

ANNUAL REPORT



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Mitchell leadership

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(through December 17, 2021)

Gerald Hyde, Vice President for Accounting and CFO

Carol Johnson, Vice President for Workforce Development
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Dr. Daniel "J.J." McEachern, Vice President for Student Services

Dr. Camille Reese, Vice President for Instruction and CAO

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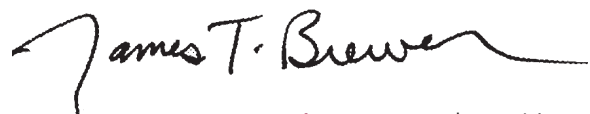
Greetings!

The College experienced great progress in 2020-2021. Throughout the year, we continued to adapt and adjust as the pandemic held its grip. Our faculty and staff consistently worked to keep our health and safety protocols in place while making sure our students received a quality education. We celebrated our student's success through graduation ceremonies that were virtually or in a hybrid format. Other highlights included enrollments that remained steady and assisting the community by providing a weekly location for COVID community testing. We also purchased additional property for future expansion in the Mooresville community.

As the College continues to move forward, we find that there are many opportunities for us to explore. We have experienced changes in how we do the work to educate, support and help our students to succeed. We remain focused and eagerly seek and explore those opportunities. We have realized that we are stronger because of the challenges we have overcome in the past two years. In the book titled The History of Mitchell Community College by William Moose, we are reminded over-and-over that "since its inception in 1852, the College has survived by reinventing itself at critical times in its history." This ability to adapt and change is still present today.

We continue to operate the functions of the College in ways that enable us to fulfill our mission. We have remained steadfast and fully engaged in serving our students and community. Our Board continues to be out front leading the way!

This report celebrates the official opening of the Health Sciences building that we were able to occupy earlier in 2020. We continue to expand programs in public safety training and workforce development while also providing a clear pathway to moving on to a four-year degree. Additionally you will read a few success stories, accomplishments and expressions of gratitude from students. These represent our greatest accomplishments.



Dr. James T. "Tim" Brewer | President



Left: Mitchell students on the historic Statesville Campus.

Above: Dr. Tim Brewer on the porch of Main Building.

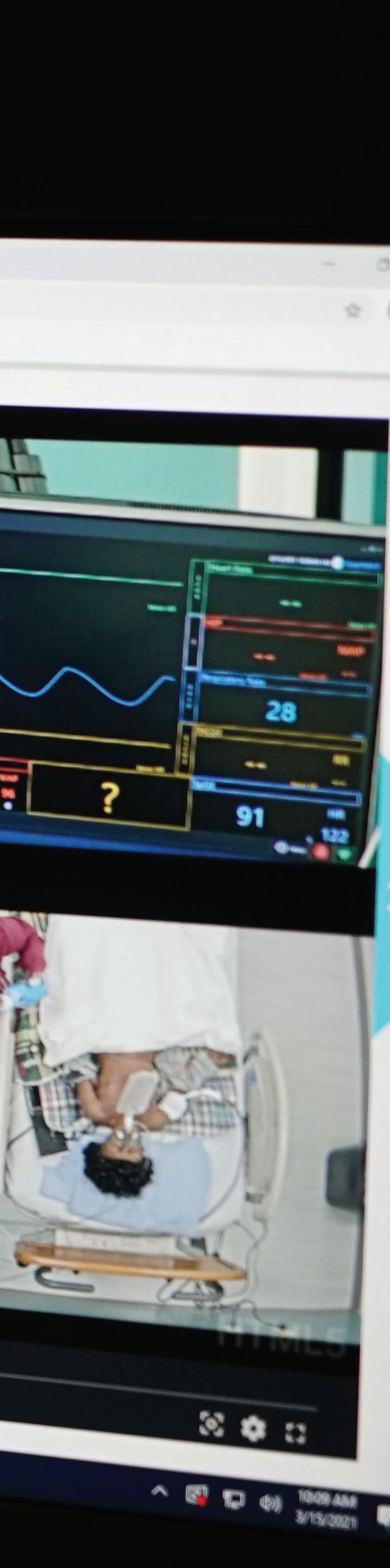
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El Colegio Universitario está comprometido con la igualdad de oportunidades de empleo y admisión; por lo tanto, prohíbe la discriminación por motivos de raza, color, religión, género, origen nacional, edad, discapacidad, orientación sexual, el embarazo e información genética de conformidad con las leyes estatales y federales aplicables. Esta política rige todos los aspectos del empleo, incluidos, entre otros: selección de trabajo, asignación de trabajo, compensación, evaluaciones de desempeño, disciplina, degradación, terminación, beneficios y capacitación. Esta política también rige la admisión de estudiantes y todos los programas, servicios y actividades del campus. El Colegio Universitario no discrimina por motivos de género en la admisión o empleo en sus programas o actividades educativas.

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Moving forward



Continuing a tradition



Mitchell celebrates long-awaited Health Sciences ribbon cutting

Mitchell Community College celebrated the ribbon cutting of the Health Sciences Building on Thursday, October 21, 2021.

Constructed where the former Davis Hospital once stood and served the community, the Health Sciences Building continues a legacy of providing healthcare education for Iredell County. Boasting seven classrooms, five labs, three simulation suites—as well as a full-size ambulance simulator—along with multiple meeting rooms and faculty offices, the facility provides a modern hub for the next generation of health care providers to train.

Dr. Ralph Bentley, Mitchell Community College Board of Trustees chair, shared his history with the site—both as a clinical professional and a community member—and praised the College on their dedication to this long-awaited facility. “It took a long time and a lot of thought to build this building,” said Dr. Bentley. “We won’t have to worry about a shortage of nurses and health professionals for a long time with this great building.”

The effort to construct the state-of-the-art facility came through a collaborative partnership over many years. “The fact that the College, the city, and the great county of Iredell all came together to ensure that this building would be built is an outstanding testament to what we can do together and will continue to do together,” noted Mitchell President Dr. Tim Brewer. “We are successful because we work together.”

Linda Wiersch, Dean of Nursing and Health Sciences, shared the value the building has already brought to the College. The opening of the building to classes in the Fall 2020 semester could not come at a more critical time. With the majority of coursework being moved online and in-person classes being interrupted by quarantine requirements, the technology in the Health Sciences Building allowed faculty to continue providing quality instruction and students to continue to learn and engage at a high level whether in-person or remote. In addition, the new simulation suites and labs provided a clinical setting at a time when medical facilities were unavailable.

“When our students were not allowed to be in the ICU, we ran ICU clinicals right here on campus,” said Wiersch. Mitchell Associate Degree Nursing student Tracy Massey spoke about the impact the new building has had on students and the program. “The technology has allowed us to become better student nurses,” Massey shared. “This building has become my home away from home.”

Wiersch emphasized the fact that the building supports education across programs and professions. “This building is home not just to Nursing. We have Emergency Medical Science, Paramedic, Paramedic to Associate Degree Nursing, Medical Assisting, Basic Law Enforcement Training, and more,” she noted. “We are now able to engage in interprofessional education.”



Top left: Mitchell employees, dignitaries and friends of the College gather to cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Bottom row: Images from the lab demonstrations at the Health Sciences Building ribbon cutting event.

Law Enforcement Training course no cost with scholarships

Mitchell Community College's Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program is now more accessible than ever thanks to local scholarships covering the student fee.

Mitchell's BLET program—regardless of class type—has a cost of \$680, one of the lowest overall in the region. Students sponsored by a law enforcement agency qualify for a registration fee waiver (\$180 value). Now, with the help of local scholarships including a State Employees Credit Union scholarship, the remaining \$500 cost may be reimbursed for eligible students.

"We are constantly working to make BLET more accessible to all types of students, whether a student is currently employed or taking coursework full-time, whether they have experience in the field or not, whether they are able to cover the cost of classes or need assistance," said program coordinator Todd Carver. "We are working to ensure finances do not create a barrier for students attending BLET." Carver noted that the program can even assist students with obtaining law enforcement agency sponsorship. "We make introductions and connections that not only assist with class cost, but also establish professional relationships that may lead to later employment."

The program boasts successful outcomes, with 90% of graduates being employed at the time of graduation and 95% being employed 90 days after graduation.

BLET graduates also have unique opportunities to continue their education. Thus far in 2021, 60 students began a BLET course at Mitchell, with 37 students completing the program and sitting for the state examination. Thirty-six of those 37 (or 97%) passed the state exam on the first try.

"The caliber of the law enforcement professionals we consistently produce is a testament to the support we have received from the College and the community. Their partnership allows us to be innovative, thorough, and train with state-of-the-art equipment, creating well-rounded law enforcement professionals," said Carver. "We look forward to even more gains in quality training opportunities with a future new law enforcement training facility."

Mitchell offers five BLET courses per year with a variety of scheduling to accommodate student needs. Individuals who are not working full-time can complete the course in one semester with the "day class" option. Students who are currently employed full-time can complete the course over two semesters with the "alternating/night class" option. Class formats are 768 hours of training, well above the 640-hour state minimum for training. In addition, all BLET classes are co-listed between Continuing Education and Curriculum to better meet student needs and goals.



Apprenticeship Iredell now full sponsor status

Mitchell Community College's Apprenticeship Iredell program recently received full apprenticeship sponsor status by North Carolina Community College System's ApprenticeshipNC. This status means Mitchell is an integral facilitator with apprenticeship programs, allowing employers to participate in apprenticeship programs at no cost and with a more streamlined process.

"The college recognizes the critical urgency employers have for recruiting and retaining highly skilled workers," said Amanda Rhea, Mitchell's Director of Educational Partnerships. "Apprenticeship Iredell aligns on-the-job training with instruction at Mitchell to rapidly meet the evolving needs of industries in the county."

In fall 2020, Mitchell launched Apprenticeship Iredell, a work-based learning opportunity. The goal of a registered apprenticeship program is to develop highly-skilled workers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) related fields. The program marries on-the-job training with classroom instruction, allowing participants to both learn and earn.

As part of the apprenticeship program, students are hired by an industry partner to receive on-the-job training while enrolled in a selected program at Mitchell Community College. In the model developed, apprentices work to complete essential competencies within a specified timeframe. At the end of the program, the apprentice will earn North Carolina and federal recognition as a journeyworker in the field along with an associate degree from Mitchell.

"As a sponsor of registered apprenticeships, the College has an opportunity to bring a proven method of workforce training to our industry partners while ensuring compliance with state and federal requirements. We will lessen the burden on employers and work alongside them to meet the demand for skilled workers in Iredell County," said Dr. Camille Reese, Vice President for Instruction at Mitchell Community College.

Interested students and potential industry partners should visit mitchellcc.edu/apprenticeship.





Mitchell graduates honored with awards

Mitchell Community College recently recognized graduates Karen Valentina Acevedo-Suta with the 2021 President's Award and Olivia Frisella with the 2021 Academic Excellence Award. The announcements were made during the College's virtual graduation ceremony, Friday May 14, 2021.

The President's Award is given to a graduating student who has one of the highest grade point averages on all work completed at Mitchell Community College. Karen Valentina Acevedo-Suta earned an Associate in Applied Science degree in digital media technology, working extremely hard in the most adverse situations to complete her two-year degree. She also earned a digital media certificate and digital media technology essentials certificate. She graduated with a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) and high honors.

Each year the North Carolina Community College System honors outstanding students within each of the 58 colleges in the system. Mitchell Community College's 2021 honoree was chosen for this award based on faculty nomination and a high grade point average. Olivia Frisella earned an Associate in Science degree, high honors. She plans to transfer to North Carolina State University to pursue a degree in veterinarian medicine. Frisella has a passion for animals and animal care, both professionally and personally. While she would like to one day open her own practice, she is taking her education one step at a time. She encourages others to take the next step in their education, particularly at Mitchell.

Above: Olivia Frisella and Karen Valentina Acevedo-Suta.

Right: Dr. Daniel "JJ." McEachern

McEachern joins College as new VP for Student Services

In summer 2021, Mitchell Community College announced the selection of Dr. Daniel “J.J.” McEachern as the new Vice President for Student Services. Dr. McEachern joined Mitchell on July 26, 2021.

Dr. McEachern previously served as the Dean of Enrollment Management at Central Piedmont Community College, where he also held the titles of Associate Dean and Enrollment and Student Services Director/Registrar. Prior experience includes serving as the Director of Enrollment Services at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, Florida; Director for First Year Programs at Guilford College; and Residence Hall Director and Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dr. McEachern holds an Education Doctorate in Community College Executive Leadership from Wingate University. He also earned a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership and a Bachelor of Arts in Media Studies, both from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Dr. McEachern has a broad array of leadership experiences related to student success and enrollment management.



“Iredell County is a great place to live and raise a family,” said Dr. McEachern. “I want to be a part of the educational institution providing learning opportunities for its citizens.”

COVID-19 TESTING

Find StarMed testing dates/times at locations across Iredell County.



www.co.iredell.nc.us/1406/Community-Testing



COVID test site at Mitchell

Mitchell Community College partnered with the Iredell County Health Department to conduct COVID-19 testing in 2021. The year provided many opportunities for Iredell County citizens to be tested in multiple areas of the county. Iredell Health contracted with StarMed Health Care to conduct COVID-19 PCR testing in 2021 and began Rapid, Flu, and Antibody testing in November, 2021. StarMed conducted 13,675 PCR tests countywide and Mitchell Community College accounted for 4,406 PCR tests. The Mitchell site was chosen due to its location in Statesville. The site provides easy access in and out of the facility and meets a vital need in the area of the community. We are continuing the partnership in 2022 and are honored to assist the local health department in mitigating the deadly virus.

Equity and Inclusion work

Purpose

To engage in equity, inclusion, and diversity activities and dialogue across campus that lead to a clearer understanding of each other and our society. The initiative is developed strategically by addressing structural, procedural, and leadership management challenges, as well as identifying organizational indicators of competency relative to equity, inclusion, and diversity.

Diversity

Mitchell Community College respects and appreciates differences in age, disability, ethnicity, education, race, gender identity, national origin, religion and sexual orientation. The College also recognizes the importance of acknowledging diverse perspectives, work experiences, lifestyles and cultures.

Inclusion

Mitchell Community College assures that everyone is valued and respected and strives to ensure that the right conditions are in place for each person to achieve their full potential.

Equity

Mitchell Community College ensures equality of outcomes by assessing potential barriers and assuring that all individuals are provided with what is needed to be successful.

* For a full report and further information, see the link below.



mitchellcc.edu/diversity

Learning in the wild

Project Yellowstone returns

In June 2021, Mitchell students, faculty, and friends of the College made a triumphant return to the wilderness with Project Yellowstone. The annual week-long educational trip was put on hold in 2020, but participants this year made up for the gap with life-changing experiences and adventures. 2021 marked the twelfth year and eleventh trip of the experience.

"I think I speak for everyone when I say that this trip was wonderful," said Mitchell Professor and Project Yellowstone co-leader Parks Collins. "Thank you to all of this year's participants for making it so special. Don't forget about the wild places. Spend time out in nature, whether that means visiting a national park, a state park, a city green space, or your own backyard. Pay attention to the animals. Notice the plants. Appreciate it all."

Project Yellowstone aims to make science relevant; allow students the chance to be scientists; and stimulate conservation through appreciation. Project Yellowstone accomplishes this by exposing students to the wildlife biology, geology, botany, microbiology and ecology of Yellowstone National Park. Participants have completed independent inquiry-based projects, observed large megafauna such as bears, wolves, and moose, and have hiked many trails. Participants have also had opportunities to explore the plant life, the physical formations of the land, and the geothermal areas. Instructors and participants have been responsible for leading specific topic discussions, including the geology of Yellowstone, the reintroduction of the gray wolf and bald eagle, the ecology of cutthroat trout, and the delicate balance of life in high altitude ecosystems and lake ecosystems.





Honors and achievements

Mitchell ABE instructor and student honored

A Mitchell Community College Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructor and student recently received national honors from ProLiteracy's Learning Upgrade Challenge.

Vicki Larsen, ABE 1 Instructor/Assessment Assistant, was recently named top instructor in ProLiteracy's 2021 4th trimester of the Learning Upgrade Challenge. Delaney Hanson, ABE 1 student, was also honored as a Learner who completed the most hours in the 4th trimester. Larsen and the College's ABE program was awarded up to 100 student Learning Upgrade Licenses (a \$5000 value) and Hanson was awarded a \$200 Visa gift card along with being honored on the ProLiteracy website.

ProLiteracy, the largest adult literacy and basic education membership organization in the nation, provides customized print and digital instructional tools for

instructors and learners. The organization also advocates for awareness, funding, and support to increase access to educational resources for adults who want/need to improve their literacy.

Education providers, instructors, and learners can join the ProLiteracy Learning Upgrade Challenge to compete for rewards based on activity during each challenge trimester. The Challenge follows three 4-month long trimesters to match adult education calendars. During each cycle, new providers can sign up for the ProLiteracy Challenge and receive instructor training to get started. Instructors onboard adult learners into the smartphone app, and then learners work on lessons that meet their individual needs. Instructors track learner progress to monitor and motivate learners.

Mitchell Ag Students honored with American FFA Degree

Four Mitchell Community College students were recently announced as recipients of the American FFA Degree, the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization.

Agribusiness Technology students Ryan Baldwin and Michael McLain and Agriculture Education students Hanna Ball and Courtney Elledge have all been involved in varying levels of the National FFA Organization throughout their educational careers. The American FFA Degree shows an FFA member's dedication to his or her chapter and state FFA association. It demonstrates the effort FFA members apply toward their supervised agricultural experience and the outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement they exhibited through their FFA career. 2021 American FFA Degree candidates were honored at the 94th National FFA Convention & Expo, October 27-30 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

"These students are leaders in their FFA associations and in their community" said Agribusiness instructor Amy Poirier. "They will be the next generation of Agriculture professionals and educators, and I am honored to have them in my classroom!"

FFA or the National FFA Organization is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The letters "FFA" stand for Future Farmers of America.



Previous page: Delaney Hanson, ABE 1 student, proudly shows off her gift card.

Above: Agriculture Education students Courtney Elledge and Hanna Ball.

Advanced credentials and accomplishments

Adam Atwell

Doctorate degree, Education, from UNC-Charlotte

Marc R. Davis

Doctorate degree, Education, from UNC-Charlotte

Janay Dennis

Doctorate degree, Biology, from Case Western Reserve

T'Sha Harrison

- Bachelors degree, Interdisciplinary Studies, from UNC-Pembroke
- Named Assistant Director of Admissions and Testing
- President's Leadership Institute

Myra Lewis and Tamara Watkins

President's Leadership Institute

Crystal Howell

Bachelors degree, Interdisciplinary Studies, from UNC-Pembroke

De'Angelia Huggins

Given responsibility of overseeing the 49erNext Program

Austin Leviner

Promoted to Coordinator of Student Activities and New Student Orientation

Molly Rogers

Student Support Generalist, joined the Financial Aid Team

Amanda Tompkins

Obtained VA Certifying Official training certificate

Samantha Willis

Promoted to Student Services Coordinator/Academic Advisor II

Updates from Student Services

Celebrations

- Celebrated the Financial Aid staff on National Financial Aid Day—October 3, 2021

Federal Funding to Students

- New GEER funds for Continuing Education students were awarded in February 2021 and throughout the year for a total of \$49K.
- The FA Specialists worked diligently to implement and award the NEW Long Leaf Commitment Grant to 2021 high school students enrolling for the first time 2021FA for a total of \$82K.
- New HEERF III funds were awarded to every curriculum student enrolled for 2021FA for a total of \$1.2M.

New Processes in Student Services

- Admissions added two Success Navigators to the department. These individuals are dedicated to assisting students through the enrollment process.
- Admissions and Testing merged into one department.
- Admissions and Advising continue to meet with applicants and students in whatever context they prefer—virtual, telephone, in-person, email.
- FAFSA Completion Nights every Tuesday from 4-5:30 p.m.
- Mooresville—Piloted two onboarding group advising sessions for Spring 2022 students. Continuing to offer virtual advising appointments, if requested. All departments are serving students in person (appointments and walk-in) and via phone.
- MAN2MAN program held four workshops in the fall and created the MAN2MAN Leadership Academy in the Spring.
- Student Ambassadors provided student tours to more than 100 prospective students.

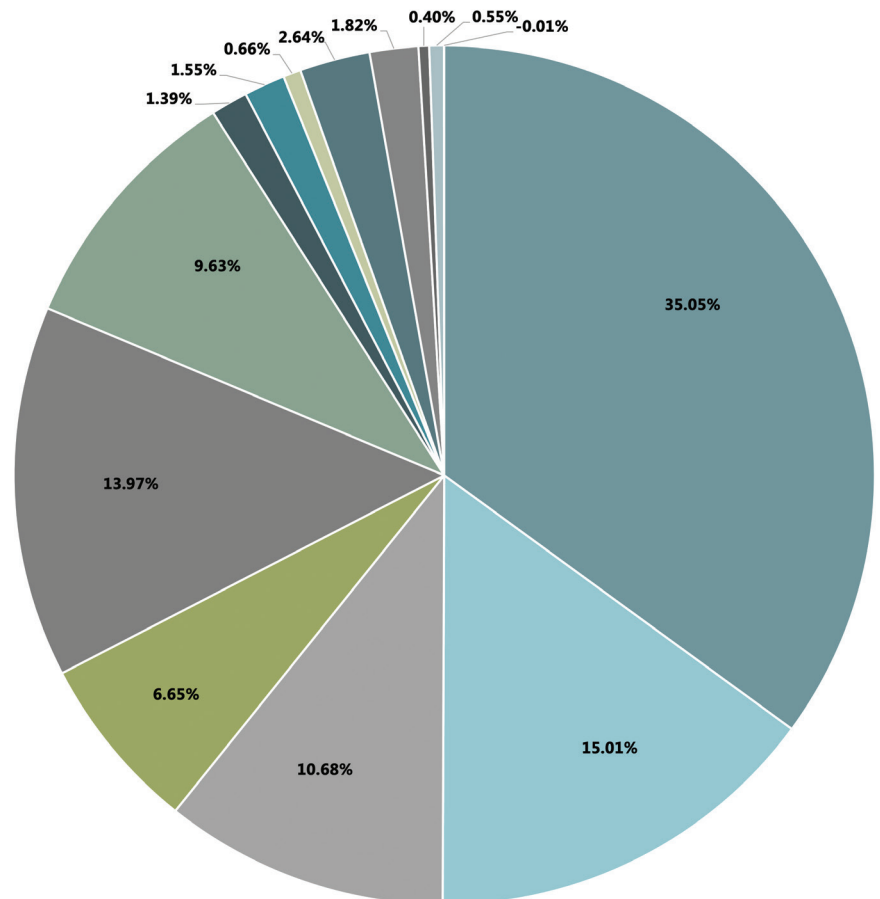
2020-2021 Financial Report

State Budget Allocation for 2020-21 was \$18,140,110, a 1.42% increase from 2019-20 due to an increase in FTE (full time equivalent). The College received a 30.77% increase in county appropriations (Iredell County provides the funding for facilities and capital projects).

2020-2021 Revenues

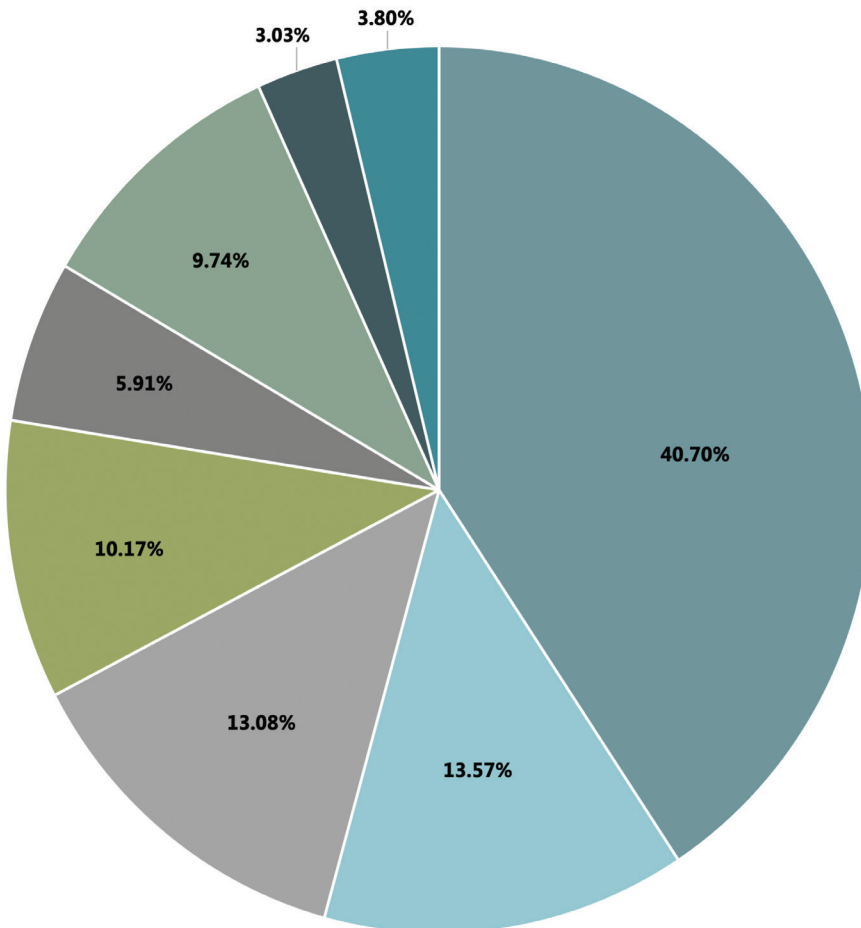
Item	Amount	Percent
State Appropriations	\$13,919,277.49	35.05%
Student Financial Aid	\$5,960,640.97	15.01%
County Appropriations	\$4,240,158.00	10.68%
Student Tuition and Fees	\$2,640,015.33	6.65%
Investment Income	\$5,547,428.96	13.97%
County Capital Aid	\$3,825,331.20	9.63%
Sales and Services	\$550,816.96	1.39%
State Capital Aid	\$613,510.69	1.55%
Noncapital Gifts	\$263,475.24	0.66%
Noncapital Grants	\$1,049,047.34	2.64%
Additions to Endowment	\$724,295.64	1.82%
Capital Gifts	\$158,299.00	0.40%
Capital Grants	\$219,045.54	0.55%
Other Revenues (Expenses)	\$(2,559.58)	-0.01%

Total Revenues \$39,708,782.78 100.00%



2020-2021 Expenditures

Item	Amount	Percent
Instruction (Curriculum & Continuing Education)	\$12,004,529.81	40.70%
Institutional Support	\$4,003,239.43	13.57%
Operations/Maintenance	\$3,858,016.68	13.08%
Student Financial Aid	\$2,999,274.92	10.17%
Student Services	\$1,743,462.33	5.91%
Academic Support	\$2,874,369.51	9.74%
Auxiliary Enterprises	\$894,099.42	3.03%
Depreciation	\$1,121,773.03	3.80%
Total Expenditures	\$29,498,765.13	100.00%



Expanding
horizons



Telling
our stories



Dr. Terry Badey-McClelland

Dr. Terry Badey-McClelland knows that people can shape and change their futures. Growing up in a small eastern North Carolina town, Badey-McClelland never thought that she would one day have the title of doctor before her name. No matter how untraditional a journey, no matter how late the start, Badey-McClelland believes that education can change your future.

After high school, Badey-McClelland initially chose to forgo college, focusing instead on marriage and

starting a family. Her husband served in the United States Army, and their family spent many years traveling around the world alongside him. In 2004, when her husband retired from the Army after 23 years of service, they settled in Iredell County, and Badey-McClelland decided to continue her education.

Enrolling at Mitchell at 40 years old, she was not sure what to expect. "Getting a degree had always been a dream," Badey-McClelland shared.

Achieving her goal



“ Had it not been for Mitchell, I probably would not have **gone on to obtain my doctorate.**”

Dr. Terry Badey-McClelland | Class of 2006

“I chose Mitchell due to the convenient location and the human services program.” Badey-McClelland excelled at her studies and made lasting connections during her time at Mitchell. “I thoroughly enjoyed Mitchell! I had great teachers who were concerned about me being successful,” she said. Along with outstanding faculty, Badey-McClelland also appreciated the advising and financial aid departments as they helped her get through her first few years of college. She credits her public speaking class as being beneficial to her career and future endeavors. Badey-McClelland graduated from Mitchell in 2006 with an associate in applied sciences degree in human services technology.

After Mitchell, Badey-McClelland took a break from her studies to build her career. After a few years, she began missing the challenge of higher education. Badey-McClelland decided to attend Winston-Salem State University to obtain a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies. She graduated in 2013, then immediately began working on a master’s degree in healthcare administration at Capella University.

While working toward her doctorate degree, Badey-McClelland had the opportunity to be a graduate teaching assistant for the psychology department. She greatly enjoyed this and would like to continue making an impact in higher education. “My goal is to teach on the university level and stay within the UNC system schools, especially HBCU schools and, preferably, at Winston-Salem State University.” Badey-McClelland recently graduated with her doctorate in general psychology from Capella University. She defended her thesis - “The experience of practicing mindful meditation among women graduate psychology students” in August 2021. The work is currently

published in Proquest Dissertation & Theses Global. “At this point in my life,” Badey-McClelland said, “I want to do something that helps in areas that I know there is a great need because you are going to find a lot of people that can go in certain places and work and don’t have a problem but some people do not prefer going into certain areas. I like to go where I am needed.”

Badey-McClelland is currently in the process of writing her first book, a work based off her dissertation. “My book is going to be on mindful mediation among females,” she shared. “Women tend to practice mindful meditation more than men and I would like to bring it into the mainstream more than it already is.” Looking toward the future, Badey-McClelland shared her goal of sharing mindful meditation in higher education. “In ten years, I would love to be doing workshops on mindfulness meditation. I see myself taking mindfulness into the schools and colleges and trying to help everybody see how great of a skill or intervention it is.” Badey-McClelland also plans to continue traveling with her husband and enjoying spending time with her grandchildren.

Badey-McClelland’s advice for future Mitchell students is to keep an open mind about your future. “Never base your future on where you are today because where you are today is not where you will be in the future,” she shared. Badey-McClelland did not see herself going this far in her educational journey, but she knows if she can, others can as well. “I am just grateful that I was able to get my start at Mitchell. Had it not been for Mitchell, I probably would not have gone on to obtain my doctorate nor had the educational experiences I have had.”

Geron White

Geron White believes in making a difference. He has seen the impact of perseverance, love and faith in his own life and is striving to share this with others. By continuing his education at Mitchell, he hopes to gain skills and knowledge to enhance his already broad impact in the Statesville community.

White grew up in the Cool Spring area and attended North Iredell High School. After graduating, White chose to go straight into the workforce to support himself and his family. Now a City of Statesville employee, White recently decided the time was right to continue his studies. He took on the challenge of being a full-time employee and part-time student not only as a personal accomplishment but also to be a role model for his two sons. White chose Mitchell to continue his connection to the Statesville community. "Just hearing about all of the excellent classes they have," he shared, "it made me want to partake in them."

Coming back to school has been a challenge for White, but Mitchell faculty, staff and resources have eased the transition. The availability of financial aid support and the helpfulness of Student Services staff have provided much needed assistance and advice. White is studying business administration coursework and hopes to be promoted within the city of Statesville upon graduating with his degree. White shared he may continue his studies after Mitchell but is currently focusing on the first step.

Despite juggling his job and his studies, White is also an avid community volunteer. He has been coaching travel basketball for over 20 years. While many travel clubs have cost prohibitive fees, White does not charge for kids to be on his team. "I just want the child to play," he said. "I don't care if it is a boy or a girl or what grade, I just want to keep that child out of trouble." White funds the program by collecting and recycling scrap metal. The funds help pay for the tournaments and uniforms for his teams.

Over the years, White has coached and made a lasting impact on hundreds of young lives. While he has many stories to share, the story of one young man who was considering becoming involved with a gang sticks out. "I kept telling him that it is not what you think it is," White shared. "Gangs claim that they show love but they don't. The streets don't have any love for you. You are either going to have an open casket, closed casket, or you are going to be in prison it is your choice." While White's words did not have an immediate impact, they stuck with the young man. Instead of pursuing a life of violence, the young man is on course to become a law enforcement officer.

White also gives back to the community through his initiative Clean Heart of Statesville. This project is a combined effort with Purple Heart Homes, bringing the community together through cookouts and events. "Purple Heart Homes has a passion and we have a passion, so we put our passions together and have been making things happen," White reflected. "When it first started, I was on the garbage truck for



If you want to make a difference, don't be scared. Step out. You might not think that it is going to be successful but it will be successful if you stay with it.
Have faith and don't give up."

Geron White | Business Administration student



Inspiring a better community

the sanitation department and there was a murder that took place in Statesville. There was a young man that lost his life. I wondered why people were being so heartless. I said something else has to be done, we have to do something to bring this community together." With the help of coworker Darius Frasier and the support of many others, White decided to host a community cookout. White has always worked to bring his community together. "I think, to me," he shared, "a strong community together can withstand anything that you throw at them. But there shouldn't have to be anything thrown at us if we were already strong from the start."

The project, which started small, has become known as the Stop the Violence Cookout and has grown to several hundred attendees. Additional community support from private donations and faith community support have ensured the initiative will continue. The initiative has even received support from Statesville's

mayor. "As the Mayor of Statesville, I got to know Geron White first from his work with the City of Statesville," said Mayor Costi Kutteh. "I then learned of his work in the community and the Stop the Violence Cookout and I wanted to be part of it. I have made it a priority to attend the event and contribute in some small way every year."

Whether in their own lives or in their community, White encourages others to take a chance and not give up. "Things are going to happen but you just have to keep persevering and stay focused," he shared. "If you want to make a difference, don't be scared. Step out. You might not think that it is going to be successful but it will be successful if you stay with it. Have faith and don't give up." By expressing more love, never giving up, and having more faith, White believes everyone can be the best version of themselves. He has certainly shown it is possible.



Overcoming challenges

Ingrid Arevalo

Ingrid Arevalo's life has been a challenging journey. At only 20 years old, her personal struggles have been more than some individuals twice her age experience. She firmly believes she would not be where she is today without her family, her son, Mitchell Community College, and the many others who have helped her on her life journey.

The first in her family to graduate college, Arevalo grew up in difficult circumstances with unstable living conditions. At age 15, Arevalo found out that she was pregnant. The experience completely changed her outlook on life. "Having my son Daniel was hard," she said, "but it made me more determined. I now push myself to do more than what I think I can do and have accomplished so much."

“ I now push myself to do more than what I think I can do and have **accomplished so much.**”

Ingrid Arevalo | Class of 2020

Although her life was forever changed, Arevalo managed to stay on track with her plan to graduate high school at 18. She came to Mitchell a few months later in August 2018. “Mitchell was affordable, close to home, and just a smart decision,” she noted. Her original goal was to become a lawyer, but after speaking with her advisor, Nanci Burt, about her career goals, Arevalo decided that human services would be the best fit for her.

Like many students, Arevalo worked while she continued her studies. Yet Arevalo was able to find a manageable work-life balance with the help of her instructors and peers. “My favorite thing about Mitchell was my personal connection with my professors and students,” she said. Having a small cohort of students in the human services program created a strong bond amongst classmates and instructors. Having a steady group of peers to learn and grow with was one thing Arevalo found very valuable. Required class presentations and feedback from instructors and peers grew Arevalo’s confidence as a public speaker. During her time at Mitchell, she has gained skills and polished abilities she never knew she had.

Despite her busy schedule, Arevalo also found time to give back to her community. She spearheaded Driving Out Hunger events in November and December 2020, working with Student Services to host several “drive-thru” food pantry events, distributing food to Mitchell students in need. The events were very successful, with 25 bags of food being distributed to students.

Arevalo officially finished her coursework for graduation in December 2020 with an associate's in applied science degree in human services, and additional certificates in human services and substance abuse. She plans to commute to UNC Charlotte to pursue a bachelor's degree. Her ultimate career goal is to work for the Department of Social Services helping people in her community get the resources they need. One day, she hopes to open a private practice where she offers support to struggling teenagers who are pregnant or parents. “I am surprised I graduated,” she admits, “as several of my friends who had kids couldn’t do it and dropped out. I think teens in that situation lack support and they easily get in the mindset that they can’t do it. What we need to do is give them a new mindset that they can do it.”

While her journey thus far has not been easy, Arevalo is determined to make the most of her life and give back to support others in need. She encourages current and future Mitchell students to persevere and both seek and accept help when needed. “Don’t give up. Take it seriously,” she said. “I have enjoyed Mitchell and made personal connections with my teachers because they cared for me. Get to know your teachers! Get their advice. If you have questions, you will get the right answers at Mitchell.” With grit and determination, Arevalo now knows she can overcome any challenge that comes her way.

Taking a different path



“

The instructors I had at Mitchell were **absolutely incredible**. They **truly cared about their students** and their education”

Genny Wooten | Class of 2020

Genny Wooten

Genny Wooten knows that taking a different path from one's peers can lead to rewarding destinations. Although her goals may have been unclear at first, her time at Mitchell opened her eyes to new passions and opportunities. Starting her educational journey at Mitchell laid a solid foundation for a life-long career in a diverse field.

Wooten grew up in Davie County and attended Davie High School. Like many students, she did not have a clear plan for what she wanted to do after graduation. When Wooten's parents suggested community college, she had reservations. "I was not thrilled about the idea of attending Mitchell at first," she admitted. "The majority of my friends were going off to four-year universities and I had misconceptions about community colleges. However, it did not take me long to realize that I was wrong about community colleges, specifically Mitchell." While Wooten had access to several community colleges within 30 minutes, she chose Mitchell to continue her education for the traditional collegiate environment and the college's proximity to downtown Statesville.

The first in her family to be a Mitchell student, Wooten began taking classes at the college in 2018. From her first days in the classroom, she could tell that her instructors were passionate about their subjects and their students. "The instructors I had at Mitchell were absolutely incredible," she shared, "and they truly cared about their students and their education." Instructors Rita Taggart, Chris Yockey and Ryan Cannon left a lasting impression on her. Wooten appreciated how all her instructors went out of their way to help students and how valuable office hour appointments were.

Wooten enjoyed her studies and excelled at Mitchell. College Transfer Success was one class in particular that made an impact on Wooten, helping her discover her passion for media. Wooten honed her skills with communication related assignments in other courses, a favorite being a semester long blog students created in an Interpersonal Communication course.

Both in and out of the classroom, Wooten forged many friendships at Mitchell. Being able to hang

out with her friends downtown between classes was one of her favorite memories. "I made incredible friendships at Mitchell," she noted. Like many Mitchell students, Wooten balanced her studies with work and other engagements. She was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, volunteered with her church youth group, and worked at a campground during the summer months.

Wooten graduated Mitchell in 2020 with an associate in arts degree, boasting a 4.0 grade point average. After graduation, she felt confident in her decision to pursue her bachelor's degree. "Mitchell provided a really good transition from high school to my four-year school," she said. Wooten is currently attending North Carolina State University (NC State). She is currently conducting an internship at Statesville's radio station WAME. In addition, she was one of 51 students from 13 schools accepted into CMA EDU-Country Music Association's college outreach and business development program designed to educate college students on career opportunities within the music and entertainment industries. She is excited about these opportunities to grow in her skill set and gain experience for her future career. Wooten is on track to graduate in May 2022, earning a degree in communication with a media concentration and a minor in journalism.

Once Wooten graduates from NC State, she plans to work in the radio/music industry. She plans to explore opportunities within the field before deciding which one is the best fit. In ten years, she hopes to live in Nashville, TN and have worked her way up in the radio/music industry with a stable career. She hopes to make an impact in her field.

Wooten's advice for Mitchell students is to not compare your path to the paths of others. "A lot of my friends from high school tell me how they wish they would have attended a two-year college first," she admitted, looking back on her own choice with confidence despite early misgivings. "I would recommend Mitchell to any high school student who is unsure about their future," she said. "I saved a lot of money and figured out what I wanted to do in the future."



Grateful scholars

Maverick Fund and OneMitchell Scholarship Recipients Say "Thank you"

I am Colombian, I am 47 years old, I had to leave my country together with my wife and two children in February 2006, due to the violence in Colombia, I was 1 year away from finishing my degree in systems engineering. Since I arrived in the USA, I had tried to resume my studies, but many things were delaying the beginning—among them, the economic part, bringing the necessary documents from Colombia, and the fact that to date my level of English is at 70%. We are very grateful to you because this scholarship helps us to lighten our burdens.

—**Nelson Acevedo**

You have really given me another leg up in the education world, and not even a 1000-page paper could explain how happy I am.

—**Austin Cowles**

I am extremely grateful that you have taken part in helping me create a future I'll love. Due to your help some of my financial stress has been relieved. I am eternally grateful for anyone who helps me achieve my goals of becoming a teacher, so I can help other people achieve theirs. Thank you again.

—**Abbie Rhyne**

I would like to say I greatly appreciate the scholarship I was awarded; it has given me even more of a drive to finish what I started. Seeing someone recognize the hard work I am trying to fulfill is extremely encouraging.

—**William C. Petty II**

I cannot tell you how grateful I am for your generosity. I truly could not finish my degree without your help. I hope that I can pay it forward when I become a registered nurse to my patients and their families. I know this is the perfect career for me and I am achieving my dreams because of you. Thank you so much!

—**Jessica H. Coughlin**

Your scholarship has lightened my financial burden. Without your generosity, I wouldn't be able to fulfill my dream of becoming a pediatric nurse! Thank you for your continued support and investment in my future!

—**Brittney Bradshaw**

Without your generosity, I wouldn't be able to fulfill my dream of becoming a homicide detective and eventually an FBI agent. Thank you for your investment in my future!

—**Vanessa Nicole Torres**

“Receiving a scholarship helped me to take the path I wanted to be successful in life. **Thank you for your donation.**”

Thomas McCullough | Scholarship Recipient
Computer Integrated Machining Student

I have faith in a bigger plan for myself and my son, and your award is another confirmation that it's going to all work out in the end. Again, thank you for your generous donation. With my tuition covered for the next two semesters I can spend a little more time studying or with my boy rather than working to make it all work. I am not sure I can put it into words how thankful I am for your support and personal investment in not only my future but all Mitchell students' futures!

—**Natalie Callahan**

I cannot express the gratitude I have towards receiving this financial gift from your family. Because I have previous bachelor's and master's degrees, I was unable to apply for many other scholarships or receive any funds. This scholarship allowed for my school expenses to be covered, so I did not have to worry about any other expenses besides food and housing. It also assisted me in moving to the Statesville area so that I no longer have to drive from Ashe County. Thank you for your support, investment, and kindness in helping achieve my goals and being able to give back to the community. One day, I hope to be able to pay it forward as well.

—**Hallie Brown**





Supporting
excellence



Investing in the future

“ This gift is a means whereby students can have the resources to **accomplish their educational goals without a financial burden.**”

Frank Childress | 2021 Excellence in Giving and Service Award honoree

2021 Excellence in Giving and Service Award

Frank and Carol Childress

Mitchell Community College students relying on scholarships to afford their education got a major boost with the announcement that longtime Statesville residents Frank and Carol Childress have committed \$1 million for financial aid at the college.

Their gift, which created an endowed scholarship fund through the Mitchell Community College Foundation and Endowment for Excellence, is the second commitment of a million dollars or more this academic year, according to James Hogan, Mitchell's vice president for advancement. In the fall of 2020, the foundation announced a million-dollar commitment from Lake Norman residents John and Teresa Schaefer—a gift that inspired Frank and Carol Childress.

"We talked with James last year and told him of our desire to provide scholarships for students who sought avenues of higher education after their high school graduation. We saw what the Schaefers did for the college, and that inspired us to make a more substantial commitment," Frank Childress said. "This gift is a means whereby students can have the resources to accomplish their educational goals without a financial burden. Ultimately, this gift will help our community, and hopefully it will challenge others in our community to help support the students at Mitchell."

"The first time Frank and I visited Statesville, one of the things that impressed us was the drive down Broad Street and seeing the Mitchell campus for the first time," said Carol Childress, who serves on the Mitchell Foundation board of directors. "We both said, 'I think I could live here.' In the forty-five years we've lived here, raising our family and being involved with the community, we have learned what a vital role Mitchell plays in the lives of so many. Frank and I feel blessed

that by establishing this scholarship we can help future students have the opportunity to further their education."

The Childress' gift comes as more students are considering their college options in a surging post-pandemic job market. With the addition of the Childress' scholarship endowment, Mitchell Community College has better capacity to provide financial aid to students than ever before, said Dr. Tim Brewer, Mitchell's president. "Our students rely upon scholarship support to make their college and career goals possible," he continued. "Our college and community are so fortunate to receive the inspiring generosity of Frank and Carol. We are so grateful for this gift, which will pave the way for generations of students to improve their lives."

The Childress's gift was part of a record-setting fundraising year for the college and its foundation, which collectively received more than \$2.7 million in gifts and commitments. "Frank and Carol, and so many others in our community, have contributed more than ever to help our students access higher education," said Hogan. "In a year marked by turmoil and uncertainty, we are blessed to have their vote of confidence and firm support."

In addition to the Childress endowment, the college and its foundation saw the expansion of several scholarship funds and the creation of six new scholarship or program funds. Donors also contributed \$42,929 in gifts to the Foundation's Maverick Fund, which supports immediate needs across campus.

On December 16, the Childress' were honored at the College's fourth annual President's Circle Dinner with the 2021 Excellence in Giving and Service Award.



Mitchell announces new memorial scholarship



Above: Scott L. McClure

Mitchell Community College recently announced the establishment of a new current use scholarship, the Scott L. McClure Scholarship.

The fund was established by the McClure family in memory of Mitchell alumnus Scott L. McClure. McClure was born on July 4, 1997. He was the son of Ricky Lee McClure and Jeanna Marie Stamper McClure. McClure had a love of learning and a deep passion for computers, building his first computer at the age of thirteen.

Upon graduating Statesville High School, McClure attended Mitchell Community College. He graduated in 2017 with his Associate in Arts degree and a 3.2 grade point average. His love for and knowledge of computers helped him grow in his career in the IT field. McClure passed away unexpectedly on September 8, 2020.

Individuals may make a gift to the scholarship by sending checks to the Mitchell Community College Business Office, 500 W. Broad St., Statesville, NC 28677. Checks can be written to Mitchell Community College, and please note the Scott L. McClure Scholarship in the memo line.

New Mitchell scholarship supports Statesville High students

Thanks to the generosity of a beloved journalism teacher, students at Statesville High School now have a new scholarship to help them attend Mitchell Community College.

Mitchell's Foundation and Endowment for Excellence recently announced the creation of the Peggy Warlick Scholarship Endowment, which was funded through a gift from the late Ms. Warlick's estate.

Ms. Warlick was a celebrated and accomplished teacher who spent over 30 years of her life as a teacher, including 28 years at Statesville High

School, where she served as the Chairperson of the English Department for many years and the mentor for the school newspaper, the Blue and Gray, for 25 years. During her illustrious teaching career, she was presented with over 15 awards, including being named Statesville's "Teacher of the Year" ten times.

Her love for Statesville High and its students is evidenced by her estate provision to establish this scholarship and for its intention of supporting Statesville High graduates. Beginning in the fall of 2021, up to five Statesville High graduates will be selected to receive the funds.



Alumni Office updates

Alumni Donations—Alumni donations are an important part of annual giving at Mitchell. This year, Alumni constituted one-third of the total donors to the college.

Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship—The Scholarship continues to grow each year. For more information about contributing to the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship or supporting foundation efforts, visit mitchellcc.edu/giving.

Alumni Office—The Alumni Office continues to increase its presence at events across campus, recently adding fall and spring open house to the event roster.

Alumni Day—Alumni Day and the 1970-1971 class reunion were postponed until the first weekend in May, 2022.

Graduation Mailer—The Alumni Office mailed the 2021 graduates a postcard and Mitchell Circle Lapel pin to congratulate them on their accomplishments and to welcome them into the Alumni Association.

History Room—The Alumni Office and Huskins Library continue to grow the history room with a collection of college owned artifacts and Alumni donated items. The History room is currently featuring a display of our Alumni authors and artist. Tours of the history room can be arranged with the library.

Alumni Association Newsletter—The Alumni Association newsletter continues to go out triennially. The Alumni Association also sends a personalized birthday greeting to Alumni on the day of their birth.

Making an impact

Mitchell Community College provides affordable, accessible and relevant higher education and workforce training—and every gift we receive helps us better accomplish that mission. The Foundation and Endowment for Excellence exists to secure resources in support of our students, faculty, staff and programs. We can change thousands of lives across our community with your help.

Now—more than ever—your gifts are necessary to help our students overcome the difficulties they've experienced as a result of COVID-19.







Support for uncertain times.

Invest where it matters most by designating your gift to one of the following giving opportunities or to a fund of your choice.

Continuing Support

Mitchell Community College Foundation
Endowment for Excellence

Give to the College

Program Development
Public Safety Training
Maverick Fund
OneMitchell Scholarship
Friends of the Arts
Experiential Learning



The Maverick Fund

Mavericks blaze the path to a brighter future. Gifts to the Maverick Fund provide current-use resources for the college's greatest areas of need, including emergency support for students, need-based aid, and other priorities. Maverick Fund dollars are always spent in support of our most valuable asset: our students.

OneMitchell Scholarship

Mitchell students face many financial barriers. Tuition shouldn't be one of them. Scholarship gifts enable our students to achieve their goals without burdensome debt. You can support our students' financial aid needs through gifts to the OneMitchell Scholarship fund or by creating a current-use or endowed scholarship. Contact the Advancement Office to learn more about how to create your own scholarship.



Friends of the Arts

We are preparing a new generation of artists in our community. Mitchell Community College celebrates a long history of visual and performing arts—including being home to the first nationally accredited community college music program in North Carolina.

Our music and visual art programs depend on donor support to provide exceptional opportunities for students, feature top-rate collaborators and clinicians, and host thrilling concerts and exhibitions for our community.

Experiential Learning Fund

We believe students learn best by doing. Gifts designated to Experiential Learning provide current-use support for programs like Project Yellowstone, undergraduate research, and student internships or apprenticeships.

Endowment for Excellence

A gift that keeps on giving. As one of the largest community college foundations in the state, the Foundation and Endowment for Excellence provides sustaining—and substantial—funding every year to power many of Mitchell's innovative programs and the people who support them. Gifts to the Foundation and Endowment ensure Mitchell's future is well taken care of.



Investing in Mitchell's future is a powerful decision.

The Office for Advancement can be your trusted advisor to ensure your gift accomplishes everything you imagined. Our staff are ready to help you learn more about planned gifts, gifts of stocks and securities, and other ways to support Mitchell.

Office for Advancement

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giving@mitchellcc.edu
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