




**James Sprunt**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT**



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Mission, Vision & Values



James Sprunt Community College recently received national recognition, ranking #11 for the best community college in the United States!



## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARRAWAY

As we reflect on this past year, I am filled with immense pride in the progress and achievements of James Sprunt Community College. This has been a year of growth, resilience, and success—a testament to the commitment and passion of our students, faculty, staff, and community.

One of the most exciting highlights of this year has been our enrollment growth. We welcomed 6% more students to our campus than in previous years, marking a significant milestone in our mission to provide accessible, high-quality education. This growth not only reflects the strength of our programs but also underscores the trust that families and communities place in us as educators and leaders.

Positive developments abounded across all areas of our institution. From the launch of our hydroponics smart farm to the completion of our Esthetics program, we continue to build an environment that fosters innovation, inclusion, and collaboration. These initiatives not only reflect our commitment to cutting-edge education but also create hands-on learning opportunities that empower our students to thrive in diverse fields.

Looking forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering every individual who steps through our doors. As we continue to grow and evolve, we do so with an unwavering dedication to preparing our students for a brighter future and building a stronger, more vibrant community.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Together, we will continue to achieve great things.

With gratitude and hope,



Dr. Jay Carraway

### BY THE NUMBERS

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>3,476</b><br>CURRICULUM                     | <b>3,211</b><br>CONTINUING EDUCATION    |  |
| <small>TOTAL UNDUPLICATED ENROLLMENT</small>   |   |  |
| <b>245</b><br>DEGREES                          | <b>328</b><br>CERTIFICATES/<br>DIPLOMAS | <b>600</b><br>CONTINUING ED<br>COMPLETIONS |
| <b>\$114,632</b><br>FOUNDATION<br>SCHOLARSHIPS | <b>\$3,055,953</b><br>PELL<br>GRANTS    | <b>\$129,694</b><br>JSCC<br>SCHOLARSHIPS   |
| <b>42</b><br>VETERANS<br>ENROLLED              | <b>8</b><br>VETERANS<br>GRADUATED       |  |

# 2024 Awards

## STAFF + FACULTY EXCELLENCE



**STAFF  
OF THE YEAR**  
**Dr. Phadra Murray**  
*Dean of Health Education*



**EXCELLENCE IN  
TEACHING AWARD**  
**Theresa Meza**  
*Accounting Instructor*

## STUDENT EXCELLENCE



**ACADEMIC  
EXCELLENCE AWARD**  
**Bonnie Echeverria**



**DALLAS HERRING  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
**Tameka Houston**



**ROBERT W. SCOTT  
LEADERSHIP AWARD**  
**Saroya Mitchell**

## Board of Trustees



**MRS. ANITA  
POWERS**  
Chair



**MR. ED  
EMORY**  
Vice-Chair

## Trustees

Dr. A.J. Connors  
Ms. Niccoya Dobson  
Mr. John Wesley Hairr  
Dr. Shannon Jennings  
Mrs. Debra Morrisey  
Mr. John Phillips  
Mr. Al Searles  
Dr. Kimberly Grigsby-Sessoms  
Mrs. Melissa B. Stevens  
Mrs. Morgan Swinson



# GEARS PROGRAM

## GIVING EVERYONE A ROLE IN SOCIETY

- JSCC announced one of its newest programs, Giving Everyone a Role in Society (GEARs), serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). JSCC was chosen to participate in the pilot program hosted by the North Carolina Community College System. Through contextualized hands-on activities, the two-year cohort will focus on life and soft skills to increase independence, career exploration, and employability skills.
- GEARs launched Fall 2024 with 10-15 students with various abilities, behaviors, and needs. The program's goal will be to provide additional resources and services for a population in our county that may otherwise be overlooked.
- Beth Wooten, Access to Achievement Coordinator, is excited to serve in her new role at JSCC. "We are all super excited for the upcoming year at JSCC. Our new GEARs program is designed to help our students reach their full potential."
- Through this program, students with IDD have an opportunity to share with professionals how they would like to contribute to society and have the assistance to achieve that goal. Students will work to develop soft skills, human resource skills, and movement towards internships and job experience.



## TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

42 workshops were hosted by Student Support Services.

Upward Bound hosted various trips to tour universities along the state of North Carolina.

Educational Talent Search has hosted various workshops throughout the year, from SAT Prep to "How to Prepare for Senior Year".

For the school year kick-off, TRIO handed out 80 bookbags to program participants.



## FROM GRADUATE TO LINEWORKER: Powering Communities After Hurricane Helene

In the wake of Hurricane Helene, which battered western North Carolina this past September, communities were left reeling from the storm's impact. Power lines were down, homes were damaged, and the urgency for restorative efforts was profound.

For many displaced residents and local businesses, immediate help was critical. During this pivotal moment, recent James Sprunt Community College graduate Tyler Eaton realized he had made a life-altering career choice that underscored resilience and embodied community spirit.

Tyler, who graduated from JSCC's Electrical Lineworker program just months before the hurricane struck, had always envisioned a career in the industry. However, the devastation wrought by Hurricane Helene, which brought destructive winds and torrential rains, became his first out-of-town experience in the industry.

Tyler graduated from North Lenoir High School in June 2024, a month after completing his Lineworker certificate. Yes, he graduated from JSCC's Lineworker program in May before marching at his high school graduation. Tyler applied for a position as a lineworker with a local utility company, River City Construction, immediately after completing his course at JSCC, and he was hired full-time. This clearly shows Tyler's determination and drive.

Tyler said lineworker training at JSCC was intense but rewarding. He learned to navigate electrical systems, work with lineworker equipment, and prioritize safety in high-stress conditions. Once on the job in western North Carolina with River City Construction, Tyler's days were a whirlwind of activity. Each day brought new challenges and opportunities to help his fellow North Carolinians, from climbing poles to restoring downed lines to enduring the remnants of harsh weather conditions. He donned his hard hat and heavy gloves, working alongside his co-workers.

Working as a lineworker also gave Tyler a unique perspective on the vulnerability of communities facing natural disasters. "I realized just how critical our work is – it's not just about power; it's about helping people. When we restore electricity, we bring back normalcy and comfort to people's lives," he reflected. Tyler was taken aback by the gratitude of everyone he encountered. He said everyone kept thanking him and his co-workers for their work to help restore electricity after Helene's devastation.

As time has passed since he worked in the western part of North Carolina, and homes slowly regained electricity, Tyler's commitment to his job and the industry has



deepened. He embodies a generation willing to pivot their priorities to assist communities during times of need. "I wanted to be a lineworker," he stated, "and I wouldn't trade this experience for anything. It's fulfilling to know that my work directly impacts people's lives, especially after a disaster, and that people appreciated the work we did. I would also advise other new lineworkers to pack a LOT of clothes when they head out of town to work because you don't know how long you will be gone."

Tyler's mom, Kim, is incredibly proud of her son. Tyler had been gone for almost two weeks, and she was standing at the door watching his truck pull into the driveway when he returned home the day before deer hunting season began. Tyler was happy to be deer hunting in the woods that next day, but he said his thoughts and prayers remain with western North Carolina.

As the work to restore and rebuild continues for our Western North Carolina neighbors, Tyler Eaton is using his experience from this devastating situation to inspire others in his local community. His journey from a recent graduate to a committed lineworker highlights the capacity for individuals to adapt, learn, and contribute meaningfully amidst adversity. Stories like Tyler's highlight the critical importance of skilled labor and workforce readiness in building a sustainable and resilient future.

## IT'S GROW TIME

This hydroponics smart farm produces the equivalent yield of two acres of traditional farmland. Katlyn Foy, Smart Farm Manager, checks on the hydroponic crops daily.



# NEW Growth

SAY HELLO TO HYDROPONICS

It is no secret that James Sprunt Community College has experienced a tremendous amount of growth, particularly at the WestPark location. With new programs such as Machining and Lineworker, residents of Duplin and surrounding counties have benefited from new, innovative educational technology that equips students for the workforce.



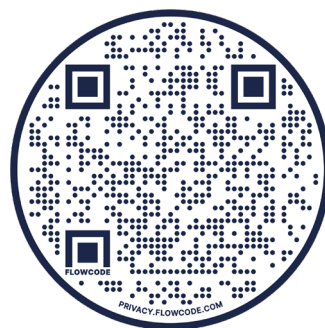
## RIBN PROGRAM

Eastern North Carolina's Carolina Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN) program provides a four-year nursing option that concurrently enrolls students in James Sprunt Community College and East Carolina University College of Nursing – where they complete both their Associate Degree in Nursing and Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. Students apply to this program when they are a senior in high school and complete all four years of the RIBN curriculum. Odalys Gabriela Berganza is a participant in this fantastic program, and explained that her time participating in the program and attending JSCC was both affordable and accommodating. "I am doing more through this program than I would if I had taken another route. This program is beneficial because I can work while obtaining my bachelor's degree."

Recently, the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission (NCTTFC) provided Four County Electric Membership Corporation (FCEMC) and JSCC with funding to purchase a hydroponic smart farm container. The Smart Farm is located at the JSCC WestPark Campus in Warsaw. JSCC administration, faculty and staff are grateful for the opportunity to expand student experiences through this advanced form of hands-on learning.

Hydroponic smart farm containers provide controlled environments for growing various plants that thrive in irrigation and LED lighting. Hydroponic smart farms provide optimal learning and growing opportunities and harvest fresh, hyper-local produce without pesticides or herbicides.

Plans for this resource are not limited to the student population. JSCC plans to share this amazing resource with local farmers, businesses, and students. JSCC and Four County Electric Membership Corporation extend a special thank you to the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, Duplin County, and NC Electric Cooperatives for their generous donation and support.



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO CHECK OUT OUR HYDROPONICS SMART FARM!**



## **ECU PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION**

*Student Landen Kennedy explains how ECU and JSCC's partnership helped reach his dreams of becoming an educator. "All of my James Sprunt CC credits transferred over and I was able to begin working on my major from day one at East Carolina University. The transition process was smooth and my ECU and JSCC advisors were very helpful throughout the program. I am so thankful for the ECU Partnership Teach Program between ECU and JSCC. This partnership has made obtaining a degree more affordable and convenient."*

## CAPS & GOWNS

Our 62nd commencement hosted over 350 graduates. Guest speakers included, Mrs. Cecilia Holden, President of myFutureNC and Dr. Andrew Gardner, Associate Vice President of Workforce Strategies for the NC Community College System.



# JSCC'S 2024 Commencement

*May 9th, 2024*





# Yami's Story

## TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP



**Yami Diaz immigrated to America at the age of 2 with her parents, 26 years ago, in pursuit of a better life.**

Growing up, Yami's three younger siblings were all born as American citizens, while she navigated life as a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) resident, awaiting her citizenship. Despite the challenges, Yami excelled academically and nurtured ambitious dreams for her future.

Her hard work and dedication in school earned her two full scholarships, a testament to her potential and perseverance. However, her DACA status posed an unforeseen obstacle—she was only eligible for “out of state” tuition, making college education unaffordable. This setback didn't deter Yami. After graduating high school, she worked tirelessly at various jobs.

Two years ago, her husband and brother had an idea that could change their lives—starting a food truck business that would allow Yami's mother to do what she loved. Yami and her family began showcasing her mother's delicious dishes, creating a following and building excitement for their offerings. In July 2023, pooling their resources, they purchased a fully equipped food trailer. Yami and her mother both juggled full-time jobs, but by October 2023, Yami made the courageous decision to leave her job and focus entirely on their flourishing business.

In November 2023, Yami reached out to the Small Business Center (SBC) for assistance. Within five days, she found the guidance she needed. With their support, Yami began navigating the permitting process to serve food. She also learned about writing a business plan and the advantages of sound bookkeeping practices. She even discovered a commissary kitchen to support her food truck business. The very next day, Yami registered her business and obtained her Employment Identification Number, officially launching her venture.

Late summer of 2024, Yami and her master chef mother soft launched their food truck on the WestPark Campus of James Sprunt Community College for family and friends.

Yami personifies two concepts: perseverance and impact. Yami recalls that she has gleaned tremendous lessons in faith and realized that to improve oneself, one cannot wait for someone else to do it. With sincere gratitude, she expressed, “I am so grateful for the assistance of the Small Business Center to help me.” She attended the SBC sponsored seminar, “How to Start a Mobile Food Business” and accumulated nine plus hours of counseling and contact hours in the Small Business Center.



**11**  
BUSINESS  
STARTS

**25**  
JOBS  
CREATED

**15**  
JOBS  
RETAINED

**72**  
WONDERFUL  
CLIENTS

**185+**  
COUNSELING  
HOURS

# A MESSAGE FROM TAYLOR SANDLIN

*Director of Foundation Services*



**“Together, we will continue to expand opportunities for our students, strengthen our community, and create lasting change.”**

**Dear Valued Donors of the Community,**

As we close out another year of progress and achievement, I want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support of James Sprunt Community College Foundation and its mission. Your generosity has made a profound impact on our students, faculty, and programs, and we are truly thankful for the vital role you play in helping us build a brighter future for all.

Our commitment to excellence and accessibility in education remains stronger than ever, and your continued partnership is essential in helping us grow and innovate. Whether through financial gifts, in-kind donations, or volunteering your time, your involvement has made a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

We are excited about the possibilities that the future holds. Together, we will continue to expand opportunities for our students, strengthen our community, and create lasting change. On behalf of everyone at the James Sprunt Foundation, I want to thank you for your generosity, your trust, and your belief in our mission.

**With deep appreciation,**

*Taylor Sandlin*

## THANK YOU TO OUR **Foundation**Board

Mr. Dean Butts  
Chair

Mr. Curt Simpson  
Vice-Chair

Mr. Jack Alphin

Mrs. Rhonda Campbell

Ms. Helen Dobson

Mr. Armin Jancis

Mr. Ken Jones

Mr. Morris Murphy

Mr. Haywood Quinn

Ms. Carrie Shields

Mr. Kenneth Smith

Mr. David Sutton

Mr. John Weston

Mrs. Emily Whaley

Mrs. Kathryn Wrenn



**FORE!**

The JSCC Foundation hosted its 38th Annual Golf Tournament in September. This year, we had 37 teams participate and raised almost \$30,000 for JSCC students!

# FOUNDATION Events

The JSCC Foundation is dedicated to enhancing access to quality education and creating pathways for success. Our dynamic lineup of events not only raise crucial funds for students to thrive, but also foster a sense of togetherness for our staff, our students and our community.



# Golf TOURNAMENT

# 5K RACE



# President's RECEPTION



# Casino NIGHT



# Retiree SOCIAL

# Train THE East

In August 2023, James Sprunt Community College, in partnership with Wayne, Lenoir, and Sampson community colleges were awarded \$1 million from Anonymous Trust in support of the “Train the East” initiative. This initiative is a part of a wider state collaboration, myFutureNC, a state project that aims to close the educational attainment gap and provide academic credentials for North Carolinians. The four community colleges will recruit, train, and support students from Latino communities in rural eastern North Carolina, building a skilled and credentialed workforce for Lenoir, Greene, Jones, Duplin, Sampson, and Wayne counties.

The Latino population in the area served by these community colleges is the fastest growing demographic group, and the success rates for our Latino students who enroll are at or above average. This unique collaboration is a result of the Go Global Latino Pipeline Initiative where representatives from education, economic development, business, government, and others from the six counties as well as leadership from myFutureNC visited Mexico to open the lines of communication to help meet educational needs. “This travel experience was life-changing for the entire team,” said Margaret Turlington of the Anonymous Trust. “I have loved seeing the partnership between the four community colleges and the team spirit of helping each other.”

For more information on this initiative, contact the Latino Center, (910) 275-6407.

“This scholarship opens many opportunities for Hispanics and Latinos. It’s important to give back to the community. I love learning, and I can have a better future for myself and my kids.”  
JESSICA PACHECO • ESTHETICS STUDENT



## \$14,000

donated by the Gene Haas Foundation to assist JSCC Machining students.

## \$76,000

donated by the Charles A. Cannon Foundation to assist continuing education students.

# New in 2023-2024



## INAUGURAL LATINO FESTIVAL

JSCC's Hispanic student population has increased by 14% since Spring '23! JSCC's Inaugural Latino Festival was a resounding success, showcasing the rich culture and diversity of our Latino and Hispanic communities. Attendees enjoyed various activities, including performances by local traditional dance groups, delicious food from local vendors, face painting, games, and a model competition hosted by our Cosmetology program. The festival also provided a platform for attendees to connect with organizations that offer vital services to the Hispanic and Latino communities and participate in door prize giveaways, all while enjoying music and entertainment.



## ESTHETICS PROGRAM OPENS

JSCC welcomes brand new Esthetics Program to degree offerings! The Esthetics Program officially began its first class on June 25th, 2024, and the first class is scheduled to graduate on December 11th, 2024. The Esthetics Program achieved 100% score of approval from the North Carolina Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners!

## MISSION Statement

James Sprunt Community College responds to the individualized educational and workforce development needs of the community by increasing accessibility, providing innovative teaching, and expanding community partnerships.

## VISION Statement

Strengthening the communities we serve through innovative education and partnerships to create a more successful tomorrow.

### INNOVATION

We strive to embrace an atmosphere of creativity and innovation for our students, faculty, and staff.

### DIVERSITY

We value an educational environment that attracts, nurtures, and supports a diverse faculty, student, and staff community.

### INTEGRITY

We uphold honesty, ethical behavior, and respect in pursuit of an atmosphere of transparency and accountability.

### PARTNERSHIPS

We develop partnerships with schools, business and industry, and community organizations to meet the needs of the 21st century workforce.

### LEARNING

We provide high quality opportunities and necessary support services to help all students develop critical thinking skills and achieve their educational and employment goals.



# James Sprunt

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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[JAMESSPRUNT.EDU](https://www.jamessprunt.edu)



[LINKEDIN.COM/SCHOOL/  
JAMES-SPRUNT-COMMUNITY-COLLEGE/](https://www.linkedin.com/school/james-sprunt-community-college/)

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