
SOUTHWESTERN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
COMMUNITY IS OUR MIDDLE NAME
CELEBRATING
50
years
1964-2014
SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AD G. BURRELL BUILDING

Students First...
FROM DAY ONE

"The guiding principle is one of attempting to provide those educational and training opportunities, as varied as they may be, which will help each individual in our service area reach his peak of performance or expectation …"

Excerpt from what is believed to be our first student handbook (1967-68).



College Vision, Mission and Goals

Vision

Southwestern Community College will be an educational gateway for enriching lives and strengthening our community.

Mission Statement

Southwestern Community College is a learning and teaching institution offering high-quality, innovative instruction and support, which promotes student achievement, academic excellence and economic development.

Institutional Goals

The College will...

- Provide excellence in learning and teaching for transfer and career education, literacy development, business and industry training and life long learning in an accessible format (including face to face, blended and distance learning).
- Maintain a nurturing learning environment by providing comprehensive support and intervention services for every individual.
- Identify, acquire and maintain College resources to support the vision, mission and goals of the College.
- Attract and retain quality employees and provide for their professional development.
- Foster cooperative community-based relationships which contribute to the cultural, economic and educational advancement of the region.
- Assess institutional effectiveness as part of the planning and renewal process based on continuous improvement principles.
- Prepare citizens to live, learn and work in a diverse global village.
- Increase community awareness of College programs and services.

CREDITS

Southwestern Community College would like to thank Myrna Campbell, who wrote the history of Southwestern's first 40 years. Surviving presidents Dr. Norman K. Myers, Dr. Barry Russell and Dr. Cecil Groves as well as retired employees George Stanley, John Winfred Ashe, Richard Wilson, Sharon Grasty and Bobby Parris provided invaluable background information and also verified the historical accuracy of details in this publication. Pat McKay and Lisa Fisher handled the graphic design and layout for this publication. And of course, many thanks to all of our students and alumni along with everyone who has served as a faculty member, staff member or administrator over the years; you helped make SCC who we are today!

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Welcome
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Even before the first Masonry student spread the first mortar on the first brick back in 1964, the vision for our College was the same as it is today: Putting students first while meeting the needs of Jackson, Macon, Swain Counties and the Qualla Boundary.

Every graduate, instructor, advisor, staff member, administrator and Trustee over the years has built off that foundation and transformed Southwestern Community College into the marvelous learning institution it is today.

We opened 50 years ago as "Jackson County Industrial Education Center." One building housed a handful of programs, seven full-time employees and 193 students.

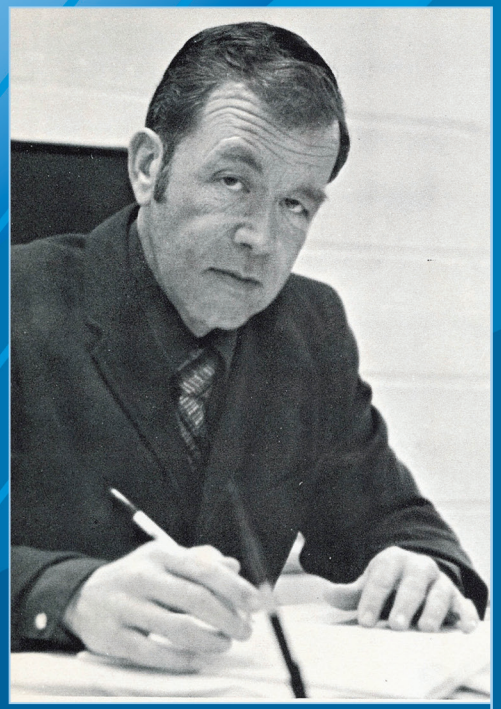
Today, we operate from more than a dozen separate facilities throughout our service area. Area residents can choose from more than 70 fields of study, and we provide instruction and training to approximately 9,000 people annually.

Through all the advancement and growth, student success has remained our focus. With that as our primary objective, I have no doubt Southwestern Community College will continue to excel as our service area's leading educational and economic engine for the next 50 years – and beyond!



Don Tomas, President





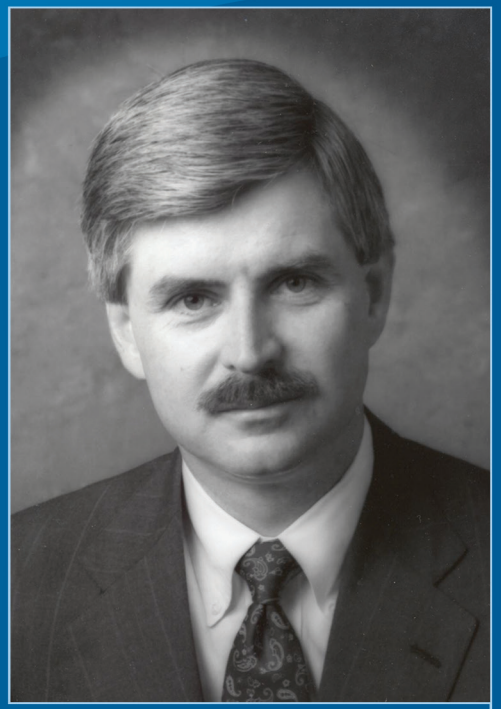
1

Edward E. Bryson
1964-1980



2

Norman K. Myers
1981-1991



3

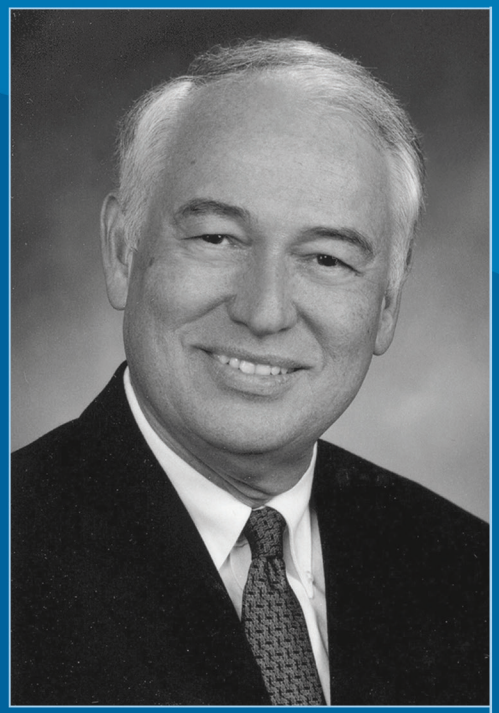
Barry W. Russell
1991-1996

PRESIDENTS



4

Cecil L. Groves
1997-2010



5

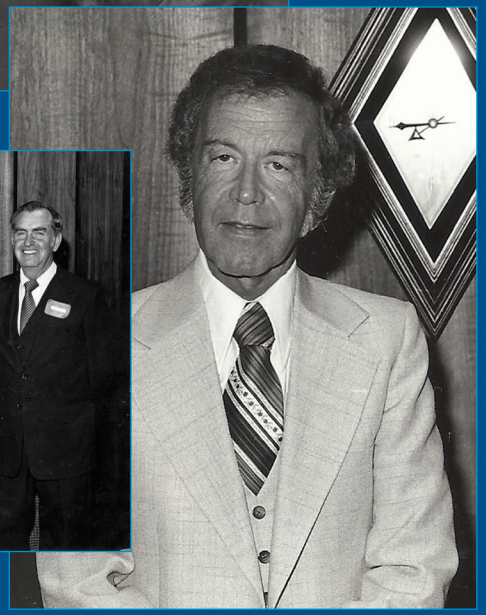
Richard Collings
2010-2011



6

Don Tomas
2011-Present









Founder
EDWARD E. BRYSON

Back in the College's early days, the mere act of covering basic operating expenses was a tremendous challenge.

That's why Edward Bryson's leadership was so vital at the start.

"It would be extremely difficult to explain just how hard times were back then," recalled John Winfred Ashe, Southwestern's first Business Manager.

"The main problem was we just didn't have the funds to operate on. But Mr. Bryson managed to be able to do that."

The secrets to Southwestern's early survival were hard work and a generous spirit among its faculty, staff and leaders. That approach started at the very top. Ashe described Bryson, who passed away in 2002, as "tireless."

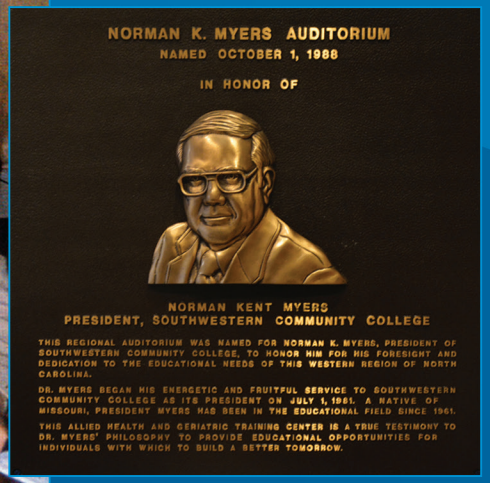
"He devoted all of his time to the College," Ashe said. "Sixteen-hour days weren't uncommon. I don't think people realized how hard he worked. He had real good supporters like (founding Trustee) William B. Dillard. And Mr. Bryson was just the type of person that would do anything he could to benefit the school."

George Stanley, who succeeded Ashe, remembers that Mr. Bryson started the annual staff Christmas party. Mr. Bryson paid for the event personally as a gift to employees.

His generous spirit and work ethic were contagious. Ashe recalled it wasn't uncommon for faculty and staff members, including himself, to occasionally cover tuition expenses for students. Ashe used his own money as a change fund during registration periods because the College had none available.

"He had the ability to get people to do things they wouldn't otherwise be willing to do," Ashe recalled. "He was a really fine person. I really liked working with him very much."













Builder
NORMAN K. MYERS

Leaving Southwestern in 1991 was a tough decision for Dr. Myers.

The opportunity to serve as founding President for a community college in his home state of Missouri ultimately pulled him away, but Southwestern has remained close to his heart.

After helping start Ozarks Technical Community College, Dr. Myers brought a leadership team back to the Great Smoky Mountains.

"I wanted our people to see how much you could do in a small rural area," Dr. Myers recalled recently.

Southwestern underwent tremendous growth, both physically and enrollment-wise, under Dr. Myers' leadership.

The building now known as "Holt Library" was completed in his first year, followed closely by the Trades (now The Summit) Building. And with the support of N.C. House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey as well as county governments throughout Southwestern's service area, the WNC Allied Health and Geriatric Training (now Balsam) Center became the largest building on SCC's Jackson Campus.

Now retired and living in Springfield, Mo., Dr. Myers has many fond memories of his years at SCC.

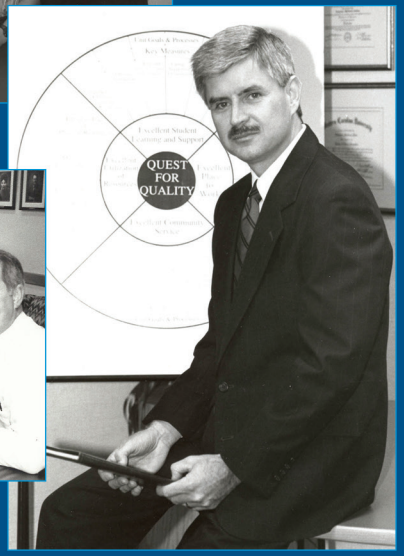
"It was one of the best times of my life; we really enjoyed our time there. The College grew, and the community was interested in entering a new phase of growth with Southwestern," Dr. Myers said.

"I feel a great deal of pride in SCC. I feel very proud of the strides made by the men who followed me in the presidency. I'm so impressed with the new (Burrell) building and the expansion on campus."









Collaborator
BARRY W. RUSSELL

Talk to Dr. Barry Russell for more than five minutes and you'll soon figure out the man likes to build bridges.

Before the Internet was mainstream, Dr. Russell latched onto the vision of his predecessor (Dr. Myers) and made Interactive Television a reality for distance learning.

When he looked at sister institutions to the east (Haywood Community College) and west (Tri-County Community College), he saw partners – not competitors – and helped form the Western Connection of Community Colleges (WC3).

And when he became aware of how many deserving young children might never have the opportunity for a college education, he worked with Dr. Charles McConnell – former Superintendent of Jackson County Schools – to found the New Century Scholars. That program has since helped hundreds of promising schoolchildren realize their potential through last-dollar tuition assistance.

"I always felt you could do more if you go outside your four walls and hook up with others," Dr. Russell said.

Since retiring as President of the South Carolina Technical College System (2006-10), he's moved to Whittier with his wife Drucilla and is pleased with the direction he sees SCC going.

"I feel enormous pride in every way," Dr. Russell said. "I'm proud to see how the College has grown and evolved. I wouldn't want it to be the SCC of 1995 or 1996. It's continued to grow and evolve, meeting the challenges of today. I'm proud to see what the leaders who followed me have taken and built SCC into."











Visionary
CECIL L. GROVES

Like people from other parts of the country, Dr. Cecil Groves had heard stereotypes of mountain folks. It didn't take the Texas native long to figure out those generalizations were flat wrong.

"The people in Western North Carolina, particularly in Southwestern's service area, are resilient and innovative both from an artistic and technological perspective," said Dr. Groves.

Through his 13 years at SCC, the man affectionately known as "Dr. G" tapped into that resourceful spirit while guiding SCC into another period of unprecedented growth and national recognition as a "College of Excellence." SCC expanded operations in Jackson and Swain Counties and established the Macon Campus, where the initial facility bears his name.

During Dr. Groves' presidency, SCC played a leadership role in helping provide far western North Carolina access to world-class fiber-optic broadband services comparable to that available in urban areas. This was done through a unique partnership between Drake Enterprises, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and SCC. Together they created a locally owned telecommunications company – BalsamWest FiberNET. This network now serves to advance the dreams of people Dr. Groves greatly admires.

"SCC has a history of caring deeply about the people it serves," Dr. Groves said. "Being geographically isolated, Southwestern's service area is a tightly knit society of family and friends who, by necessity, have worked together to survive. As a result, the focus is on family and friends nearby."

Dr. Groves traces the success of his tenure back to the cooperative atmosphere that existed both on SCC's Board of Trustees as well as the local governments throughout the College's service area. It also helped that Southwestern secured $20 million from outside sources for SCC and public schools through programs like Gear Up.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time there," said Dr. Groves, who now resides in Waco, Texas. "I'm very honored that I had the chance to serve at SCC."











Transition
RICHARD COLLINGS

For its fifth President, Southwestern Community College selected a seasoned administrator.

Dr. Richard Collings joined SCC with a distinguished career in academia. Prior to his arrival, he'd served as President of Wayne State College in Wayne, Neb., from 2004-2010.

He was previously Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Western Carolina University from 1996-2004.

Now retired, Dr. Collings resides in Webster.









Today's Leader
DON TOMAS

Southwestern Community College has made tremendous strides over the first three years of Dr. Don Tomas' tenure as President.

A master plan is now in place for expanding the Macon Campus.

More than $1.5 million in grant funding has been secured from the Golden LEAF Foundation and Duke Energy for starting a Mechatronics Engineering Technology program.

The Student Success Campaign, the most ambitious fundraising effort in College history, achieved the first phase of its goal by fully leveraging a federal challenge grant that matches the first $300,000 raised.

That means the campaign already has generated more than $600,000, putting the SCC Foundation well on its way to reaching a goal of setting up an endowment of more than $1 million to primarily be used for student scholarships.

Despite all those accomplishments, the aspect of Southwestern Community College that makes Dr. Tomas most proud is the overall passion that faculty, staff and administration have for helping students succeed.

"I have never been part of such a kind, caring and giving institution," Dr. Tomas said. "The faculty and staff give of their time. They care about their students, and they give of themselves to make sure our students are successful in their educational endeavors. When our students leave SCC, whether it be to transfer to a university or to be gainfully employed in the community, they're successful from Day One."



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"To see SCC's impact, all you have to do is go to local hospitals, law offices, restaurants and garages. Our graduates are everywhere, and they are vital to our communities' growth."

– W. Paul Holt, Jr.

A Founding Father
W. PAUL HOLT, JR.

For all but a few months of Southwestern's existence, W. Paul Holt, Jr., has contributed to the success of countless students by selflessly serving as a member of the Board of Trustees. The Holt Library on SCC's Jackson Campus bears his name.

A longtime Sylva attorney, Holt vividly recalls the College's humble roots as a satellite of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute and credits a long line of quality leaders who've made Southwestern the leading educational institution it is today.

"We are blessed and fortunate to have someone like Paul Holt who's been so devoted to our institution, basically from its inception," said Dr. Don Tomas, current President. "There's no way to place a value on the amount of time, energy and resources he's poured into Southwestern over the years."

Holt was asked in 2014 to envision what SCC might look like when it celebrates its 100th birthday in the 2064-65 academic year.

"Keeping up with the times is vital," Holt said. "It's such an important thing, especially in certain fields, to make sure instructors stay up with the modern, new developments. If Southwestern does that, 50 years from now I think it'll be sitting in the same position as right now: sitting on top of the world."





R. Paul Buchanan 1968-1969



James B. Childress 1968-1973



William B. Dillard, Chairman 1968-1982



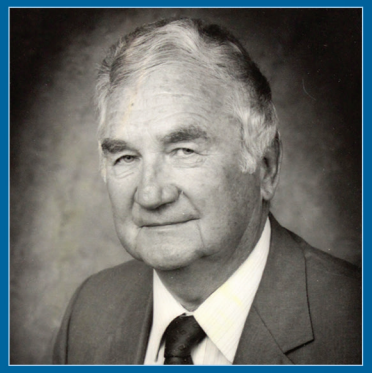
Paul Ellis 1968-1975



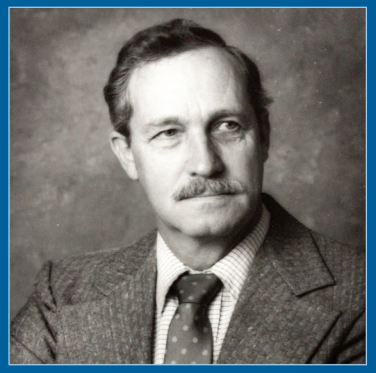
W. Paul Holt, Jr., 1968-Present



Walter Jackson 1968-1971



Oscar Ledford 1968-1975



Bruce MacMurray 1968-1973



Odell Shuler, Vice Chairman 1968-1979



Charles Siler Slagle 1968-1996



George J. Stewart 1968-1975



John Wikle 1968-1977

FOUNDING BOARD OF TRUSTEES


Terry Bell, Chairman


Conrad Burrell


Jeff Cloer


J. Vance Davidson


Dewayne Elders


John Herrin


W. Paul Holt, Jr.,
Vice Chairman


Jeremy Hyatt


Mark R. Jones

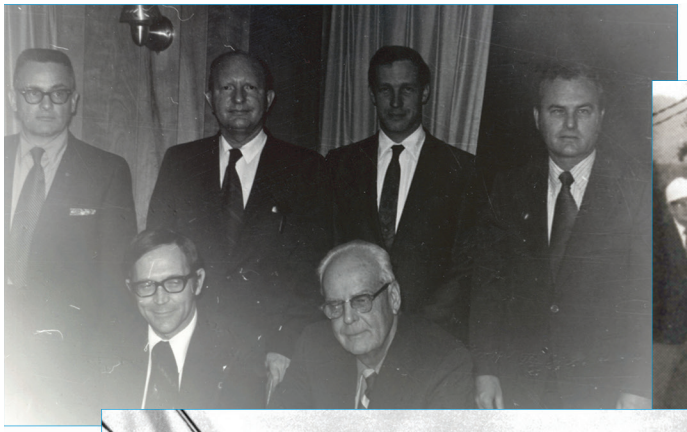

Elizabeth "Libby" Knight


Gary Shields


C. Jerry Sutton


Lambert G. Wilson

2014-2015 BOARD OF TRUSTEES





All-Time...





1960s

R. Paul Buchanan, 1/1968-9/1969
James B. Childress, 1/1968-7/1973
William B. Dillard, 1/1968-8/1982
Paul Ellis, 1/1968-2/1975
W. Paul Holt, Jr., 1/1968-1/1974, 5/1975-Present
Walter Jackson, 1/1968-4/1971
Oscar Ledford, 1/1968-6/1975
Bruce MacMurray, 1/1968-8/1973
Odell Shuler, 1/1968-8/1979
Charles Siler Slagle, 1/1968-7/1996
George J. Stewart, 1/1968-6/1975
John Wikle, 1/1968-11/1977
Carl Stanford, 9/1969-11/1979

1970s

Noah Powell, 4/1971-4/1973
Dortha McDonald, 7/1973-7/1981, 7/1990-6/1994
James Searcy, 8/1973-7/1981
Robert Carpenter, 9/1973-8/1993
James Kent Coward, 1/1974-8/1981
James Wilson, 9/1975-2/1980
Roberta Swank, 9/1975-6/1983
Jeanne Sneed, 11/1977-2/1992
Cecil Brooks, 8/1979-6/1987
Thomas L. Woodard, 12/1979-1/1982

1980s

William H. Smith, 4/1980-1/1999
Earl F. Hooper, 7/1981-6/1990, 7/1995-6/2010
Robert Blanton, 7/1981-9/1999
Hattie Morris, 8/1981-7/1990
Joseph Pachnowski, 3/1982-9/1983
Catherine H. Dillard, 8/1982-6/1995
Charles Jerry Sutton, 7/1983-Present
Talmadge Jones, 11/1983-6/1985
Calvin Myers, 7/1985-8/1990
Mary Jane Ferguson, 7/1987-6/1996

Trustees









1990s

William J. Cowan, 7/1990-7/1994
Judith Revis, 2/1991-8/1993
Orville Coward, Jr., 8/1991-8/1995
Delmar Robinson, 5/1992-1/1994
Thomas K. Jenkins, 8/1993-6/1997
Jean Douthit, 8/1993-4/1997
William J. Seel, 3/1994-6/1996
George Hooper, 7/1994-8/2002
Quayle Neslen, 7/1994-6/2010
Terry Bell, 7/1995-Present
Conrad Burrell, 7/1996-Present
Jan Unger, 7/1996-6/2004
Deborah Hyatt, 7/1996-6/1997
Harvey J. Hyatt, 8/1997-6/2009
Melvin P. Penland, 9/1997-6/2013
Kate Welch, 7/1997-6/2013
Ed Madden, 6/1999-3/2006
Carolyn Blanton, 9/1999-9/2002

2000s

Leon Jones, 8/2002-12/2005
Mary Jane Letts, 9/2002-6/2010
Bob Simpson, 7/2004-6/2009
Ed Madden, Jr., 4/2006-6/2007
Brian McMahan, 7/2006-6/2010
William Shelton, 7/2007-6/2011
Lambert Wilson, 7/2009-Present
Charles Leatherman, 7/2009-6/2011

2010s

Vance Davidson, 7/2010-Present
Libby Knight, 7/2010-Present
Brenda Oocumma, 8/2010-6/2014
Tracie Rice, 7/2010-6/2014
Dewayne Elders, 7/2011-Present
Gary Shields, 8/2011-Present
Jeffrey Cloer, 10/2013-Present
John Herrin, 7/2013-Present
Mark Jones, 7/2014-Present
Jeremy Hyatt, 10/2014-Present



1960s

"When I came here, I was just 18 years old. I remember it being so small compared to now. So few people."

- Bobby Parris

First Graduate
BOBBY PARRIS

Five tiny graphics, each representing one of Southwestern's earliest programs, are highlighted in the center of the first diplomas ever awarded by this institution.

The College's original name surrounds a carpenter's hammer, a mason's trowel, an automotive gear, a radio/television microphone and a bookkeeper's ledger.

The second of those is what Bobby Parris learned how to use in the College's very first quarter, back when Southwestern was known as the Jackson County Industrial Education Center – a satellite of A-B Tech.

"We had some classroom time in the Brick Masonry program," Parris recalled. "We did a lot of math, estimation and blueprint reading. But a lot of it was in the shop."

In just under a year, Parris was awarded one of those inaugural diplomas and entered the workforce. He never forgot this institution, though, and later came back to work at Southwestern on the maintenance crew – eventually retiring as a supervisor.

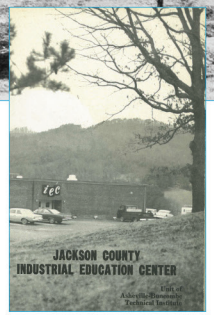
"It's a wonderful place," Parris said in 2014. "I'm just so amazed at the way it's grown. We've had a lot of great leaders over the years."



THIS IS JACKSON CO NTY INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION Center's first full-fledged graduating class. The graduates, listed alphabetically, in automotive mechanics are Dee McMahan, Charles Morgan, Scott Pressley, Ronald Tucker; in business, Emily Ashe, Mozelle Ashe, Barbara Brown, Johnny Buchanan, Myrtice Buchanan, Paul E. Cowan, Jr., Louise C. Darnell, Mary Jo Gibson, Linda K. Mills, Rachel Wilson; in carpentry and cabinet making, Danny Mills, Ronnie Sitton, William Harrel Taylor; in brick and block masonry, Joe B. Brooks, Ralph Olin Clayton, Donald Hooper, Bobby Parris, Charles E. Reed and James Freddie Sutton.—Herald Photo.











September 1963
Jackson County furnished 17-acre site for a technical school. Construction of first building began.

June 1, 1964
Edward E. Bryson appointed Resident Director of Jackson County Industrial Education Center, a satellite of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute.

December 1, 1964
JCIEC opened with 60 students enrolled in full-time classes and 133 in short-term classes.

Late 1965
First building, Vocational Building (now Founders Hall) completed.













February 25, 1966
Commencement exercises held for 23 students of Class of 1966 at National Guard Armory.

September 5, 1967
Institution became independent school. It was decided the College would also serve Macon and Swain Counties, and the name was changed to Southwestern Technical Institute.

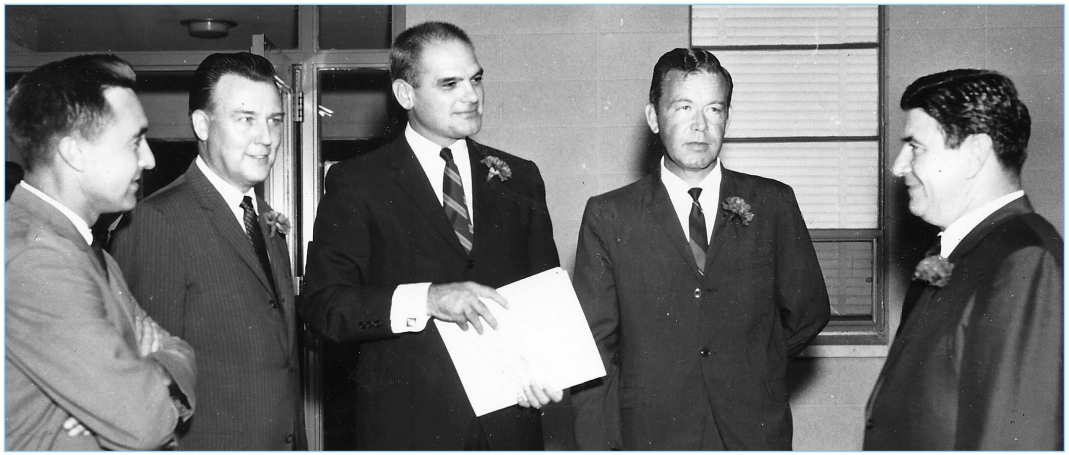
January 2, 1968
STI began classes as an independent unit of the N.C. Department of Community Colleges.

January 22, 1968
First meeting of the Board of Trustees.

1969
STI became the regional GED® testing center.

Long before community was incorporated into the name, a spirit of partnership and mutual effort fostered the development of Southwestern Community College.

William B. Dillard, Paul Buchanan and James Searcy were among the many community leaders who were instrumental in securing initial funding to support instructional programs and begin construction of the Jackson County Industrial Education Center (IEC).



As plans were being formulated in Jackson County, the State Board of Education began negotiations with the General Assembly to have funds designated for a state-wide system of technical schools. However, before the General Assembly took action, State Representative Lacy Thornburg, a Jackson County native, met with members of the Jackson County Board of Education to brief them on the pending legislation.

Board members passed a motion to make formal application for a training school and designated E.E. (Ed) Bryson, Supervisor of Jackson County Elementary Schools, to begin the application process.

The first step in the process was to conduct a survey of the entire geographical area of Jackson, Macon, Swain – and parts of Haywood – Counties. Results of the survey indicated a need for training in four areas: Automotive Mechanics, Carpentry, Masonry and Radio/Television Servicing.

In August 1963, the State Board of Education granted approval for the IEC. Approval for a building site on a 17-acre tract of land known as the County Home property located on Webster Road was granted by Jackson County in September 1963. Anxious to get things finalized, Buchanan (Superintendent of Jackson County Public Schools) and Dillard (a member of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and owner of the county's largest construction company) traveled to Raleigh in the fall of 1963 to meet with state officials. Before work began at the building site, Searcy worked with students in the basement of Scotts Creek School teaching them to use a trowel and other basic skills. According to Searcy, the project was so "hush – hush" that no one knew what was really going on except him and Dillard. In making his plans, Dillard had traveled to Georgia and other areas to look at trade schools.

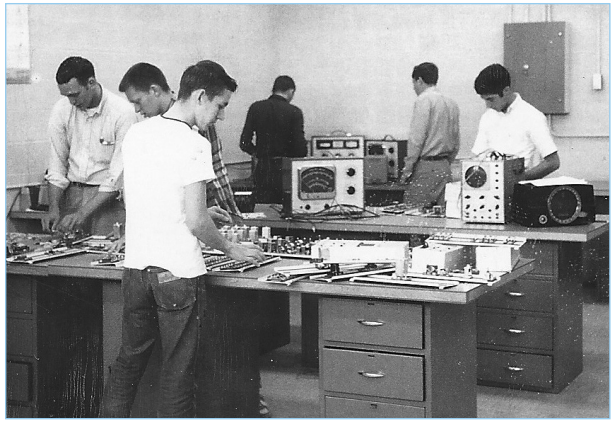
By the time the 12 male students (Lloyd Coggins, Jr., L.C. Mathis, Claude Buchanan, Fred L. Houston, Jr., Eddie A. Bradley, David L. Dillard, Johnny Childers, Ray T. Franklin, Everett Cucumber, Russell Walkingstick, William L. Rickman and William P. Melton) completed their course of study, they had completed 90% of the block work on the building. They were recognized by Dillard as "pioneers" at a graduation banquet held on May 3, 1964 at the Parkway Restaurant in Sylva.

On June 1, 1964, Bryson was appointed the IEC's Resident Director. With construction still underway, Bryson and his Secretary, Peggy Dillard (later became Gates), decided to move into the college's first building in November of 1964.

On Dec. 1, 1964, IEC officially opened with 60 full-time students and 133 students registered for short-term courses. Work continued on the building until its completion in late 1965. Jim Searcy's second Masonry class completed the remaining block work and Ed Ulsenheimer's class did most of the carpentry work.



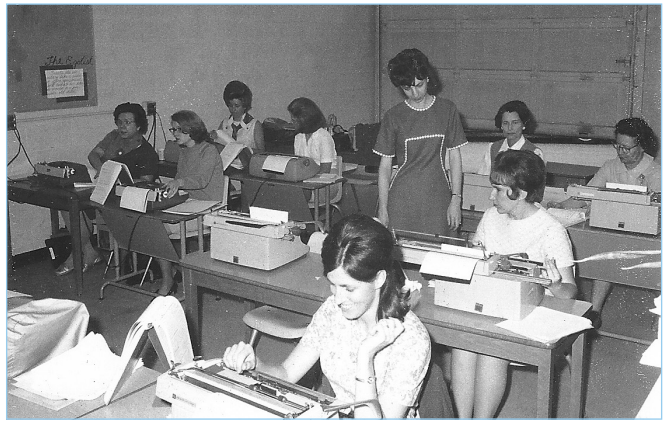
The first four programs of study were: Automotive Mechanics; Carpentry and Cabinet Making; Block and Brick Masonry; and Radio and Television Servicing. Joining Searcy as the first instructors hired were: Andy Anderson (Automotive), Doyle Henson (Radio/TV) and Ulsenheimer (Carpentry).



Within the first year of operation, programs of study at the IEC were expanded to include Secretary-Stenographer and Mechanical Drafting.

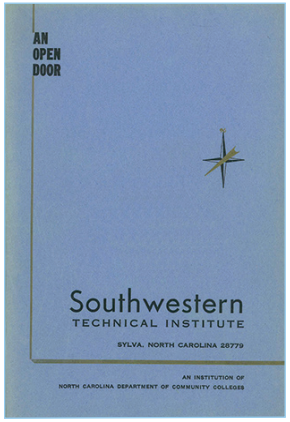
In 1966, Business Administration was added as the first program to award an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree.

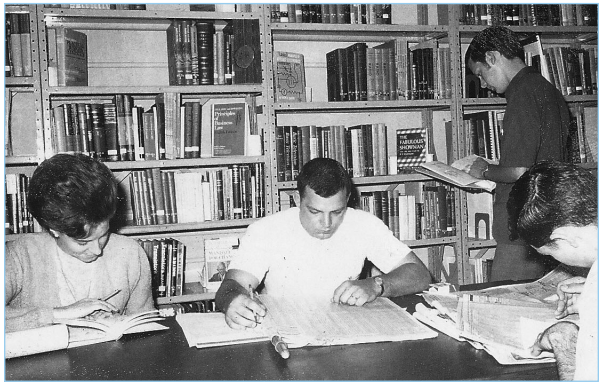
In June 1966, Richard O. Wilson was employed as Director of Adult Education. He was given all Student Services responsibilities in addition to managing Extension and Adult Basic Education classes.



In mid-1967, Practical Nurse Education was added as a program in the school of vocations. Graduates of the program earned their LPN credentials by passing a state-licensing exam.

On Aug. 26, 1967, Jackson County voters paved the way for the IEC to become a technical institute when they approved a five-cent tax to support the school. Voters also approved the issuance of up to $200,000 in bonds for a new building.





When Doris Beck was hired as the first Librarian in January 1968, she learned that the original collection of 79 textbooks had been purchased in 1965.

Programs of study in the School of Technologies were expanded to include Accounting, Executive Secretarial, Legal Secretarial, Medical Secretarial, Commercial Art and Law Enforcement.

In 1969, the school was approved as a General Education Development (GED®) testing center. A Business Office was created, and Winfred Ashe was appointed to serve as Business Manager for the institution. Prior to Ashe's appointment, Joy McCollum had served as the IEC's first Bookkeeper.



Among the first staff members Wilson employed were Registrar David McClure; Financial Aid Officer Jennie Lamb; Secretaries Martha Robinson and Norma Bowen; and Assistant Director of Student Services Grady Corbin.



1970s

"I'm proud of the college. I was a student here. I was employed here. I met my wife here as a student, so Southwestern's always meant a lot to me."

– George Stanley

Lifelong Impact
GEORGE STANLEY

As George Stanley was wrapping up his high school education, Richard Wilson - a recruiter representing Southwestern Technical Institute – visited Glenville High and quickly got Stanley's attention.

He enrolled at STI that fall (1969), starting an association that would span five decades. He earned his associate degree in Business Administration in 1970 and was hired immediately after graduation by Winfred Ashe, then Southwestern's Business Manager.

"You could tell right away George was going to be a good one," Ashe recalled. "He was always my right-hand man."

Stanley went on to complete his Master's degree at WCU, and he worked for every President in Southwestern's history up to and including Dr. Tomas. During the tenure of Dr. Cecil Groves, Stanley "retired" as full-time Vice President for Administrative Services, but he remained on staff until 2012 as a Project Manager.

Stanley saw the College grow from a one-building structure and played a key role in helping Southwestern evolve into a leading educational institution operating out of more than a dozen facilities throughout the region.

A few years ago, someone in Southwestern's Human Resources department was searching for Stanley's job application. The search proved fruitless.

"I never applied for a job," Stanley said in 2014. "Winfred Ashe hired me right out of college and I was fortunate enough to stay here and work here all those years."

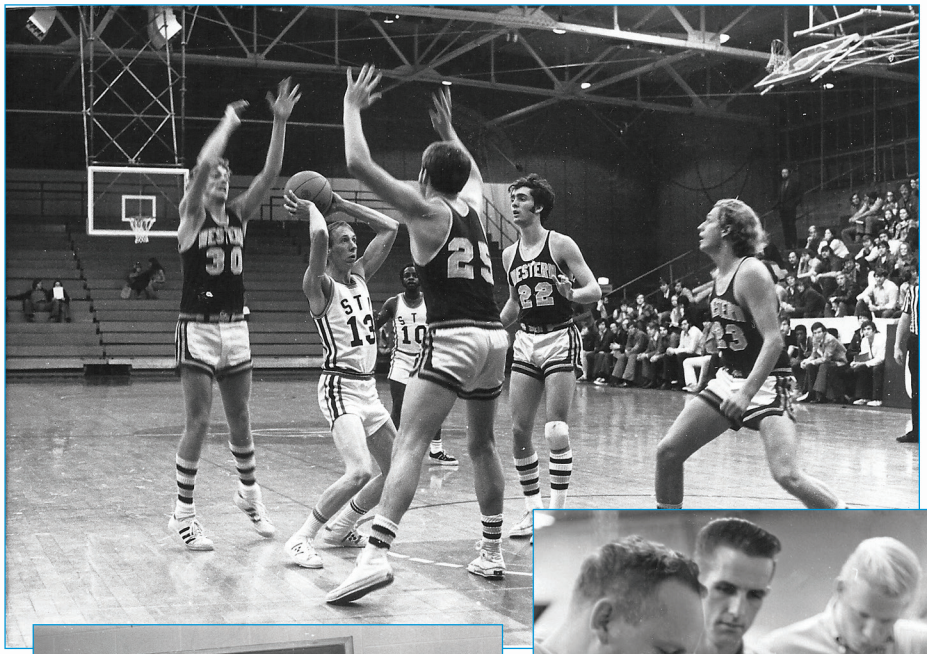




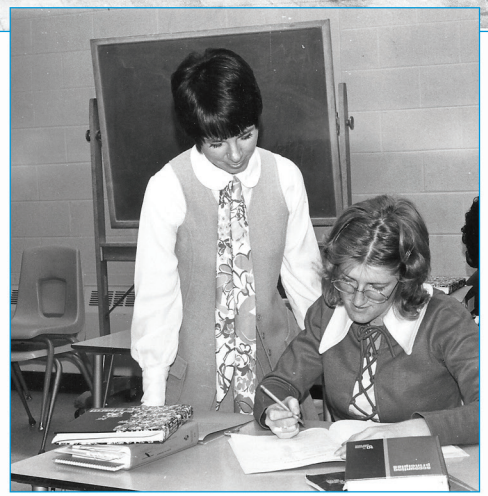
September 1, 1970
Technical Building (now Oaks Hall) completed.

December 1971
Southwestern received accreditation from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

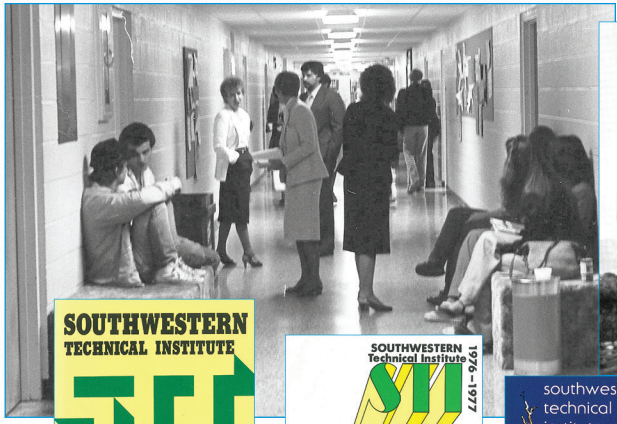
1973
Foundation incorporated.





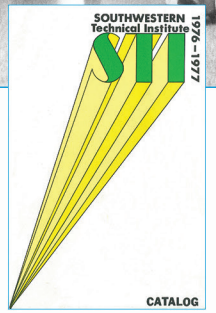


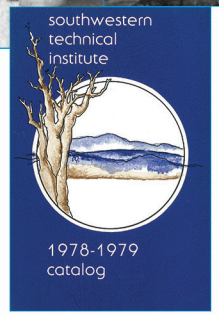












1974
Services Building (now Bradford Hall) and Carpentry Building (now Maintenance Building) completed.

May 30, 1974
First on-campus commencement ceremony held.

1976
Job Placement Office established at Jackson Campus.

1979
STI became STC.

Remodeling of the former Learning Laboratory space in the Vocational Building for the Cosmetology Lab brought a new look to the building.

The 27,000-square-foot Technical Building (originally known as "B" Building) was completed in 1970. Administrative offices were moved to the new building, which also contained additional classrooms, the Library and Learning Center as well as an Instructional Laboratory and darkroom for the Commercial Art program.



By the time the move was made to the second floor of the Technical Building, the library collection consisted of more than 3,100 volumes, 163 magazines and 10 newspapers.

In January 1970, the Student Government Association was formed, and the first SGA constitution was approved. Members were President Larry Kennedy; Vice President Connie Lunsford; Justice Lynn Henson; Secretary Pat Tippett; Justice Jim Fulton; and Reporter Carolyn Poindexter.

A Faculty Senate was organized in the spring of 1970. Jim Searcy and Sybil Reed were elected as the first President and Secretary.



The Secretarial Club was one of the first curriculum-based clubs to be organized with Carol Martin as the Faculty Advisor.

A yearbook known as the "Open Door" was first published in 1971 and continued to be produced annually through 1981.

The process to acquire accreditation by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS) began in 1970. After two on-site visits by SACS team members, STI received its initial five-year accreditation in December 1971.

Fire Service Training and Basic Peace Officer training were some of the first areas of instruction in Occupational Extension.

Interest in Culinary Training was generated in the early 1970s when Mrs. Ruby Bumgarner was employed to provide training to a group of Manpower Development Training Act (MDTA) students. Owner and operator of a popular local eating establishment known as Sunset Farms, Mrs. Bumgarner taught the cooking classes at the Greystone Inn in Dillsboro.

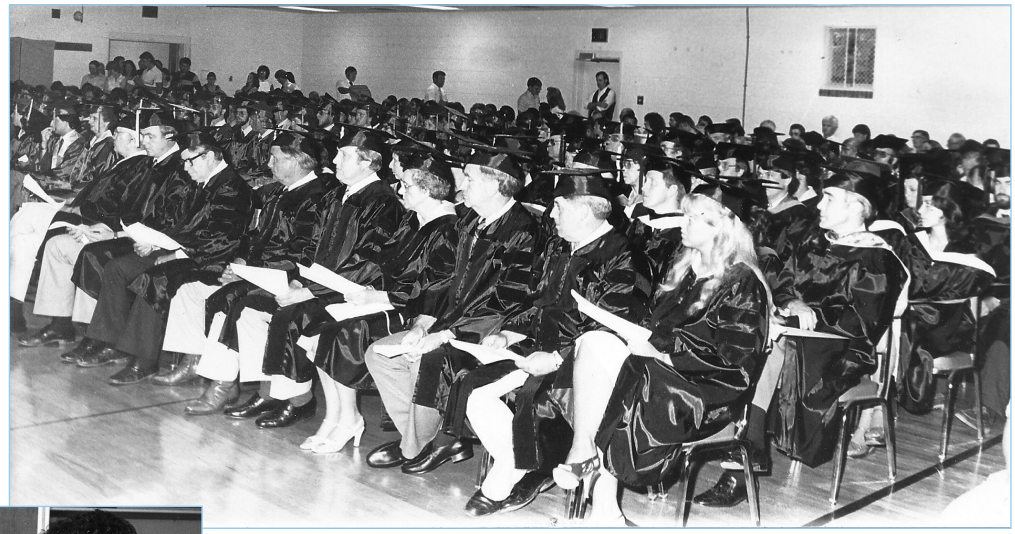
Related Studies instructor Lillian Hurt was appointed by President Bryson to create a news bureau. Having previously worked in public information at Western Carolina University, Hurt had the necessary experience to organize and run the school's first Public Information operation.

Sports were an integral part of campus life at STI. The men's basketball team played an active schedule with Haywood Tech, A-B Tech, Blanton's Business College and other area colleges until the mid-70s. Originally called the Tanglers, the team later became known as the STI Raiders and played in the Jackson County Recreation Department league. Jimmy and Frank Bryson and other high school standouts played on the Raiders team in 1973 after graduating from local high schools.

Bradford Hall (originally known as the Services Building) and the Carpentry Building (now the Maintenance Building) were completed

in 1974. Consisting of 19,366 square feet, Bradford Hall contained an auditorium, kitchen and dining room as well as offices and classrooms.

A capacity crowd filled the second-floor auditorium to participate in dedication ceremonies, which were held in conjunction with August 1974 commencement exercises. Among the invited guests were many state and local officials, including Department of Community Colleges President Bob Scott. J.D. Foust of Raleigh, Chief of Program Coordination for the Office of Inter-Government Affairs, delivered the commencement/dedicatory address. Ralph C. Sutton of Sylva, retired State Coordinator for the Appalachian Regional Commission, was given special recognition for his efforts in obtaining funds for the building and for a new access road.



Staffed by Norman Gilbert and one Clerical Assistant, Southwestern opened its first office in Macon County inside the courthouse in 1974. The operation was later moved to a small rock house in Franklin.





With the addition of the Services Building auditorium, special functions such as commencement exercises (previously conducted at Sylva-Webster High School) could be held on campus. On May 30, 1974, the new auditorium was the site of the first on-campus commencement ceremony.

In 1975, the new 3,010-square-foot Carpentry Building was constructed by students enrolled in various trades programs and their respective instructors.

Following the completion of another comprehensive self-study, a 10-year accreditation was granted by SACS in 1976. Director of Occupational Education Sybil Reed directed the study and was commended by the visiting committee for her exemplary work.

Added to the program offerings in 1978, Solar Energy Mechanics and Alternate Energy Technology were early examples of areas of specialized study.

To symbolize the College's three-county service area, plans were also made to build a three-column brick structure to replace the original wooden sign marking the entrance to campus.



1980s

"Any service the communities need, we're always there to lend a hand and be a part of that community because community is our middle name."

- Curtis Dowdle

Public Safety Servant

CURTIS DOWDLE

Curtis Dowdle and the College have a lot in common because, as he put it, "we both began in 1964."

A Macon County native, Dowdle has grown with SCC. He went through SCC's Basic Law Enforcement Training in 1984 and has served professionally in all the arms of public safety (law enforcement, fire-fighting and emergency medicine).

He joined Southwestern's Public Safety Training team in the early 1990s and is now SCC's Dean of Public Safety Training.

Over the years, he's watched – and been a part of – Southwestern's tremendous growth and expansion. Today, research shows more than 95 percent of the region's public safety professionals get their training from SCC.

"We are a part of the community," Dowdle said. "So we have a major stake in the training we provide. The people we are training are going to ultimately be protecting the communities in which we live. One of these days, the public safety professionals who respond to a call and rescue my family or yours from a dangerous situation will have received their training here. So we want it to be the best training we can possibly provide."











February 1983
Learning Resources Center (now Holt Library) completed.

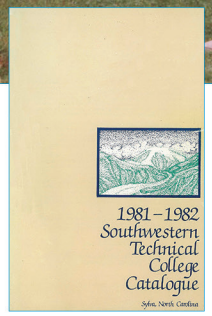
October 1984
Trades Center (now The Summit) completed.

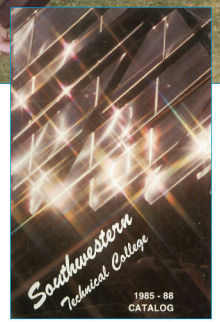
Academic Olympics brought huge crowds of area high school students to campus.

Spring 1987
SCC Macon Center (now PSTC) opened.









SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



1988
Swain Center opened in Bryson City.

STC changed name to Southwestern Community College.

October 1, 1988
$3.5 million WNC Regional Allied Health and Geriatric Training Center (now Balsam Center) dedicated.

April 1989
College opened Child Care Center in what is now Oaks Hall.

On Nov. 30, 1980, Ed Bryson submitted his resignation as President along with the following statement: "My tenure at STC has been long and rewarding. The Trustees, Faculty and Staff have all performed at a high level and have supported the progress of the institution in a splendid way. The future of the institution is indeed bright and the contributions of STC to this region will be significant."

Dean of Instruction Don Irwin served as Interim President through June 1981.

Following an extensive national search by the STC Board of Trustees, Dr. Norman K. Myers began his duties as the College's second President on July 1, 1981. Myers came to STC from Pratt Community College in Pratt, Kan., where he had served a seven-year term as President.

During the first year of his presidency, Myers hosted numerous events on the STC campus to meet other regional educators and key figures within the community.

In February 1981, storyteller Louise Anderson came to Southwestern as part of the Visiting Artist Program. A cooperative program between the N.C. Arts Council and the Department of Community Colleges, the program was designed to bring a variety of art forms to the local communities. Other artists who served a one-year residency at STC were singer/musician Jan Davidson in 1982 and operatic tenor Stephen Ward Hamilton in 1983. Hamilton directed and participated in four dinner/musical entertainment programs that drew capacity crowds to the campus.



In 1982, construction began on two new buildings: the Learning Resources Center (now Holt Library) and the Trades Center (now The Summit).

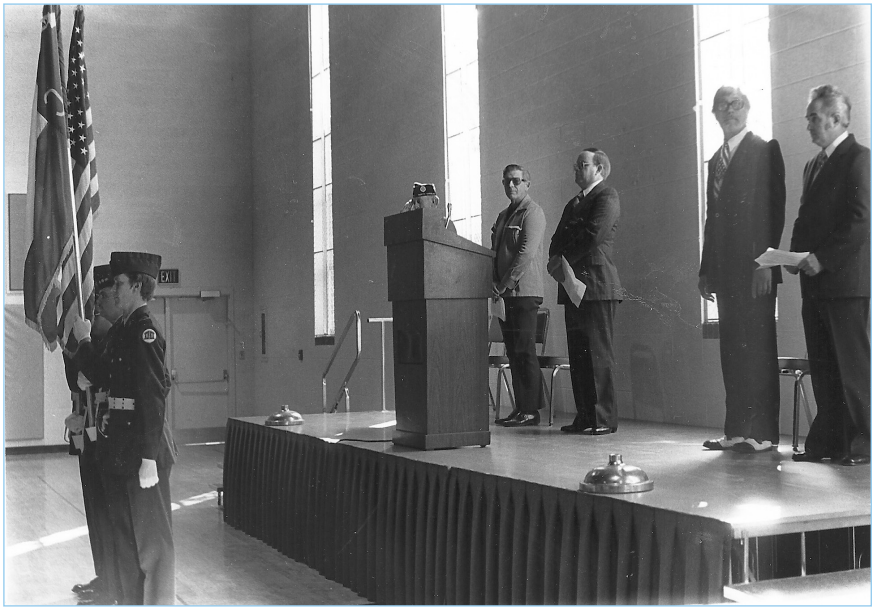
Containing 11,319 square feet, the LRC was dedicated on April 30, 1983, with Governor James B. Hunt delivering the dedicatory address. Former President Ed Bryson was invited to participate in the ceremonies.



Completed and occupied in October 1984, the Trades Center initially housed the Carpentry, Masonry, Plumbing, Welding, Light Construction and Alternative Energy Instructional programs. Much of the construction cost for the building was deferred because students in the trades classes did most of the interior work.

Installed in fall 1984, STC's PRIME 2550 computer system was the first to be put into operation in North Carolina in either education or industry.

An active proponent of civic activities, Dr. Myers initiated annual Veterans Day programs on the Jackson Campus. These events were well attended by local residents and retired military personnel.





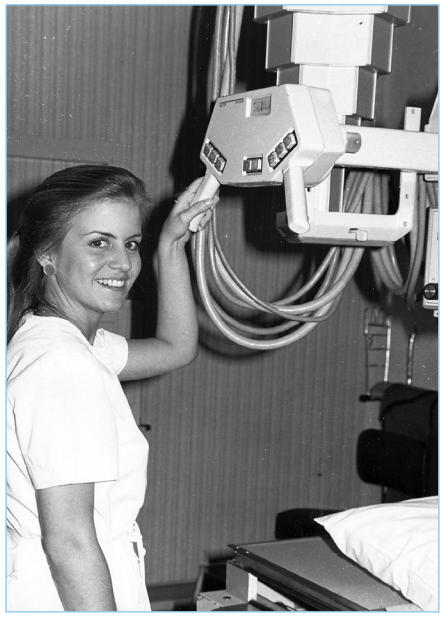




A third self-study was initiated in late 1984 under the direction of Carol Martin. In 1986, Southwestern was granted a second 10-year reaccreditation by SACS.

As the College entered its 23rd year of operation in 1987, work was completed on the Western North Carolina Regional Allied Health and Geriatric Training Center (now the Balsam Center).

Built at a cost of $3.5 million, the center contains 74,000 square feet on three floors and has an auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,153.



Dedicated on Oct. 1, 1988, the building was a reflection of the College's commitment to provide relevant career training for the residents of Western North Carolina. The Honorable Lacy Thornburg, Attorney General of North Carolina, was the dedicatory speaker.

Radiologic Technology Curriculum Head Gene Couch was selected to head up the new division and charged with the task of conducting employer surveys and needs assessments to identify specific training needs.

By 1989, the Allied Health Division listed 10 programs of study, including: Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology, Physical Therapist Assistant, Geriatric Assistant and Electroneurodiagnostics.



An important link to SCC's commitment to economic development in the region, the SCC Small Business Center opened in fall 1988 under the direction of Harrietta "Hank" Shuler.

The first annual Excellence in Education Awards were presented in 1988 to Jean Magers, Assistant Dean of Admissions, and John Riley, instructor and Director of the SCC Public Safety Center.



1990s

"Helping students succeed and reach their goals has always been the focus."
- Richard Wilson

Students First
RICHARD WILSON

A few weeks before Southwestern celebrated its 50th anniversary, a silver-haired man walked through the front doors of Oaks Hall.

From her desk nearby, Cheryl Contino-Conner – then-SCC's Executive Director of Student Success – rushed to the lobby.

"Are you Richard Wilson?" Contino-Conner asked, out-of-breath like a teenage girl meeting a rock god.

The embarrassed man nodded his head humbly.

"You are a legend around here!" Contino-Conner gushed. "They say you wrote the book on Student Services. I heard that you would walk out of a meeting if a student was in need. Is that true? Tell me about how you did things. I want to learn from you."



Contino-Conner stood like a sponge, eager to absorb any word of wisdom the College's first Director of Student Services might be willing to share. In the spring of 2015, she replaced Dr. Phil Weast as Dean of Students. That's essentially the same role from which Wilson retired in 1990.



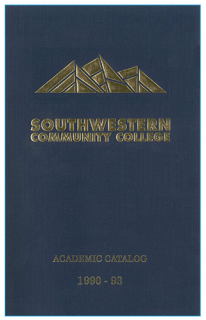
Humble to a fault, Mr. Wilson quietly downplayed his time at Southwestern but gave Contino-Conner his number and promised to take her calls if ever she has a question or needs advice. He then politely took his leave.

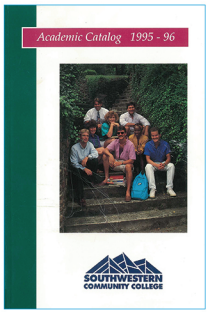
Clearly, though, the impact of his career remains alive and well at the College he served for nearly a quarter century.

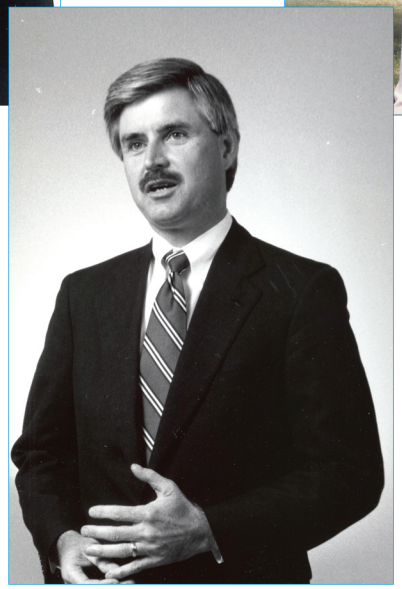














1990
SCC Regional Fire and Rescue Training Center opened, later becoming the Public Safety Training Center.

1991
Dr. Barry W. Russell named SCC's third President.

1993
The SCC Foundation raised more than $10,000 through the Fall Foursome Golf Tournament for the scholarship fund.

1994
Establishment of the New Century Scholars program, through which a group of sixth-grade students who meet requirements are guaranteed full-tuition support to attend SCC when they graduate from high school.

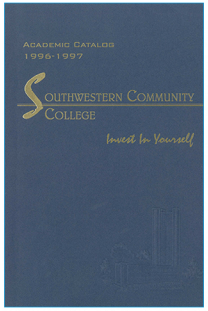
Community Link, a fully interactive television system linking educational sites in Western North Carolina, became operational.

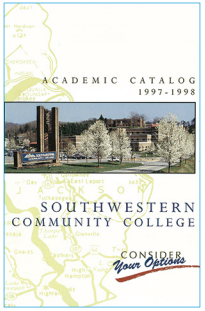
Regional Law Enforcement Center established in Macon County.

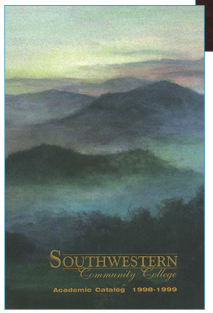












SOUTHWESTERN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1995
SCC was one of 15 community colleges nationwide to receive a David Pierce Quality Organizational Leadership Award.

1996
Swain Center was relocated to the old Almond School Building located five miles west of Bryson City. The old school was extensively renovated and dedicated as the Southwestern Community College Swain Center.

1997
SCC converted from the quarter system to the semester system.

On June 1, Dr. Cecil L. Groves of Waco, Texas, began his duties as SCC President.

In September 1990, Dr. Norman Myers announced his intent to leave SCC, effective Jan. 2, 1991, to become the founding President of Ozarks Technical College in Springfield, Mo.

In October 1990, Dr. Myers designated James E. Campbell, Executive Dean of Instructional Services, to be Acting President. Campbell was responsible for, as Dr. Myers would later put it, "dragging us kicking and screaming into the computer age. He really had a vision for how computers would impact the future, and he had a lot to do with keeping Southwestern ahead of the curve."

Later in the 1990s, Campbell became Vice President for Information Technology and went on to become a key leader in the effort to bring fiber-optic broadband service to the region.

In December 1990, the SCC Board of Trustees voted to employ the Association of Community College Trustees to conduct the preliminary phases of the presidential search process. During the same meeting, they also approved the appointment of Mr. Joseph Nanney, retired President of Haywood Community College in Clyde, as Interim President effective Jan. 3, 1991.

On May 1, 1991, Dr. Barry W. Russell of Greenwood, S.C. assumed his duties as SCC's third President.

Prior to his appointment at SCC, Russell had served in several administrative positions at Piedmont Technical College, including Director of Planning, Dean of Continuing Education, Director of Admissions and Vice President of Educational affairs.



One of the most scenic spots on the Jackson Campus, the Gazebo/ Outdoor Student Activity Center, was constructed in 1992 by the SCC maintenance staff. The cost of the project was shared by the College, the Student Government Association and the SCC Foundation.



In 1994, the College showcased a new, state-of-the-art-computer lab complex in what is now Founders Hall in a space previously occupied by the Automotive Technology program. The 10,500-square-foot facility housed over 125 personal computers linked to a Digital Vax Network and also provided open lab space for students.

1994 also brought major changes to automotive instruction with the renovation of space in what is now The Summit for a modern technology-oriented facility featuring the latest diagnostic equipment.



In addition, the course of study was upgraded to a degree program in Automotive Technology.

Quest for Quality, an internal improvement process initiated by Dr. Russell in 1994, resulted in the formation of cross-functional work teams to study and evaluate the effectiveness of critical services such as admissions, registration and bookstore operations.

Community Link, an interactive television system linking 12 educational sites in Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties through fiber-optic cable, became operational on Feb. 26, 1994.

In September 1994, the Regional Law Enforcement Center was also established in Macon County at the site of the modern-day Public Safety Training Center (PSTC).

In 1995, the North Carolina Community College System began a two-year "reengineering" process. Designed to revamp the way students receive their education and make community colleges more responsive to the needs of employers, reengineering constituted the first phase of the semester conversion process.

SCC instructors Mary Hartman and Kirk Stephens joined forces with more than 1,000 other NCCCS faculty members to evaluate and update course work and, in many cases, change the name of their programs of study to better indicate the career field. For example, Microcomputer Systems Technology became Information Systems; Commercial Art became Advertising and Graphic Design; and Radiologic Technology became Radiography.

In July 1995, the College began its 10-year SACS reaccreditation process. Gene Couch was appointed to chair the Steering Committee. SCC was also selected to participate in a strategic model for Alternative Self-Study. Renee Cohen was appointed to chair that group, and Jean Ellen Forrister served as the writer.

A then-record enrollment of 1,735 students was achieved for fall quarter 1996. Director of Admissions Myrna Campbell noted that the recruitment of displaced workers by Admissions Officer Debbie Hays and Career Center Director Shirley Kool was a significant factor.

In December 1996, Dr. Barry Russell left SCC to become Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the North Carolina Community College System.

In January 1997, Mr. Harvey Haynes, former President of A-B Tech, was appointed by the SCC Board of Trustees to serve as Interim President.

On June 1, 1997, Dr. Cecil L. Groves of Waco, Texas, began his duties as SCC President. An experienced administrator, Dr. Groves had served as Chancellor of the Texas State Technical College System from 1989 until his retirement in 1996.

In the summer of 1998, SCC graduate Michael M. Rogers enhanced the College's marketing efforts by designing a new logo. A nationally published artist, Rogers graduated from the Commercial Art program in 1979.



In 1999, the Macon County Center on Armory Road was converted to the PSTC, and the original center operation moved to a renovated facility known as the Courthouse Annex in downtown Franklin. An open house celebration was held in March 2000 to showcase the new center.





2000s

"(SCC is) an incubator to the region by putting those experienced and specialized individuals out in the workforce."

- Chief Hicks

Distinguished Alumnus

CHIEF MICHELL HICKS

As Principal Chief for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Michell Hicks appreciates the impact Southwestern Community College has on the region.

As an SCC graduate, Chief Hicks has a personal understanding of how the College can change lives.

"I've used two of the educational institutions in Western North Carolina to get me where I'm at," he recalled in 2014. "I started at Western Carolina and got a (Bachelor's) degree in Business Management. As I came out of school, I started working for the tribe and kind of got tossed into the accounting/finance field.

"It's an area that I really like," he continued. "I realized I wanted to be a CPA (Certified Public Accountant), so I went to SCC, took a number of credit hours and got my degree. I sat for the CPA exam and was successful.

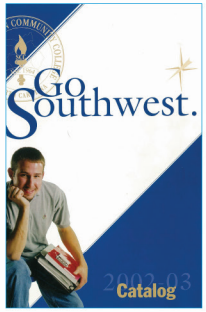
"(SCC) really boosted my career in regards to my expertise and in regards to not only working for the tribe but I also worked for a firm in Manhattan for about six years," added Hicks, who in 2005 was named National Community College Alumnus of the Year.

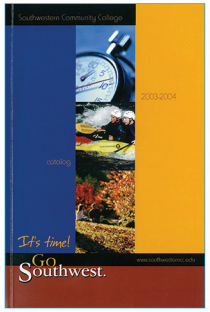
From the time he was first elected to his current office in 2003, he's become keenly aware of how SCC benefits the area.

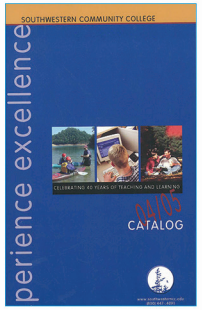
"One of the things I really appreciate about SCC is they've tried to match their curriculum to the needs of our tribe," Chief Hicks said. "I think that's probably been the most promising thing to come out of our relationship: our ability to communicate."















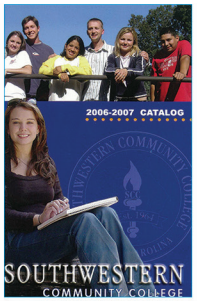
2001
The single-largest donation made to the College ($338,641) was left by Pamala Shirley, a student who passed away after suffering a heart attack in class in 2000.

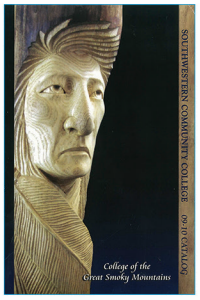
2002
A driving range project that began in 1988 was completed, making the Public Safety Training Center a full-service facility.

2005
Ground broken for the new SCC Macon Campus.

SCC graduate Michell Hicks, Principal Chief of the EBCI, named National Community College Alumnus of the Year.















2006
Macon Early College was established.

2007
SCC and Western Carolina University signed an agreement on April 23 for a new partnership that helps students who are not quite ready for college-level courses at Western to prepare for full admittance.

SCC was ranked No. 4 among the nation's community colleges, according to *Washington Monthly*.

2009
Public Safety Training Center named after Jerry Sutton, seven-time Chairman of SCC's Board of Trustees.



The millennium dawned with a major development in SCC's history: Macon County's Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of 50 acres of land for SCC to build its Macon Campus on Siler Road along the Little Tennessee River in Franklin. Funding came from the 2000 Higher Education Bond Referendum and matching funds from Macon County.



Those developments laid the groundwork for SCC's permanent expansion into Macon County before the end of the decade.



Also in 2000, the College received $10.4 million from state bond referendum funds.

The nation's first degree program in Cyber Crime was approved for SCC in 2001.

That same year, Ducks on the Tuck was established as an annual fundraiser for the New Century Scholars. The event was held in Jackson County every year until its first foray into neighboring Swain County in 2014. It's the single-largest source of funding for each county's next generation of New Century Scholars.

In 2002, the Golden LEAF Foundation gave SCC $75,000 to attract new-technology businesses to the area and to help existing businesses broaden their markets through E-Commerce.



One of Dr. Groves' ongoing campaigns reached a milestone when SCC partnered with Drake Enterprises and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians (EBCI) to form BalsamWest FiberNET.

Southwestern celebrated its 40th year (2004) with record enrollment: 2,012 students registered that fall. Another record – this one a cash endowment ($100,000) – was also made that year for the Don and Bertha Craig Memorial Scholarship. It was a historic year in another way too: the first 11 New Century Scholars graduated from Southwestern.



Performance measures from 2003-04 recognized SCC as one of four community colleges across the state to have 100 percent of its College Transfer graduates experience success at the university level.

In 2005, extensive work was done on SCC's hiking trail.

In 2006, Macon Early College was established. It is housed at SCC's Macon Campus. Also that year, Southwestern partnered with the EBCI and WCU to offer an Associate in Arts degree.

The Groves Center and Macon Campus opened in 2007, and two degree programs were added: Medical Assisting and Civil Engineering Technology.



The next year, Dr. Groves was presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine – the highest civilian honor granted in North Carolina. And SCC's library was named in honor of longtime Trustee Paul Holt, one of the College's founding fathers.

Another founding Trustee was honored in 2009 when the building housing Macon Early College was named for the late Oscar Ledford. And the Public Safety Training Center in Macon County was renamed in honor of Jerry Sutton, who served numerous terms as Chairman of SCC's Board of Trustees.





2010s

"Even as the College grew and more programs were added at the Macon Campus, it never lost that feeling of being a family. As it grew, if anything, I felt even more connected."

- Emily Ritter

Early Success
EMILY RITTER

As a 12-year-old walking into her first college-level class, Emily Ritter had every reason to feel a little nervous.

Considering the course was on Self-Defense, the Macon Early College student's anxiety level was at a peak.

"That was intimidating in itself," Ritter recalled in 2014. "I knew it would be difficult because it wasn't just a normal high school class. I expected the instructor to basically cover the course material, and that it would be up to us to figure things out.

"But it turned out to be really rewarding," Ritter continued. "The class was very small, and very hands-on. The instructor always made sure we understood everything. It wasn't what I expected at all. He was there to teach us life skills, and he cared about us. That was exactly what I saw throughout my time at SCC. All the faculty care about you and want to help you succeed."

And succeed Ritter has. By the time she earned her high school diploma in 2014 at age 17, she already had two years of college credit in her pocket. As an 18-year-old at WCU, she said SCC had her feeling ahead of the game even though she was at least two years younger than the typical college junior.

Her education at SCC through the Macon Early College is a gift she never took for granted.

"I knew I was awarded a wonderful opportunity to get started on my college education at a low cost to myself and my parents," Ritter said. "I knew someone was paying for me to be there. Someone believed in me enough to do that, so I needed to take it seriously. This person gave me a chance to be something, and my job is to not let that gift go to waste."

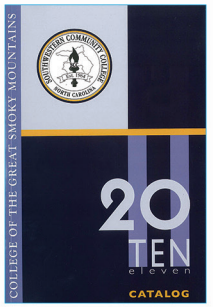


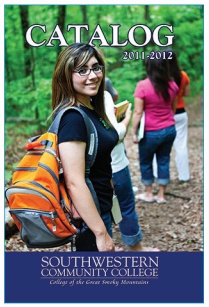












2010
Jackson County Early College students and staff moved into their new building on the Jackson Campus.

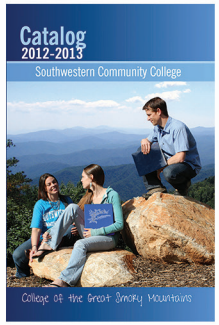
2011
Dr. Don Tomas was selected as the College's sixth President.

Southwestern's Emergency Medical Science (EMS) program became one of only two nationally accredited programs in the NCCCS.

Southwestern
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EXPLORE YOUR PATH TO SUCCESS













2012
The Burrell Building was completed on SCC's Jackson Campus.

Snowy Burrell Building (top right) photo courtesy of Nick Breedlove

2013
Southwestern secured more than $1.5 million in grant funding from Golden LEAF Foundation and Duke Energy.

Deanne Oppermann, Chemistry Instructor, was honored as Outstanding Faculty Member by the North Carolina Community College System.

2014
Ducks on the Tuck, SCC Foundation's annual fundraiser for New Century Scholars, was held in Swain County for the first time.

On Dec. 1, the College celebrated its 50th birthday.

SCC started the new decade where it left off in the previous one: high on the *Washington Monthly's* community colleges list. Southwestern was among 10 from North Carolina to earn an exceptional rating.

However, changes were on the horizon.



Dr. Groves, one of the College's longest-serving chief executives, announced his retirement in 2010. He was succeeded by Dr. Richard Collings, and current President Dr. Don Tomas joined the College in 2011.

Under Dr. Tomas' leadership, the "Vision 2017" strategic planning initiative was finalized in 2012 – resulting in eight goals and 35 strategies designed to position the College for success over the next five years.

Also in 2012, the Burrell Building – named after longtime Trustee Conrad Burrell – was completed on SCC's Jackson Campus.





The following year (2013) the Nantahala School for the Arts was established at SCC's Swain Center. The College reinstated its Occupational Therapy Assistant program, which had been shuttered 12 years earlier.

Southwestern also celebrated the national title of Rowan Stuart, a Jackson County Early College student. She won the Junior Women's Division at the ICF Canoe World Championships in September at the Nantahala Outdoor Center.



Thirty of SCC's Outdoor Leadership students served 80 volunteer shifts (of 4-to-6 hours each) during the seven-day ICF competition.

Among the biggest accomplishments of 2013 was the securing of $1.5 million in grant funds from Golden LEAF Foundation and Duke Energy. The money is being used for Advanced Manufacturing and Robotics Training as well as to enhance SCC's Computer Engineering Technology and Electronics/Electrical Technology programs.



The Student Success Campaign – the most ambitious fundraising effort in SCC's history – reached its Phase 1 goal and allowed SCC to fully leverage a Title III grant from the U.S. Department of Education, which matched 100 percent of all donations (up to $300,000) made by September 2014.

With more than $600,000 in the bank, the campaign is now aiming to surpass the $1 million mark – allowing the SCC Foundation to support student success at an unprecedented level.

Mary Otto Selzer, Director of the SCC Foundation, and Charles Wolfe, Chairman of the Student Success Campaign, worked tirelessly to maximize the federal match.

In Workforce Innovations, the Small Business Center redoubled its efforts to help aspiring and existing entrepreneurs through a business plan seminar series that culminated with a pair of $5,000 awards for winners of the Macon County and Dillsboro business plan competitions.

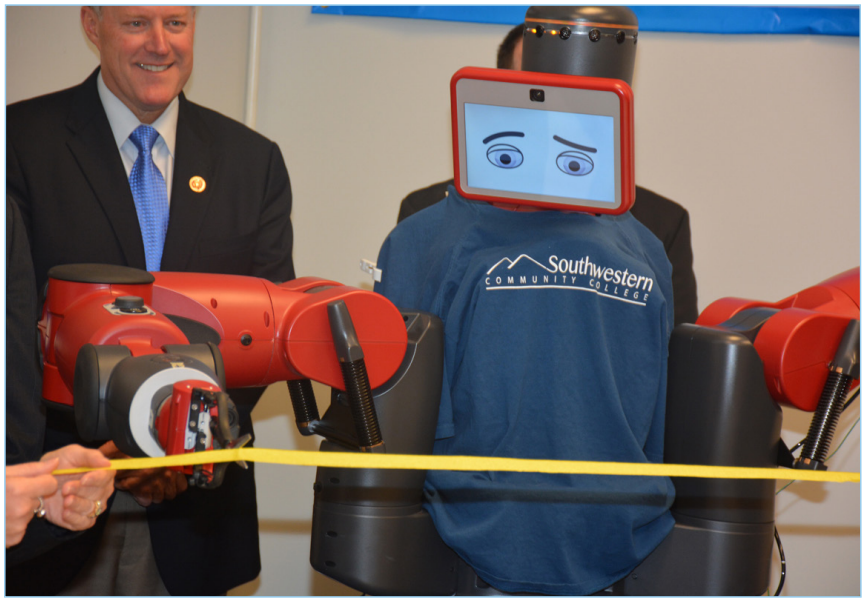
Annie Burrell of Rabbit Creek Pottery won the Dillsboro grand prize while Robert and Gail Vitale of Waterwheel Manufacturing were Macon County's winners.

Tiffany Henry, Director of SCC's Small Business Center, did some winning of her own in 2014. She was named Rookie of the Year by North Carolina's Small Business Center Network after serving more than 800 clients.



Meanwhile, with the Golden LEAF funding secured a year earlier, SCC launched a Mechatronics Engineering Technology program in the fall of 2014.

U.S. Congressman Mark Meadows (R-Jackson County), N.C. Senator Jim Davis (R-Franklin) and N.C. Rep. Joe Sam Queen (D-Waynesville) joined representatives from virtually every industry, community and school system in SCC's service area for a ribbon cutting in November of 2014 at SCC's new Advanced Manufacturing Training facility in Swain County. Baxter – a state-of-the-Art Robot Training System – snipped the ribbon that day.



In many ways, that moment was a fitting way to usher in the start of SCC's next half-century.



THE FOUNDATION



"SCC and its scholarships really mean a future for a lot of people in this area."

- Denise Broom
SCC Graduate
Co-owner , Tangles in Cashiers



Larry Callicutt



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NOT PICTURED:
Steve Heatherly
Robin Jenkins
Brooks Robinson
Bud Smith

2014-2015 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mission Statement

The Foundation, through its initiatives, partners with Southwestern Community College in its efforts to offer high-quality, innovative instruction and support, which promotes student achievement, academic excellence and economic development.



Southwestern Community College Foundation was established in 1973 and has been actively engaged in the development of resources to support the students, faculty, staff and programs of the institution.

The Foundation depends upon support received from alumni, friends, and members of the community, business and industry. Gifts to the Foundation may be provided in cash, in-kind donations, annual and endowed scholarships, bequests, annuities, life insurance or other similar methods.

The Foundation receives unrestricted gifts through the Southwestern Community College Annual Fund, a yearly campaign to support the work of the Foundation and the mission of the College.

Gifts to the Foundation have provided scholarships, books and fees to students, equipment for programs and support for student experiences such as clinical placements and internships. The Foundation also supports the New Century Scholars program for students from Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties. Through assisting with fundraising, participation on the Steering Committee and administration of the funds for community college-bound students, the Foundation and SCC are partners with New Century Scholars in assuring educational opportunities for dedicated, promising students.



The Foundation has also supported the SCC Alumni Association. With a constitution established in 1994 and active for a number of years, the Foundation is working to re-energize the SCC Alumni Association.

For further information, see www.southwesterncc.edu/foundation.




New Century Scholars
Sponsors
Cullowhee Valley School






Raye Parker








Wine & Dine Under the
A Gala to Support Student
ARSHIPS
Saturday, July 19
Cashiers Village Green
For tickets, call 828.3

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Student Success Campaign Donors

Following is a list of those who contributed to the Student Success Campaign, an effort to raise more than $1 million to support student success at SCC – primarily through scholarships. Through the community's generosity, the SCC Foundation was able to fully leverage a federal matching grant that matched dollar for dollar all funds raised (up to $300,000) before Sept. 1, 2014.

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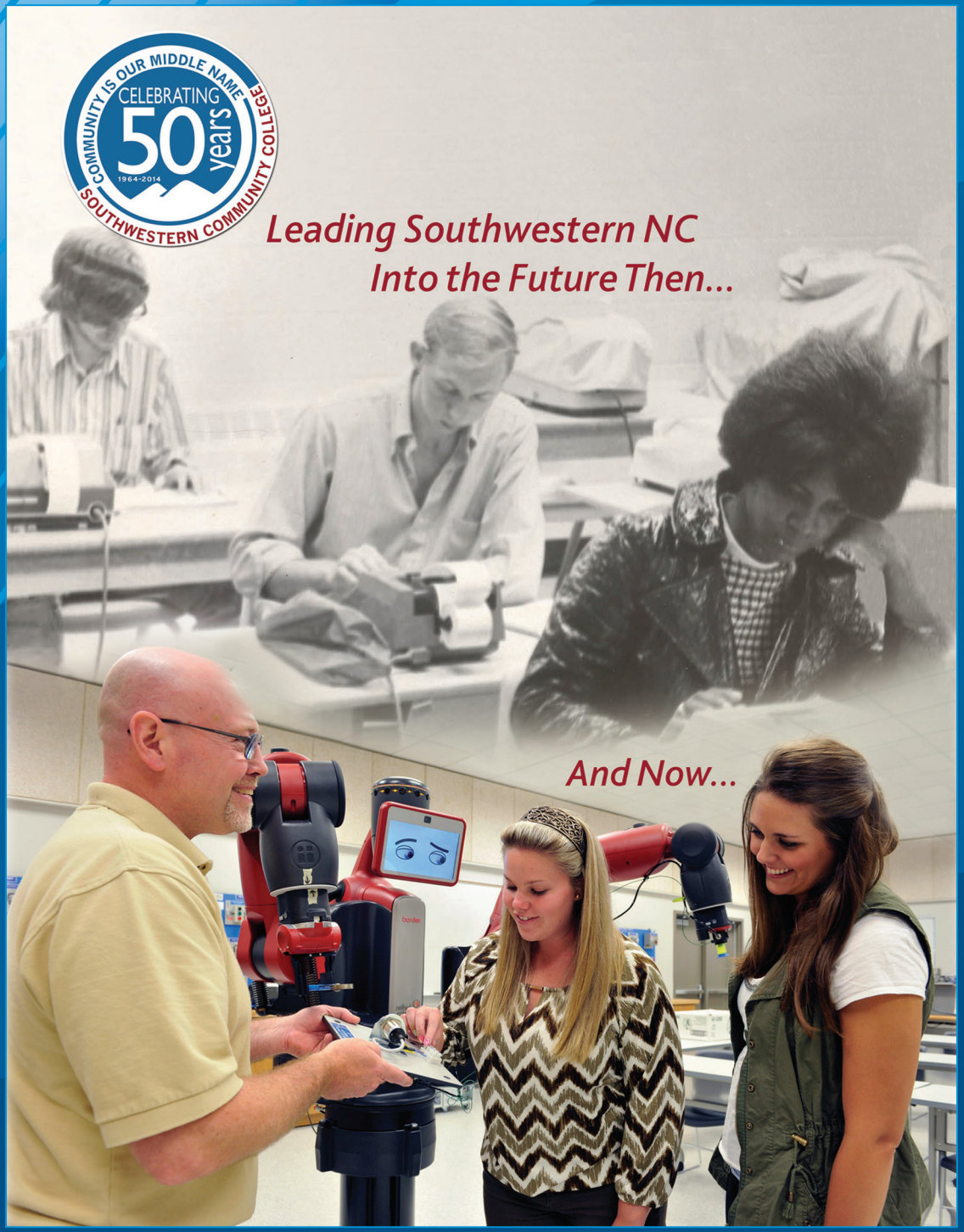
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Southwestern
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION


COMMUNITY IS OUR MIDDLE NAME
CELEBRATING
50 years
1964-2014
SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Leading Southwestern NC
Into the Future Then...
And Now...

THEN & NOW

The Roots
STUDENT SUCCESS

Students today frequently describe their relationships with SCC instructors and staff members as being like family.

Dr. Groves, former President, has a theory for that.

“Many of the initial students were related to their instructors, and that cultivated a close-knit atmosphere where everyone worked together,” Dr. Groves recalled recently.

“They had more than just the typical teacher-student relationship. Because they were aunts, uncles and cousins, the instructors had a deeper interest in making sure their students would succeed. Most schools don’t start out that way, but I really believe it established an atmosphere that still existed through my time there and continues even up until today. The faculty members at Southwestern have the strongest commitment to their students of any institution I ever saw. That’s key to the culture of the region, and it was already in place when I got there. The key was not to disturb it but rather build on it.”

That’s exactly what every President beginning with Edward Bryson and every Trustee starting with Paul Holt have been careful to preserve.

"I can't tell you how many times I've walked around our campus after-hours and seen members of our faculty staying late, working with students,” said current SCC President Dr. Tomas. “These relationships remind me of family. We want our children, our relatives to succeed so badly that we'll work late or skip a lunch hour to lend a hand. Moments like those make me realize just how special Southwestern Community College is in so many ways."

The following pages illustrate the ways technology and our instruction methods have changed. But these photos also show one key aspect of SCC remains unchanged after five decades: our students still come first!



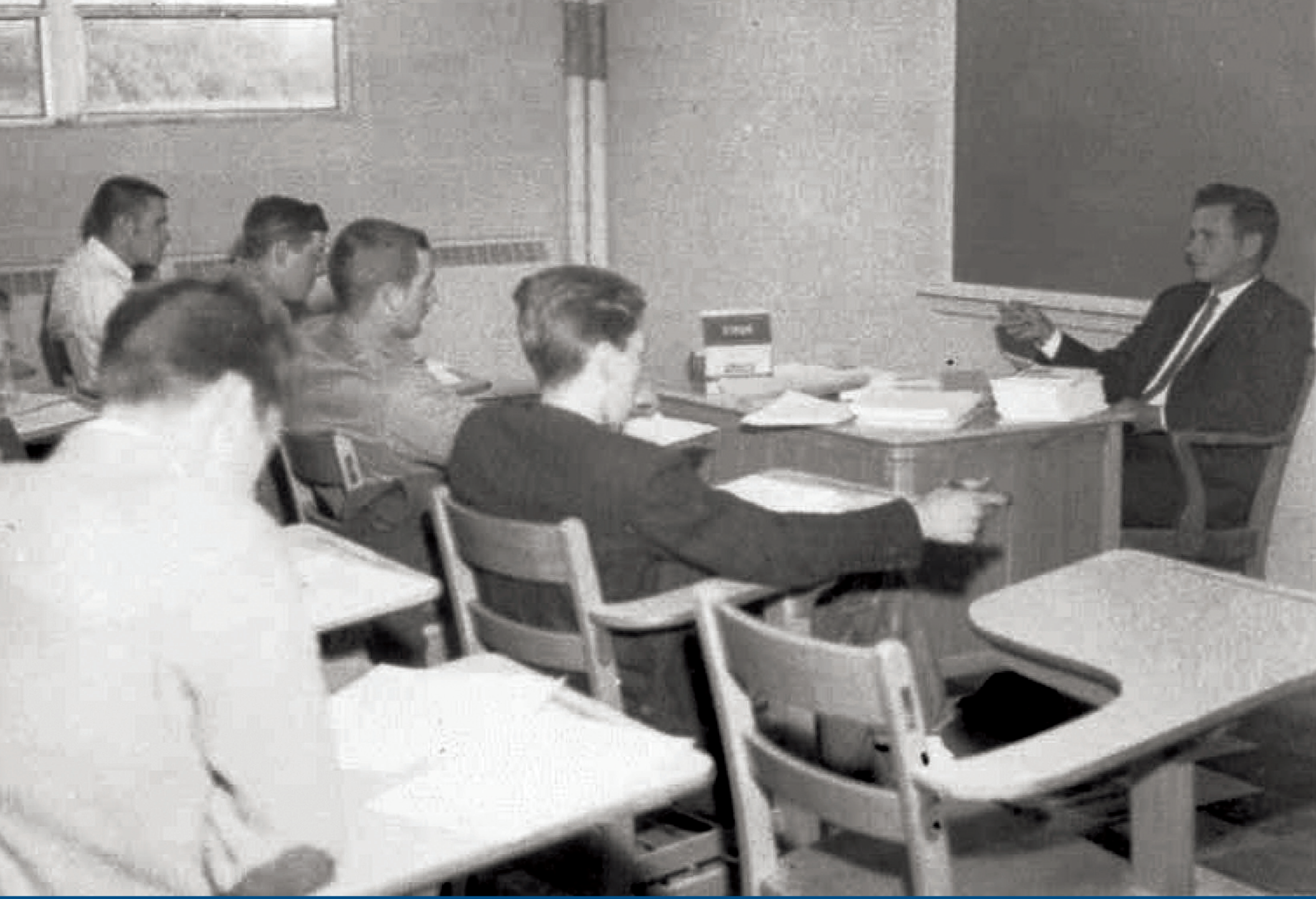
Student Life - Then


EXIT
EXIT



Automotive Mechanics - Then


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David Myers
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First Class - Then


TAR HEELS
carolina



Practical Nurse Education - Then


SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASSOCIATE NURSING
NORTH CAROLINA



Student Life - Then





Commercial Art and Advertising Design - Then





LAYOUT OF BUILDING

LEGEND

1. Automotive Mechanics
2. Typing Room
3. Business Machines Room
4. Extension Office
5. Business Department Office
6. PNE Office
7. PNE Lab
8. Classroom A-5
9. Learning Lab Office
10. Learning Lab
11. Furnace Room
12. Restrooms A. Boys B. Girls
13. Classroom A-3
14. Night Director's Office
15. Student Personnel Office
16. Central Office
17. President's Office
18. Classroom A-1
19. Classroom A-2
20. Industrial Electronics Lab
21. Masonry Lab
22. Masonry Office
23. Drafting Lab
24. Automotive & Drafting Office

Jackson Campus (Vocational Building) - Then

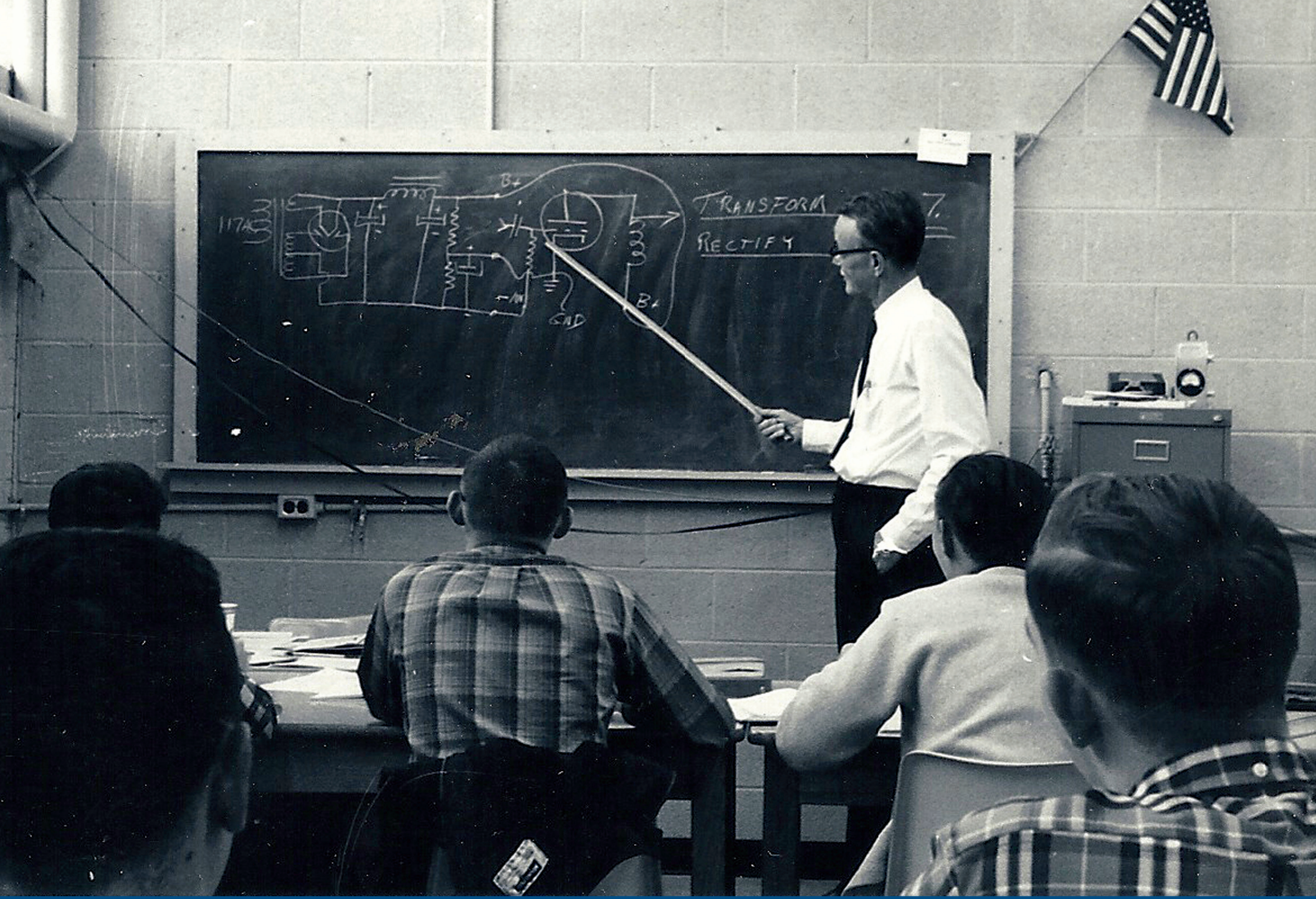
Jackson Campus (Burrell Building) - Now



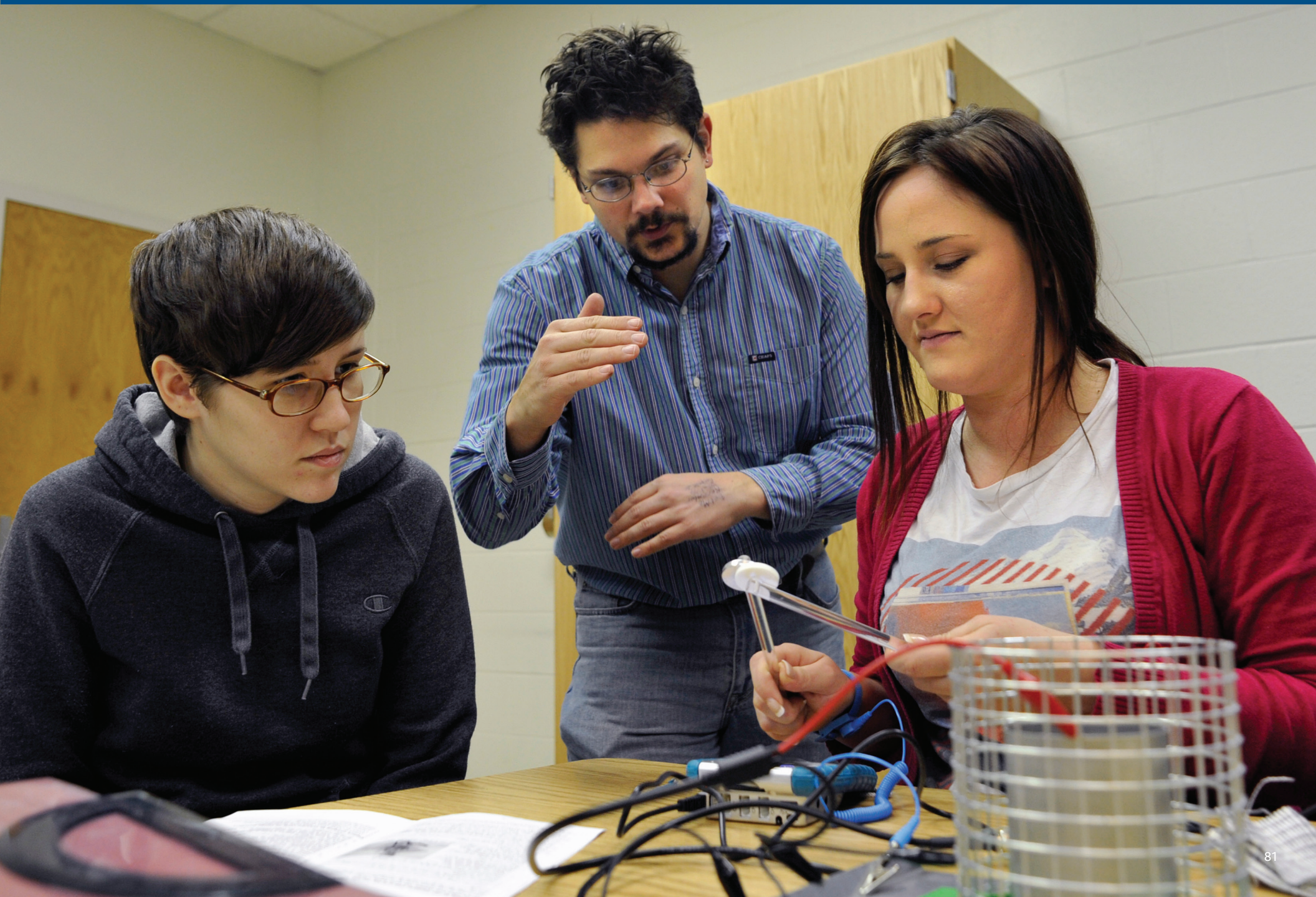


Law Enforcement (Defensive Tactics) - Then


EVERLAST
MADE IN U.S.A.



Science - Then





Food Service Management - Then


S.C.C.
Culinary
Technology



Students - Then





Fire Service Training - Then

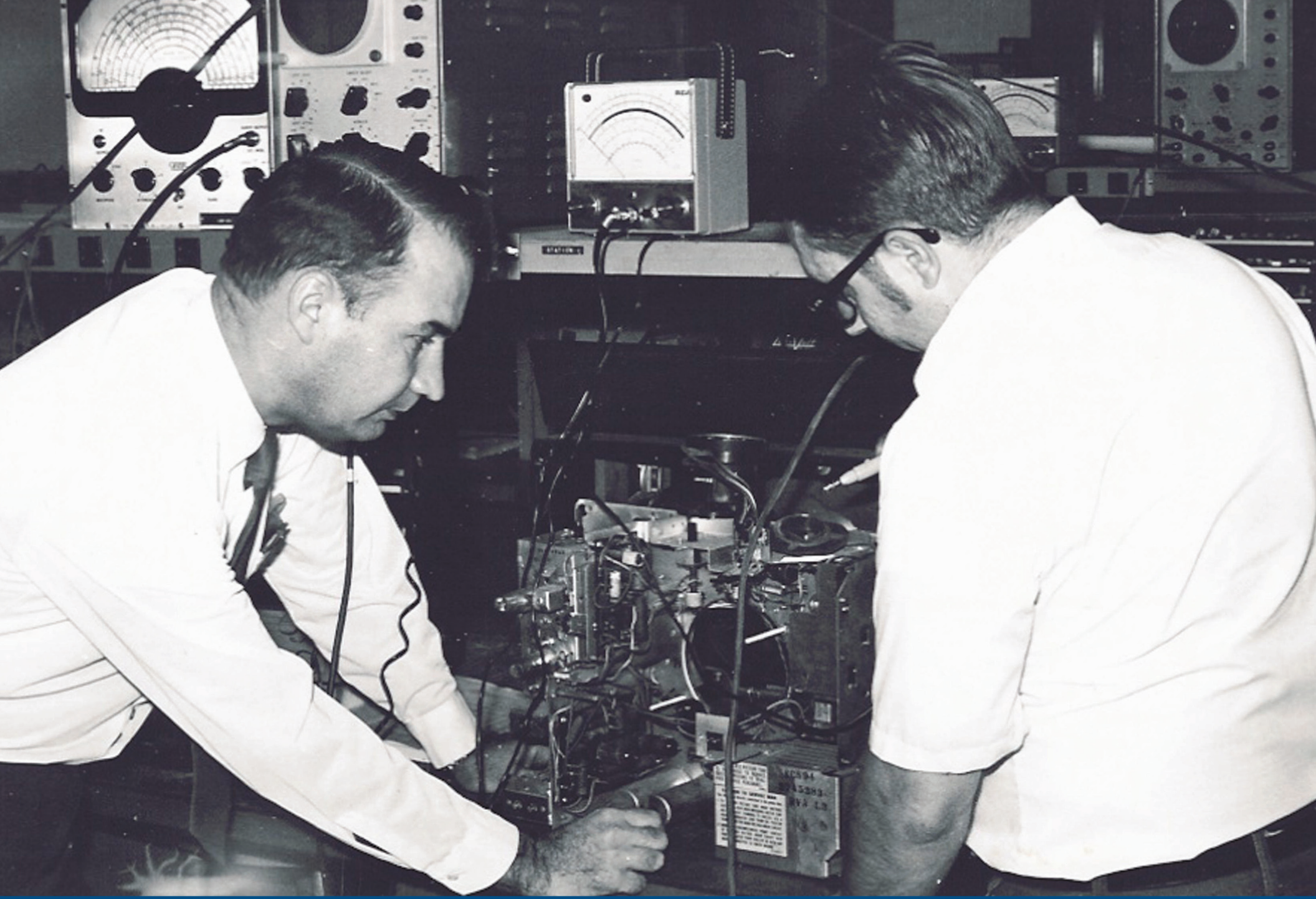

45
FIRE-RESCUE
FIRE-RESCUE
A. CRAWFORD



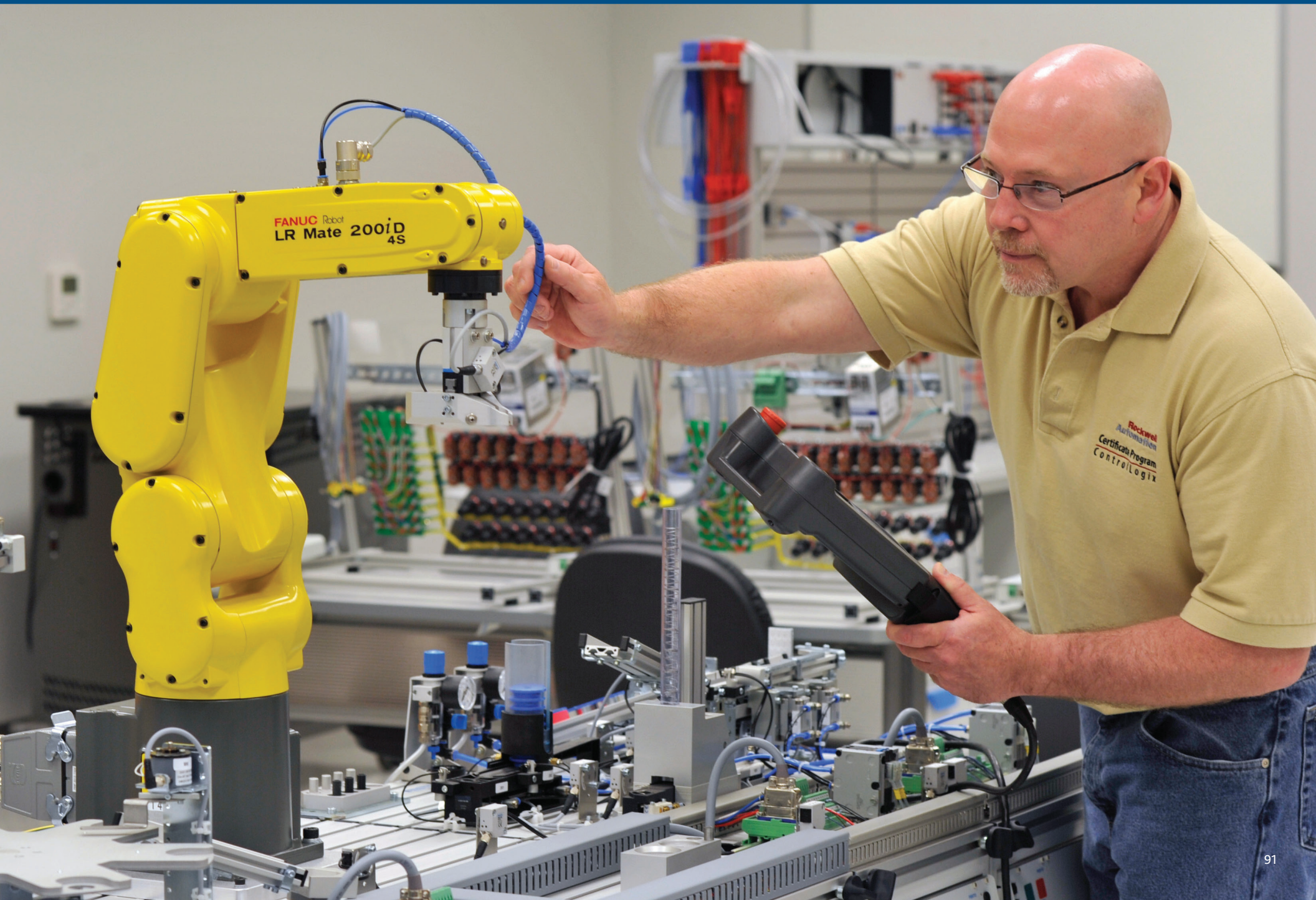


Going to Class - Then





Electronic Servicing - Then


FANUC Robot
LR Mate 200iD 4S
Rockwell Automation
Certificate Program
ControlLogix



Technology - Then





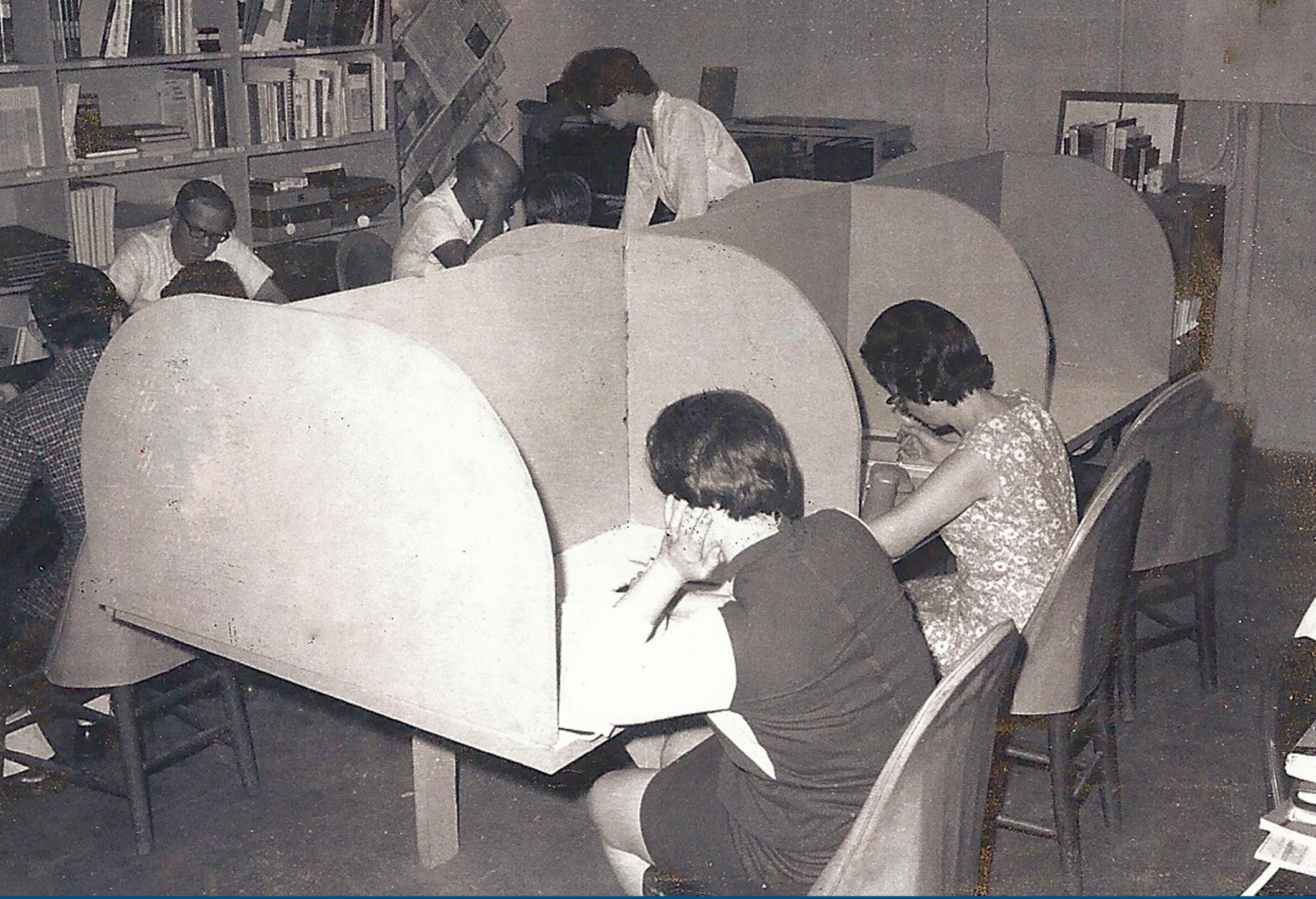
Rug Making/Wood Carving - Then


Cherokee Syllabary



Early Childhood Specialist - Then


Play-Doh



Studying (Library) - Then

Studying (Holt Library) - Now





Law Enforcement (Science of Fingerprinting) - Then


POLICE
PARKING
ONLY



Cosmetology - Then





Surveying - Then





Ambulance Attendant - Then





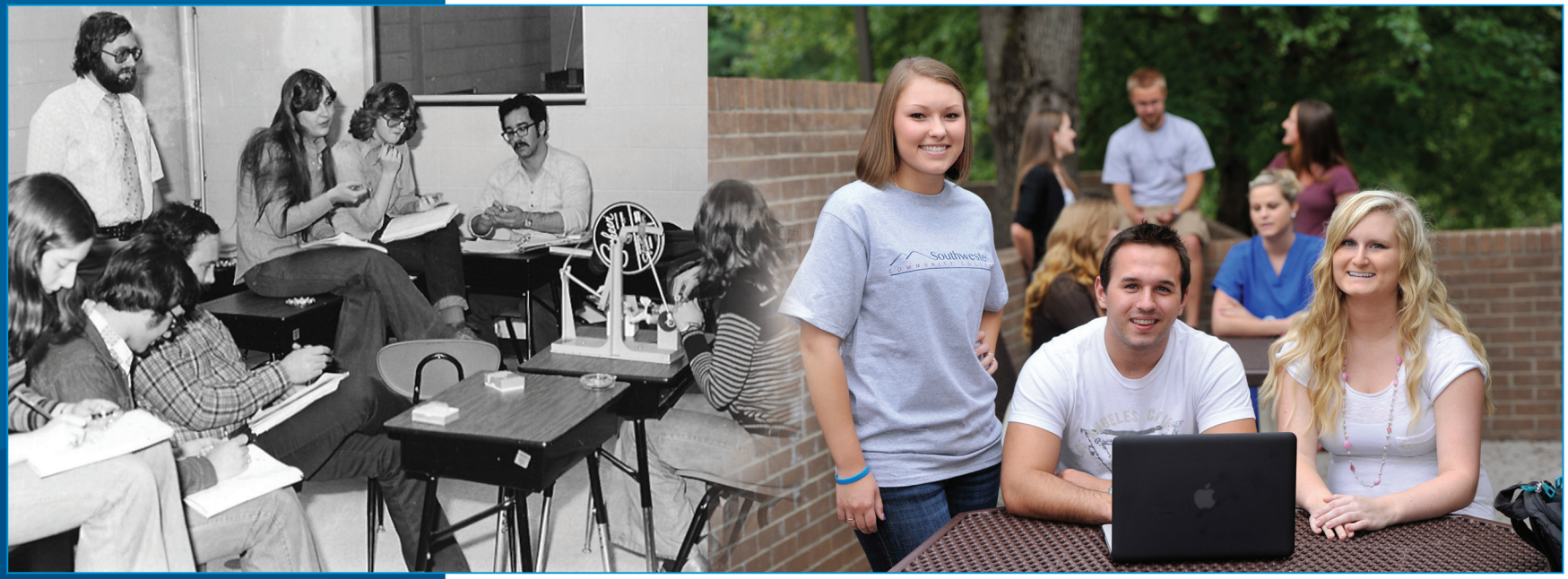
Graduation - Then


Southwestern Community College
Sylva, North Carolina

My how we've changed

	THEN	NOW
Buildings:	1	14
Students:	60 full-time, 133 short-term	9,000+
Employees:	7	200+
Fees:	$2.50/credit hour*	$72.50/credit hour
Academic Calendar:	quarter system	semester system
Programs:	4	80+
Library Books:	79	30,000+

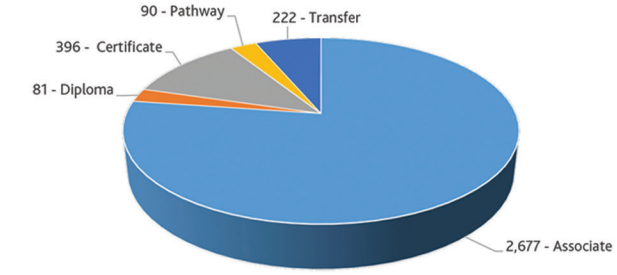
*Earliest recorded figures in SCC archives are from 1967-68 Student Handbook.



2013-14
ANNUAL REPORT

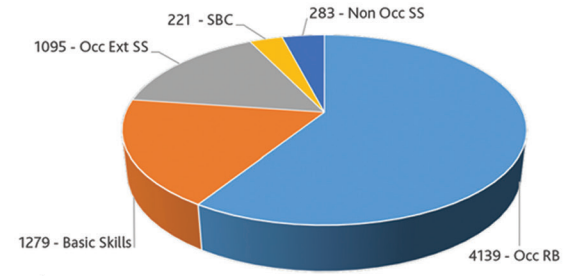
2013-14 Enrollment

Curriculum



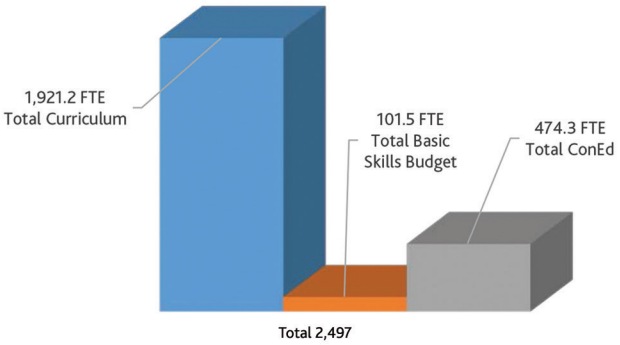
Total 3,415

Workforce Innovations (Continuing Education)



Total 6,394

2013-14 FTE



Total 2,497

2013-14 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

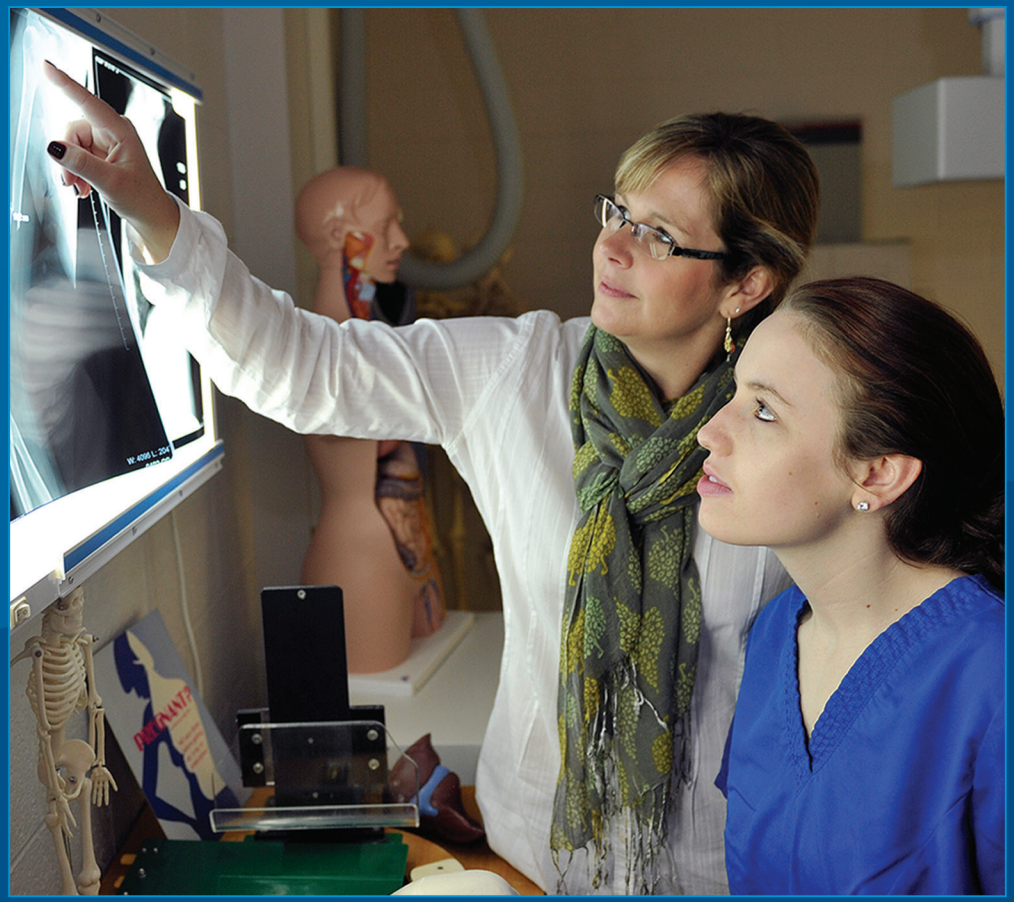
College Revenue by Source:	
NC Community College System	$12,086,072.72
County Appropriations	2,326,840.00
Federal Grants and Contracts	5,349,736.71
State Grants and Contracts	1,876,989.21
Private Gifts, Grants and Contracts	334,342.03
Investment and Interest Income	24,759.62
Tuition and Fees	1,921,331.65
Sales and Services	194,283.28
Other Sources	83,902.09
Total Revenues	**$24,198,257.31**

College Expenditures by Area:	
Instruction	$10,836,786.53
Academic Support	2,229,734.22
Student Services	1,470,548.27
Institutional Support	2,698,946.24
Operation and Maintenance of Plant (Includes Depreciation)	3,257,333.89
Student Financial Aid	3,149,712.38
Auxiliary Enterprises	272.76
Total Operating Expenses	**$23,643,334.29**

...Students First
ALWAYS

"Everything we do at Southwestern centers around student learning, student success, students first."

Dr. Don Tomas,
SCC's current President





www.southwesterncc.edu