

60 YEARS

Southeastern
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Southeastern
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Opening Doors to Opportunities

ANNUAL REPORT
2023-2024

Letter from the President

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It's truly an honor to serve as the 10th president of Southeastern Community College. Serving in this role for the past four years has allowed me to witness firsthand the remarkable legacy this institution has built over the past 60 years.

Since its founding in 1964, SCC has been a source of opportunity for so many in Columbus County. Everywhere I go, I meet someone who shares how their life was changed because of the education they received at SCC. Whether it was earning a degree, acquiring a skill, or simply finding a path forward, this college has touched the lives of countless citizens in our community.

The incredible impact of SCC would not be possible without the tireless dedication of our faculty and staff, both past and present. Their unwavering commitment to student success has been at the heart of what we do. They have poured their hearts into ensuring that every individual who walks through our doors leaves equipped for both career success and a meaningful life. This dedication is the cornerstone of our reputation as an institution that transforms lives.

The leadership from our former presidents, trustees, and foundation board members has established the foundation for our continued growth and success. It has allowed us to build a strong, thriving workforce and make Columbus County a better place to live, work, and play.

Looking forward, I am confident that SCC will continue to be a vital part of Columbus County that citizens can count on for the next 60 years and beyond. I am incredibly proud to represent a part of the college's long-standing success.

Thank you for trusting Southeastern Community College to be your community's college. Together, we will continue to create opportunities, shape futures, and make an even greater impact in the years to come.



Dr. Chris English

President





From the Chairman of the Board

Greetings from the Southeastern Community College Board of Trustees!

The Board of Trustees has witnessed remarkable growth throughout the last couple of years. This is a result of the work of our outstanding faculty, staff, and administration. It has been a pleasure to watch SCC President Dr. Chris English's plans take shape and move our college into the future with growth in a curriculum based on training our students for jobs. We have increased our ability to meet students wherever they are. We are offering training in our high schools now more than ever, and we are training those who want to graduate and enter the workforce.

The college has planned for growth and will expand to additional land on the northeast side next to U.S. 74/76. Our first project there will be the STEM Automotive Center, and plans are underway to have it completed soon. With campus expansion, our possibilities for continued growth are unlimited.

In the past year, our Fire Rescue Training Program and county firefighter training received an upgrade with construction of a new fire tower, and we are making plans to enhance our Emergency Medical Services Programs. We opened a new 60x72' greenhouse thanks to the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund. It will help us grow our agricultural initiatives and expand our Agribusiness Technology Program. We started a new truck driver training program in partnership with Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute and the Town of Fair Bluff. The Board of Trustees approved the remodel of R-building, which will provide major growth in our health science programs. It will supply better training facilities for our nursing students.

There are great things happening at SCC with plans to continue the growth of the college. SCC will provide the skills needed for our students to obtain jobs and better serve our community now and in the future.

Mr. Joe Hooks
Chairman



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LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dr. Chris English
President

Dr. Sylvia Cox
Executive VP/Chief Academic Officer

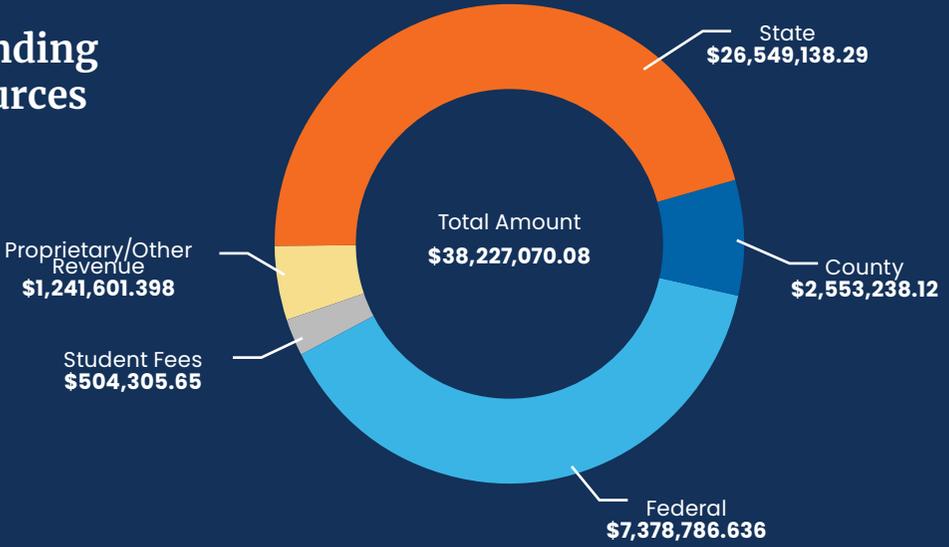
Mrs. Ibreta Jackson
*VP of Administrative Services/
Chief Operating Officer*

Mrs. Terrie Priest
SCC Foundation Executive Director

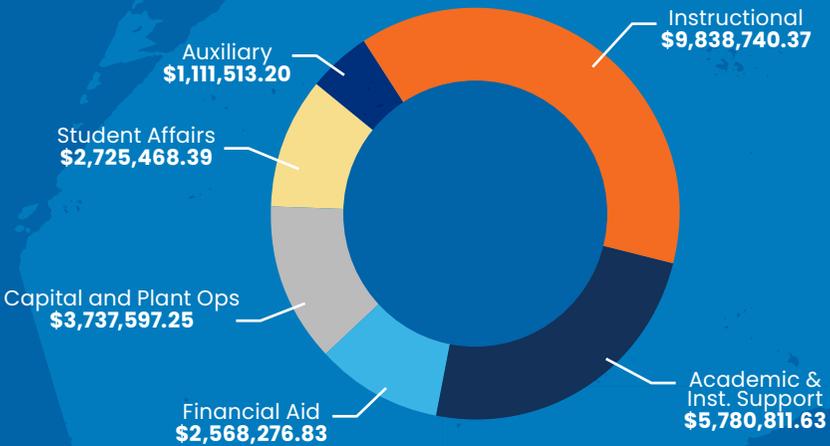


Budget

Funding Sources



Expenditure Allocations



Demographics

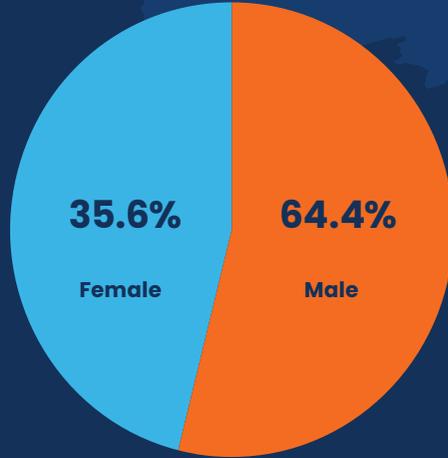
Workforce and Curriculum

4,000

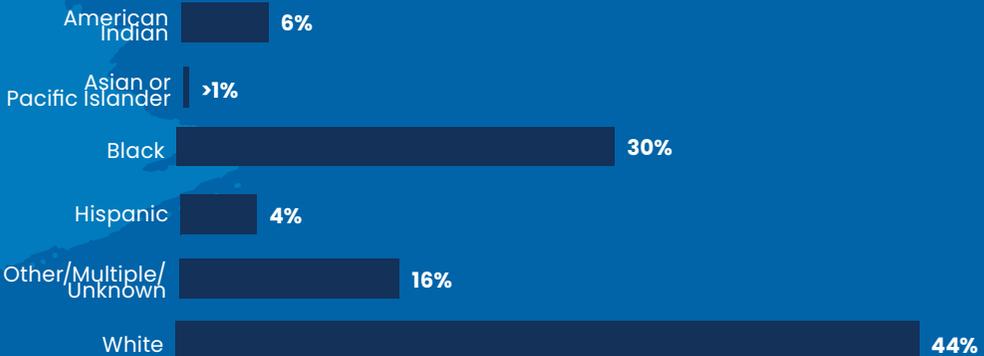
Headcount

40

Average age



Ethnicity





2021-2026

Strategic Plan

1

Increase

Increase SCC enrollment through existing college programs and the development of new programs that support student success and community job growth.

- ▶ **2026 Target**
Increase college FTE by 25%

2

Increase

Increase SCC Foundation support for college programs through gifts, donations, and grants awarded.

- ▶ **2026 Target**
Increasing funding of unrestricted gifts by 25% and awarded grants by 40%

3

Improve

Improve college infrastructure that supports existing programs, future programming for student/community success.

- ▶ **2026 Target**
Increase funding support on college infrastructure by 25%

4

Expand

Expand the diversity of our faculty and staff through inclusive hiring practices promoting a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workspace.

- ▶ **2026 Target**
Increase diversity among faculty and staff by 25%

5

Engage

Engage college employees and the citizens of Columbus County in activities that support a healthy community.

- ▶ **2026 Target**
Increase the level of activity in college-sponsored community and health activities by 25%

Short term Goals

1

Impact

Positively impact student success on all points of the student path from recruitment to job placement. Establish necessary baselines and implement faculty and staff professional development training focused on student retention.

2

Develop

Develop and implement a 60th Anniversary campaign focusing on unrestricted giving.

3

Inventory

Inventory the state of existing mechanical and technical infrastructure of the college.

4

Perform

Perform a review of diversity, equity, and inclusion in SCC hiring practices and recommend and implement necessary revisions as a result of that review.

5

Develop

Develop and implement a plan that focuses on increasing the mental wellness of students, employees, and the community.

Key

ACHIEVEMENTS

Hired Ruffalo Noel Levitz Enrollment Specialist to conduct analysis of current state of enrollment management at SCC

Developed pre-apprenticeship program utilizing funds received from the Golden Leaf Foundation and the Columbus County Commissioners

Refocused on the utilization of Watermark Retention Software

The Raise the Bell Campaign held a groundbreaking ceremony, initiated the first phase of brick sales, and promoted it at all SCC events.

Implemented the 60th Anniversary mailer in Spring 2024

Reviewed endowments and made appropriate modifications

Developed a Facilities and Information Technology evaluation checklist

Utilized checklist in buildings identified for pilot phase of implementation

Defined diversity, equity, and inclusion for SCC

Streamlined hiring committees

Participated in multiple job fairs

Developed initial plan

Defined mental wellness for SCC

Developed and implemented a schedule of activities focusing on mental wellness to meet the goal.

2024-2025

Short term Goals

1

Programming/Enrollment

Positively impact student success on all points of the student path from recruitment to job placement through campus-wide cohesion around three newly developed strategic anchors: engaging delivery, community-oriented, and student-centric support.

2

Funding

Continue the implementation of the 60th Anniversary campaign, focusing on unrestricted giving with an overall unrestricted giving goal of \$250,000.00 for 2024-2025.

3

Infrastructure

Perform an assessment of the remaining buildings on campus and develop an action plan with recommendations to College Leadership and the Board of Trustees Facilities Committee.

4

Employee Diversity & Development

Strengthen the relationships with existing partners in higher education to establish a pipeline of future job candidates for SCC.

5

Community Engagement & Health

Develop and implement a plan aimed at increasing healthy nutritional awareness, education, and offerings for students, employees, and the community.

VALUES

Success

we believe an individual's success becomes the success of the institution

Integrity

we are committed to excellence and honesty in everything we do

Respect

we promote inclusiveness, diversity, and compassion for all people

Adaptability

we are responsive and innovative in meeting the needs of our students and community

Collaboration

we work as a team fostering internal and external partnerships

MINORITY MALE INITIATIVE NAMED AFTER LONGTIME COACH AND REVEREND CLARENCE GANUS

Southeastern Community College's Minority Male Success Initiative honored the late coach and reverend Clarence Ganus for his work and impact on students during his career at SCC from June 1987 to September 2013. Ganus' family, friends and church family were invited to a luncheon and dedication program on campus on November 15 to kick off the newly named SCC IM3PACT organization.

"SCC IM3PACT was inspired by what Clarence Ganus did for the students and the community," said Colene Faulk, SCC's Dean of Student Services. "That great man, we honor him today at Southeastern. We are honored to be able to allow his legacy to live on not just through his children and grandchildren, but also through the men who live in this community."

SCC IM3PACT, or Inspiring Minority Males through Mentoring to Produce in Academics Careers and Triumphs, is a grant program for minority male students. Faulk said the program "works to jumpstart success by improving the pipeline to college pathway to employment for underserved and underprepared minority males in Columbus County through intentional recruiting, career exploration activities, and mentoring." Faulk explained that every college in the N.C. Community College System can apply for the grant, SCC's grant; was awarded from 2022-2026.

"He was always an advocate for young folks," said Linda Ganus, widow to Clarence Ganus. "And they always clung to him for his love and care. That's all he did his whole life was work with young people. It makes my family feel really good for naming this program after him."

Linda Ganus explained that her husband played basketball for SCC, and she was a cheerleader. As an SCC student, he was in the student government association and earned an associate degree. He transferred to UNC Pembroke to earn his bachelor's degree in physical education. Clarence Ganus went on to become SCC's basketball coach in 1987 after having coached at Central Middle School and Hallsboro Middle School.

"In our neighborhood, he impacted a lot of kids," Ganus said. "Our house was the house that all the young kids came to."

Linda Ganus said her favorite quality about Clarence was his care and love for young people. She said his legacy will not die because "there is never a day that we don't speak about him." She said his smile and "heart of gold took him a long way."

"This is something we've all had on our hearts as an institution," said Dr. Sylvia Cox, SCC Executive Vice President. "To be able to name this in honor of Clarence Ganus is a high honor because when you name something after somebody, that means something. That means we must step up and be more like him."

Michael Powell, a former principal, coach, teacher and mentor for Columbus County Schools, will serve as the MMSI outreach coach who will work with the county's local high schools. Serving as mentors at SCC are Jonathan Christian-Hodges, Larry Everette and Dwayne Bryant.





Celebrating 60 Years of SCC

GO RAMS! A LOOK BACK AT SCC'S MASCOTS AND LOGOS

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Southeastern Community College has proudly maintained a consistent identity through our logo and mascot, evolving over the years while staying true to our roots. To mark our 60th anniversary, we unveiled updated versions of both, symbolizing our growth and continued commitment to the community.

Rocco, Our Ram-Bunctious Mascot

SCC's mascot, a ram, has been a symbol of the college since 1966, when the student body chose it as their emblem. In the 1970s, we even had a live ram named Ramu who appeared at campus events. The first ram mascot costume wasn't introduced until 2008, thanks to

SCC Student Counselor Julia Roberts, who spearheaded a grant initiative to make it happen. She believed that having a visible, engaging mascot would strengthen the college's connection with the community.

After a "name-the-ram" contest, which received over 100 submissions, the name "Rocco" was chosen. Inspired by popular songs like "Rocky" and "We Will Rock You," Rocco quickly became a beloved figure, making his debut at SCC's Spring Fling in 2008. Over the years, Rocco's presence grew, appearing at events like Relay for Life and FFA District Rallies, embodying school spirit and enthusiasm.

Rocco's costume has gone through several transformations, with the most recent redesign debuting in 2024. This latest version of Rocco sports new gear, a refreshed look, and symbolizes SCC's evolving vision. SCC President Dr. Chris English emphasized that Rocco's new design reflects energy, athleticism, and the college's ongoing efforts to engage with younger audiences and the community.

Our Logo

The SCC logo has also evolved over the years, reflecting different eras of the college's journey. From triangles in the 1980s, circles in the 1990s, to a globe in the 2000s, each design has symbolized a phase in our growth. Our new 60th anniversary logo features the iconic Chadbourne Bell, representing the college's origins and legacy in the region.

Dr. English highlighted the importance of this special logo, stating that it's not just a new design but a continuation of SCC's tradition of celebrating milestones. "This logo tells the story of how the college has shaped our community over the past 60 years," he said. "It's a symbol of pride, legacy, and the impact we've made in Columbus County."

This year, the SCC Foundation has hosted several events in honor of our 60th anniversary, including art shows, concerts, and the President's Ball, all proudly displaying our new logo. "We wanted everything to have that 60th-anniversary feel," said Terrie Priest, Executive Director of the SCC Foundation. "When people see this logo, we want them to think about the 60 years of service SCC has dedicated to the community."

SCC's commitment to education, community engagement, and workforce development remains as strong today as it was when we first opened our doors. Both Rocco's transformation and our logo redesign are tributes to our legacy and a celebration of the vibrant future ahead for Southeastern Community College.



Commencement

Curriculum Graduates

315

TOTAL SCC GRADS



210

Total Number of
Female Graduates



105

Total Number of
Male Graduates



40

Number of Nursing &
Healthcare Degrees



149

Number of Business Career &
Technical Degrees



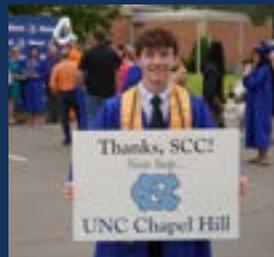
7

Number of
Public Safety Degrees



119

Number of University
Transfer Degrees



Student Awards

During the Spring 2024 semester, three students were nominated for state-level awards as part of the NC Community College System foundation awards.



Dallas Herring Achievement Award

Briana Edwards | Medical Laboratory Technology

The Dallas Herring Achievement Award, created by the NC Community College System in 2010, honors students who reflect Dr. Herring's philosophy of "taking people where they are and carrying them as far as they can go." Briana Edwards, despite facing the loss of both parents and financial struggles, persevered through SCC's Medical Lab Technician program. With a 4.0 GPA and leadership roles in campus organizations, Briana's resilience and success embody the spirit of this award, making her a deserving nominee.



Governor Robert W. Scott Leadership Award

Maurice Simmons | Electrical Engineering & Mechatronics

The Governor Robert Scott Leadership Award, established in 2004, honors former Governor Bob Scott and recognizes outstanding student leadership. Maurice Simmons' leadership at SCC was built on patience, collaboration, and leading by example. As SGA President, he connected students with resources and fostered a supportive environment. Maurice plans to pursue engineering at ECU while continuing his involvement in student and community organizations.



Academic Excellence Award

Zachary King | Automotive Systems Technology

Each year, one student from each of North Carolina's 58 community colleges receives an Academic Excellence Award, recognizing students with at least 12 semester hours and a GPA of 3.25 or higher. Zachary King, an Automotive Systems Technology student at SCC, has excelled with a 4.0 GPA and industry certifications. Under the guidance of instructor Johnny O'Connell, he placed in the top 20 at the 2023 SkillsUSA competition, supported by SCC's Success Scholarship and hands-on learning experiences.

Faculty and Staff Awards

Annually, Southeastern Community College acknowledges one faculty and one staff for their outstanding contributions to the college. These individuals are nominated by their peers and voted on by the T. Elbert Clemmons Faculty Award Committee and the Dr. Dan & Cheryl Moore Staff Award Committee.

The 2024 T. Elbert Clemmons Outstanding Faculty Award

Paul Starnes | Welding Technology Instructor

He was nominated for being an exceptional instructor who has taken the lead in developing programs and classes under the “One College” model. His students perform well in all situations due to his dedicated commitment to them. He has a remarkable ability to recognize all his students’ potential and helps them develop a positive work ethic and self-belief. He does this while maintaining strong, rigorous industry standards for his students. Whenever his students participate in any internship program, industry partners are always satisfied with their skills, abilities, and exceptional work ethic. These are all qualities that this instructor models and teaches every day. He is a skilled teacher who knows how to create an engaging classroom environment that challenges students while also keeping them actively involved in the learning process.



The 2024 Dr. Dan and Cheryl Moore Outstanding Staff Award

Denise Young | Director of Apprenticeships

She was nominated for being an invaluable part of the SCC team for 26 Years. During her time, she has touched countless lives in Columbus County, always putting SCC and the community first. Her selflessness and commitment to her colleagues and students make her the ideal team player. She quietly serves students and finds ways to help them despite the challenges they face. Because she cares about students so deeply, they trust her, and she goes the extra mile for them to make sure they can reach their educational goals. As the Director of Apprenticeships, she is not only changing the lives of students, but she is also shaping the economic development of Columbus County. Her dedication and hard work have contributed to the creation of some of the first federally registered apprenticeship programs in the county. Her work has had a direct impact on the workforce pipeline. She is leading our efforts to cultivate talent locally and “grow our own” in Columbus County. Her legacy of service to the college and the community is truly inspiring.



Pathways to Economic and Workforce Growth in Columbus County



North Carolina's economy is booming, currently recognized as the top state for business for the past two years. This growth is creating thousands of job opportunities across the state, creating a pressing need for a skilled workforce to fill these positions. In Columbus County, Southeastern Community College (SCC) is at the forefront of addressing this need through comprehensive educational pathways designed to prepare students for the workforce.

Career Pathways and the Propel NC Initiative

The Propel NC initiative has identified the urgent need to align community college programs with the state's workforce demands. The North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) has responded by creating career clusters and Pathway to Employment (PTE) courses for all Associate in Applied Science (AAS) programs. These courses are rooted in the guided pathways model and have been developed in collaboration with business and industry leaders across the state.

The PTE courses focus on essential employability skills, including professionalism, resume writing, interview techniques, financial literacy, and workplace safety. Approved by the North Carolina State Board in May 2020, these courses ensure that students are workforce-ready as soon as they graduate.

Developing Clear Educational Roadmaps

SCC's career pathway initiative, developed in collaboration with Columbus County Schools and Whiteville City Schools, provides a clear and comprehensive roadmap for students. These pathways guide students through their high school education, ensuring they meet graduation and Career and Technical Education (CTE) requirements.

The pathways also include recommended Career and College Promise courses, which students complete at specific times, offering a seamless transition to post-secondary education at SCC.

A significant feature of these pathways is the articulated college credit students can earn by completing specific high school courses. This allows students to bypass certain college courses, saving time and money. Additionally, the pathways highlight nationally recognized credentials and certifications that enhance employability.

Seven Key Pathways for Economic Growth

SCC has identified seven key pathways essential for the economic and workforce growth of Columbus County:

1. **Agriculture**
2. **Automotive Systems**
3. **Construction**
4. **Healthcare**
5. **Information Technology**
6. **Manufacturing**
7. **Teacher Preparation**

These pathways have been developed to meet the specific needs of local industries, ensuring that our students are well-prepared for in-demand careers.

Pre-Apprenticeships and Job Shadowing: Real-World Experience

An integral part of SCC's career pathways is the emphasis on practical, hands-on experience through job shadowing and pre-apprenticeships. Juniors and seniors can participate in the Job Shadowing program, spending time with employers to get a taste of various career fields. This experience allows them to observe professionals at work and have one-on-one conversations about their roles and daily tasks.

Once students complete the PTE courses, they are eligible for pre-apprenticeships during their senior year. These pre-apprenticeships require a 12-hour commitment each week, with employers providing hourly wages. This time includes coursework, job shadowing, and internships. The hands-on experience allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-world challenges, enhancing their employability.

Funding and Support for Pre-Apprenticeships

The development and expansion of SCC's pre-apprenticeship programs have been made possible through significant funding and support. A \$361,000 project budget for two years has been established, with contributions from the Golden Leaf Foundation (\$199,100), the Columbus County Board of Commissioners (\$150,000), the SCC Foundation (\$5,000), and NCWorks (\$7,500). This funding enables SCC to provide stipends for student travel, pay for books, credentials, certifications, and more.

Thanks to our partnerships with Columbus County Schools, Whiteville City Schools, the Columbus County Commissioners, and Representative Brenden Jones, we can provide these invaluable opportunities to our students.

Impact on Local Economy

SCC's career pathways and pre-apprenticeship programs are not just about individual student success; they are about community growth. By developing a skilled workforce that meets the needs of local industries, we are creating a stronger, more productive employee base that contributes to the economic prosperity of Columbus County. Our collaborative efforts ensure that we address workforce concerns and position our students for long-term success.

In summary, SCC's commitment to career pathways and pre-apprenticeship programs is a testament to our dedication to student success and community growth. By providing clear educational roadmaps, essential employability skills, and hands-on work experiences, we are preparing our students for rewarding careers and contributing to the economic vitality of Columbus County.



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE NAMES SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS U.S. COMMUNITY COLLEGES *Top 150*

Southeastern Community College was recognized by the Aspen Institute as one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation. This honor is a testament to our commitment to delivering high-quality education and equitable outcomes for all students, standing out among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide for student success and support of Black, Hispanic, and lower-income students.

"We are thrilled to be recognized as one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute," said Southeastern Community College's President, Dr. Chris English. "This recognition is a testament to the steadfast dedication of our faculty and staff, who are passionate about equipping our students with the skills they need to succeed in the workforce. At Southeastern, student success is at the heart of everything we do."

The Aspen Prize recognizes community colleges that demonstrate excellence in helping students achieve their academic and career goals. These 150 colleges are invited to share their student success data and strategies as part of a rigorous review process, aimed at identifying

the most effective practices in driving equitable outcomes and preparing students for successful careers.

"The Aspen Prize is all about measuring whether colleges are delivering on their promise to students," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "In this rapidly changing educational and economic landscape, the best community colleges continue to focus on helping as many students as possible achieve credentials that lead to fulfilling careers and contribute to the development of diverse talent that communities and our nation need."

The selection of Southeastern Community College among the top 150 highlights the institution's ongoing commitment to high and improving levels of student achievement in critical areas such as teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, workforce success, and equitable outcomes for students of all backgrounds. This recognition reinforces SCC's role as a leader in creating opportunities and transforming lives within our community.



From the Chairman of the Foundation Board of Directors

Once again, it has been an honor to serve as the chairman of the SCC Foundation Board of Directors. This year marks the 56th anniversary of the foundation and the 60th anniversary of SCC. It is through the unwavering support of our donors that we have been able to uphold the mission of SCC: opening doors to opportunities. The guidance of our SCC Foundation Board of Directors was instrumental in steering our efforts towards providing scholarships and supporting SCC programs for the benefit of our students and the community.

Under the direction of SCC Foundation Executive Director Terrie Priest, the foundation worked hard with fundraising efforts and coordinating special events. SCC celebrated its 60th anniversary at the third annual President's Ball that raised money for the unrestricted fund. This fund helps meet the most urgent needs of our students and SCC.

To continue the celebration of 60 years, we launched the Raise the Bell campaign to encourage everyone to purchase engraved bricks. You have an opportunity to make your mark on our campus by donating a brick for the pathway beneath and around the Chadbourn Bell. Visit sccnc.edu/give for more information.

Thank you to the foundation board and all the volunteers who helped with our efforts this year. Above all, thank you to the generous citizens of our community that help support the foundation financially. It is truly an investment in our future.

I encourage you to keep the SCC Foundation in your plans for charitable giving. Your continued support will have meaningful and long-lasting impacts on our community and benefit our citizens for years to come.

A sincere thank you again for your support of our students, college and foundation.

Mr. Brett Gore
SCC Foundation Board Chairman



FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Nathan Moore, *Vice Chair*

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John Council, III
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Melissa Williamson
O. Richard Wright

E. Rhone Sasser, *Emeritus*
Dr. Chris English, *Ex-Officio*
Ibreta Jackson, *Treasurer*
Terrie Priest, *Recording Secretary*

Giving

by the Numbers

Fund Drive - Unrestricted Gifts

\$76,614.00

Fund Drive - Restricted Gifts

\$407,670.96

Payroll Deduction

\$21,258.98

Memorials and Honors

\$29,338.00

Stock Gift

\$97,630.50

Donated Property

\$25,789.46

314

Total number of students
awarded Scholarships

\$282,098

Total monetary amount of scholarships



Southeastern
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Opening Doors to Opportunities

4564 Chadbourn Hwy
Whiteville, NC 28472

sccnc.edu

(910) 642-7141