.

Rankings were selected on the criteria of Academic Quality, Student Success and Affordability, Total Number of Students Enrolled for the Program, and Editorial Team Ratings. To gauge the reputation of a school, **Nursingprocess.org** factored internet reviews and ratings from popular web publishers such as **niche.com** and Google and evaluated schools for the student-friendly services offered.

Key highlights in A-B Tech's ranking included offering a short course allowing students to enter the job market in less than six months and the flexibility to pay tuition fees in installments.

Learn more about A-B Tech's phlebotomy program at abtech.edu/phlebotomy

DENTAL PROGRAMS REACCREDITED FOR ANOTHER SEVEN YEARS

The Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene programs at A-B Tech have been reaccredited by the American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation. Accredited since the 1970s, the programs are reviewed every seven years.

"Our Allied Dental programs have been an integral part of A-B Tech for more than 45 years," said Allied Dental Chair Carol Little. "Accreditation means our programs meet rigorous standards that allow our graduates to challenge national and regional board exams in order to earn the credentials required to practice in their chosen field.

CODA was established in 1975 and is nationally recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) as the sole agency to accredit dental and dental-related education programs conducted at the post-secondary level.

News Briefs

MSLA OFFICERS

A-B Tech's Multicultural Student Leadership Association (MSLA) has installed the following officers:



Kiva Jones-Wilmer
President



Rebecca Lira
Vice President



Cristian Valdez-Colecio
Secretary



Devin Lee
Student Ambassador



Some members of A-B Tech's MSLA
From left, Marshay Proctor-Bates, Academic Advisor, Success Coach and MSLA Advisor;
Devin Lee, Student Ambassador; Rebecca Lira, Vice President; Antonio Smalls, Academic
Advisor; Malaysia Burgin, Bishara Whiteside, Donovan Hopkins, Khalil Thomas, and
Kenyannah McNeil.

MSLA is a student organization designed to support the educational and professional aspirations of non-majority students and their allies enrolled at A-B Tech. All students are invited to join to make new friends, learn about college resources and participate in personal and professional development opportunities.

SGA OFFICERS

A-B Tech's Student Government Association Officers for 2019-2020 are:



William Clinton
President



Michael Crennan
Vice President



Samuel Bonnic
Secretary

The SGA is committed to informing, guiding, serving, and advocating for students while offering opportunities for leadership, involvement, and personal growth. Operating under the supervision of the Director of Student Life and Development, the SGA serves as the voice of students to the College administration.

Campus Events

EBLLEN WALK

A-B Tech employees and their families and friends were back on campus on a Saturday morning to join the annual Eblen Charities Walk, Run, or Roll event. All proceeds collected by A-B Tech participants go to the College's Employee Emergency Program managed by Eblen Charities.



UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

In October, 48 volunteers from A-B Tech - staff, faculty, and Transitional Studies students - participated in 5 Days of Impact projects in and around Asheville, contributing 144 hours of service to our local community organizations. The Staff Association is proud to have coordinated these events for the past three years.



AUTUMN IN ASHEVILLE

The Foundation's annual Autumn in Asheville fundraiser held October 17 raised \$25,000 to endow the longstanding student emergency fund, which has been renamed the Jan and Dennis King Student Emergency Fund to recognize President King's decades-long support of students.

King created the fund while serving at the VP of Student Services and over the past three years the Foundation has grown the fund to support more than 125 students annually who are facing an unexpected, financial emergency. "The Foundation is pleased to honor Jan and Dennis for their support of A-B Tech students to ensure that no student has to drop out of school due to a financial emergency," said Amanda Edwards, Executive Director of College Advancement.

Last year, over \$18,000 was distributed in student emergency funds. Needs range from textbooks, uniforms, testing fees to transportation needs as well as childcare and groceries. Through a grant from TD Bank, the Foundation can now assist in household emergencies like a new hot water heater and roof repairs.



Calendar of Events

Dec 24 - January 1 College is closed for holidays

January 2 College reopens

January 6 Spring Semester begins

January 16 A-B Tech 60th Anniversary Celebration, all alumni and former employees are invited to join us from 11am to 2 pm, in the A-B Tech Conference Center

January 27 - March 6 Fall 2020 Selective Program Application Period

April 3 (until filled) Brewing, Distillation & Fermentation AAS Application Period



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