

Academic Affairs

News & Reflections

From the Provost's Desk

I wish to extend a warm welcome to the new faculty and staff who are joining Western Carolina University this year – we are so pleased that you have joined our Catamount family!

WCU is an institution which will afford you ample opportunities to grow and succeed in myriad ways. Your success is important to all of us at WCU.

Greetings to all returning faculty and staff and good wishes to all for a successful and exciting 2017-18 academic year. We accomplished so much last year and are poised to continue great work for this upcoming year.

Once a month, we publish the Academic Affairs Newsletter to share important updates and good news in the Division of Academic Affairs. One of our goals is to provide open communication, thus creating an informed and collaborative community.

This academic year, I look forward to visiting with you around campus to hear about your work, contributions and successes. Together, we can and will make a difference in the lives of our students and our community.

Happy new academic year!

Sincerely,

Alison Morrison-Shetlar
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Provost on the Ground

Chancellor's Leadership Council Retreat	August 1
Cherokee Center Junior and Senior Day	August 8
New Department Head Workshop and Luncheon	August 9
New Faculty Orientation	August 10
Fine and Performing Arts College Meeting	August 15
Biltmore Park Student Orientation	
Opening Assembly	August 16
Arts and Sciences College Meeting	
Education and Allied Professions College Meeting	
Business College Meeting	
Health and Human Sciences College Meeting	
Hunter Library Meeting	
Engineering and Technology College Meeting	
School of Teaching and Learning	August 17
WCU Foundation Board Meeting	
Graduate School Orientation and Social	
New Student Convocation	August 18
Faculty Senate Reception	August 23
Board of Visitors	August 24
Department of Engineering and Technology	August 29

Community and Economic Engagement and Innovation

from the Executive Director of Community and Economic Engagement and Innovation

On May 15, Dr. Arthur Salido began a new position at WCU as the Executive Director of Community and Economic Engagement and Innovation. This position was previously the Director of Millennial Initiatives that was held by Tony Johnson who retired in 2016. In his new role, Dr. Salido will work to create partnerships that link university, nonprofit, government and industry resources to address community and economic development needs primarily in the 16 westernmost counties served by WCU through its Cullowhee campus, Cherokee Center and Asheville area instructional site at Biltmore Park. He will focus both on activities designed to boost WCU's role as a resource for community engagement and on strategies to foster its efforts in regional economic development. Among his responsibilities is a charge to develop WCU, through its Millennial Initiative and other innovation and engagement efforts, into a national model for building, in a rural environment, public-private partnerships that are integrated into the university mission and that support community and economic development. He will be busy finding partnership opportunities for WCU and communicating significant WCU events and notable successes to the regional community. If you have ideas for partnerships with our community, region, and state, please contact Arthur at salido@wcu.edu.

Curriculog Training Sessions

We will have several Curriculog training sessions in the near future for those who utilize our curriculum management system to create new programs/courses, make program/course changes, or review curriculum proposals.

These training sessions will give you an opportunity to learn hands-on how to:

- enter a proposal in Curriculog
- run an impact report
- create a meeting agenda
- record decisions as a reviewer

At these sessions we will provide an overview of available resources, present the overall Curriculog program structure, review the style guide, and highlight the new proposal form options. The sessions will be beneficial to both new users and seasoned users alike.

Please reserve your seat in one of the sessions! Contact Suzanne Melton, Curriculog Administrator x3016

Dates available:

- September 13, 10:00-11:30 am
- October 3, 2:30-4:00 pm
- October 27, 10:00-11:30 am
- November 14, 2:30-4:00 pm
- December 8, 10:00-11:30 am

2017 Gender Equity Report is now available

Two times per year, Human Resources and the Office of the Provost release data regarding faculty salaries. Each year, Academic Affairs uses enrollment growth funds, as available, to help with compression, inversion and salary inequities and reports these outcomes to the campus community.

<https://intranet.wcu.edu/academicaffairs/SitePages/Gender%20Equity.aspx>

Cherokee Campus Theme Signature Events and Availability of Funds

from the Office of Undergraduate Studies

The 2017-2018 Campus Theme is Cherokee: Community. Culture. Connections.

Campus themes constitute one example of a high impact practice that provides students with common and collaborative educational experiences, opportunities to connect curricular and co-curricular learning, and explorations of disciplines through a common lens. While participation is optional for students, faculty and staff, we encourage integration of our campus theme in your classes, events, and activities.

Please see attached for a list of the signature events associated with the theme during the upcoming academic year as well as a call for requests for funding of activities associated with the theme.

I extend special thanks to the campus theme committee, chaired by Dr. Lisa Bloom, J. Robinson Endowed Professor, School of Teaching and Learning, for steering this year's campus theme.



GWY CHEROKEE

COMMUNITY. CULTURE. CONNECTIONS.

2017 - 2018 CAMPUS THEME

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Return from Exile: Contemporary Southeastern Indian Art | August 21 – December 8, 2017

The exhibition features more than thirty contemporary Southeastern Native American artists working in a variety of media including painting, drawing, printmaking, basketry, sculpture, and pottery. Return from Exile is one of the first major exhibitions to focus on contemporary artists from tribal nations with a historical connection to the Southeastern United States. These include the so-called Five Civilized Tribes, the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Muscogee (or Creek), and Seminole, all of whom were forcibly removed in the 1830s to present-day Oklahoma as a result of the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The symposium, reception and keynote performance will be held on November 10, 2017.

Rooted in the Mountains | September 28-29, 2017

Rooted in the Mountains: Valuing our Common Ground emphasizes the connection between local and traditional knowledge with health and environmental issues. This is an interdisciplinary forum where ethnography, literature, art, music, Native and Western science converge. Our theme for this year's conference is "duyuk' dv' l" which translates to "The Correct Way". www.rootedinthemtns.wcu.edu

Tribe Called Red | November 10, 2017 at 7:30pm

Broad range of musical influences based in modern hip-hop, traditional pow wow drums and vocals, blended with edgy electronic music production styles. A Tribe Called Red promotes inclusivity, empathy and acceptance amongst all races and genders in the name of social justice. They believe that indigenous people need to define their identity on their own terms. A Tribe Called Red is part of the Return from Exile symposium exploring Native American art and culture.

Cherokee Language Symposium | Spring 2018

The symposium brings together students and instructors of Cherokee language from several institutions. Campus events will include a keynote speaker, presentations from Cherokee Studies faculty, and workshops about second language acquisition pedagogy as well as the practical applications of technology for language revitalization.

Cultural Immersion Excursion | Spring 2018

The cultural immersion trip exposes students to persons/groups markedly different in culture from that of themselves and creates awareness for the world around them.

Cherokee Tour | Spring 2018

This free "tour" hosts interactive learning stations highlighting aspects of Cherokee recreation and tourism, creative arts, environment, health, innovation and technology, social change and creative arts.

New Kituwah Powwow | April 4, 2018

The New Kituwah Academy Language Immersion School in Cherokee, NC will host their annual youth powwow at WCU. The powwow will consist of traditional songs, dances and stories performed by the academy faculty, staff, students and their families.

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

Mountain Heritage Day | September 30, 2017 | 10:00am – 5:00pm

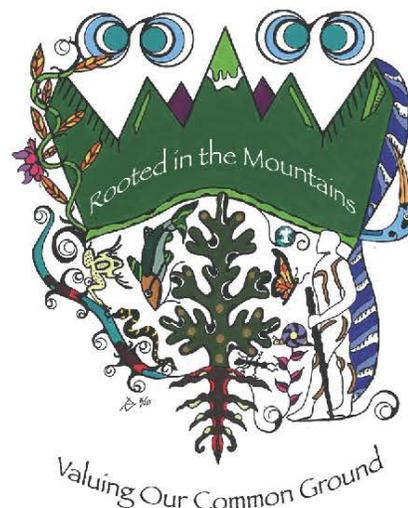
The 43rd annual Mountain Heritage Day will be a combination old-fashioned mountain fair and showcase for Southern Appalachian music, arts, dance and song, with the atmosphere of a big family reunion. Visitors will find three stages of traditional old-time, gospel, and bluegrass music and dance, with plenty of fiddles, banjos, and clogging. Festival-goers are invited to join in workshops at the Circle Tent and participate in shape-note singing, one of the mountains' sacred traditions. Free admission and family friendly. www.mountainheritageday.com

go.wcu.edu/campustheme

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Joseph Erb (Cherokee), *Petition*
acrylic on canvas, 24"x36"



Tribe Called Red

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY'S
**MOUNTAIN
HERITAGE
DAY**

(More Cherokee theme Highlighted Events to come)



REQUEST - FUNDS TO INTEGRATE CHEROKEE THEME

The Campus Theme committee invites requests for funds to promote and support activities related to implementation of the 2017-18 campus theme.

Brief description of activities

Rationale – How do the activities engage students in the campus theme, Cherokee: Connection. Culture. Community?

Itemized Budget of funds requested

Relationship of budget request to proposed activities

Faculty, staff, and students involved in your proposal

Contact person/information for this request

Please email this form to Dr. Lisa Bloom, Campus Theme Committee chair, bloom@wcu.edu.
Call 227-3288 or email with questions. **DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: Friday, September 15, 2017**

DegreePlus

from the Office of Undergraduate Studies

DegreePlus, WCU's new QEP, has launched its "soft opening" for 2017-18. In July Dr. Carmen Huffman, Chair of the QEP Implementation Committee, transferred the leadership for DegreePlus to the new Associate Director of DegreePlus, Marti Newbold, whose office is located within the Center for Career and Professional Development.

For this pilot year, students in the Academic Success Program (ASP), Honors College, and the Leadership Living-Learning Community (LLC) will be given opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities focused on one or more of the Student Learning Outcomes for Professionalism, one of the four DegreePlus skills.



Faculty and staff have already committed to host extracurricular events in their areas and more will be added on a rolling basis throughout the year. The DegreePlus Kickoff on September 12 will be the first major event for students from the pilot groups to attend.

During Fall Semester, ASP, Honors College, and LLC students will be encouraged to attend five DegreePlus events of their choosing to complete Level 1 - Experience and Exposure of DegreePlus. In Spring Semester 2018, the first annual DegreePlus Day will be held where students who have completed Level 1 meet with faculty mentors to reflect on what they learned about the Professionalism Skill and then articulate this in a reflection paper which the mentor will evaluate as pass/fail. If passed, these students will have completed Level 2 - Reflection & Articulation and be invited to progress to Level 3 - Integration & Application in the next academic year. At this level they choose a curricular or extracurricular experience which exemplifies the application and integration of the Professionalism Skill. On DegreePlus Day they will deliver a poster or other presentation about this capstone experience.

After the pilot year, the DegreePlus program will be reviewed, refined and expanded to include all WCU students and the remaining DegreePlus skills (Leadership, Teamwork, and Cultural Responsiveness) will be added to the DegreePlus offerings. Students will then be able to choose one or more skills and begin the process of progressing through the levels at their own pace.

For more information about DegreePlus or to host an event, please contact Marti Newbold at Ext. 3884 or hmnewbold@wcu.edu. More information about DegreePlus can be found on the DegreePlus website (degreeplus.wcu.edu).



Census Day

from the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

The 10th day of classes is Census Day: September 1

Each term, the 10th day of class marks the day for official reporting of institutional data, including student enrollment, student credit hours, student retention, and other key performance metrics. This year Census day is scheduled to occur on Friday, September 1st. Behind the scenes, this day is a very busy one for several administrative offices, including Institutional Planning and Effectiveness, the Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, and Information Technologies as time-sensitive data are input into the Banner system, and data errors are corrected, in order for the reporting process to proceed in a timely fashion. Look for public announcements of WCU's official student enrollment and other information shortly following census day.

SACSCOC Response Report

from the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

The SACSCOC on-site committee, which visited in April 2017, issued six recommendations involving seven comprehensive standards for which they judged WCU to be non-compliant. WCU has the opportunity to react to these recommendations with a written response, providing additional evidence to demonstrate compliance with these standards. The report is being submitted in September. The response team consists of Shea Browning, Carol Burton, Dale Carpenter, Lowell Davis, Susan Fouts, Doug Keskula, Brian Kloeppe, Tim Metz, Darrell Parker, Brandon Schwab, Steve Wallace, and Shawna Young. WCU will learn of the outcome after the SACSCOC Board of Trustees reviews the report in December 2017.

New Faculty

from the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

We are so pleased to welcome 54 new full-time faculty to the Catamount family! Here are some of them, still smiling near the end of their two-day New Faculty Orientation that was held August 10-11, 2017.



New Student Convocation 2017

from the Office of Student Success

New Student Convocation is an important event that marks the official welcome to the university. Each year we are excited to congratulate and celebrate the arrival of WCU's new students with an event they will not forget. The Academic Processional was led this year by Provost Alison Morrison-Shetlar who provided welcome and introductory remarks. Several members of the WCU Board of Trustees were in attendance, as well as university administrators, faculty, and staff, along with over 2,000 new students and family members. In keeping with tradition, students witnessed the Candle Lighting Ceremony featuring the Academic College Deans and upper-class peers. The candle lighting represents faculty and students acting together to achieve enlightenment through acquisition and application of knowledge. Once lit, the candles serve as a reminder of students' pride in Western Carolina University and its permanent place in their heart.

Students also enjoyed the opportunity to hear an inspiring keynote address by Mr. Jordan Carlos, recently nominated for Best Male Comic of the Year, by the Emerging Comedians of New York. Carlos is a stand-up comic and television personality who is best known for his work as a writer and on-air contributor for *The Nightly Show* with Larry Wilmore, *The Colbert Report*, MTV's *Guy Code*, *Girl Code* and *Guy Court*. He lives in Brooklyn, NY and continues to perform his insightful and hilarious stand-up comedy in venues across the country. An alum of Brown University, Carlos is also an Eagle Scout, the highest rank you can earn in the Boy Scouts. The title of his speech was *Find Out What You Don't Want to Do*. Said Carlos, "I wore a lot of different hats before I found out what I wanted to do. In college, I changed my major, took classes outside of my major, and did internships in fields I don't work in, all to find happiness in what I do now. For me finding out what I'd rather not do was as important as finding out my true passion."

Wrapping up the event, Coach Mark Speir shared his spark of inspiration and the *Pride of the Mountains Marching Band* under the direction of David Starnes, performed and introduced students to the WCU alma-mater. Following the *Recessional*, students were dismissed by Sam Miller, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, to have the annual class photo taken and to then sign a banner printed with the *Student Community Creed*, signifying their commitment to its ideals of citizenship and community.

New faculty wrapped up their orientation week with a reception honoring keynote Jordan Carlos following Convocation. They were joined by the finalists for the 2016-17 first-year advocate awards and the two winners announced (one faculty and one staff member). Each year in the spring semester Western Carolina University asks new students to nominate faculty and staff members who have been exemplary advocates during their first year at Western Carolina University. As explained to students in the nomination survey: "An advocate is someone who you know has your best interest in mind - someone who cares deeply about your success in and out of the classroom, someone you can count on to give you sound advice and someone you know will be in your corner."

We congratulate this year's winners: Alesia Jennings, faculty member in the department of Chemistry and Physics and Ken Pfaff, Advisor in the Advising Center.



Grants and Contracts Expand Opportunities for WCU and the Region

Funding awarded to Western Carolina University is only one measure of the many benefits of externally supported research and programs that enhance the lives of people in Western North Carolina. Research inspires students, solves real-world problems, advances technology, encourages collaborations, increases knowledge, improves health, creates jobs, enhances productivity, influences policy, attracts investment, and adds quality to life in immeasurable ways. Research dollars flow directly and indirectly into the local and surrounding economies; intangible benefits spread even farther, yielding benefits for generations that follow.

Fifteen WCU faculty received external funding for the first time in FY17, giving them not only financial support for their endeavors, but also momentum toward their research careers. Here is a sample of the work in progress by grantees at WCU in FY17:

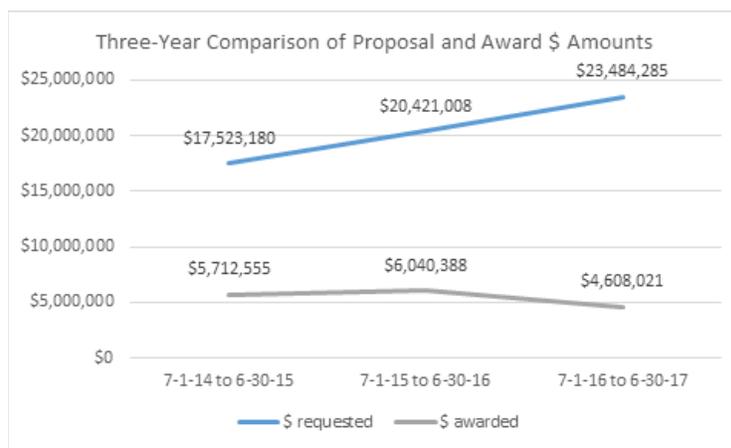
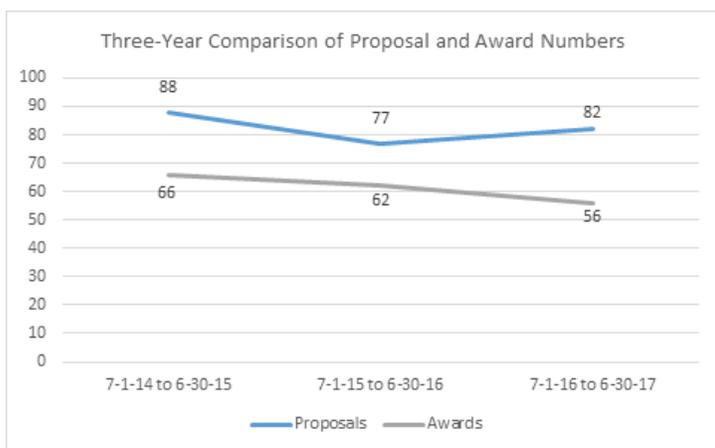
- Tamera Pearson of the School of Nursing received \$687,413 from the Health Resources and Services Administration for the first year of an innovative academic-practice partnership to increase the number of primary care nurse practitioners in rural and underserved areas. The 2-year project (\$1,387,223) will support 40 student trainees.
- James Costa and Tom Martin received \$265,151 from the National Science Foundation to update and expand the aquatics laboratory to enhance research and educational experiences for approximately 1500 students and faculty who visit Highlands Biological Station each year.
- Bora Karayaka and Amber Thompson of the College of Engineering and Technology received \$199,119 from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission to provide six scholarships and faculty mentoring to highly motivated students pursuing an education in nuclear power.
- Nathan Borchelt and Sloan Despeaux of the College of Arts and Sciences received \$38,500 (for year 2 of a 5-year, \$200,000 grant) from the GlaxoSmithKline Foundation to support the professional growth of teachers and mathematicians in Western North Carolina through a community called the Smoky Mountain Math Teachers Circle.



This painting by Joseph Erb (Cherokee) is part of the "Return from Exile" Exhibit funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

- Ian Hewer of the School of Nursing received \$12,513 from the Health Resources and Services Administration to support Nurse Anesthetist Trainees and improve health care for medically underserved areas.
- Thomas Ashcraft of the College of Fine and Performing Arts received \$70,000 from the US Department of State for WCU students of different disciplines to examine, explore, and engage in developing concepts and proposals leading to a permanent commissioned artwork for the US Embassy in Niamey, Niger.
- Todd Murdock of the College of Education and Allied Professions received \$368,160 (for year 1 of a 5-year \$1,840,800 grant) from the US Department of Education to support and empower Western North Carolina students in grades 7-12 and prepare them for college through tutoring and enrichment programs. Hosted at WCU, Project Discovery provides assistance to 770 disadvantaged students in seven target schools helping create access to post-secondary education.
- Denise Drury Homewood of the Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center received \$25,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts to help bring to WCU an exhibition of more than 30 Southeastern Native American artists. The exhibit will open August 21 and will offer class tours and a free, public symposium with 18 visiting scholars and artists.
- Jess Weiler of the College of Education and Allied Professions received \$400,561 from the North Carolina General Assembly that will help prepare educators to become school principals and strengthen the quality of educational leadership in public schools. The grant is providing student scholarships, internships, and student and faculty travel.
- Brittania Bintz of the Department of Chemistry and Physics received \$2,428 from the NC Biotechnology Center for a workshop to familiarize researchers with Massively Parallel Sequencing or MPS (also called Next-Generation Sequencing). The primary audience is local scientists from around Western North Carolina and the Southern Appalachians, who may currently lack capabilities in this new technology.

Overview of proposals submitted and awards received at WCU in the last three years



The Office of the Provost funds an internal grant opportunity to help faculty and staff enhance their competitiveness for external grants. (The source of the internal grant fund is indirect cost returns from previously awarded grants.) The next deadline for applications is Sunday, October 1. See [<http://www.wcu.edu/learn/research/preaward-services/Find-Funding.aspx>] for information about applying for an internal grant. The Office of Research Administration (ORA) assists faculty, staff, and graduate students in finding external funding opportunities, developing fundable research and programs, submitting proposals, and managing grant awards.

ORA is offering the following training workshops this fall:

Finding Funding:

Friday September 15, 1-2 pm in Hunter Library 186

Wednesday November 1, 3-4 pm in Hunter Library 186

Provost's Internal Grant Q&A:

Friday August 25 at 3 pm in UC Cardinal Room

Tuesday September 12 at 11 am in UC Dogwood Room

ORA is eager to hear your ideas for new programs and projects. Please contact us at x7212, amoshier@wcu.edu, or learn more on our website: research.wcu.edu.



Project Discovery students learn leadership skills on a Bike Across America trip, funded by the US Department of Education.

Staff Spotlight

Terry Pollard

Senior Educational Developer, Coulter Faculty Commons



Terry Pollard is the Senior Educational Developer in the Coulter Faculty Commons.

He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS, during the era of Brett Favre. USM beat Alabama and Auburn that year in football, behind his incredible leadership.

Terry is currently in the dissertation phase of his doctorate from the University of Mississippi. He is studying the impacts of feedback-rich interactive tutorials on learning processes.

Terry enjoys rooting for Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints with his wife and son. He first visited Western Carolina last summer (2016) with his wife and son. They were here on vacation and came to visit campus on a whim. "It was gorgeous—and the beauty of the campus inspired me to stand in the creek. Now that we're here, it will be a yearly ritual!"

"Follow your bliss and doors will open where there were no doors before." by Joseph Campbell, is Terry's favorite quote. Terry did not discover Joseph Campbell until his first few years as a teacher, and nothing changed his outlook as much as Campbell's body of work. It changed how Terry saw everything, and by necessity, his teaching practices and work with students.

Faculty Spotlight

Jennifer Barrett-Tatum

Assistant Professor of Literacy Education, College of Education and Allied Professions



Dr. Jennifer Barrett-Tatum is beginning a tenure-track assistant professorship in the School of Teaching and Learning in fall 2017. She joins Western Carolina University as assistant professor of Literacy Education.

Jennifer served at the College of Charleston, in the Teacher Education Department from 2013 to spring of 2017. She earned her B.S. and Masters degrees in Early Childhood (Prek-4) from the University of Tennessee, and earned her Ph.D. in Early Childhood (Prek-5) (with a concentration in language and literacy development) from Georgia State University.

A native of Ringgold, GA, a small town in the hills of northwest Georgia, Jennifer's hobbies include riding motorcycles, outdoor exercise of any kind, trivia, travel, dancing of any kind, and watching football.

The best compliment she ever received came from her grandmother, who had a terrible time in school because she has dyslexia. She told Jennifer, "If you know something, you can teach it to anybody." Students have told Jennifer that she provides very thoughtful and in-depth feedback.

Jennifer is interested in how educators negotiate their pedagogical and theoretical belief systems in a standards-based world, and how educational policies influence literacy instruction and student learning experiences. She is also interested in Scottish and Cherokee cultures.

A few fun facts about Jennifer:

If she were to retire and have a second career, Jennifer would want to go into practice using dogs as therapy animals (both physical and psychological).

She is a first generation college student. Jennifer's grandfather told her when she started school, that he wanted to see her be the first Dr. Barrett in the family, which is why Jennifer goes by her hyphenated last name of Barrett-Tatum.

"I care more about the people my students become than the scores on the tests they take." This is Jennifer's favorite quote because she wants her students to be successful and happy citizens, and not only good test takers.

Student Spotlight

Katherine Spalding

Undergraduate Student, Psychology



Katherine Spalding is a junior at Western Carolina University, majoring in Psychology. After graduation her plans are to pursue graduate school for higher education.

Katherine was elected to represent our Student Government Association as President for 2017-2018 AY.

She is dedicated to service and is able to give back in many ways through her service on Student Government Association, Phi mu Fraternity, and previously with Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church.

Having grown up around lakes, Katherine has taken to kneeboarding and wakeboarding. She also loves snow skiing, hiking, and softball. Katherine started out playing tee-ball and continued playing throughout high school as a pitcher.

Katherine is extremely interested in mental health and plans to join a state task force for the opioid crisis.

A fun fact is that Katherine is only 5'0" and gets mistaken for a middle schooler!

Her favorite quotes are:

"Everything happens for a reason," and "Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind won't matter, and those who matter don't mind" by Bernard M. Baruch.

Want to include news in next month's issue?
Please send information to scmelton@wcu.edu