

A-B Tech EDUCATION Journal

SPRING 2023



**A-B Tech Founds School of
Nursing, Revives LPN
Program**

**BLET Program Prepares for Future
of Law Enforcement**

**Craft Beverage Institute of the
Southeast Marks 10th
Anniversary**

AB Tech
Community College

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3
**A Message from the
President**

4 - 5
**A-B Tech Founds School
of Nursing, Revives LPN
Program**

7:
**Craft Beverage Institute
of the Southeast™
Marks 10th Anniversary,
Launches Certificates,
Podcast and Social
Media**

8:
**Advanced Online
Career Trainings**

9:
**Truck Driver Training/
CDL-B and Spanish for
the Workplace**

10-11:
Commencement 2023

12:
**High School
Equivalency
Graduation**

13:
**BLET Changing the
Future of Law
Enforcement**

14:
Enrollment Checklist

15:
**2023 Curriculum
Program List**

16
**Veterinary Medical
Technology Program
Provides Hands-On
Training, Experience
with Domestic and Large
Animals**

17:
NEWS BRIEFS

18:
EVENTS

19:
CALENDAR

A-B Tech Education Journal is published by the Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College Office of Community Relations & Marketing.

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152,680 copies printed at a cost of .26 cents each.

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On the cover: Pam and Chloe Griffin, Inset - BLET Graduating Class photo



**A-B TECH FOUNDS SCHOOL OF NURSING,
P. 4-5**

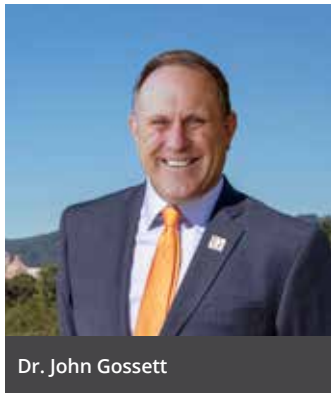


**CRAFT BEVERAGE INSTITUTE OF THE
SOUTHEAST AT 10, P. 6-7**



**BLET CLASS GRADUATES WITH HONORS,
P. 13**

A Message from the President



Dr. John Gossett

It's that time of year when we have the great fortune to celebrate the success of A-B Tech students from all walks of life. At our Commencement in May, we awarded degrees and diplomas to about 400 of the 900 students who earned degrees and diplomas this year. Since then, we have had a series of program

graduations for Basic Law Enforcement Training, High School Equivalency, and Project SEARCH, and we'll soon have our second graduation for the Barber Academy. I'm proud of every student and grateful to the faculty, staff, and families who supported them. We hope you enjoy seeing the photos of smiling faces from these joyful events in the following pages.

As the first college in North Carolina to offer the Second Chance Pell program for imprisoned individuals, A-B Tech also awarded Human Services Technology degrees this year to eight incarcerated individuals who all graduated with honors. We know education changes lives and it felt especially good to help these students succeed and witness their pride and the joy of their loved ones.

Our cover story is about the dedication of the A-B Tech School of Nursing in April. Nursing was the one of the first programs offered by the college when it was founded in 1959 and it has quite a legacy, having trained thousands of nurses for our region. The School of Nursing houses the Associate Degree Nursing program, the Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nursing (RIBN) program with Western Carolina University, the Certified Nursing Assistant program, and the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program, which has been revived and is now accepting applicants for fall admission. A-B Tech's Nursing programs offer both quality and affordability, plus a high job placement rate in area hospitals and medical practices.

A-B Tech also continues to expand Continuing Education and Workforce Training offerings. Our short-term Truck Driver Training CDL-A licensing program that was launched last year has proven to be extremely popular. This summer, we're adding a CDL-B license for small trucks and passenger buses. You can learn more about these classes, advanced online career trainings, and Spanish for the workplace classes in this issue.

For adults seeking degrees or certifications and high school students enrolled in the tuition-free Career & Colleges Promises program, A-B Tech will host a series of events this summer: the Find Your Future College & Career Fair at the main campus on July 13, a Vet Tech Open House at our Animal Care Campus on July 20, and an Aviation Open House at WNC Aviation at Asheville Airport on July 27. Tours of our Emergency Services campus at A-B Tech Woodfin also are available upon request. These events offer prospective students an opportunity to meet faculty and advisers, tour our facilities, and get help with admissions and financial aid in preparation for the beginning of Fall Semester on August 21. We hope you'll join us.

A-B Tech is the community's college, and we offer something for practically everyone. I encourage you to visit, explore our website at abtech.edu, or call us at 828.398.7900.

Sincerely,

John Gossett
President

RISE Culture of Service Statement

A-B Tech commits to demonstrating an inclusive and welcoming culture of respect, integrity and support for everyone.



A-B Tech Community College Announces New School of Nursing, Revives LPN Program

The new A-B Tech School of Nursing was dedicated April 25 in a ceremony that highlighted the college's nursing education legacy in Western North Carolina dating back to 1959. A-B Tech also announced that it will revive its Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program.

Nursing faculty, students and alumni were joined at the dedication ceremony by college, healthcare, and community leaders in the Ferguson Center for Allied Health and Workforce Development on A-B Tech's main campus in Asheville.

"The establishment of the A-B Tech School of Nursing recognizes the critical role A-B Tech has played in educating and preparing nurses to work in hospitals and medical facilities throughout the region since the college was founded in 1959," said A-B Tech President John Gossett. "A-B Tech has produced thousands of graduates who are essential in meeting the demands of the region's healthcare industry and to delivering compassionate, high-quality patient care."

When the college was founded, it assumed administration of the Asheville School of Practical Nursing, which opened in 1954. A-B Tech offered the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program until 2015.

The LPN program will be revived this fall and is now accepting applications.

The new A-B Tech School of Nursing includes A-B Tech's Associate Degree Nursing program (founded in 1970), the Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN) program with Western Carolina University, the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program, and the LPN program.

"The A-B Tech School of Nursing validates the college's commitment to educational excellence and to expanding nursing education programs to meet the healthcare workforce needs of our community," said Christy Andrews, the Jack and Carolyn Ferguson Endowed Chair for the School of Nursing. "Nurses are more in demand than ever for many reasons, including the pandemic and an aging population. With more than 12,000 openings projected in the next few years, the need is wide open."

Andrews, who celebrated her 25-year anniversary with the college this year, cited the achievement of national accreditation for the Associate Degree Nursing program last year and the NC Board of Nursing's approval for reviving the LPN program this year as important milestones in the college's commitment to nursing education.

"Collaboration with our healthcare partners throughout Western North Carolina to provide students with opportunities for clinical practice and real-world experiences also facilitates clinical excellence in our students and graduates," Andrews said. "Our alumni have been providing quality, compassionate healthcare throughout Buncombe County and beyond for decades."

Andrews also directly addressed nursing students attending the event. "Nursing students are resilient, persistent, and compassionate," she said. "You have chosen a career that will put you in the worst days of people's lives, but it will all be worth it. When the



Christy Andrews



patients and families you have helped tell their stories of births, illnesses or deaths in their families, the nurse who was with them will always be part of their stories.”

Also on hand for the dedication were Laurie Zone Smith, vice president of Clinical Education for HCA and Mission Health; Pamela J. Griffin, A-B Tech Nursing instructor, and her daughter Chloe Griffin, a 2023 nursing graduate; and Christian Samuels, a 2023 nursing graduate and Nursing Student of the Year.

Griffin said she was a first-generation college student who was raised by her grandmother. She obtained her CNA, LPN and ADN credentials at A-B Tech and later completed a BSN at Winston Salem State University and a master’s degree at Lenoir-Rhyne University.

“I started teaching for A-B Tech as an adjunct and loved it, so I went full-time and have now been here 10 years,” Griffin said. “Nursing education from A-B Tech changed the trajectory of my life and that of my family.”

Griffin’s daughter, Chole, said she was proud to follow in her mother’s footsteps. “I explored four-year colleges for nursing, but learned that A-B Tech provides the same level of nursing education,” she said. “Now I’m going to graduate debt-free in May, take the (licensing exam), and start work at Mission in July.”

Samuels, who was named Nursing Student of the Year by faculty and is vice president of the Student Government Association, said he also is a first-generation college student. “I wasn’t sure I wanted to

attend college when I graduated high school, but community colleges are magical places with many people of all different backgrounds and amazing faculty,” he said. “The best nurses I work with at Mission also are A-B Tech graduates who have been so supportive. Now I’m a first-generation college graduate who is going to work in the Neuroscience ICU.”



Gossett also recognized Mission Health for its support of nursing faculty positions and clinical education, as well as the many WNC colleges and healthcare facilities that provide clinical education for A-B Tech’s nursing and Allied Health students. He also cited the support of Jack and Carolyn Ferguson for the state-of-the-art building named for them, as well as scholarships and the endowed nursing chair position. Smith said Mission Health relies on A-B Tech to educate most of its employees and values the partnership.

Fall admission for A-B Tech’s Associate Degree Nursing program and the LPN program are open, and the CNA program is currently registering students. Learn more at abtech.edu/nursing or call 828.398.7900.



Chloe Griffin



CBI Director Jeff Irvin

Craft Beverage Institute of the Southeast™ Marks 10th Anniversary

When the Craft Beverage Institute of the Southeast™ at A-B Tech (CBI) opened its doors to students in the fall of 2013, its Brewing, Distillation and Fermentation program was the first two-year, accredited degree of its type in the nation.

The craft beer industry was booming in Asheville and students began lining up at midnight before the doors opened at 8 a.m. to nab one of 24 coveted spots in the capped program. Ten years on, the CBI has several hundred alumni working throughout the industry in Western North Carolina and beyond.

"I can't believe how fast it's gone," said CBI Director Jeff "Puff" Irvin. "We've been lucky to see a diversity of students who came from all over the country for this program. What I'm most proud of is seeing where they've gone and what they've done in the industry."

Irvin was hired as the CBI's first Brewmaster when former Dean Sheila Tillman and the first CBI Director Scott Adams launched the program (Irvin became director after Adams moved on a few years later). After a nationwide search, they touted Irvin as "the best educated brewmaster in the country." Irvin earned his undergraduate degree in biology from Iowa State University, completed the highly regarded Master Brewers program at the University of California at Davis, then earned the title of Diploma Brewer from the Guild of Brewing and Distilling in England. He then spent ten years at Olde Main Brewing Company in Ames, Iowa as Brewmaster, building its processes and recipes, managing the facility, and training employees.

A-B Tech offered an opportunity for Irvin to build a new program, write the curriculum, and focus on educating and training students in collaboration with industry partners. The Brewing, Distillation and Fermentation degree consists of two full years and a summer internship. In addition to learning the science and getting hands-on experience with brewing, distilling, and fermenting, the program emphasizes marketing, equipment maintenance, and overall operations.

"What we've done since the program began is diversify the training and really paint a broad swath of the industry. Anything from the actual production side to marketing to telling people about sales and distribution, to adding a sanitary welding component," he said.

Irvin also quickly realized that some of his students already had advanced degrees and were changing careers, which led to the creation of a shorter-term diploma and certificates. The CBI also provides continuing education classes and workforce training for local brewers, including a Brewing 101 class for all initial employees hired at New Belgium Brewing when it opened in Asheville.

The CBI looks vastly different than when the first classes were conducted a decade ago. Located at A-B Tech Enka in Candler, the CBI initially was in a small space and struggled to find enough equipment, labs, and classrooms, and sometimes relied on local brewers to share space and equipment. Today, the CBI has expanded to over 8,000 square feet and has its own commercial brewing, distillation and wine equipment, two labs with testing equipment, two classrooms, and a recording studio.



"The support from A-B Tech to expand and diversify hands-on offerings has been huge," Irvin said. "Support from the craft beverage industry also has been phenomenal. The community really embraced the idea of having people trained and hitting the ground running as an intern or new employee, whereas the old model was apprenticeship."

Another critical milestone was the hiring of local brewing legend John Lyda in 2016, Irvin said. "We were very, very lucky to get him to teach and share his knowledge of the industry." Lyda previously was the long-time brewmaster at Asheville's Highland Brewing, where he was one of the first three employees. He introduced Asheville to an assortment of beer styles and helped lay the foundation for what became "Beer City".

Lyda said he was excited to pass along his knowledge to the school's students, who are already becoming the next generation of local brewers. "I have always enjoyed trying to help the industry as a whole. And this is a way I can do that and hammer in the mantra of quality," he said.

Irvin said another important hire that cemented the CBI's quality testing capabilities was Lab Manager Jim Schram, a 40-year microbiology veteran researcher of Raleigh's Research Triangle Park. In retirement, Schram decided to take craft beer continuing education classes offered at A-B Tech, which led to Irvin and Lyda recruiting him to the team.



John Lyda with students



Students working with distillation

There have been more than 100 graduates of the Brewing, Distillation and Fermentation program so far, and the places they have landed is impressive. A short list includes: Jen Currier, head of sour production at Wicked Weed Brewing; Troy Kelly, lead brewer at Mua Craft Sake in Vietnam and one of few sake brewers from the U.S.; Greg Hill, cider maker and production director at Urban Orchard Cider Co., who also is working on his Ph.D. and teaching for A-B Tech; U.S. Army veteran Derek Biggs, who went on to the Siebel Institute of Technology and The Doemens Academy, now bottling manager at Stranahan's Colorado Whiskey; U.S. Army veteran Dedrick McFadden, who also went onto the Siebel Institute of Technology, now a brewer at Petty Thieves Brewing in Charlotte; Kay Gonzales, assistant brewer at Oklawaha Brewing in Hendersonville; and Leah Rainis, brewery operations manager at 12 Bones Brewing and former director of the Asheville Brewers Alliance.

Asheville beverage entrepreneurs Chall Gray, owner of Little Jumbo, and Mike Rangel, owner of Asheville Brewing Co., are opening a new distillery and tasting room soon that will rely on CBI alumni. Gray and Rangel told the Asheville Citizen-Times that they recently hired several graduates of the Brewing, Distillation, and Fermentation program for their in-house development team.

"We feel like their background in brewing has brought an element to their distillation process," Rangel said. "It's been nice to see their very different processes. We have some tricks up our sleeves."

Irvin said his team enjoys consulting with industry partners "doing research, testing, and product development to help folks achieve their craft beverage dreams." The CBI also has been part of regional recruiting efforts that successfully brought companies such as New Belgium Brewing, Sierra Nevada Brewing and White Labs to the area.

Irvin also emphasizes that not all craft beverages are alcoholic. One of the CBI's clients was Sarilla Tea. Its owner, Sara Stender Delaney, was importing tea from Rwanda and dabbling in the draft and ready-to-drink market. The CBI helped her formulate and walk through the manufacturing process to get loose leaf tea into a shelf-stable beverage. "Her company has blown up, is now working with a manufacturer in Vermont, and is at grocery stores and all sorts of places," he said.

The CBI also has been contacted by numerous colleges and universities seeking to emulate the program and has been "a sounding board and instrumental in helping schools diversify their offerings. It's a model program," Irvin said.

A couple of years ago, Irvin decided to combine his background in craft beverages, education, radio, and music in a podcast. He produces, hosts, and wrote and recorded its theme song. Dubbed "Consuming the Craft", the popular podcast won two national Gold Paragon Awards from the National Council of PR and Marketing in its first two years.

"The podcast is a way to document all the great folks coming in to work with us, the next step to sharing information with students and everyone else who wanted to take time to learn more," Irvin said. "Guest lecturers, people coming to check out the CBI, brewers, engineers, marketers, a lot of amazing people with great stories. It's great for folks who want to learn more or get into the industry."

Consuming the Craft's tagline is "Listen, Learn, Laugh", and Irvin takes it to heart. "I think you learn better when you're laughing - you're entertained, engaged, and learn more. I one hundred percent approach it as an educator, and it's like continuing education for me, too."

Irvin also serves as board chair of the NC Craft Beverage Museum and does a lot of educational events in the community. To better communicate his CBI, podcast and volunteer activities, he's finally joining social media and has new accounts on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. Look for the Craft Beverage Institute of the Southeast or @abtechdrinks on Instagram and Facebook and Consuming the Craft on YouTube.

To mark the 10th anniversary, Irvin hopes the CBI may finally be able to release its own beer this year. "The 10th anniversary gift is aluminum, so I hope we can release beer in aluminum cans this year. It has to be limited production, so we may be able to strategically partner with a bar where we have students working or have a separate LLC. The goal is to show 'grain to glass' and have an outlet to show student creativity."

Fall 2023 admission to the CBI's Brewing, Distillation and Fermentation Program is now open and has a few remaining spots. To learn more, visit abtech.edu/CBI or call 828.398.7191.

Find Consuming the Craft Podcast on Apple Store or Google Play
Facebook, Instagram: @abtechdrinks
YouTube: @consumingthecraft



Dedrick McFadden



Advanced Online Career Training Programs for In-Demand Careers

A-B Tech Continuing Education's Online Training Programs department is now offering advanced career trainings for some of today's hottest careers through comprehensive, self-paced online training. The programs may be started any time. Upon successful completion, Certificates of Completion are awarded.

Video Game Design and Development 500 Hours | 12 Months | \$2100

Video game design and development is challenging, but the rewards are worth it. With this unparalleled comprehensive training course, you'll master skills that open doors to the growing video game industry. By the end of the course, you will have designed and created your own video game for the PC and will stand ready to join a team working on projects with larger scope or pursue independent development.

Using a comprehensive and analytical approach to game development, this course offers you the opportunity to learn how to effectively implement technical game ideas, assuming no prior training or experience. The curriculum is divided into four major areas of study: programming languages, mathematics skills, game asset creation, and modern real-time game engines. It will conclude with an independent study phase where you will design, document, and create your own game using all of the programming and game art skills you learned in the core classes.

Certified Ethical Hacker 100 Hours | 6 Months | \$2895

This course will immerse you into the hacker mindset, putting you in the driver's seat of hands-on activities. You will scan, test, hack, and secure your own systems. You will learn the five phases of ethical hacking (reconnaissance, gaining access, enumeration, maintaining access, and covering your tracks) and the ways to approach your target and succeed at breaking in every time. Upon completion of this course, you will be prepared to sit for the Certified Ethical Hacker Exam 312-50, offered by EC-Council. This course also includes a voucher which covers the fee of the exam.

Front-End Web Developer 160 Hours | 6 Months | \$1950

Everything a user sees and interacts with on a website was built by a front-end developer. Considering how many websites exist, front-end web developers are in high demand. This course will prepare you for an entry-level career in this growing job market. You will learn how to use HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to create functional, responsive web applications.

In addition to learning these three languages, you will also put theory into practice to build the front-end of a website. The portfolio you develop in this course will be a vital asset when you enter the web development field.

Medical Interpreter (Spanish/English) 200 Hours | 9 Months | \$2495

This Medical Interpreter training course prepares you to work in hospitals, medical offices and in any healthcare environment where a Spanish interpreter is needed. In addition, the Medical Interpreter training course prepares you to sit in any of the Medical Interpreting examinations available in the country. This course is language specific for Spanish/English. You will acquire the three interpreting skills – simultaneous, consecutive and sight translation. You will learn the proper transfer of medical terminology into Spanish, divided into the different areas in a hospital and medical specialties. Intensive online interpreting laboratory practices are included in this training course.

A-B Tech also offers a wide range of Ed2Go Fundamentals classes that are shorter and affordable. All online training classes begin on Wednesdays in the middle of the month.

For more information, visit abtech.edu/OnlineCE or email OnlineCE@abtech.edu.

A-B Tech Truck Driver Training Program Expands to Offer CDL-B License

A-B Tech's popular CDL-A truck driver training program is now offering CDL-B training for smaller commercial trucks or passenger buses.

According to NC Department of Motor Vehicle



regulations, CDL-B includes "any single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating not in excess of 10,000 pounds." Students complete practical training in a short, expedited truck or in a bus when a passenger endorsement is required. (NOTE: This training does not include school buses.)

CDL-B training consists of one week of online coursework followed by seven days of practical training. Class start dates are every other Monday. Tuition is \$3,000, and A-B Tech may be able to provide financial assistance.

Since the CDL-A training began last year, nearly 300 students have registered and 207 have completed. The average completion time is five weeks. Nearly half of CDL-A students were eligible for internal scholarship support and 15 percent were sponsored by their employers.

For more information, visit abtech.edu/truck or call 828.398.7924.



Spanish for the Workplace

A-B Tech Continuing Education offers basic and advanced options for basic workplace communications in Spanish, a plus in today's global economy. The basic course provides an introductory study of survival Spanish in the workplace for non-Spanish speaking employers, employees and job seekers who desire to enhance communication skills.

Students learn to identify, minimize or eliminate barriers to communication and understanding between native Spanish speakers and non-Spanish speakers. The course utilizes a variety of engaging methods to address basic Spanish commands, yes/no questions and simple phrases critical to the workplace.

For assistance, contact conedregistration@abtech.edu or call 828-398-7903.





“Your Dreams, Our Mission” is More than a Slogan, A-B Tech Graduations Celebrate Student Success

We tout “Your Dreams, Our Mission” to entice students to enroll at A-B Tech, but the dreams come to fruition when our students graduate, prepared to attend a four-year college or begin working in their chosen careers.

This year, A-B Tech awarded degrees and diplomas to approximately 900 students who completed academic programs. Nearly half of them will continue





their education at four-year colleges or universities, while others will begin careers in a wide range of fields. More than 50 area high school students who participated in the Career and College Promise program, which provides tuition-free college classes to high school students, also earned associate degrees before receiving their high school diplomas.

Enforcement Training, Emergency Medical Science, High School Equivalency, and Project SEARCH.



It's a special time of year when A-B Tech faculty and staff celebrate our graduates' hard-earned success with their families and friends. We hope you enjoy seeing the smiling faces as much as we did!



We also held program graduations this spring for A-B Tech's Barber Academy, Basic Law

A-B Tech's High School Equivalency Program Honors 2022-23 Graduates

A-B Tech had one of its most special graduation ceremonies on June 8 as the 2022-23 High School Equivalency (HSE) graduates received their diplomas before a packed auditorium of friends and family. A-B Tech had 124 HSE graduates this year and 34 walked in the ceremony.

A-B Tech President John Gossett said the HSE graduation is his favorite ceremony because the graduates "have changed the trajectory of their lives through perseverance, hard work and dedication."

Commencement speaker Scott Rogers, executive director of Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM), told students their investment in themselves and their futures "will pay huge dividends that will keep on giving. You can take care of yourselves and your families and you can take care of business ... you are positioned to rise up and starting climbing that career ladder and achieve your potential."

Student speakers were Justin Huskey, Rebekah Shelton, Jeremy Meyer, Katherine Staton and Juanita Masters. Each student spoke about their journey to completing high school as an adult and overcoming obstacles and challenges along the way.



"I overcame addiction and started in a new direction," Huskey said. "I avoided jail and had a probation officer who is as responsible as anyone for my being here today. I've been to the bottom and had to climb out. Whatever we want is out there."

Shelton said, "Life isn't meant to be easy and

each of us had to make a decision to start over." Meyer credited his family with pushing him to get a GED for many years, but said he resisted. "Now I'm in a much better position to create a bright future."

Staton said she couldn't have imagined being a graduate a year ago, but credited her success to "the spirit each of my teachers brought to the classroom."

Masters said she awoke on July 4 of last year and told her wife she was going to finish high school, which seemed far-fetched 18 years after dropping out. But she scored well enough on her test to enroll at A-B Tech and begin pursuing her college degree before completing the GED.



Masters, Meyer and Toby Hensley also received \$1,200 scholarships from the Jack & Carolyn Ferguson Endowed GED Bridge Scholarship Fund, presented by A-B Tech College Advancement Executive Director Amanda Edwards. The scholarships are awarded to first-year A-B Tech students who have completed the HSE program. Its purpose is to help students transition from HSE into a two-year academic degree program.

Also among the graduates were a mother and son, Rena Grubby and Richard Grubby Jr.

A-B Tech Board of Trustees member Judy Lewis attended the ceremony and said it is one of her favorite events because she once taught English in the program.

Standing quietly in the rear of the auditorium, watching the HSE graduates with pride, was Ron Layne, A-B Tech's Dean of Wellness, Hospitality and Public Service. Layne knows their journey well, having once completed the HSE program, then graduating from A-B Tech and earning his bachelor's and master's degrees before returning to teach and eventually become a dean.

Transitional Studies Director Rebecca Loli, HSE Chief Examiner Carol Sedgwick, and their instructors organized and presided over the ceremony. Also recognized were graduates of the Adult High School at Goodwill Access Center.



Learn more about A-B Tech's High School Equivalency program at abtech.edu/HSE or call 828-398-7433.



A-B Tech’s Basic Law Enforcement Training Class of Spring 2023 Graduates with Honors, New Class Begins in July

A-B Tech’s Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program presented certificates and awards on June 8 to its Spring 2023 graduates. The 15 students, who range from age 20 to 65, also achieved a 100% passing rate on their state certification exams, the best performance in over a decade. Most of the graduates will immediately begin working for local law enforcement agencies that sponsored their BLET training.



“This is the best class I’ve had the privilege of directing,” said BLET Director Daryl Fisher, who returned to the director’s position last fall. “I feel renewed, and this class has been inspiring. Through them, we’re changing the future of law enforcement.”

Fisher also touted the graduates’ performance in the stringent BLET curriculum, which is comprised of academics, physical, and skills training required by the state, as well as additional training modules required by A-B Tech covering emotional intelligence, cultural diversity, and de-escalation. “A-B Tech added the extra training before the George Floyd incident in 2020 because we recognized that our society was changing,” Fisher said. “Change has to come from within.”

Associate BLET Director Jeff Augram, a former police chief who also returned to the BLET program last December, concurred. “I had stepped away from education, the Sheriff’s Office, and my position as board chair of the fire department for 10 years to regroup,” he said. “I had to pull myself up and reinvigorate my

passion for the work. This class helped a lot – their energy, involvement, dedication, passion, and desire to learn really inspired me.” Anna Green, who represented her class as graduation speaker, also received the Trailblazer Leadership Award, its top honor. She moved to Asheville from Alabama to change her life and career last year and now has a job with the Asheville Police Department. Her previous career was professional sign language interpreter, and she signed her speech during the ceremony. “Everyone of us brings something unique ... the diversity of age, experience, backgrounds and perceptions can only make us better,” said Green, who has been hired by the Asheville Police Department. “Now it’s time to get out there and do the job we were called to do.”

Other awards announced Thursday were:

- Highest academic average for the class: Olivia Stewart
- Highest State Exam Score: Olivia Stewart
- Top Gun, Highest Firearms Average: Eric Tolson
- Most improved physical fitness: Eric Tolson

Tolson is a paramedic who attended BLET as part of his new position as a medic for the Yancey County Sheriff’s Department SWAT Team. Stewart is headed to the Asheville Police Department.

Also among the class were:

- Eric Junger, the oldest member of the class at 65, is a former police officer turned physician’s assistant who is now returning to law enforcement with the Laurel Park Police Department.
- Devin Grant, who also graduated from A-B Tech with a Criminal Justice degree, is following her father into the Buncombe County Sheriff’s Department, where her mother also worked in a staff position.
- Matt Gorman, who along with Green presented Fisher and Augram with a plaque signed by the graduates, is the son of Emergency Services Dean Clint Gorman. He also follows his brother into law enforcement, making it a true family affair.

A-B Tech President John Gossett, who gave the commencement address, praised the graduates for their extraordinary performance and acknowledged the faculty for instilling the desire for excellence in their students.

A-B Tech is now enrolling for the next BLET class, which begins July 21. Applications are due by July 14. To learn more, visit abtech.edu/BLET or call 828-398-7900. Prospective students also are invited to schedule tours of the Emergency Services campus at A-B Tech Woodfin.



Apply to A-B Tech

Go to abtech.edu/apply to complete three steps: 1) A general **College Application** where you will select your program of study 2) **Residency Determination** through the NC Residency Determination Service. You will need to enter your Residency Certification Number on your application. 3) Requesting your **High School Transcript** is recommended (see details at abtech.edu/admissions). You may need to use your transcript for placement.

Apply for Financial Aid

We encourage you to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at fafsa.gov and include A-B Tech's school code (**004033**). For help with your FAFSA, make an appointment at abtech.edu/applyforaid. Be sure to check **Self-Service** and student email regularly for Financial Aid updates. Financial Aid information is available at abtech.edu/financial-aid.

Set Up Student Accounts and Multifactor Authentication

Instructions for logging in and creating your A-B Tech Password are on side 2. Protect your A-B Tech Accounts by signing up for Multifactor Authentication, complete this **mandatory** step at abtech.edu/password.

Complete Placement

English and/or math placement is required for program advising, specifically for any classes with English and/or math prerequisites. For information about placement options, go to abtech.edu/placement.

Complete New Student Orientation

Go to abtech.edu/nso to complete New Student Orientation (NSO). You'll need your student ID number, which you'll receive by email about 24 hours after completing a College application. If you already have a degree or are visiting from another school, you'll be waived from NSO and will receive a New Student Resource Guide via student email.

Consult With Your Advisor

Each semester, you must meet with your assigned advisor before you can register for classes. Please login to Self Service to find the name of your advisor and their contact information. A full list of advisors by program is available on our website at abtech.edu/myadvisor. If your advisor is listed as Student Advisor or you do not have an advisor listed, please reach out to Student Advising at advising@abtech.edu.

Register and Pay for Classes

You may register for classes online through Self-Service after completing the Payment Agreement in Self-Service. For help with online class registration, go to abtech.edu/registration. To view payment options, including payment plans, go to abtech.edu/payment.

Need Assistance with the Enrollment Steps?

For assistance in person, feel free to visit the Enrollment Lab in the K. Ray Bailey Student Services Center Monday—Thursday from 9:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. and Friday from 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. You may also make a virtual appointment for assistance by visiting abtech.edu/virtualenrollmentlab.

Considering a Different Academic Program?

You may change your program of study in WebAdvisor or by emailing Student Advisors at advising@abtech.edu. If you're undecided about a career path or program, free Career Counseling is available at abtech.edu/careers, 828.398.7209, or careerservices@abtech.edu.

2023-24 Curriculum Program List

A.A.S. Degrees

Accounting and Finance
Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Technology
Automotive Systems Technology
Aviation Management & Career Pilot Technology - Aviation Management
Aviation Management & Career Pilot Technology - Career Pilot
Baking and Pastry Arts
Brewing, Distillation and Fermentation Brewing Pathway, Distillation Pathway
Business Administration: General
Business Administration
Business Administration: Marketing & Retailing
Cardiovascular Sonography
Computer-Aided Drafting Technology
Computer-Integrated Machining
Construction Management Technology
Cosmetology
Criminal Justice Technology
Culinary Arts
Dental Hygiene
Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technology
Early Childhood Education
Early Childhood: Licensure Transfer Track
Early Childhood: Non-Licensure Transfer Track
Electrical Systems Technology
Electronics Engineering Technology
Emergency Medical Science
Emergency Medical Science Bridge Program
Geomatics Technology
Health and Fitness Science
Hospitality Management
Human Services Technology
Information Technology: Information Systems
Operating Systems Pathway, Web Pathway, GIS Pathway, Programming Pathway
Information Technology: Network Management
Information Technology: Software and Web Development
Information Technology: Systems Security
Mechanical Engineering Technology
Mechatronics Engineering Technology
Medical Assisting
Medical Laboratory Technology
Medical Office Administration
Medical Sonography
Nursing - Associate Degree
Nursing - RIBN
Nursing - LPN to ADN Advanced Placement Option
Nursing - Practical Nursing
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Office Administration: General Office
Office Administration: Finance
Public Safety Administration: Corrections Pathway

Public Safety Administration: Emergency & Fire Management Pathway
Public Safety Administration: Law Enforcement Pathway
Radiography
Surgical Technology
Surgical Technology Bridge
Veterinary Medical Technology
Welding Technology

Diplomas

Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Technology
Automotive Systems Technology
Brewing Methods and Operations
Building Construction Science
Business Administration
Computer-Integrated Machining
Cosmetology
Dental Assisting
Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technology
Distillation Methods and Operations
Electrical Systems Technology
Mechatronics Engineering Technology - Maintenance & Reliability Diploma
Medical Office Administration
Office Administration
Welding Technology

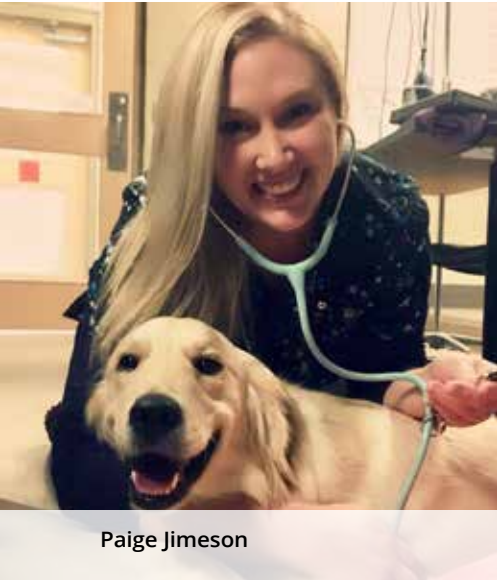
Certificates

Accounting
Advanced Electrical Wiring
Advanced Machine Operator
Air Conditioning and Heating - Cooling
Air Conditioning and Heating - Heating
Architectural Drafting
Automotive Systems Technology - Certificate I
Automotive Systems Technology - Certificate II
Aviation - Instrument Rating
Aviation - Private Pilot
Baking and Pastry Arts
Basic Construction & Millwork
Basic Emergency Medical Science
Basic Law Enforcement Training
Basic Machining and CNC Programming
Early Childhood
Building Instrumentation & Control
Computer-Aided Drafting Technology
Construction Management Technology
Cosmetology Instructor
Culinary Studies
Craft Beverage Lab
Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technology
Electrical Wiring
Electronics Manufacturing
Esthetics Technology
Geomatics Technology Land Surveying Fundamentals
Green Building & Sustainable Construction
Hospitality Management

Human Service & Substance Abuse Studies
Infant/Toddler Care
Information Technology: Computer Fundamentals
Information Technology: GIS Fundamentals
Information Technology: PC Installation and Maintenance
Information Technology: Network Systems Administration
Information Technology: CCNA Preparation
Information Technology: Database Management
Information Technology: Front-End Developer
Information Technology: Back-End Developer
Information Technology: Software Programming Fundamentals
Information Technology: Cyber Forensics Analyst
Information Technology: Systems Security
Manicuring/Nail Technology
Mechanical Engineering
Technology: Automation & Robotics
Mechatronics Engineering Technology - Basic Industrial Maintenance
Medical Coding
Mobile Equipment Engineering Technology
Office Management
Phlebotomy
Practical Meat Cutting
Public Safety Administration: Corrections Management
Public Safety Administration: EMS Management
Public Safety Administration: Fire Service Management
Public Safety Administration: Law Enforcement Management
Public Safety Administration: Public Safety Management
Retail Marketing
Restaurant Management
Solar Photovoltaic Energy Technology
Therapeutic Culinary
Word Processing/Desktop Publishing
Basic Welding I
Robotic Welding

Veterinary Medical Technology Program Provides Hands-On Training, Experience with Domestic and Large Animals

A-B Tech's Veterinary Medical Technology (Vet Tech) Program provides a unique blend of academic and hands-on clinical education that gives students a variety of experience with domestic and large animals.



Paige Jameson

A-B Tech's Animal Care Campus for clinical education is co-located with the Asheville Humane Society and Buncombe County Animal Shelter, where faculty and students provide animal care for the organizations. Academic classroom and lab education are provided in the state-of-the-art Ferguson Center for Allied Health and Workforce development on A-B Tech's main campus.

"We give back to our community through a collaborative partnership with the Asheville Humane Society, where students spend their second year providing much-needed medical care and gaining practical skills, like radiology, surgery, and dental prophylactics, for the homeless animals of Buncombe County, said Vet Tech Program Chair Paige Jameson. "Our Animal Care Campus is a dedicated intimate clinical space positioned at the center of the Buncombe County Animal Shelter and Asheville Humane Society's adoption center. Our affiliation with Asheville Humane really sets our program apart."

The program also partners with more than 50 veterinary hospitals, specialty practices in western NC, near Charlotte and in Upstate South Carolina, as well as a number of farms. Students get experience with dogs, cats, horses, cows, sheep, chickens, pigs, alpacas, llamas, and more.



Examination training

Jameson said becoming a vet tech is an excellent career choice for people who dream of a career working with animals. "Potential students often have career aspirations for working with animals from a very young age," she said. "We all wanted to be veterinarians at some point, but the

cost and time to obtain a doctorate degree became out of reach for many of us as we entered adulthood. With A-B Tech's Vet Tech program, students are eligible to sit for their national and state licensure in just two years."

Vet Techs provide medical care for animals in much the same way human nurses

care for their patients, Jameson said. "We work alongside and under the supervision of veterinarians to obtain diagnostics, assist in surgery, perform laboratory procedures, and assist in the treatment of sick and healthy animals."

The job outlook for vet techs is well above the national average, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, which projects 20 percent growth from 2021-2031.

Jameson said A-B Tech's mission is "to instill integrity and professionalism in our students through an innovative and dedicated team, which provides the fundamental foundation of learning through experience and practical skills to inspire individuals to make a difference in the lives of animals within their community. We strive for academic excellence, compassionate care, and student support."

A-B Tech's Vet Tech program is accredited by the Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA). In addition to receiving a two-year associate degree, A-B Tech Vet Tech students also graduate with Fear-Free Behavioral Training certification, a Beef Quality Assurance Certification, and a Recover certification.

Fall 2023 admission to the Vet Tech program is now open. The program also will host an open house at its Animal Care Campus, located at 15 Forever Friend Lane (next to the Asheville Humane Society and Buncombe County Animal Shelter) on July 20 from 3-5 p.m.

Learn more at abtech.edu/vet-tech or call 828.398.7900.



Mark English (Llama Lab Facility)



Cataloochee Ranch (Equine Lab Facility)

News Briefs



A-B Tech Takes Top Honors for Student Team, Student Chef, and Student Pastry Chef

Culinary students from A-B Tech won best student team, student chef, and student pastry chef in the Southeast Region at the American Culinary Federation (ACF) national qualifying competition in Overland Park, Kansas in March.

The student team is comprised of captain Jason Gray, Nickolas Abbott, Corrine Dowd, Abbey Franklin, and Ashley Neri. Roman Nourse won the Southeast Student Chef of the Year contest and Patricia (Paty) Santibanez won the Southeast Student Pastry Chef of the Year. The team's coaches are Chef Instructors Chris Bugher and Stephen Hertz.

A-B Tech's student team heads to ACF National Finals in New Orleans in July, marking the college's 14th appearance in the national team competition. Nourse also will compete for National Student Chef of the Year. He also served as team captain for the A-B Tech team that competed in the national finals last year.

Chef Instructor Chris Bugher Wins ACF's Americas Global Vegan Chef of the Year

Chef instructor Chris Bugher represented the United States in the ACF Global Vegan Chef Challenge in Santiago, Chile in May. He took first place and a gold medal, winning Global Vegan Chef of the Americas. Bugher will advance to the Global Chefs Challenge Finals in Singapore in October 2024.



2023 Student Awards

Three A-B Tech students were nominated by the college this year for awards given by the NC Community Colleges System.

Hannah Goodson, Baking & Pastry Arts

NC Community College System Academic Excellence Award: Winner

Steven Carter, Radiography

NCCCS Dallas Herring Award: Nominee

Julie Moller, Radiography

NCCCS Gov. Robert W. Scott Student Leadership Award: Nominee



2023 Employee Awards

A-B Tech's six Employees of the Year were nominated by their peers and selected by the Faculty Senate, the Staff Association, Continuing Education and Workforce Development, and Program Advising. The Faculty Member of the Year and Staff Member of the Year also will be entered into statewide competition representing A-B Tech this fall.

Faculty Member of the Year

Bill Willard, Physics Instructor, Arts & Sciences

Staff Member of the Year

Laura Haire, Administrator, Arts & Sciences

Advisor of the Year

Marlene Frisbee, Chair, Business Administration

Adjunct Faculty of the Year

Hannah Lea, Phlebotomy, Allied Health

Continuing Education Instructor of the Year

Lisa Underwood, Art Instructor

Part-Time Employee of the Year

Dina Steinmetz, IT Documentation Specialist



Bill Willard



Laura Haire



Marlene Frisbee



Lisa Underwood

Campus Events

K. Ray Bailey Golf Tournament



K. Ray Bailey

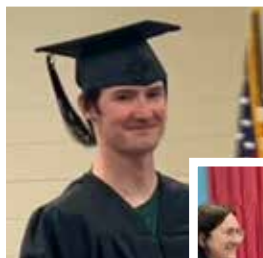
The annual K. Ray Bailey Golf Tournament was held June 7 at the Etowah Valley Golf Club. College Advancement reported that the tournament raised more than \$64,000 for scholarships and endowed the K. Ray Bailey Golf Tournament Scholarship with \$100,000. We thank A-B Tech President Emeritus Bailey, the sponsors, and golfers.



Project SEARCH Graduation



Six Project SEARCH graduates were honored on May 22. Congratulations to Luke Baker, Dadrian Blue, Grace Braden, Zachary Griffin, Alyona Logan and Christian Thomas! Over the seven years of the program, 55 interns have graduated and added 180,300 work hours to the Asheville metro area workforce. Project SEARCH is a program of The ARC of NC and NC Vocational Rehabilitation.



Calendar of Events

July 13

Find Your Future College & Career Expo

July 20

Vet Tech Open House

July 21

BLET Fall 2023 Class begins

July 27

Aviation Open House

August 10

New Student Welcome Day

August 21

Fall Semester begins

*For more information, visit **abtech.edu**.



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Technical Community College
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Asheville, NC 28801

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FIND YOUR FUTURE

College & Career Expo

Thursday, July 13,
3 - 7 PM
A-B Tech Asheville Campus

Fall 2023 classes begin August 21

For more information, visit abtech.edu/future
or call 828.398.7900.

Register NOW for Fall Classes that begin August 21!



ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA • (828) 398-7900