



James Sprunt
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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A MESSAGE FROM **PRESIDENT CARRAWAY**

It has been my honor to serve as President of James Sprunt Community College, and this Annual Report offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect on both the past year and my time at this remarkable institution. As I prepare for retirement, I do so with deep gratitude and pride in all that we have accomplished together.

This past year, like the many before, reflected our shared commitment to student success and community impact. James Sprunt Community College continues to provide high-quality academic programs, workforce training, and support services that empower students to achieve their goals and strengthen the economic vitality of Duplin County and the surrounding region.

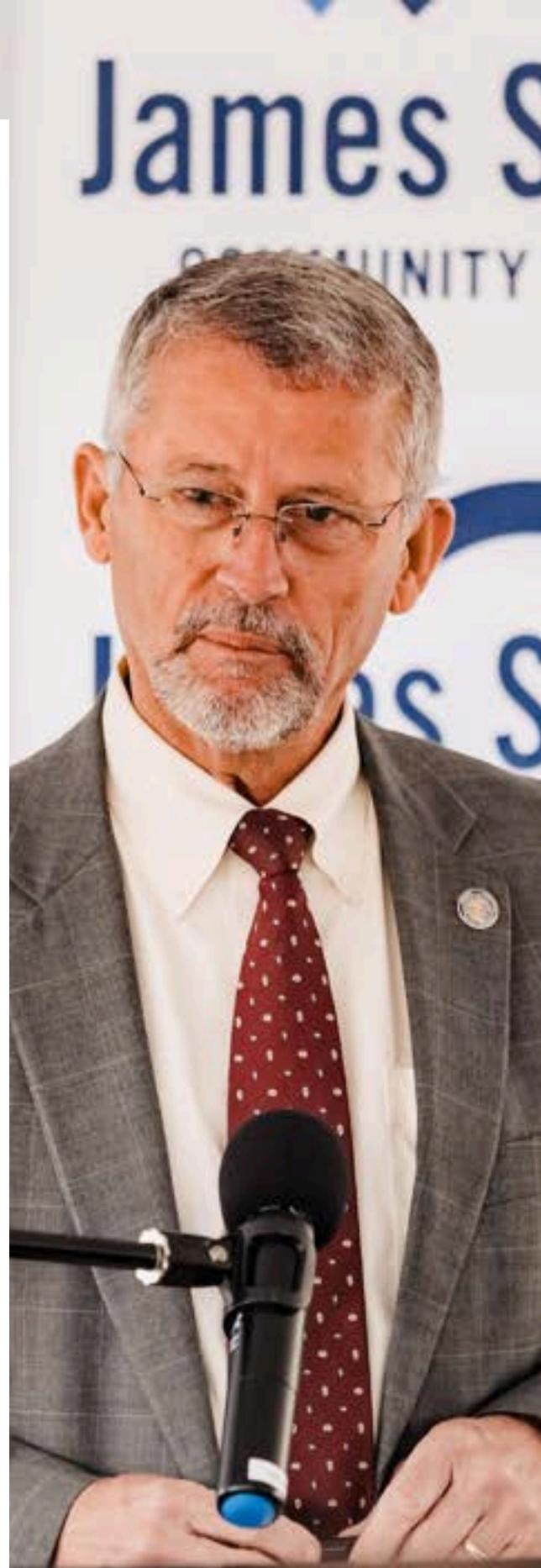
Throughout my time at James Sprunt Community College, the strength of this college has always been its people. Our dedicated faculty and staff consistently go above and beyond to support students and adapt to the evolving needs of higher education and the workforce.

As I conclude this chapter and begin my retirement, I am confident in the future of James Sprunt Community College. I leave knowing the College is well-positioned to continue expanding opportunities for students and making a lasting impact for years to come. Thank you for the trust, support, and privilege of serving this institution and our community.

With gratitude and hope,



Dr. Jay Carraway



Board of Trustees



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Mrs. Debra Morrisey
Mr. John Phillips
Mr. Al Searles
Mrs. Morgan Swinson

2025 Awards

STAFF + FACULTY EXCELLENCE



STAFF OF THE YEAR
Karla Blanton



EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
Cara Simmons

STUDENT EXCELLENCE



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Bryan Regalado-Rojo



DALLAS HERRING ACHIEVEMENT
Chase Whaley

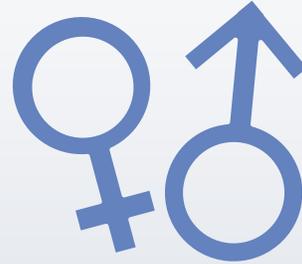


ROBERT W. SCOTT LEADERSHIP
Vanessa Watkins

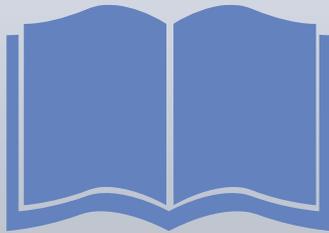
Statistics



2,283
Full-Time



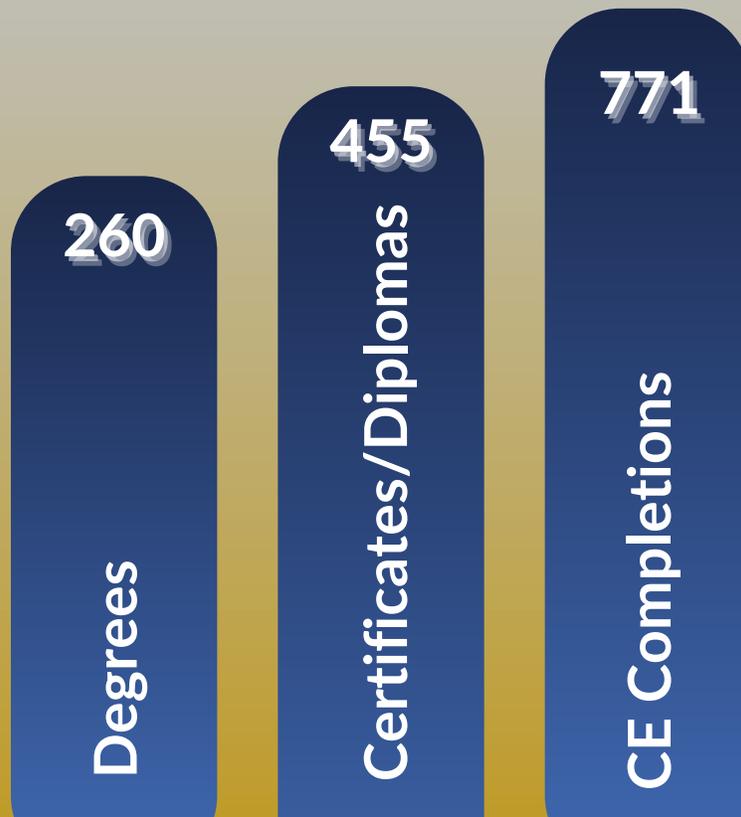
36% Male
64% Female



101
Programs

23

Average
Student Age



63rd Commencement



Ceremonies



YOLANDA SMITH

Overcoming Adversity to Achieve a Dream



In August 2023, Yolanda Smith enrolled in the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program at James Sprunt Community College, determined to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a Registered Nurse. At the time of enrollment, she faced a significant financial hurdle, she did not qualify for sufficient financial aid to cover tuition and books. To begin the program on time, she was forced to take out an emergency loan, a decision that weighed heavily on her and her family.

Having worked in pharmacy for 17 years, Smith felt a divine calling to step out of her comfort zone and into a new chapter of her life. Nursing had always been her heart's desire, and despite the uncertainty, she chose to follow that calling. It was during class registration that the dean of the nursing program introduced her to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program, a resource she had never heard of before.

With faith and determination, Smith contacted the WIOA office and scheduled an appointment. She was diligent in attending every meeting and

submitting all required documentation. Her efforts paid off when she was approved for WIOA assistance. She described the moment as life-changing, saying it felt like a tremendous weight had been lifted from her shoulders.

Despite receiving WIOA support and being accepted into the nursing program, she encountered numerous challenges. As a wife and mother of four, she and her husband were already managing a household on a single income. Financial strain intensified, often requiring her husband to work overtime. The rigorous demands of the nursing program, long clinical hours, fast-paced coursework, and extensive studying, meant she had to sacrifice time with her family. Social isolation became a necessity as she focused on her studies, and the stress on her household grew.

Balancing academic responsibilities with family life required exceptional time management and emotional resilience. Yet, through it all, Smith remained steadfast. She credits her success to her faith in God, the unwavering support of

her husband and family, and the guidance of her WIOA career advisor, Mrs. Carter. She described Mrs. Carter as a constant source of encouragement, whose warm demeanor and belief in her abilities helped her stay motivated.

Thanks to the WIOA program, Smith was able to complete her degree without the burden of repaying the emergency loan. The program covered her tuition, books, and provided supportive services that made it possible for her to focus on her education and future.

On May 8, 2025, Smith proudly graduated with her Associate Degree in Nursing. She is now employed as a Registered Nurse at ECU Health Duplin, fulfilling the dream she once thought was out of reach. She remains deeply grateful for the WIOA program and for individuals like Mrs. Carter who helped make her journey possible.

Yolanda's story is a powerful testament to perseverance, faith, and the impact of supportive programs that empower individuals to transform their lives and the lives of others.

Tools for Success

TURNING SKILLS INTO CAREERS

Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technology Instructor Stanley Skidmore awarded brand-new tools to his students through the “Tools for Success” program. This incredible initiative equips Diesel Technology students with the proper tools to jumpstart their careers.

Each participating student submitted an application to be reviewed by a committee. Based on their scores, each student received a selection of tools tailored to their achievements.

In total, approximately \$15,000 worth of tools were distributed to 21 deserving students! Each student is grateful for the opportunity to take the next step toward a successful future in Diesel Technology.



Honoring Legacy. Fueling Futures.

The Slaughter Family and the North Carolina Transportation Maintenance Council created an endowed scholarship at JSCC in remembrance of Mr. Bob Slaughter, a longtime advocate for the Diesel Technology program. This scholarship is awarded to a student pursuing a two-year degree in Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technology.

Skidmore states, “I am deeply grateful for the Bob Slaughter Memorial Scholarship and the support it provides to students in the Diesel Technology program at JSCC. Though Mr. Slaughter is no longer with us, his legacy continues to make a meaningful impact by opening doors and inspiring the next generation of diesel technicians. His generosity lives on in the opportunities he created, and we honor his memory with sincere appreciation.”



Workforce Development Center

Groundbreaking Ceremony

April 11, 2025





Pitch It! *Duplin*



The JSCC Small Business Center partnered with Marine Federal Credit Union and other local organizations and businesses to launch “Pitch It! Duplin,” an exciting new business-pitch competition designed to spark entrepreneurship and fuel economic growth in Duplin County.

This community event invited emerging entrepreneurs to present their new business ideas to a panel of local “Business Bulldogs” for the chance to win start-up funding and prizes. The competition not only showcased local talent but also highlighted the innovation and determination of Duplin County’s aspiring business owners.

Participants entered the competition after completing the eight-week REAL Entrepreneurship training program offered at the JSCC Small Business Center. This no-cost course guides entrepreneurs through developing a full business plan and pitch deck, strengthened by personalized one-on-one counseling and technical assistance. By the end of the program, applicants were equipped with the skills and confidence needed to successfully pitch their concepts on competition day.

Pitch It! Duplin highlights the impact of strong partnerships and hands-on learning, fueling a growing small-business community and guiding local innovators as they bring new ideas to life.



Congratulations to our winners!

1st Place

Randy Barrios, *The Iron Mambi Grill*

2nd Place

Kitrina Rhodes, *Special Touch Assisted Living Center*

3rd Place

Rosie Flores, *Sliced & Diced Charcuterie*
(not pictured)

4th Place

Andy Staradumsky, *H2L Line Boring*



INFORMATION Technology



The Information Technology (IT) Program, led by instructor Nathan McKee, is helping students gain a competitive edge in the workforce through innovative opportunities and marketable certifications.

McKee partnered with Stanly Community College to offer his students free test vouchers for certification through CISCO, a global leader in technology and IT education.

McKee states, "I'm thrilled to offer my students a practical and tangible benefit that directly supports their career goals. I plan to continue offering this certification opportunity in future semesters. I was provided 12 additional exam vouchers by Stanly Community College for the CCST-Cybersecurity exam, which I will use for the final exam in my SEC-110 Security Concepts course this semester."

McKee believes that obtaining industry-recognized certifications demonstrates to potential employers that JSCC students are both competent and well-rounded in the field of IT. Beyond technical skills, certifications empower students with confidence and provide clear evidence of their expertise as they enter the job market.



2 students passed the CCST-Cybersecurity Certification

5 students passed the CCST-Networking Certification

4 students passed the CCST-IT Support Certification

3 students passed both the CCST-Networking and IT Support Certifications

Over the summer, our IT Program welcomed 10 students to enroll in Summer Camp, learning about lab safety, PiDog, Single Board Computers, and provided other training.



His Little Piggies

In 2023, a humble farmer from Duplin County generated an impressive \$475,000 in revenue, showcasing a remarkable journey of growth and success. Currently a brand ambassador sponsored by Kingsford, Kubota, A Greener World, and Carhartt, he sells his premium pork in all 50 states. His diverse revenue streams include land, produce, and poultry, but pork remains his "cash cow." He meekly states, "I'm a teeny tiny farmer from Duplin County that no one knows, but I sell my product nationwide."

Ronald Simmons, whose career as a videographer with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture complements his farming passion, attributes his success to an entrepreneurial spirit and a commitment to continuous learning. He often shares, "If you stay ready, you don't have to get ready," and believes, "If you take what entrepreneurial spirit is and help someone else with it, you grow." His philosophy is to embrace failures for their learning opportunities, "We are not entitled to what we are experiencing but we are given the opportunity to be a better version of ourselves every day."

Ron's approach is grounded in relationships, exceptional service, and constant growth. He emphasizes, "I don't embrace the victories. I embrace the failures because they offer a better learning curve," and "I never want to be lax in achievements because I don't want to stay there. I want to continue to grow." His guiding principles include: relationships matter most, giving each person a royal experience, exceeding expectations, and leaving each situation better than he found it.

His journey began in 2011 when he joined a training seminar at James Sprunt Community College's Small Business Center (SBC) called "Tax Reporting for Small Business." He sought business counseling nine months later after attending another seminar, "How to Start Up a Small Business." Despite his loan request being denied, he pivoted to working the land. By 2012, he completed The Entrepreneur Academy through SBC and established Master Blend Family Farms.

In 2015, Simmons had experienced the various approaches of marketing their premium pork products. With counseling and collaboration from the SBC, he created a local following and demand for his product. The SBC suggested that he participate in The New Biz Competition and provided sound counsel and support as he prepared for the competition. In 2016, he won the grand prize, earning \$20,000 in cash and a range of additional prizes that propelled his business.

Ron went on to create economic impact through the SBC in years 2016-2019. Like many small businesses suffered loss in the pandemic, his business incurred a 23% inventory loss in 2019 and 2020. He once again pulled up his boot straps and recovered to report positive economic impact in 2021 and 2023. Most recently, in 2024, he scored for SBC again with the addition of 6 full-time jobs created and 2 part-time jobs retained. His business now employs 12 full-time and 2 part-time staff members.



ARE the Market

He remains a loyal client of the commercial kitchen on the WestPark campus of JSCC. He serves in an advisory capacity for the College, also. While his economic impact is measurable, his authenticity and energy are infinite. More than just a farmer or brand ambassador, he is a genuine representative for his county and Eastern NC, both in-person and through social media. As a friend and referral partner for SBC statewide, he recently spoke at the Fireside Chat session for the statewide Small Business Center Network (SBCN) anniversary celebration, finding it "mind-boggling" that he is now widely recognized. He admits that sometimes he just wants to play catch up with his teenage kids for a minute.

Two events stand out for him: the filming of the Amazon movie "Abandoned" at his farm, and the opportunity to meet US Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack. These experiences reinforce his belief to "treat people good, no matter what."

This past year, Ron and his team, in a single event, showcased his award-winning pit-master skills, serving his pork offerings to 3,000 people. The purpose of the SBCN is to increase the success rate and the number of viable small businesses in North Carolina by providing high quality, readily accessible assistance to prospective and existing small business owners, which will lead to job creation and retention.



The Small Business Center at James Sprunt Community College (and guest counseling by Coastal Carolina SBC) has been a provider of education, training, counseling, referral, and information. With over 180 counseling and contact hours, and 7 years of impact through the SBC, Ron Simmons is proof of concept. He even instructs entrepreneurial seminars for the SBC! He exemplifies the American dream, pulsating through the heart of small business. He brings grit to the game and the results show up high on the hog.

Mr. Simmons fervently acknowledges, "The Small Business Center made me aware of what it would take to become a legitimate business owner, providing tools and guidance with licensure, insurance, and financial wellness."

His journey from a "teeny tiny farmer" to a national success story known as Master Blend Family Farms is smile worthy, inspiring, and most impactful.

His little piggies ARE the market!



Small Business Center Year in Review

27

BUSINESS
START-UPS

52

JOBS
CREATED

30

JOBS
RETAINED

89

WONDERFUL
CLIENTS

280+

COUNSELING
HOURS

ONE Year of Growth

Duplin County, Four County EMC, JSCC, North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, and The North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund celebrated the success of the "Box to Bowl" smart farm container with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 29, 2024.

This event highlighted the project's impact on sustainable agriculture and local food production.

The smart farm container, "Box to Bowl," arrived in March 2024, launching an initiative towards sustainable agriculture. Operations began in April 2024. The project has yielded multiple harvests and launched educational classes, strengthening local food security and expanding agricultural education opportunities. Katlyn Foy Brinson, an experienced agricultural educator, leads the Hydroponics – Growing Without Soil course. The farm operates through three stages: Nursery, Growing, and Harvest, producing crops up to seven times faster than traditional methods.

This initiative, supported by a grant from Duplin County, the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund and contributions from Four County EMC, North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, JSCC, and Duplin County, is a true partnership and represents the future of farming in Duplin County and beyond.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our incredible donors:

Duplin County

Four County Electric

North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission

NC Electric Cooperatives



Work-Based Learning

Work. Learn. Grow.



Michael Meadows, a Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technology student, completed his Work-Based Learning journey through JSCC in Fall 2024. He gained hands-on experience at Gregory Poole (GP) Rental in Jacksonville, NC. Michael worked on major projects like assembling a 352 excavator, where he used an onboard system to reattach the counterweight and bucket on-site. Michael shares that he learned the value of hard work and dedication to this trade and values the importance of learning from others.

His manager, Gray Coltrain, shared that Michael has contributed in many ways. By the end of his placement, he had transitioned into a full-time role with GP Rental.

Jennifer Leon, Work-Based Learning Coordinator, shares the importance of this program: *“Our Work-Based Learning achievements this year highlight the meaningful support of our community employers and faculty, as well as our students' dedication to growth. Their mentorship and expertise empower students to gain valuable experience and develop into confident, career-ready professionals.”*

Work-Based Learning Review

12

WBL placements

7

new WBL programs

5

new partnerships with local businesses

Continuing Education:

MASSAGE THERAPY

The inaugural Massage Therapy class began in Spring 2025, welcoming motivated students dedicated to careers in holistic health. Through a blend of classroom instruction and hands-on training, participants are preparing to earn state licensure and enter a profession focused on healing and well-being.



ESTHETICS

The Esthetics Program proudly celebrates its first year. Throughout the year, 16 of our students completed the NC Cosmetic Arts State Board Exam on their first attempt.



270+
clients



57

students



JSCC Receives \$500,000 to Launch Critical Healthcare Programs

JSCC received \$500,000 in start-up funds from the North Carolina Community College System. These funds, part of a statewide initiative to bolster the healthcare workforce, will support the launch of vital Surgical Technology and Central Sterile Processing programs through Workforce and Continuing Education. This investment underscores the state's confidence in JSCC's ability to train highly-skilled professionals for in-demand healthcare roles.

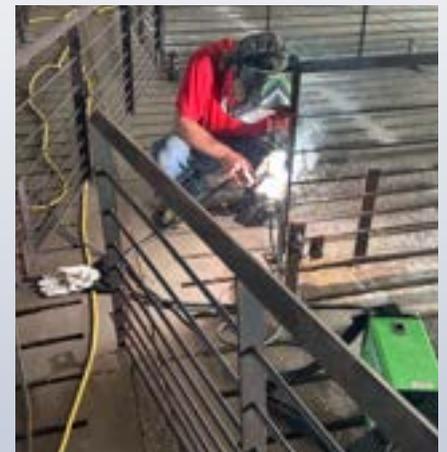
Advancing Skills. Advancing Careers.

Apprenticeships



Preston Hanchey

Pictured left, Preston Hanchey, Industrial Maintenance Mechanic Apprentice, is bending metal for an HVAC return. Preston is working towards an Associate Degree in Industrial Systems Technology. As an Apprentice, he is able to earn his degree while receiving on-the-job training. He is employed with Warsaw Heating and Air and in his first semester at JSCC. Preston will receive multi-craft technical skills in print reading, mechanical systems maintenance, electricity, hydraulics/pneumatics, welding, machining, fabrication, and diagnostic and repair procedures.



Trey Garris

Pictured right, Trey Garris, Farm Maintenance Technician Apprentice, is handling maintenance work prior to the next group of hogs being delivered to the farm. Trey is working towards several certificates as he completes his on-the-job training. He is employed with Pack Farms and will complete his apprenticeship in Spring 2026. Trey has completed electrical courses, a welding course, and has obtained certifications for Transport Quality Management, Pork Quality Management, Beef Quality Management, Animal Waste Management, Commercial Pesticide Applicator and CPR.



The 2024–2025 school year marked a milestone for the Duplin Health Science Academy (DHSA) through its partnership with James Sprunt Community College (JSCC). With support from Career and College Liaison Morgan Smith, DHSA transitioned its clinical workshops into JSCC’s state-of-the-art nursing laboratories, giving students hands-on collegiate experience. Students also participated in career-preparatory events including the Spring Break Health Career Nursing Fair, the EMT “Hands-On Heroes” simulation, and the Mass Casualty Volunteer Day, engaging directly with healthcare professionals and real-world scenarios. This collaboration strengthened students’ skills, confidence, and commitment to pursuing careers in healthcare.

A MESSAGE FROM TAYLOR SANDLIN

Director of Foundation Services



On behalf of the James Sprunt Community College Foundation, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of our donors, partners, and friends. Your generous support enables us to provide life-changing opportunities for our students, opportunities that empower them to achieve their educational goals, pursue rewarding careers, and make meaningful contributions to our community.

Thanks to your generosity, scholarships, programs, and special initiatives continue to thrive, helping students overcome financial barriers, gain valuable hands-on experience, and develop the skills necessary for success. Each gift, regardless of size, plays a vital role in shaping the future of our students and the College.

As we reflect on the past year, we are inspired by the achievements of our students and the dedication of our community. Your commitment to James Sprunt Community College strengthens the foundation of our institution and ensures that students have access to the education and resources they need to succeed.

From all of us at the JSCC Foundation, thank you for believing in our mission and for investing in the future of our students. Together, we are making a lasting impact.

Sincerely,

Taylor Sandlin

JSCC Foundation Board Members

Mr. Dean Butts

Chair

Mr. Curt Simpson

Vice-Chair

Mr. Jack Alphin

Mrs. Rhonda Campbell

Ms. Helen Dobson

Mr. Armin Jancis

Mr. Ken Jones

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Ms. Carrie Shields

Mr. Kenneth Smith

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Mrs. Emily Whaley

Mrs. Kathryn Wrenn

Casino Night



CASINO NIGHT SPONSORS
A special thank you to all sponsors for supporting our JSCC students!

Jackpot (\$2,500)
HOUSE OF RAEFORD

Royal Flush (\$1,000)
LEAR

Full House (\$500)
Mr. Ed Emory

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BRULAVILLE AREA

Kornegay Brothers, Inc.

EASTERN CAPITAL INSURANCE

Mr. Ed Emory

McDonald's

Wiggins

Redeem your casino cash for a choice! You are welcome to try your hand at the table to try your hand. If you are unsure of how to play, our dealers will be happy to help.

At 9:45, all game tables will close. At this time, your dealers will distribute raffle tickets. Raffle tickets will be sold until the tables close.

39th Annual



Golf Tournament



Golf Tournament Highlights

37

Teams

39

*Gift-in-kind
Donors*

110

Hole Sponsors

\$30,000+

Raised



PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION



Retiree Social



Alumni Association



James Sprunt Community College remains committed to fostering lifelong connections with its alumni through the Alumni Association, which supports graduates' personal and professional growth while promoting engagement with the College and the community. Membership is open to anyone who has completed a certificate, diploma, or degree program, as well as Workforce Development students who have completed at least 96 hours of coursework or earned a certification. Alumni enjoy opportunities to reconnect with classmates, stay informed about college initiatives and events, and participate in meaningful activities that strengthen the Spartan community.

Stay connected and show your Spartan pride by scanning the QR code to join the Alumni Association today!



Family Roots. Educational Success.

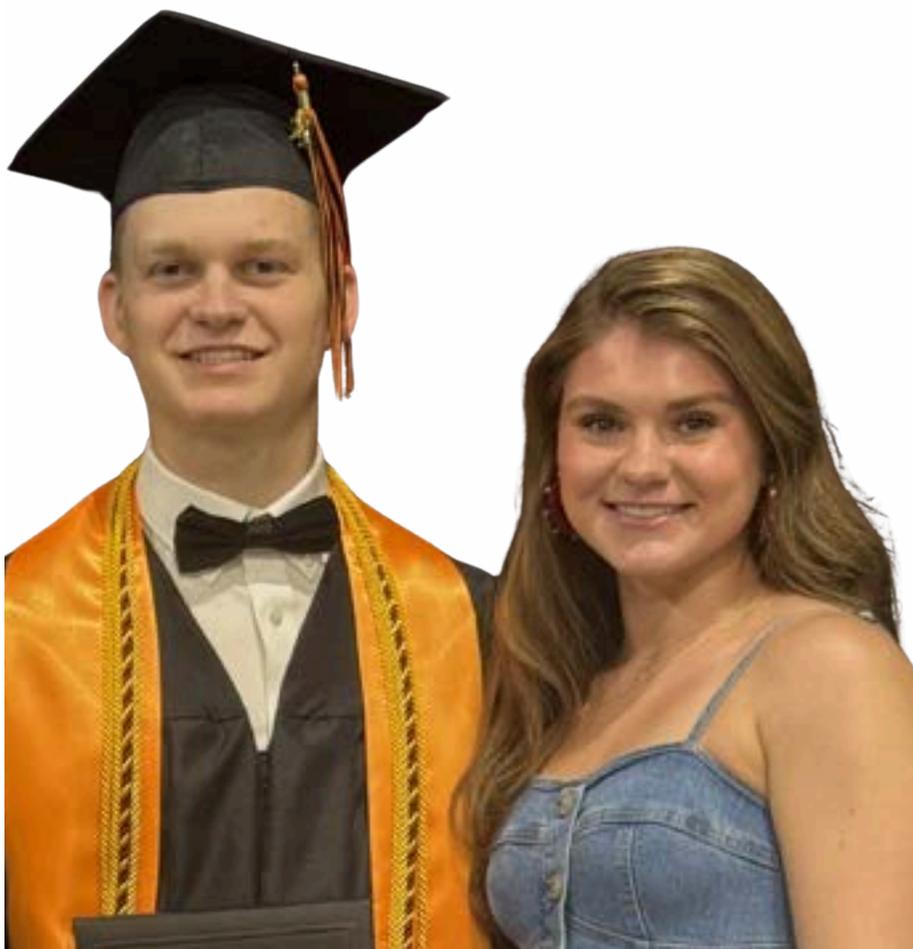
Emily Barnette, a 2024 graduate, and her brother, Davis Barnette, a current JSCC student, share more than family ties. They share a passion for education and a deep appreciation for the opportunities provided by their local community college.

Both Duplin County natives began their higher education journey through the Career and College Promise (CCP) program at JSCC, which allowed them to earn college credits while still in high school. Through hard work and dedication, both Emily and Davis excelled academically and earned the prestigious title of Presidential Scholars through the JSCC Foundation.

Davis, who plans to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering at North Carolina State University, expressed his gratitude for the support system he found on JSCC's campus. "The counselors have helped me every step of the way—from selecting classes to finding scholarships and exploring opportunities," Davis shared. "I'm extremely thankful for their guidance and encouragement."

Emily, who is also continuing her education at NCSU with plans to become a college counselor, echoed her brother's sentiments. "Whether it was an advisor or an instructor, I always knew I had someone at JSCC to help me. There was a sense of community around every corner," she said.

Both siblings credit James Sprunt Community College for giving them a strong academic foundation and making higher education affordable and accessible. The experience has left a lasting impression on the Barnette family – one that will continue to shape their futures and inspire others to follow in their footsteps.



CCP STATISTICS

542

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

37

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

85

CAREER & TECHNICAL
EDUCATION
CERTIFICATES

Ways to GIVE

James Sprunt Community College would not be successful without you!

Please consider giving the gift of education and helping students achieve their dreams. Every scholarship, program, and resource supported opens doors to new opportunities, empowers future leaders, and strengthens our community.

Together, we can transform lives and shape a brighter tomorrow.

Scan the QR code to donate online.



Checks can also be mailed to:
JSCC Foundation
PO Box 398
Kenansville, NC 28349



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

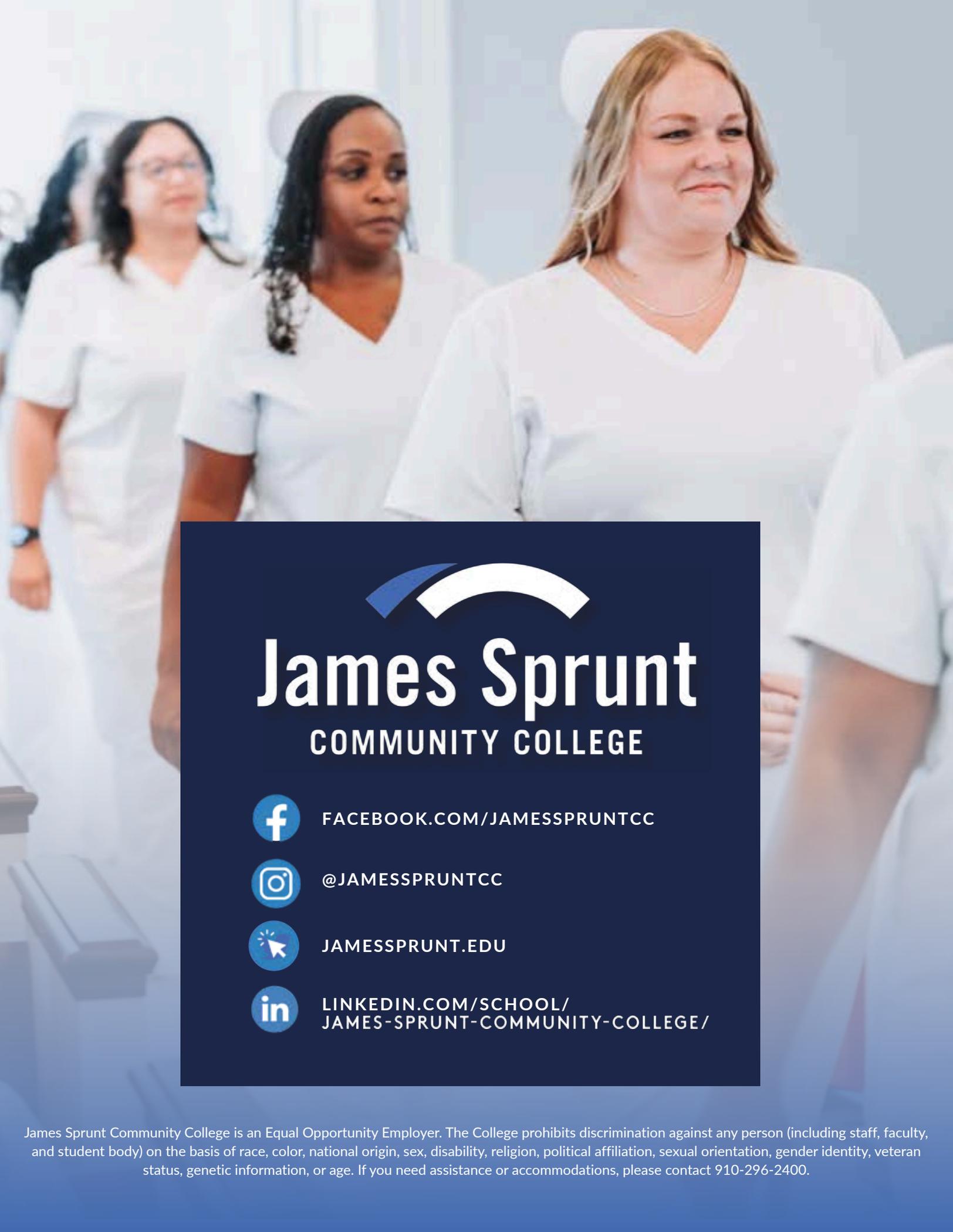
We provide high quality opportunities and necessary support services to help all students develop critical thinking skills and achieve their educational and employment goals.

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

MISSION Statement

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

VISION Statement



James Sprunt

COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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