

Durham Tech 2020-2021 Annual Report (text only version)

The 60th anniversary logo (a large 60 with Durham Tech - 60 years of impact), is embossed over an image of the new Ingram Building.

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Letter from the President

Community Members:

At Durham Tech, we are proud of our legacy. We were born at another time in history when a shifting economy and search for broadened opportunity called for a new type of educational approach. This community stepped forward and started one of the first six institutions that paved the way for the formation of the state's community college system. Since that time, we have worked hard to stay true to that legacy of access, innovation, and service.

Since 1961, we have endeavored to make the promise of higher education a reality for the residents of this region – the promise that education connects individuals to economic and social mobility and improves the quality of life in our communities. In recent years, this promise has been tested. Persistent income inequality, rising levels of productivity without increases in wages, and continued racial

disparities in education and life outcomes have raised questions about higher education. The worldwide pandemic has had a disproportionate effect not just on health and economic standing, but on higher education where we have seen many current and prospective students push pause on their educational aspirations.

At Durham Tech, we believe deeply in the impact of higher education – and in our ability to meet this moment. It is a faith rooted in the talent of our employees, the character of our students, and the support of our community. And because it is in our founding DNA. We were among the first in North Carolina to offer televised courses, focus on clinical trials, and teach microelectronics. In Phail Wynn, Jr., we had the state’s first Black community college president. We launched a Center for the Global Learner, led the way on Guided Career Pathways, and started the state’s first office of equity and inclusion. We have consistently responded to the challenges of our times.

In Summer 2021, we approved a new strategic plan that undergirds our plans at Durham Tech for the next five years. It will guide the programs of study we offer, the institutional investments we make, the support services we provide, the companies and sectors with which we partner, and the innovations we embrace. This expanded commitment is how we transform lives, achieve equity, and build our communities.

By working together with our key education, employer, and community partners to help our students succeed, we will help our region prosper and sustain county and state commitments to keeping higher education affordable – and make the promise of higher education a reality for the people of Durham and Orange counties.

Best,

J.B. Buxton

President, Durham Tech

2021-22 Board of Trustees

Appointed by the Governor: Barker French, Gracie Johnson-Lopez, Walter Newton, Pilar Rocha-Goldberg

Appointed by the Durham County Commissioners: Jenna Bryant, Geoff Durham, Tara Fikes, Vice Chair, Brenda Howerton; Appointed by the Orange County Commissioners: Renee Price, Lee Storrow

Appointed by the Durham Public Schools Board of Education: Pat Ashley, John Burness, Chair, Michael Delano Page, Charles Wilson

Durham Tech President: J.B. Buxton

Student Trustee: Christine Link

Celebrating 60 Years of Impact

A proud history

June 1958 - Durham County voters approve \$500,000 budget to build Durham Industrial Education Center

1958 - Harold K. Collins is named the director of Durham Industrial Education Center

September 1961 – First classes are held at Durham Industrial Education Center (34 students) with five faculty members employed full-time

May 1965 - The Center changes name to Durham Technical Institute (DTI), 1969 - Construction begins for school's second building "Harold K. Collins Building"

December 1971 - DTI is awarded membership in Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

August 1974 - Board of Trustees purchases 37 acres

May 1975 - Dr. John Crumpton is named second president of DTI

1976 - Construction begins for a third building, "Edward L. Phillips Building", and a fourth building is purchased, renovated, and named the "George W. Newton Building"

Fall 1980 - DTI becomes the second North Carolina community college to offer telecourses broadcasted on UNC-TV as alternative classroom-based instruction

November 1980 - Dr. Phail Wynn, Jr. is named third president of DTI, becoming the youngest and first African American community college president in North Carolina

April 1981 - Weekend College classes begin, marking only the second weekend program for a community college in North Carolina

October 1981 - DTI Small Business Institute is established

October 1982 - DTI Foundation is established to raise funds for scholarships and instructional support

July 1986 - The Institution changes its name to Durham Technical Community College (Durham Tech)

Spring 1998 - The Center for Teaching and Learning is established

May 1998 - Construction completed on the Durham Tech/Glaxo Wellcome Technology Center

Fall 1998 - Durham Tech offers first online class sections

Fall 2005- Middle College High School opens in partnership with Durham Public Schools, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, and Orange County Schools

January 2008 - Dr. William G. "Bill" Ingram is named the College's fourth president

May 2008 - Orange County Campus opens, funded through bonds matched with Orange County Board of Commissioners' land purchase

October 2009 - The Center for the Global Learner is established, the first in the state's community college system

July 2016 - College creates Office of Institutional Equity and Inclusion

June 2020 - J.B. Buxton is named the College's fifth president

April 2021 - Construction completed on William G. Ingram Center for Applied Learning and Technology.

Throughout the 2021-22 year, Durham Tech will be chronicling the impact of the institution on and from key individuals, places, and events. Follow the 60 for 60 campaign on the College's social media platforms or at www.durhamtech.edu/60

Durham Tech Installs Fifth President J.B. Buxton

J.B. Buxton, the fifth president of Durham Technical Community College, was officially installed during an inauguration ceremony in July 2021.

Buxton, the son of two longtime educators and himself an advocate and champion of education policy and higher education leadership, was appointed to the College's top position in July 2020.

Inside the Phail Wynn, Jr. Student Services Center, an impressive who's who of elected representatives, community leaders, community college presidents, colleagues, and College leadership buzzed with excitement for the next chapter of Durham Tech's history. Among the speakers were Thomas Stith III, President of the North Carolina Community College System, and North Carolina Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton Green.

"We come together today at moment freighted with possibility. It is a generational moment. A moment rich with opportunity and with need. It is a moment to ensure a broader social purchase on opportunity and success. [...] To create in the words of Dr. King a 'more beloved community.' And although we feel the pressure and excitement of it, this is not just Durham Tech's moment - it is our collective moment."

- J.B. Buxton

Buxton was busy in his first year. He oversaw the College's COVID-19 response, completion of the William G. Ingram Center for Applied Learning and Technology, implementation of the Durham Tech Equity and Inclusion Action Plan, increased education and training for the life sciences sector, launch of the Guided Career Pathways college-wide restructure, and development of the College's 2021-26 Strategic Plan.

During his remarks, Buxton said the College's goal is long-term success for graduates.

"The goal for our graduates is not a credential or a degree, it is not just a job. It is the Dean Smith test," Buxton said, harkening back to the Hall of Fame coach's mantra of looking to student athlete success decades after they left the University of North Carolina. "Where are they well after they have finished at Durham Tech. Have they achieved social mobility? Are they building wealth with generational impact? This more expansive vision of the contract is what undergirds our plans for the next five years."

Former Durham Tech President Bill Ingram spoke about the history of Durham Tech, the evolving future, and the founding fathers of the North Carolina Community College system.

"President Buxton, it is your charge and your opportunity to continue to build that legacy. In the past year you have already demonstrated your eagerness to carry out that charge," Ingram said.

Other speakers spoke to Buxton's leadership, traits, and vision. They all agreed Buxton embodies the characteristics of a great leader.

"We are thrilled and delighted to have his leadership in the community. Buxton has brought forth a new vision, new culture, new level of energy and focus for this outstanding educational institution. President Buxton, you have very quickly shown yourself to be an insightful, passionate, and energetic leader," said Brenda Howerton, Chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners. "Your previous experience and successes assure our community you were clearly meant to steer this institution and bring a wealth of critical skills and expertise to this assignment."

Buxton has worked closely with community colleges in North Carolina for more than 20 years since his role as senior advisor to Gov. Mike Easley and deputy state superintendent of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

Buxton has already established new partnerships and opportunities to not only help students but also build diverse talent pipelines for industry and business in Durham and Orange counties.

"We need our community college systems to lead in this economic recovery and sustain continued growth necessary to ensure we have a vibrant economy. Durham Tech and community college system are the job engine

for North Carolina and we are providing the talent that is needed each and every day but we are also looking in an innovative way to provide those skills and trades for future jobs that we don't even know about yet," said Thomas Stith, III, President of the North Carolina Community College System.

Image one: Oath of office with President J.B. Buxton, wife Hunter Buxton, and N.C. Rep. Zack Hawkins; Image two: Former Durham Tech President Bill Ingram and current President J.B. Buxton; Image three: Hon. Brenda Howerton, Chair of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, speaks at the Inauguration Ceremony.

2021-26 Strategic Plan

Pathways to Excellence, Success, and a Thriving Economy

Goals

By 2026, the College will...

- I. Ensure that at least 60 percent of the students who attend Durham Tech complete their degree or certification prepared to enter and succeed in in-demand fields or four-year universities to continue their education.
- II. Demonstrate positive economic impact within the College's service area by placing 80 percent of graduates in jobs that meet or exceed median earnings within the field. Durham Tech will expand and strengthen partnerships with educational providers, community-based organizations, and industry sectors within Durham and Orange counties to better align the needs of newly skilled workers and employers.

Priorities

The college will develop, implement, or scale

Pathways to Academic Excellence

Durham Tech will define, align, and assess clear student learning outcomes (within each guided career pathway) that prepare students for work-based learning opportunities, university transfer, and seamless job placement.

Pathways to Student Success

Durham Tech will invest in success coaching, advising, and student development best practices that support student goal setting and achievement, leading to on-time completion, university transfer, and job placement.

Pathways to Living Wages and Economic Mobility

Durham Tech will lead the development of integrated delivery systems, with community, industry, public school, and university partners, that provide access to high-value, short- and long-term training and programs that are aligned with labor market demand.

Pathways to Institutional Excellence

Durham Tech will invest in the construction of creative teaching/learning environments, student-centered spaces that promote innovation and learning, partner with industry to provide state-of-the-art facilities needed to prepare a highly-skilled workforce, invest and implement technologies appropriate for the future of work, and recruit and develop talent (employee) that provides opportunity for growth and advancement within the college.

Learn more about the College's 2021-2026 Strategic Plan at durhamtech.edu/about-durham-tech/mission-vision-and-values.

The Durham Tech Pledge

The Durham Tech Pledge

Durham Tech students will complete in-demand programs or high-skill training opportunities at an accelerated rate, preparing them to seamlessly enter the workforce or transfer to a four-year university. Our graduates will succeed and experience economic and social mobility in their lives – to their benefit and to the benefit of the region.

Pledge to Our Students

Clear Pathways and Real-World Experience: Guided Career Pathways in seven core areas that lead to credentials or degrees in in-demand occupations or university transfer programs with access to work-based learning opportunities for all students.

Exceptional Instruction and Comprehensive Support

On-time completion and university or career placement through the support of outstanding faculty who are knowledgeable in their fields, supported by our industry partners, and engaged in ongoing professional development, along with dedicated professional advisors, success coaches, and the commitment to being a student-ready college

Today's Technology

Teaching and learning spaces designed to prepare students for the future of work.

Inclusive Campuses

An environment of belonging and embracement reflected by our One College model.

Pledge to Our Community

Community Access

The Durham Tech student body reflects the demographics of our community in both our Durham and Orange County service area.

More Graduates

The Durham Tech three-year graduation and university transfer rates exceed those of the colleges recognized by the prestigious Aspen Prize for College Excellence across demographic groups.

Career Success

Durham Tech graduates will earn or exceed the median earnings in their field.

Pledge to Our Employer and Industry Partners

Build a Diverse Talent Pipeline

Durham Tech creates diverse talent pipelines for the region's employers through high school, community college, and university partnerships, industry focused short-term trainings, and collaborations with community partner organizations.

Deliver Customized Training Programs

Durham Tech provides customized training programs that support business growth and job creation with a targeted focus on our seven Guided Career Pathways including life sciences, information technology, health care, skilled trades, and manufacturing sectors.

Offer Robust Business Supports

Support business growth from small business to entrepreneurs to large companies by providing technical assistance and access to other business resources.

Equity in Action

Men of Color Scholars Institute

In May 2021, Durham Tech launched the Men of Color Scholars Institute (MCSI), a new program that strives to empower all members to achieve their educational, career, and personal objectives through mentorship and exposure to academic, social and career/professional opportunities.

MCSI provides the opportunity for Durham Tech students to join a program that fosters leadership, nurtures professional and personal development, and is a support network for its members.

Dr. Keyma Clark, Director of Students of Color Success, and Blake Williams, Student Success Coach Coordinator, spearheaded the initiative with a focus on improving success for Black and Latinx male students.

“The creation of MCSI has truly been a rewarding experience. I am excited that Durham Tech has realized the importance of a program such as MCSI and all that it can do for supporting our students of color. I’m eager to work with the entire Durham Tech community so that we can all promote the success of our men of color,” Williams said.

Removing Equity Barriers

Durham Tech started a new racial equity initiative in April aimed at helping instructors identify and improve equity in the classroom.

College Teaching for Racial Equity was a six-week online course to support Durham Tech’s faculty in teaching more equitably. The course includes six focus points, including equity mindedness, the history of race in American education, understanding and utilizing racial equity gap data, address instructor-student relationship barriers, building relationships with students, and teaching strategies for closing equity gaps.

The Office of Institutional Equity and Inclusion and Academics and Guided Career Pathways at Durham Tech led the initiative to offer the course for Durham Tech instructors.

The course was a part of the College’s Equity Action Plan that was released in Fall 2020. The goal of the course was to ensure students are taught by faculty trained to teach equitably.

Quote by Dr. Angela Davis, Vice President and Chief Talent and Equity Officer: “Self-reflection allows us to unpack our own biases and microaggressions and helps us move into ‘equity in action’ by integrating an equity-minded frame into classroom instruction and all other areas of the College.”

Equity and Inclusion Fund

The Durham Tech Foundation launched a new fund to support on-going anti-racism and anti-bias professional development for college employees.

The fund provides resources for professional development for current and future Durham Tech employees and supports the integration of anti-racism and culturally responsive instruction in curricula. The fund also will support the on-going analysis of institutional capacity and systems that buttress structural racism and create barriers for students of color.

In a joint statement, Durham Tech President J.B. Buxton and former president Bill Ingram pledged their support and the first donations to the fund.

“Durham Tech has long been a leader in the fight for equity and progress in our state. From North Carolina’s first African American community college president to one of the first Offices of Institutional Equity and Inclusion at a North Carolina community college, we have been leading this conversation for decades. However, much work remains to be done. That starts with supporting our faculty and staff and examining the College’s practices to ensure Durham Tech is a just and equitable institution.”

Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity at Durham Tech: This is what we do. This is who we are.

In Fall 2020, Durham Tech announced an Equity Action Plan aimed at creating an antiracist institution while developing a sustainable culture of equity for our community. Learn more about the Action Plan at durhamtech.edu/equity.

Three More Join the Wolfpack

Three Durham Tech Students Selected for Prestigious Goodnight Scholars Program at NC State

Three Durham Tech students will be a part of the North Carolina State University Wolfpack in Fall 2021 with full scholarships after being selected for the prestigious Goodnight Scholars program.

Haley Attix, Haleema Begum, and Amber Parker were announced in April as award recipients of the scholarship. A representative from the Goodnight Scholars program at NC State University called to share the decision.

“When I received the phone call, I was in complete and utter shock,” Parker said. “There was some squealing, crying, and many, many thank yous.”

The three graduates will join the Goodnight Scholars Transfer Class of 2024. They each receive \$21,000 per academic year, renewable for up to three years, to attend NC State.

“I was filled with such a sense of relief,” Attix said. “Just the thought of graduating college without student loans is so much bigger than I could ever have imagined.”

They were selected among 48 finalists across North Carolina, including 22 community colleges, 22 counties, and 5 NC State academic colleges.

“This scholarship gives me the freedom to pursue a career I feel really good about, and feel like I’m making a difference, even if it doesn’t make a lot of money because I don’t have to worry about paying off student loans as soon as I graduate,” Attix said. “I am just incredibly grateful and excited about the future.”

Each finalist demonstrated exceptional community college accomplishments, including academic performance, extracurricular involvement, community engagement, and inspiring goals in the STEM and education fields.

More options, less debt

New Guaranteed Admissions Pathways

Durham Tech signed three new guaranteed admissions partnerships. Durham Tech students can now choose from the Pirate Promise to East Carolina University, Pathways to Excellence at UNC Wilmington, and Aggie Plus at NC A&T. Durham Tech already had two guaranteed admissions programs in C-STEP to UNC Chapel Hill and C3 to NC State.

New University Transfer Partnerships

Durham Tech will partner with NC A&T for the Aggie Commitment Trailblazers Scholarship (ACTS). The scholarships, which cover full in-state tuition and fees, are open to Associate in Science or Associate in Engineering students planning to major in a STEM discipline at NC A&T.

Durham Tech developed new bilateral agreements to provide pathways for Durham Tech AAS students to complete bachelor's degrees at four-year universities:

- Public Safety Program Director Justin Long negotiated a bilateral agreement for Public Safety Administration AAS students to pursue a bachelor's degree in Leadership in the Public Sector at NC State University.;
- Durham Tech signed a bilateral agreement with Western Governors University, which provides pathways for Durham Tech students in Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate in Engineering, and Associate in Applied Science in Information Technology, Business, Accounting, Nursing, and Health Information Management to pursue a bachelor's degree at WGU. In June Opticianry Program Director Janet Alspaugh worked with WGU to develop a pathway to a bachelor's degree for Opticianry AAS students as well.

This Promise Adds Up

durhamtech.edu/promise

Quote from Cooper Pollock, Orange County Recipient: "I started school in the pandemic and finances were tight. I didn't have a way to pay for my textbooks and was fortunate enough to be granted Durham Tech Promise funds. Without Promise Funds, I would have had to get a job to pay for my tuition. I am now able to focus on my studies and I am very grateful for it."

Quote from Justice Skinner, Durham County Recipient: "Durham Tech Promise helped me with purchasing my textbooks and paid for my classes. The impact resulted in me finishing that semester with no out-of-pocket expenses. I'm incredibly grateful."

Building for the Future

The William G. Ingram Center for Applied Learning and Technology, the first new academic building on Main Campus in more than 15 years, opened in April 2021.

The 36,900-square-foot building houses several programs, including Architectural Technology, Biomedical Equipment Technology, Electrical Systems Technology, Electronics Engineering Technology, and Information Technology.

Construction began in November 2019 and continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ingram Center is located on Cooper Street across from the George W. Newton Industrial and Engineering Technologies Center. It has six updated classrooms, 10 labs, student lounges, and one multi-purpose space.

The building was funded through the Durham County 2016 Bond Referendum and other funds from Durham County. Bordeaux Construction is the general contractor and O'Brien Atkins Associates is the architectural firm.

Achievement. Perseverance. Excellence.

Academic Excellence Award Recipient

Haley Attix was named the recipient of the Durham Tech 2021 Academic Excellence Award, which recognizes outstanding academic achievements at the community college level. One student from each of the 58 North Carolina community colleges is awarded the honor.

Haley will be transferring to NC State University this fall for Zoology, and will later pursue her PhD. Her ultimate career goal is to work with wildlife, whether in the field rehabilitating injured and orphaned possums, in the lab researching a nonlethal way to keep critters out of the house, at a museum teaching kids about the benefits of spiders, or anything in between.

“Going to Durham Tech was the best decision I ever made, and I am truly grateful for my experience here. There have been so many people who have helped me achieve my goals, instructors and faculty alike, who have supported me, showed compassion and concern for my well-being, and urged me to bigger and better things. Although my educational journey is far from over, I will never forget Durham Tech and the people who make it so special.”

Governor Robert W. Scott Leadership Award Nominee

Durham Technical Community College nominated Charmaine Grafton for the 2021 Governor Robert W. Scott Leadership Award. Grafton is the 2020-2021 Student Government Association President at Durham Tech. She is also enrolled in the Business Administration program and plans to start a nonprofit after graduation, which will serve as a resource center for women of color.

“Leadership to me is the art of motivating a group to act towards a common goal. As a single mom deciding to go back to school 18 years post high school, this was not an easy task. I wanted more for myself and my children and in order for me to show up and maneuver towards the end goal, I had to set some clear goals and get to work inspiring and motivating those around me as well as those who would cross my path during my time on Durham Tech’s campus. I knew that I wanted to leave my mark here after attending a scholarship breakfast and seeing all the students being recognized for their grit and resilience. I was inspired and led to be more active on campus.”

Dallas Herring Award Winner and Christine Kelly-Kleese and Tony Kleese Resilience Award Recipient

Leon Bradford was awarded the 2021 Dallas Herring Achievement Award, the first Durham Tech student to win the award in the College’s history. As a child, Leon’s pediatrician told his parents that he would never be able to attend college and would not graduate high school with a regular diploma. His classmates called him “slow.” Leon says he processes information differently, which led him to develop his own learning skills and resiliency. He proved that doctor wrong and tuned out his old classmates. He found Durham Tech at a college fair during his senior year of high school.

“Durham Tech offered the bridge I needed to get to my next chapter. The College has helped me to prove to those who said I could not do it that I can do it. It takes hard work and dedication. There are people at Durham Tech to help you. Utilize your resources, stay focused, learn from your failures and the sky is the limit.”

Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient

Christine Gunnigle, Director of Occupational Therapy Assistant program, has been selected as the recipient of the 2021 Excellence in Teaching Award. She is described as passionate, laser focused on what’s best for her students, and always willing to chip in and lead. She’s also dedicated to embedding equity and anti-racism content into her classroom and curriculum. Her colleagues described her as kind, enthusiastic, and full of positive energy.

Excellence in Support Services Award Recipient

Jes Dormady, Coordinator for the Center for College and Community Service, was selected as the recipient of the 2021 Excellence in Support Services Award. She hosted more than 100 volunteer events each year and played a critical role in keeping the Campus Harvest Food Pantry open during COVID-19. She worked with the campus chef to make frozen meals for students and their families, joined the Culinary Arts’ catering class to develop boxed lunches, and partnered with the Durham Tech Community Health Lab to deliver food to students that could not leave their homes due to health concerns.

Excellence in Community Engagement Award Recipient

Dorene MacKinnon, Resource Specialist in the College and Career Readiness department, was selected as the recipient of the 2021 Excellence in Community Engagement Award. She is actively involved in Spectrum Club, building a partnership between Gateway to College and Families Moving Forward, and advocates for policy

changes that promote inclusion for Durham Tech students. In 2020, she encouraged her students to be active in civic engagement, volunteerism, leadership, outreach, and community service.

Creating a Diverse Talent Pipeline for the Life Sciences Sector

KBI Biopharma, Durham Tech Offers Manufacturing Apprenticeship with NC Community College System

KBI Biopharma (KBI), a JSR Life Sciences company, and Durham Technical Community College announced a new partnership in May to offer apprenticeships to graduating high school seniors and military veterans. The apprenticeship program aims to bolster a diverse talent pipeline in the biotechnology field and increase access to underutilized labor pools. The initiative, which begins this summer, is a part of the North Carolina Community College System Apprenticeship NC program and will begin in the summer of 2021.

At a news conference, Durham Tech President J.B. Buxton joined North Carolina Community College System President Thomas Stith, III and KBI BioPharma President and CEO Dirk Lange to announce the joint initiative. The apprenticeship program aims to close the skill gap in the life sciences industry by offering on-the-job training at KBI Biopharma and related instruction at Durham Tech.

“Durham Tech is committed to creating a diverse talent pipeline that puts local residents in good paying careers in the life sciences sector. We’re proud to partner with KBI BioPharma in this effort and believe this is a model for public-private partnerships,” President J.B. Buxton said.

With Life Sciences Industry Booming, Durham Tech to Provide Aseptic Processing Training

Durham Tech will provide aseptic processing training thanks to Economic Development Administration and Durham County grant funding.

U.S. Representative David Price, Merck, and Durham Tech made an announcement about the new training at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center on August 19.

At the conference, Durham Tech President J.B. Buxton announced that the College received a \$240,000 Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and \$60,000 from Durham County to increase the talent pool for life sciences.

Durham Tech plans to use the funds to purchase equipment for aseptic processing training, which aids in preventing contamination while manufacturing sterile products.

“This is an important step in providing access to training for great, local jobs that will help our residents and provide diverse talent pipelines for our partners,” said Durham Tech President J.B. Buxton. “We look forward to continuing to bolster and grow our life sciences and biotechnology programs in the coming years.”

Building Up Life Sciences (BULLS) is a talent development pipeline plan that bring various community partners together to address the growing labor needs of the local life sciences industry. Learn more about the BULLS initiative at bit.ly/DT-life-sciences.

Giving to a Legacy

Philanthropist Anita Holt

The Forest at Duke, a continuing care retirement community, has made a multi-year commitment of \$100,000 to the Dr. Phail Wynn, Jr. SunTrust Foundation Scholarship Endowment to support students of color at Durham Technical Community College.

The endowment was named after the late Dr. Phail Wynn, Jr., former president of Durham Tech who served at the College for 27 years and was the first African-American community college president in North Carolina.

Wynn, a renowned leader and mentor, was passionate about the community and served on numerous corporate boards and civic organizations.

Anita Holt, Chief Executive Officer of The Forest at Duke since 2015, said Wynn served on the Board of Directors at The Forest when she was hired and had an outstanding passion for community building.

Holt's personal connection with Dr. Wynn, led her to make a commitment to his endowment and develop a pipeline for internships and job opportunities at The Forest for Durham Tech students and graduates.

"I have never worked for someone so supportive. Phail helped us grow in vision and in governance. I can't say enough good things about him," said Holt. "Phail was such a connector of and for people. His legacy is not in buildings but in the lives of the people he served, mentored, and championed throughout his career."

For a Better Future

Endowment Donor Spotlights

Dr. Mary Elizabeth "Beth" Lyon-Smith of Sparta and Mrs. Linda Lyon Turner of Winston-Salem are daughters of Durham Tech's first board chair, Bob Lyon. The Lyon Board Room is named for him, and several works of art created by the Lyon Sisters' mother adorn the walls in the Educational Resources Center (ERC).

Faithful supporters of the endowed scholarship their parents established at Durham Tech many years ago, Beth and Linda came to believe that while scholarships are helpful for students, there may be times when other needs present themselves.

Beth and Linda felt strongly that their endowment be flexible enough to support a variety of funds, based on an annual review of the College's most pressing needs and in consultation with the Durham Tech Foundation staff.

In February 2021, Beth and Linda established their own fund, the Lyon Sisters Endowment for Student Support. This year, the sisters' combined gifts established the endowment and also supported Student Wellness and Basic Needs, the Back-to-Work Initiative, and Opportunity Scholarships.

Jennifer Thomas Tennyson and her husband, Nick, established the Elinor and Carl Thomas Scholarship in memory of Jennifer's parents. Elinor's father was a leader in college education at NC State and later as president of Iowa State University. Carl built a business, International Bearings in Charlotte, serving the textile and other manufacturing industries in North Carolina. He was an early adopter of all kinds of innovations and focused on spreading entrepreneurial opportunities to all types of people he encountered.

This scholarship is intended to provide support for Durham Tech, as a key part of offering help to people building new futures. A mother of four and grandmother of 11, Elinor knew the benefit of early childhood development. Likewise, Carl would have recognized the programs for people in advanced manufacturing at Durham Tech as critical support for the success of industry in the state. The Tennysons are proud to be part of building the future for all the students who will pass through Durham Tech and know this scholarship would have made Elinor and Carl proud as well.

Nick served as mayor of Durham from 1997-2001 and was a member of the steering committee for the Forge Great Futures Campaign for Durham Tech.

A new endowment will honor former Durham City Manager Tom Bonfield with a Durham Tech scholarship in his name.

Durham Mayor Steve Schewel coordinated with several local businesses to create the Tom Bonfield Scholarship Endowment in late 2020.

The endowment will generate an award to cover half of the cost to attend Durham Tech annually for one student who is enrolled in the University Transfer program and has an interest in government or policy. This award will help to cover the cost of tuition, fees, and books.

"Tom Bonfield had an extraordinary impact on our city during his time as Durham City Manager. I'm proud to know that his legacy also will have a long and meaningful impact on the education of future residents in our community," said Durham Mayor Steve Schewel.

Every door is the right one

Student Success Coaches

The Oak Foundation is funding a new Student Success Coach initiative to help Durham Tech students reach their educational goals.

The donation provides \$300,000 over three years to support a new Student Success Coach model at the College. The Oak Foundation commits its resources to address issues of global, social, and environmental concern, particularly those that have a major impact on the lives of the disadvantaged. The Foundation makes grants to organizations in approximately 40 countries worldwide.

"Introducing Student Success Coaches is the next step in carrying out the College's commitment to equitable student success," said Durham Tech Foundation Executive Director Melissa Chappell.

The Student Success Coach model encourages student persistence and completion by supporting students as they navigate college and their desired pathway.

The Success Coach Pilot Project allows Durham Tech to change its institutional structure to improve the services and supports provided to individuals identified as at-risk of not completing first college-level courses successfully.

Success Coaches partner with students to provide guidance along academic, professional, and personal journeys. Coaches support students with academic advising, career planning, financial aid, transfer policies, and other supportive resources Durham Tech offers.

The initiative launched in July 2021 and personnel began assisting students in their caseload during the Fall 2021 academic semester.

Blake Williams, Durham Tech Success Coach Coordinator: "This initiative is a part of Durham Tech's commitment to being a student-ready College. We're excited to work more closely with our students and to help them achieve success throughout their time at Durham Tech and in their careers."

Learn more about Student Success Coaches at durhamtech.edu/student-services/success-coaching.

New Guided Career Pathways Reshape the Student Experience with Focused Program Areas and Career Exploration Support

Durham Tech made college easier to navigate in 2021 with the launch of Guided Career Pathways.

Students can now enter one of seven Guided Career Pathways with clear paths aligned to their career interests. Students can shift between short-term, long-term, and university transfer options within a Pathway with easier transitions. At Durham Tech, every door is the right one.

The launch of Guided Career Pathways comes after two years of planning and restructuring at the College and is based on a national Pathways model that has shown success in increasing student persistence and completion rates. Guided Career Pathways are a part of Durham Tech's commitment to improve student success. The

Pathway restructure also reflects the College's Equity Action Plan, which aims to improve the College's success rates among Black, Indigenous, and students of color.

Guided Career Pathways provide structured choices, built-in and revamped advising support, and clear learning outcomes. Pathways are designed to assist students in making straightforward and informed decisions when selecting a credit or non-credit program and as a part of students' career goals.

"Choosing the right career, understanding the many program options, and navigating the college experience can be overwhelming, especially for first-time college students. At Durham Tech, we are making that experience easier with Guided Career Pathways focused around career goals, clear paths, and built-in support for our students. Student success is our success," said Durham Tech President J.B. Buxton.

Combatting COVID-19

Durham Tech Clinical Trials Students Play Role in COVID-19 Vaccine Treatment

Two students in the Clinical Trials Research Associate program got first-hand experience in the development of the COVID-19 vaccine during Fall 2020.

Dayo Thompson works at the UNC School of Medicine Department of Global Health and Infectious Diseases where he supports a phase three clinical research trial to evaluate the effectiveness of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

"It feels great to know that I am able to use what I've learned from my education to try to help prevent more people from catching the virus," Thompson said. "I appreciate the trust that clinical trial participants place in the members of our team at UNC. I am hoping their sacrifices and our hard work will result in widely available vaccines that can help blunt some of the disruption this virus has caused people across the world."

Melissa Long currently works full-time for a Clinical Research Organization, or CRO, and was assigned to a study to support COVID-19 patients with the treatment drug Remdesivir. Her job is to review regulatory documents for compliance before getting sites activated to enroll subjects.

"I was so excited to get this assignment," Long said. "I can't believe I am actually a part of a team that will be able to help people suffering from COVID-19. It feels great to know I am playing a role in such an important study. When I watch the news and see all of the stories about the great accomplishments that we have made, it is truly remarkable.";

Durham Tech, Kate's Korner Partner In McDougald Terrace Education Initiative

Durham Tech and Kate's Korner Educational Services, partnered during Spring 2021 to provide distance learning support services for approximately 35 students, grades K-5, who live in the McDougald Terrace Community. With many families pushed into distance learning due to COVID-19, Kezia Goodwin, who founded Kate's Korner five years ago, said it was an opportunity to provide a solution.

"Kate's Korner's goal in providing Distance Learning Support is based on my 32-year-old understanding that it takes a village to provide an adequate place where children are seen, valued, and celebrated. That representation, access, and trust are the ingredients to a child seeing past their current situation and having academic success. Our partnership with Durham Tech provides this space and represents what it looks like when the community comes together for children who might otherwise be forgotten," said Goodwin.

After learning of the needs for more distance learning opportunities for McDougald Terrace Community families, Goodwin said she reached out to Durham Tech President J.B. Buxton.

"Communities are stronger when organizations collaborate to help our residents," said President Buxton. "We are excited to partner with Kate's Korner in providing space for childcare and educational supports for students and parents, especially during a challenging time for so many."

Getting Back to Work

Heading 2: Success Stories from Durham Tech Graduates;

In March 2020, Wyatt Turrentine was trying to make ends meet as a full-time waiter and machining student at Durham Tech. He lost his job due to COVID and was unemployed for five months before finding temp work. Two scholarships from the Durham Tech Foundation gave him the opportunity to continue his education where he earned a CNC Certificate, a Basic Machining Certificate, and a CNC Diploma.

"I took Computer Integrated Machining courses because of how many job opportunities there are making very good money," he said. "A lot of people in the field are nearing retirement and companies are always looking to bring in new people and even willing to train them. Thanks to this degree I could go almost anywhere in the world and have a job."

In February, Wyatt was offered a full-time job with benefits as a machine operator at a manufacturer in Raleigh.

"I will always be grateful for Durham Tech because it helped change my life," he said. "Before, I was working jobs I didn't like, but I didn't have much choice. Going back to school and getting my certificates and diploma have changed my life for the better. It's given me and my fiancé better financial stability and made me happier overall."

Danequa Wiggins received a full-time job offer after completing the Construction Fundamentals course. She participated in a pilot program hosted by the City of Durham's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, in partnership with Rebuilding Together of the Triangle.

Wiggins had the opportunity to enroll in Construction Fundamentals and also take Workforce Development classes where she learned how to improve her resume, search for jobs, and improve her interview skills.

After she completed the course, she gained hands-on work experience for two weeks with Rebuilding Together of the Triangle. Just weeks later, she was offered a full-time job with benefits at Clancy & Theys Construction Company, starting off as an elevator technician.

"Durham Tech really impacted my life for the good and has grounded me in the things I need more education about," she said. "I was able to step outside of those doors and use what I learned confidently, knowing that I have all the tools I need to do it.";

In four short months, Cheryl Winstead went from having no experience in biotechnology to working full-time at Merck as a technician. She completed BioWork 3.0 Online, GMP and SOP Online, and Biocertification Boot Camp, then passed the Biotech Certified Process Technician certification exam. She began the courses in September 2020 and received a job offer from Merck in December 2020.

"The classes at Durham Tech gave me a great foundation to build upon," she said. "Durham Tech has changed my life in so many ways. Not only did they help prepare me for a job in biotech, but they also helped build my confidence and encouraged me to go after the job at Merck. The support has continued beyond the classroom, which has been incredible."

Investing in Our Students in a Special Way

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Durham Technical Community College with you. This milestone is a wonderful opportunity to reflect with gratitude on how far the College has come, and to acknowledge with anticipation the many opportunities that lie ahead.

Since its inception in 1982, the Durham Tech Foundation has ensured that private resources would be acquired, stewarded well, and deployed to support students and strengthen the institution. Our current mission is to

advance the College's people, programs, and aspirations through bold strategic partnerships, resource development, zealous advocacy, and wise stewardship, as outlined in our 2017-21 strategic plan.

As we reach the end of this particular plan, I'm pleased to report that we have delivered in numerous ways on its goals. To cite one example specifically, the Durham Tech Foundation endowment exceeded a \$5 million target as of June 30, 2021. Endowed funds equip Durham Tech with the stability and flexibility to address challenges and opportunities, and ensure that key priorities remain well-resourced over time. New endowments created in 2020-21 for scholarships and equity and inclusion will fuel success at the College in perpetuity, and for that we are grateful.

We at the Durham Tech Foundation look forward to being an agent of change in the important work ahead—helping expand job training and tools in growing industries through private support, cultivating strategic partnerships to address our community's most pressing needs, and better resourcing Durham Tech to become a fully student-centered institution that ensures that all students develop the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to be successful.

Thank you for making our progress possible.

Melissa Chappell

Executive Director

Durham Tech Foundation

Durham Tech Foundation Launches 1961 Giving Society

The Durham Tech Foundation is recognizing the College's most loyal donors with a new 1961 Giving Society, which launched in Spring 2021.

Those recognized include philanthropic leaders who have made generous commitments to the College in the form of an endowment or a planned gift. Donors are welcomed into the 1961 Giving Society when they create an endowment or planned gift. To date, the 1961 Giving Society includes nearly 75 members.

The new recognition group connects and acknowledges donors, many of whom gave in response to the Durham Tech Foundation's strategic plan to double the institution's endowment from \$2.5 to \$5 million. Endowments are vital to an institution's ability to act with flexibility and foresight, and the permanent resources they steward deliver sustainable funding even amidst challenging times. Membership in the 1961 Giving Society gives donors a special opportunity to celebrate a milestone in the personal or professional life of a donor, a family member, or a colleague. Members' philanthropy will be honored and recognized during their lifetime and beyond, and they will know that they have done something special to invest in Durham Tech's future.

For more information, visit durhamtech.edu/foundation.

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For a complete listing of all fiscal year 2021 donors to Durham Tech, please visit durhamtech.edu/foundation-partners.