

Western Carolina University
Academic Affairs Annual Report
to the Board of Trustees
2022-2023

July 31, 2023

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Division of Academic Affairs

Colleges, Schools, and Units Annual Reports

2022-2023

College of Arts and Sciences (CA&S) Dr. David A. Kinner, Dean

College of Arts and Sciences

- The College of Arts and Science had a near a record of 750 graduates in 2022-23 and will have more after summer graduation. The number of student majors decreased slightly, and the number of fundable student credit hours (SCH) slightly decreased, likely due to decrease in enrollment and/or increases in transfer students. We are improving on marketing and representing our programs, developing our social media presence, and building a sustainable way to market our programs. We embrace our identity as WCU's liberal arts college, while sharing with students that our degrees provide the skillsets to help them navigate a rapidly changing workplace and world.
- The college hired around 25 new faculty and managed the related spending (start up, computers, etc.), and this was a challenge. We are pleased with the talented and mission focused faculty that we have hired, and we promoted many faculty, particularly non-tenure track faculty in 2022-23.
- We jumped squarely into increased advancement activities as part of the "Filling the Western Skies" campaign. We celebrated the naming of two rooms in the Apodaca Science Building and procured funding for yet to be announced space names. We reinvigorated the CAS Advancement Council and embraced the new model for "One Day for Western" that allows us to fundraise for multiple annual giving priorities.
- We continue renovating spaces in Stillwell, improving outdoor field facilities, and planning for the move of two of our departments (CCJ and ENGL) to the Moore Building. Associate Dean Carmen Huffman, with our faculty and campus stakeholders, received funding from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation to design signage to document what we know about the Cherokee presence on our campus.
- The following section documents the many accomplishments of our departments. As a college with around 250 faculty and staff, we can never fully represent all the work that they have accomplished and are so very proud to be part of this group of scholars. For brevity, we use departmental abbreviations¹

Initiatives and Curriculum

- Major Curricular Changes:
 - The B.S. in Computer Science received a six-year ABET accreditation
 - Forensic Science modified degree requirements (including removing the pre-major) to increase movement through and retention in this popular degree.
 - Criminal justice modified their degree to accept Basic Law Enforcement (BLET) training credit.
 - Global Black Studies increased the number of courses in liberal studies to encourage more students to choose the minor.
 - We partnered with the College of Business to create a Cybersecurity minor.
 - For the incoming class, we will use ALEKS as the only math placement for MATH 100/130/146/153, replacing SAT/ACT scores and high school GPA.
 - Jamie Wallen (CHPH) and others worked with the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy to create an early assurance program, a pathway for WCU students to pharmacy school.
- Initiatives
 - WL hosted the 25th Southeast Conference for Languages, Literatures and Film.

¹ Anthropology and Sociology (ANSO), Biology (BIOL), Chemistry & Physics (CHPH), Communication (COMM), Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ), English Studies (ENGL), Geosciences & Natural Resources (GNR), History (HIST), Mathematics & Computer Science (MCS), Philosophy & Religion (PAR), Political Science & Public Affairs (PSPA), World Languages (WL).

- Criminal Justice partnered with NCBI to offer a “Cold Case” course for online CJ students.
- PAR “Sweet Wednesdays” was featured in the Western Carolina Journalist.
- BIOL hosted their first student research celebration, Biology Week of Research.
- Cyndy Caravelis (CCJ) expanded the Community Care Program to include the WCUPD.
- Nine drone study group students (CCJ; Steve Owens, instructor) passed the national exam.
- Japanese Outreach Coordinator Nanaka Okumura (WL) hosted dozens of campus and regional events related to Japanese culture.

Student and Alumni Successes

- Student Successes
 - Four undergraduate students competed in MATH Jeopardy at the MAA-SE Conference in Conway, SC.
 - Four undergraduate students competed in MATH Jeopardy at the MAA-SE Conference in Conway, SC.
 - Students in Jessie Swigger’s Museum Studies class (HIST) co-curated the "Mountain Persistence: Western North Carolina Adapts to Change" exhibit with the Mountain Heritage Center.
 - Emily Poole (ENGL) won The Romantic Novelists Association’s “Indie Editor of the Year” international award.
 - EDM Student Club (CCJ) received the Student Initiated Community Engagement Award.
 - Spencer Lee (COMM) won Award of Excellence in the Broadcast Education Association’s Media Arts Festival (Student Audio Competition).
 - In November, ENGL seniors (Mae Claxton, instructor), held the 2022 Interdisciplinary Conference: “This is Your Sign”.
 - PSPA competed at model UN regional competitions in the fall and spring, including winning the “Distinguished Delegation Award” for representing Ukraine at the Southeastern Regional Model United Nations Conference in March 2023.
 - At the Society of Professional Journalists’ Mark of Excellence Awards, Hailey Pait (COMM) won in the category “Television – General News Reporting.”
 - Kate Stone is the first BEd (ENGL) student to be selected as the WCU nominee for the NCACTE Student Teacher of the Year Award.
 - Lanasia Pleasants (PSPA) won highly prestigious Boren Scholarship that funds international travel and intensive language and cultural studies.
 - Tara Hall (MS BIOL) won a Society of Herbarium Curators student research award.
 - Students Jacob Dillhyon, Austin Keib, and Pierce Roberts (MCS) passed the Financial Mathematics Exam offered by the Society of Actuaries in Spring 2023.
 - Geology students went on multi-day field trips to the NC Triangle, Leicester, Albemarle, and Natural Bridge, Kentucky.
- Alumni Successes
 - Alum David Joy’s (ENGL) novel *Where All Light Tends to Go* is being made into a Hollywood film.
 - BIOL alums Brook Childers, Samantha Holmes, Erica Storey, and Jessica Lambert graduated from NCSU School of Veterinary Medicine.
 - Sara Stanley (COMM 2022) won the Julie Galvan outstanding graduate award for the Society for Professional Journalists.
 - Luke Manget’s (History MA 2012) *Ginseng Diggers: A History of Root and Herb Gathering in Appalachia* won the 2023 Weatherford Award.
 - Brandon A. Robinson (BA History 2005, M.A. 2010) was elected President of the Durham County Bar Association and 16th Judicial Bar for the 2022-23 term.
 - Professor Mark Budden published 3 papers with Zoulaiha Daouda, Tucker Wimbish, and Justin Clifton (all MCS alums). Miles Stanley, Noah Lowry, Gatlin Cruz, Cade Topton (MCS alums), and Associate Professor Scott Barlowe had a paper published in *IEEE*.
 - Alumna Haley Twig (CCJ) passed the bar and will be starting a practice in Sylva.
- Reported Student Graduate and Professional School Acceptance
 - Our students consistently are admitted in excellent graduate and professional programs.

Department	Reported Grad School Acceptances
ANSO	Cal State Chico, East Carolina, Texas Southern University, University College, London, University of Indianapolis, University of Maryland, University of Nebraska
BIOL	Duke, ECU (PhD, Dental), NCSU (vet), South Carolina (medicine), Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine/Carolina Campus, WCU
CHPH	Central Florida, Duke, ETSU (Pharmacy), SUNY Albany, Texas A&M, University of Georgia, UT Knoxville
CCJ	Marshall, Michigan State, UMass-Lowell, UNCC
HIST	American, UNCG, UNC Chapel Hill
MCS	Boston University, Wake Forest
PAR	Regent University (Law)
PSPA	UNC-Charlotte, North Carolina State University, and WCU, and law schools such as Campbell, NC Central, and Elon

- Reported Post-WCU Student Job Placement
 - Our students get interesting jobs!

Department	Reported Employers
BIOL	RiversEdge West
CHPH	Bode Forensics
CCJ	BCFS Health & Human Service, Community Justice Alternatives, Woodfin, Winchester (VA), and Waynesville Police Dept., Henderson County Sheriff
HIST	Swannanoa Valley Museum and History Center

- Reported Internships
 - Many students do internships as part of their educational experience, including:

Department	Reported Internship Sites
ANSO	Romanian Medieval Funerary Excavation, SECU Intern Program
CHPH	Center for Forensic Science Research and Education, Iredell County Sheriff's Office, Fayetteville and Statesville Police Depts., NC. Chief Medical Examiner's Office, NC State and Carnegie Mellon REUs, Oak Ridge, WCU Summer Research
CCJ	Marian Drane Graham Scholars, National Emergency Management Response, Alamance Jackson, Spartanburg, Henderson, and Swain counties, Watauga County Emergency Management/Services, Red Cross, Winston-Salem FD
GNR	Balsam Mountain Preserve, Canal Wood, Mainspring Conservation Trust, the Nature Conservancy, Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge
HIST	Center of the America West Applied History Program, NCSECU
MCS	Google, Jane St. Financial Trading Group, Principal Financial Group

Department	Reported Internship Sites
PAR	SECU Public Fellows Internship
WL	Japan Exchange and Teaching Program, Uncomplicated Kitchen, and Vecinos

- Research Presentations and other Activities
 - Research presentations are important learning experiences.

Department	Where Students Presented Research/Competed
ANSO	European Archaeology Association, American Association of Biological Anthropologists
CHPH	RASC, SERMACS, NC Graduate Education Day, American Chemical Society National Meeting
CCJ	Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, RASC, American Society of Criminology, Southern Criminal Justice Association
ENGL	Symposium on Communicating Complex Information
GNR	Association of Southeastern Biologists, Geological Society of America, NC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, NC Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Southeast GSA, 2023 Wildlife conclave (competition)
HIST	North Carolina Museums Council
NC	NC Council Teaching Mathematics
PAR	Southern Appalachian Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, NCUR
WL	Southeastern Association of Cultural Studies

Faculty Successes

- External Faculty Awards
 - Brett Riggs (ANSO), “Exceptional Partner Award” by the US Forest Service for his work on the Trail of Tears.
 - Jim Costa (BIOL), Stephen Jay Gould Prize from the Society for the Study of Evolution.
 - Mae Claxton (ENGL), the Eudora Welty Society’s Phoenix Award for Distinguished Achievement.
 - Joe Pechmann (BIOL), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service SE. Region’s Regional Director’s Honor Award for Conservation
 - Vincent Russell (COMM), Outstanding Dissertation award from two divisions of the National Communication Association
 - Cyndy Caravelis (CCJ), the SOCON All- Faculty Team Award.
- College Award Winners: University Awards (2022-23)
 - Forensic Anthropology, Program of Excellence Award
 - Katie Zejdlik (ANSO), Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award
 - Candy Noltensmeyer (COMM), College of Arts & Sciences Board of Governor’s Teaching Award
 - Katharine Mershon (PAR), Excellence in Teaching Liberal Studies Award.
 - Jane Eastman and Brett Riggs (ANSO), Innovative Scholarship Award
 - Alesia Jennings (CHPH), Student-Nominated Faculty of the Year Award
 - Cyndy Caravelis (CCJ), Paul A. Reid Distinguished Service Award.
 - Heather Rimes (PSPA), Curtis W. Wood Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring.
 - Andréa Daventry (PAR), Brinson Honors College Board of Directors Faculty Excellence Award

- Brian Railsback (ENGL), Nicholas Passalacqua (ANSO), and Robert Clines (HIST), Scholarly Development Leave during 2023-24.
- Faculty Books
 - Beth Huber’s (ENGL) *Piece of the Sky* was published by Next Stage Press.
 - Don Connelly (COMM) completed the 4th Edition of his textbook, *Digital Radio Production*.
 - Brent Kinser’s (ENGL) edition of Thomas Carlyle’s *Past and Present* (with David Sorensen) was published by Oxford University Press.
 - Lori Oxford’s (WL) monograph, *Pedro Juan Gutiérrez’s Dirty Realism: Reinventing Cuban Spaces*, was published by Lexington Books.
 - Travis Rountree’s (ENGL) book *Hillsville Remembered: Public Memory, Historical Silence, and Appalachia’s Most Notorious Shoot-Out* was published by the University Press of Kentucky.
 - Laura Wright’s (ENGL) *The Edinburgh Companion to Vegan Literary Studies* (co-edited with Emelia Quinn) was published. Wright’s *Appalachian Ecocriticism and the Paradox of Place*—co-edited with Jessica Cory—was published by the University of Georgia Press.
- Journals Where Faculty Published Articles in 2022-23:

Department	Sample of Publication Journals
ANSO	Stigma and Health
CHPH	Journal of International Physics, American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Microbiology Resource Announcements, Nature Communications
COMM	Journal of Family Communication, Internet Research, Journal of Communication in Healthcare: Strategies, Media, and Engagement in Global Health, Communication Education, Rhetoric of Masculinity: Male body image, media, and gender role stress/conflict (book chapter)
GNR	Ecology, Late Paleozoic and Early Mesozoic Tectonostratigraphy and Biostratigraphy of Western Pangea (book chapter), Earth-Science Reviews, Southeastern Naturalist
HIST	Journal of Medieval Cultural Studies, Bibliotheca Dantesca: Journal of Dante Studies, Rhetoric, Public Memory and Campus History (book chapter), Marine Mammal Studies, North Carolina Historical Review, Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History
MCS	The Art of Applied and Discrete Mathematics, Australian Journal of Combinatorics, Computational Statistics, IEEE, Integers, MethodsX, NCSM Journal of Mathematics Education Leadership, Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education, North American Chapter of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education, Star Critical Ramsey Managers for Graphs (monograph)
PAR	Eidos, Palgrave Handbook of Popular Culture in Philosophy, Tolkien Studies
PSPA	Election Law Journal, Social Sciences Quarterly, Journal of Law and Courts, and Public Works Management and Policy
WL	MIFLC Review

- Media Appearances
 - NSO’s Brett Riggs, Jane Eastman, and Tom Belt appeared on Osiyo TV for their work at the Watauga site.

- Sara Hopkins (ANSO) featured in the Cherokee One Feather about her work with the Cherokee Language Choir. The choir also practiced with legendary musician Yo-Yo Ma.
- Frankie West (CCH) was in *National Geographic Magazine* related to her work on the Clotilda.
- PSPA faculty were featured in numerous media outlets such as WLOS-TV, MSNBC, WUNC, Fox News, the Asheville Citizen Times, Queen City News, and Blue Ridge Public Radio.
- J. Tom Morgan (CCJ) appeared in the documentary, “Real Murders of Atlanta.”
- Amy Fagan (GNR) was interviewed on BBC News about the new space race.
- External Funding:
 - Cherokee Studies (via Brett Riggs) was awarded a Cherokee Preservation Fund Grant.
 - Sara Snyder Hopkins (ANSO) and the Cherokee Language Program received an \$11,700 K grant from the John W. Heisse Fund for Historic Preservation
 - Stacey Zimmerman (MCS) is a PI (UNC System Office recipient, WCU subrecipient) on an NSF grant *Building Confidence Through Culturally Relevant Corequisite Mathematics Courses within Math Pathways*.
 - Luiz Silveira (BIOL) has received notification that a new collaborative 4-year NSF grant with colleagues from University of Georgia has been recommended for funding.
 - Yiqing Yang (ANSO) was in a group that received funding from the NC Department of Health and Human Services.
 - Jamie Vaske (CCJ) successfully submitted a \$750 K grant to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for Buncombe Co. Treatment Courts to help them provide 4 years of funding, and she was CO-PI on a \$3 million National Institute of Justice grant to study veterans treatment courts.
 - Cyndy Caravelis (CCJ) was CO-PI of a \$350 K Dogwood Trust Grant to expand the Community Care Program.
 - WCU was among 5 UNC System schools who received a Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation NSF grant with Cheryl Waters-Tormey (GNR), Heather Coan (BIOL) and Nelson Grandula-Marulanda (Engineering) as Co-PIs
 - 5 GNR faculty were awarded ~ \$174 K in internal/external grant funding.
- Other Faculty Accomplishments and News:
 - Fulbright Scholar, Diane Martinez (ENGL), spent the year at Ludwigsburg University of Education (LUE) in Germany, teaching and forming learning networks for Professional Writing.
 - Amy Fagan (GNR) worked with NASA on a moon walking test mission.
 - Ron Rash (ENGL) was the keynote speaker at the 2022 Cork International Short Story Festival.
 - Lori Oxford’s article, “Mysticism and Multiplicity: Coexisting Contradictions in *El hombre, la hembra y el hambre*” won the Leonor and Justo Ulloa Award for best article published in 2022 in the MIFLC Review.
 - Don Connelly (COMM) received an Award of Excellence from the Broadcast Education Association’s Media Arts Festival for his PSA, *Big Al’s Runnin on Radio Waves*.
 - David Dorondo (HIST) delivered talks and authored essays on the war in Ukraine and international energy security for audiences including the US Army War College.
 - Adam Thomas (HIST) had a fall NEH Postdoc Fellowship with the Library Company of Philadelphia.
 - With a colleague from Pepperdine, Dr. Katerina Spasovska (COMM) developed the concept, guidelines, and topics for a Newsroom to Newsroom Mentoring program offered by the Society of Professional Journalists Journalism education committee.

Community Engagement

- Radio Production students (COMM) produced a variety of PSAs for different local off-campus clients on 95.3 WWCU.
- Rob Ferguson (HIST) prepared an exhibit on the musical practices of Appalachian women for the Appalachian Women’s Museum.
- Jamie Vaske (CCJ) continues to serve on the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission.
- PSPA Department members facilitated regional political debates, public surveys, and other activities, including works of the Public Policy Institute.
- Alex Macaulay (HIST) gave two talks for the Clinical Psychology staff and trainees at the Charles George Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Asheville on the history of the wars in Vietnam and the Middle East.
- David Walton (HIST) hosts the Global Black Studies Webinar Series and the Diversity Dialogues podcast. He delivered talks to the Jackson County NAACP, SCC, UNC-A, and the University of Toledo.

- Sloan Despeaux (MCS) hosted a collaborative workshop at Oberwolfach, Germany with 17 US and European historians of mathematics.

Professional Engagement Reported

- This is a summary of regional, state, and national engagement activities. Our faculty worked with these organizations, often having leadership roles.

Dept.	Organizations Worked With
BIOL	Coalition of Non-Native Plant Management, Cullowhee Valley Creek Club, Darwin Trust, Down House Scientific Stakeholders, Genome Education Partnership, Little Tennessee Native Fish Conservation Area, NC SciMatch, Pinnacle Park Board of Directors, Project Discovery, SCC, Sigma Xi, Watershed Association of the Tuckasegee River, US Fish and Wildlife Service
CCJ	Haywood County, multiple police and sheriff departments, multiple treatment courts, multiple K-12 schools
CHPH	Academy at Soar, FernLeaf Charter School, Town of Black Mountain, WCU Summer Camps
COMM	Asheville Truth and Reconciliation Task Force, Create Bridges WNC, HomeBase, Jackson County Public Health, Shannon Christy Memorial Scholarship Fund, The Sylva Herald and Ruralite, WNC Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America
ENGL	Calliope Stage Company
GNR	American Fisheries Society, Council on Undergraduate Research, Little Tennessee Native Fish Partnership, NASA, NC Geological Society, Wildlife Society
HIST	Appalachian Women’s Museum, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Georgia and Tennessee Trail of Tears Organizations, Jackson County NAACP, Jane Crow Project, NC Association of Historians, NC Museum Council, US Strategic Command
MCS	ABET, NCCAT, SUM Open Pedagogy Incubator, UNC System, USA Math Olympiad, WCU Math Contest
PAR	Harris Regional Hospital Ethics Board, Rotary Club of Asheville-Biltmore
PSC	American Democracy Project, Greensboro History Museum, Highlands/Cashiers Center for Life Enrichment, Leadership Asheville, Life@WCU, the Meditation Center, WNC NonProfit pathways, schools, and churches
WL	Folkmoot

Development

- CHPH received a donation from alum Pete Newsome to name Apodaca 325.
- WLOS Asheville donated parts of their new production set being retired to COMM for use in the CAT Building TV Studio.
- ENGL debuted its new development event, Three-Minute Wonders, at the Lazy Hiker in Sylva.
- Funding for the J. Tom Morgan Scholarship (CCJ) was expanded by a gift by Ray McPhail.
- PAR received a gift in memory of an alumnus, which was used for department student awards.

Department Diversity Initiatives

- The MCS DEIB Committee identified 10 major department initiatives.

- Cyndy Caravelis administers the Peacekeeper program which provides victims advocacy training for students, faculty and staff.
- GNR developed a DEI Statement (to be added to GNR website in AY 2023-24).
- Many departments (HIST, PAR) try to invite a diverse group of speakers to campus.
- PAR submitted course name changes, eliminating “Eastern” and “Western” as lumping categories for introductory religion courses.

College of Business (COB)
Dr. AJ Grube, Dean

Programs and Initiatives

- In Summer 2022, the Master’s in Project Management program was reaccredited through PMI-GAC.
- The first College of Business Chili-Cookoff was a hit. The event welcomed alumni, leadership members, and others to join the festivities. Dennis Brown, Scott Huffman, and Cathy Doughton were the judges for the event.
- The Club Management Association of America held a Bake and Hot Chocolate Sale to raise funds to go to the 2023 World Conference and Club Business Expo in Orlando, Florida, February 24-28. In addition to learning about club management, the event exposed the group to many internships and job opportunities.
- In December, the Dixon Hughes Goodman Accountancy Programs were officially renamed the FORVIS Accountancy Programs.
- The 2022-2023 *Ideas with Impact* showcased College of Business Professors by sharing their research. Professors featured were Kevin Fulk (CIS), Ethan Cheng (HTM), Hossein Fazilatfar (LAW), Angela Dills (ECON), Vittal Anantatmula (PM), Heidi Dent (MKT), Sean Mulholland (ECON), Debra Burke (LAW), and Bob Lam (ENT).
- WLOS Carolina Spotlight featured the College of Business Graduate Programs. Mariano Garrido-Lopez, Director of the College of Business Graduate Programs.
- *Something to Chew On* mini-presentation, networking, and social events were led in discussion by: Kevin Fulk, Janice Black, and Mariano Garrido-Lopez (11/30/22 Pedagogical Research), Yue Killian, Heidi Grappendorf, and Ken Sanney (2/2/23 Qualitative Research), and Garrett Davis & Angela Dills (3/30/23 Institutional Review Board).
- Sarilys Coxson (Enterprise Talent Acquisition Manager), Ed Wright (Elingburg Distinguished Professor), Heidi Dent (Marketing Professor), Jon Murphy (Economics Instructor and Research Fellow) presented a Degree-Plus event, Adulting 101: Employer Panel.
- The Hospitality and Tourism Management Advisory Board met in the Fall at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) and in the Spring at WCU.
- Master of Accountancy students (International Accounting Class) traveled to London. Highlights included visiting Mazars Accounting, the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation (IFRS), Griffin Brewery (formally Fullers), and taking a private tour of Wimbledon.
- Students in the Summer 2023 Global Consumer Culture course studied in Japan, visiting several marketing agencies such as Carter JTMN while learning about global marketing.
- The College hosted Schedule Palooza on Advising Day in Fall and Spring. Students could drop in throughout the day and receive registration Alt-PINS from faculty. The students also had an opportunity also to meet with club leaders, mingle with other WCU student support groups, enjoys some popcorn, and to have professional photos.
- The College of Business Board of Advisors met twice during the academic year. At the Spring meeting the HTM Board for a networking lunch.
- HTM Board Chairman Robert Foster (COO of Virtelle Hospitality) and College of Business Ambassador Kyleigh Rica showcased the HTM program and what it has to offer on WLOS SpotLight Carolina.

Student Successes

- In Summer 2022, Jesica Rector-Esquivel and Ivan Huffman participated in the FBLA-Collegiate National Competitions. Ivan Huffman served as the North Carolina State FBLA-Collegiate President for 2022-2023.

- Sport Management Students: John Moore, Christian Cabaniss, Wade Raines, and Sean Thomas, competed at the Sport Marketing Association's (SBRnet) in Fall 2022. Twenty teams competed in this year's case study which involved the task of developing a metaverse integration marketing plan for the Charlotte Hornets organization. The students used Hornets' internal data and presented their proposal to marketing executives.
- The 2022-2023 College of Business Ambassadors were Efrain Arias, Maniya Branch, Jhamore Abdullah, Kyleigh Rica, Callista Gallagher, Nicole Skarbek, Dakota Gatti, Christine Ewart, Ivan Huffman, Katy Martin, Jean Herrington, and Anna Marie Turney. The 2022-23 C.o.B. Ambassadors did an outstanding job representing the College.
- Hospitality & Tourism Management students Chase Ethridge, Carley Evans, Benjamin Hancock, and Kevin Patel represented WCU at the Student Market Study Competition in Asheville, NC. The students, led by Dr. Ethan Cheng applied what they learned from their Certification in Hotel Industry Analytics (CHIA) program to the market study.
- Students in HTM 241, Introduction to Events, Conferences and Festival Management, led by Dr. Cherry Brewer, planned, organized, and hosted the College of Business Holiday Gathering. The event gave the students a hands-on experience with an event.
- Avery Pittman (For-profit track) and Liah Vaartjes and Stephen Rider (Non-profit track) represented WCU at the 2nd Annual SoCon Entrepreneurship Challenge. This year's event was held at Mercer University in Macon, GA.
- Hospitality & Tourism Management Advanced Event & Conference Management students co-coordinated the C.o.B. Retirement Gathering on the Apodaca Terrace on April 20. The students interviewed the retirees and presented a brief bio of each including what they plan to do in the next chapter of their lives.
- Sigma Nu Tau raised approximately \$1000 for start-up funds by hosting a fundraiser at Orchard Coffee in Waynesville, with support from Mudcats, Mud Dabbers, and the Haywood Community College clay program.
- Earning a top 10 finish, WCU's 2022 TVA Investment Challenge Team Alec Woodard, Jared Pressley, Braydan Myers, and Joi Reed, brought back a performance award recognizing the team's hard work. The team outperformed the S&P 500 by creating and actively managing an equity portfolio. The Finance Team traveled to the annual Tennessee Valley Authority Investment Challenge in Nashville, TN.
- The WCU Mock Trial Team participated in the regional tournament held at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and sponsored by the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA). The team included Gabriel De Andrea Periera, Mason Avillion, Madelyn Gregory, Richard Creasy, Cherish Hale, Kenna Gokey, Charles Volz, and Christopher Hess.
- Madelynn Duffield Innovation, Leadership & Entrepreneurship major Dr. Bob Lahm received a Distinguished Research Award for their work entitled *Rising Innovation Trends with Implications for Entrepreneurial Start-ups*.
- College of Business 2022-2023 Outstanding majors were: Bryon Neumann (Business Administration and Law), Jessie Hull (Computer Information Systems), Tyler Rodriguez (Economic Analysis), Shawnee Curtis (Entrepreneurship), Pierce Roberts (Finance), Alannis Jimenez (Hospitality & Tourism Management), Aaron Bradley (Management), Isaac Roberts (Marketing), Kylie Cox (Sport Management) and Owen Crettol (Accounting & Outstanding Senior Award). Outstanding Graduate Students awards were presented to Jessalyn Irving (MAcc), Luis Hemmer (MBA), Tracey Daniels (ME), Keri Manuel (MPM), and Samantha Becker (MSSM).
- The COB Assurance of Learning Committee held a Degree Plus event where Dr. Annie Wilson spoke on Emotional Intelligence and Empathy Training.

Alumni Successes

- Adam Mottershead, a research assistant for the Center for the Study of Free Enterprise (CSFE) published *Budgeting North Carolina Water through Watershed Trading Quotes* in Issues in Political Economy. He also presented the paper at the undergraduate research session of the Issue in Political Resource Conservation & Management in May 2022.
- Michael Slee, Director of Operations for the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, spoke to Stacey Miller's Introduction to Sport Management (SM 260) classes about the history and meaning of the game of stickball. He spoke about the importance of stickball in Cherokee culture.
- Israel Rodriguez, Hotel Front Office Manager at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort spoke to Angela Sebby's HT 432 (Hospitality Supervision) course.
- Lily Giles, Account Manager for Rhino Sports has led football game day event production efforts at WCU and Clemson University. Lily visited the College of Business to promote the open positions with Rhino.

- Jeff Goss, partner at Ridenour & Goss law firm in Sylva, spoke to two of our SM 260 (Intro to Sport Management) classes on the history of sports law, specifically around player contracts, salary, salary caps, and labor unions.
- Taylor Cocherell, FORVIS Team coached accounting students preparing for fall interviews.
- Forsyth 124 was named the WCU College of Business Crawford Sherrill Dean's Suite in recognition of gifts from WCU Alumnus Michael Crawford and his wife Gina.
- Nathan Mansperger, Vice President of eCommerce Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits, reconnected and shared with graduate students his professional path of eCommerce and the beverage industry, making for a great networking event.
- Joseph Griffin, MPM '06, Senior Associate Dean, Academic Affairs Northeastern University, shared with graduate students' lessons about being ready to pivot professionally and to think about one's skills as transferable regardless of the work environment.
- Lucretia Stargell, MBA graduate, was named the new President of New Bridgton Hospital, Bridgton, Maine.

Faculty and Staff Successes

- Faculty earning tenure and promotion were Mary Beth DeConinck, Janet Ford, Wendy Cagle, Mariano Garrido-Lopez, Will Kapakos, Heidi Grappendorf, and Angela Sebby.
- Debra Burke was given the John Bonsignore Award at the 2022 Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference held at the Omni Hotel in Louisville, KY. This award is given to a faculty member who has made extraordinarily significant and transformational advancements in the discipline of business legal studies.
- Teri Domagalski and Drew Carnes were nominated for the UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- Heidi Grappendorf was presented *The Legacy Award* from the North American Society for Sport Management (NASSM). The award recognizes and rewards women in sport business management academia who are champions for and conduct research involving girls and women in sports and sport business.
- *Cascading Expert Failure* by Dr. Jon Murphy was accepted for publication in the Journal of Institutional Economics.
- Bukola Bakare's article entitled *Do Corporate Social Responsibility Ratings Have any Effect on Traffic Congestion?* was accepted for publication in Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice.
- Edward Lopez, Professor of Economics participated in a panel discussion sponsored by the Washington DC Broadband Coalition *Reform Pole Rules Now! The FCC's Opportunity to Help Further Our Nation's Goal of Expanding Broadband Access to All.*
- Janice Black coauthored a paper entitled *Shaping the future: Firm competences, entrepreneurial mindsets, and the mark of the spiritual entrepreneur* with Yvonne Smith (University of La Verne). The paper was presented at the 2022 Christian Business Faculty Association's Annual meeting in Shawnee, OK.
- Kevin Fulk, Barbara Jo White, Will Kapakos, and Heidi Dent were recognized for Best Pedagogy Paper at the IACIS (International Association for Computer Information Systems) conference. Their paper is titled *Doing More with Less: Using AI-Based Big Interview to Combine Exam Preparation and Interview Practice.*
- Jayson Gee, Assoc. Head Coach for WCU men's Basketball, visited SM 260 (Introduction to Sport Management) to discuss how changes to NCAA legislation are impacting college athletics.
- Bryan Schaffer and coauthors had a paper accepted at Management Teaching Review. Paper titled *Let's all go to the movies together: A social cognitive perspective on diversity, equity, and inclusion in management education video clips.*
- Justin Pace earned the Southeastern Academy of Legal Studies in Business (SEALSB) award for junior faculty. The award recognizes SEALSB members whose careers show exceptional promise based upon early accomplishments. It is given to someone who has produced a level of scholarship quality deemed to be extraordinary given the limited number of years in the profession and who shows the promise of future scholarship. In addition, Justin was elected to the officer rotation of SEALSB and will serve as: secretary, treasurer, vice president, president-elect & program chair, and finally president. As a past-president, he will be on the Executive Committee of the national organization, ALSB, for a year.
- Mariano Garrido-Lopez completed the WCU Academic and Administrative Leadership Program. The year-long experience culminated with presentations by Dr. Bonita Jacobs, President at the University of North Georgia, and Dr. Greeman Hrabowski, recently retired President at the University of Maryland at Baltimore County.

- Stacey Miller, Kadie Otto, and Charlie Parrish had research accepted for presentation at the 2023 Sport and Recreation Law Association Conference in Las Vegas.
- Barbara Jo White served as a panelist for the College of Education & Allied Professions' Jan. 20, 2023, forum on ChatGPT and its implications for higher education.
- Nathan Johnson was named to a 2-year term as Vice-President for the Project Management Institute's Global Accreditation Center (PMI-GAC).
- Justin Pace has been appointed to serve on the United States Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit's CJA Panel. The Criminal Justice (CJA) provides for the appointment of attorneys to represent accused who cannot afford their own representation in federal criminal proceedings.
- Angela Dills received the 2023 Robert Fox and Nina Buchanan ISCRC Distinguished Service Award. The award is given to the individual or individuals who contributed the most to the creation of each year's conference. Angela was chair of the 2023 ISCRC program committee.
- USASBE conference on entrepreneurship education was well represented by the College of Business. The following faculty members attended and presented: *Dreaming & Building the Perfect Entrepreneurship Camp* (Janice Black, Bethany Davidson, Wendy Cagle, and Lane Perry), *Emergent Patterns as Small Businesses and Consumers Anticipate a Recession* (Bob Lahm and Lane Perry), *Youth Entrepreneurs in New Zealand: Identifying Individual and Communal Contributors to the Success of Entrepreneurial Ventures* (Lane Perry), *Envisioning Entrepreneurship Programs of the Future* (Janice Black), *Do Entrepreneurial and Military Mindsets Coexist, Overlap, or Interact?* (Janice Black).
- Jon Murphy's paper entitled, *The ambiguity of superiority and authority: An analysis of the Keynes-Tinbergen debate*, was accepted for publication in the Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics.
- Vittal Anantatmula's article, entitled, *Knowledge sharing in project teams: Psychological barriers*, was accepted for publication in IEEE Engineering Management Review. Vittal also joined the editorial board of the Project Management Journal. His twelfth book will be published in June, titled "*Managing People in Projects for High Performance.*"
- Marco Lam, Heidi Dent, Julia Goldsmith, Tom D'Angelo, and Martin Kissler co-authored a paper, *Diversity at work: How relational demography and influence tactics impact the effectiveness of leaders* accepted for publication in the International Journal of Behavioral Accounting and Finance.
- Fifteen faculty members from the WCU's College of Business participated in the Appalachian Regional Business Symposium (ARBS). Steve Ha represented WCU on the ARBS planning committee.
- Steve Ha earned the Community Engaged Research Award at this year's Impact Awards Ceremony hosted by the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning.
- Yue Hillon has been named Elingburg Distinguished Professor, effective July 1, 2023.
- Bob Lahm, Janice Black, and Lane Perry received a Distinguished Research Award from the Institute for Global Business Research their paper is entitled, *Experiential Learning as a Development Tool for Entrepreneurial Mindsets: The Case for Stimulation Assignments.*
- The College of Business 2022-2023 Faculty Award Recipients were: Mary Beth Deconinck (BoG Creative and Innovative Teach Award), Angela Seby (Grace Allen Undergraduate Teaching Award and Engagement Award), Heidi Grappendorf (Graduate Faculty Teaching Award), Ethan Cheng (Excellence in Research Award).
- Doug Parker and coauthor Amanda Marcy won the 2023 Curt Verschoor Ethics Feature of the Year award from the IMA (Institute of Management Accountants).

Community Engagement

- Students in Charlie Parrish's SM 435 (Sport Event & Facility Management) class hosted the annual Mountain Heritage Day 5K. Proceeds from the event are used to fund the Cory Spaugh Sport Management Association scholarship for sport management majors.
- Mariano Garrido-Lopez provided an overview of the College of Business graduate programs at the monthly meeting of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce.
- "Hans" Johan Bos and Greg Ausland of Norida Pods participated in Ed Wrights MGT 404 Strategic Management class. Project Tiny Homes was presented by students Kaitlyn Houser, Christopher Perez-Hernandez, Chase Shannon, James Smith, Alec Woodard, Carly Evans, Robert Moore, and Joshua Mellon.

- Lane Perry invited Cabell Tice, founder of Orchard Coffee and Streamline Roasters, to speak to entrepreneurship students.
- Todd Creasy, Director of Corporation for Entrepreneurship, and Innovation was presented with a \$100,000 grant at the NC Idea award ceremony by Ben Reddin, CFO of NC Ideas. The grant will be shared between CEI and the WCU Rapid Center to build partnerships between faculty (and students in some cases) and local small or startup businesses.
- WCU Design for Health team was awarded a \$70,000 grant to develop a Resilient Age Inclusive Design framework to evaluate the social determinants of health outcomes, including economic stability, of older adults in rural communities. Yue Hillon represents the C.o.B. on the team.
- Students in ENT 195 created the 2022 Catovation Market. The market included five pop-up stores where students produced and sold products for the WCU campus community and 1 pop-up thrift store full of great thrift store finds (thanks to Sylva Linings and the Great Smokies Health Foundation Thrift Store for thousands of clothing items). The students raised nearly \$1500 for the Center for Domestic Peace in Jackson County and Fishes & Loves Food Pantry.
- The Center for the Study of Free Enterprise (CSFE) hosted a weekend *Exploring Liberty* on February 3-4th. Guest Speakers included Anthony Gill (Dept. of Political Science at the University of Washington), Audrey Redford (Dept. of Political Science at Hampden-Sydney College) and Marcus Witcher (Dept. of History and Huntingdon College).
- The C.o.B. partnered with Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and McGuire, Wood & Bissette Law Firm to host Business Ready[®] Smart Legal. More than 300 Jackson County Businesses were invited to participate. Topics of discussion included common employment mistakes, employment law updates, and business succession planning.
- The C.o.B. co-hosted an event with WCU's chapter of AAUW, Office of Legal Counsel, and Office of Advancement featuring the film, *A Hero for Daisy*, and a panel discussion. Panel participants were Fred Cantler, Steve White, Sue Persons, Nora Lynn Finch, and Judy Stoud. All panelists were instrumental in starting women's sports programs at WCU.
- The Corporation for Entrepreneurship & Innovation (CEI) was a sponsor at the Western Women's Business Center's 8th Annual Conference, held on the campus of AB Tech in Asheville.
- Spring 2023 Todd Creasy, with the Corporation of Entrepreneurship & Innovation (CEI), spoke at the Sylva Rotary Club and was inducted in the Macon County Rotary Club.
- The College of Business hosted Mitchell Gold, Chariman, co-founder of Mitchell Gold+Bob Williams Furniture Design Company, and co-founder of Tim Gold Dog Training shared his knowledge and experiences as an expert entrepreneur.
- MBA and BSBA students in the CoB Strategy Apprenticeship Program teamed up to develop a strategic action plan for the WCU online Learning Improvement Task Force, chaired by Eli Collins-Brown, Director of Coulter Faculty Commons.
- NCAMP & FarmVA continue to support farmers by providing a grant funded mediation program working to resolve disputes between farmers and the USDA.
- Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort hosted 52 students from Dr. Angela Sebbly's courses. Harrah's has afforded our students many of experiential learning opportunities to create Business Ready[®] graduates.
- Todd Creasy with the Corporation for Entrepreneurship & Innovation (CEI) and NCIDEAs hosted speakers from McGuire, Wood & Bissette Law Firm at Biltmore Park sharing free legal education for entrepreneurs. Local businesses from Hendersonville and Buncombe County were invited to the event.
- The Spring HT438 Strategic Management class presented the senior capstone project for Virtelle Hospitality on-site in Asheville.
- Disney Resort Shades of Green participated in the MGT 404 Strategic Management class. During the semester the students researched and developed repositioning strategies for the new craft brew pub venture. Elected by their classmates Megann Holst, Charlie Andersen, Maycie Henry, Whitney Smith, Christina Shvidrik, and Sean Armstrong represented and presented the project to the Shades of Green Leadership Team in Orlando, Florida.

College of Education and Allied Professions (CEAP)
Dr. Kim Winter, Dean

CEAP Article Topic (2022-2023 Academic Affairs Highlights):

- The PsyD Program Accreditation and 1st Graduating Class (media, [website](#)) - The Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) in Health Service Psychology program earned initial accreditation from the American Psychological Association (APA) on August 8, 2022. The PsyD program also graduated its first class on May 12, 2023. During 2022-2023, Drs. Rebecca Daniel, Alyssa Raggio, and Heather Styles-Turbyfill completed yearlong APA accredited internships which fulfilled the final clinical training experience to earn the doctoral degree at Western Carolina University.

CEAP Significant Highlights (from below)

- In April, CEAP awarded \$305,000 in student scholarships for the 2023-24 academic year. This amount marks a more than 10% increase over last year and a 100% increase in six years.

Diversity and Inclusion Efforts

- The interdisciplinary Social Justice undergraduate minor was approved in Spring 2022 and launched in Fall 2022, with coordination within CEAP and leadership from across the university. As of May 2023, fifteen students have declared a Social Justice minor.
- CEAP continued its national partnership with Call Me MiSTER, a program to increase the pool of available male teachers of color in the Western Carolina region and across the state of North Carolina. Our first Call Me MiSTER cohort began in Summer 2021. In Fall 2023, we have seven MiSTERS enrolled at WCU.
- We continue to embed our teacher education diversity, equity, and inclusion principles into our programs. As part of this effort, this year we launched our revised undergraduate professional education sequence core courses and began work on updating assessment measures and processes related to DEI.
- STEP with WCU, a new teacher education pathway program that partners WCU with diverse high schools, began in the 2022-2023 academic year in a pilot program with Iredell-Statesville School District. "The purpose of STEP with WCU is to introduce teaching as a profession in diverse high schools where students might not have had the opportunity to see it as such," said Jenny Stewart, WCU's director of Student Success and STEP. "This program contributes to the College of Education and Allied Professions and WCU goals for inclusive excellence and was designed to address the low number of students of color in teacher education programs and the teaching workforce across our state." We will be expanding to Henderson County for the 2023-24 year.
- WCU hosted the 7th annual Inclusion Summit at NCCAT, a 1.5-day event that brings together a variety of disability inclusion stakeholders to discuss inclusive practices and innovations. This year's Summit was led by special education faculty members Drs. Tammy Barron and Brad Witzel. This year's event welcomed 95 participants, including teachers, families, and community members.
- Dr. Joy Howard was appointed as the new Teacher Education Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator.
- Multiple faculty in Human Services and the School of Teaching and Learning are coordinating of the 2024 Equity in Education Summit, with the Principals Fellow grant as a contributing funder.
- All Educational Leadership (EdD, MSA/PMC) courses have a DEI component that focuses on removing deficit ideology/practices in educational settings.
- Counseling faculty published two articles and three presentations regarding DEI topics.
- Counseling faculty also recorded a lecture and interview with Sage video (DEIJ focus) and engaged community stakeholders to start student affinity group.
- The Counseling and Parks and Recreation Management programs partnered with local groups such as the Language Experience Afterschool Program (LEAP), which serves EL students.
- The Parks and Recreation Management (PRM) program added a new "diversity officer" to the PRM Club to ensure student events are inclusive.
- The PRM program continues to offer a course in the WCU Social Justice minor.
- The Higher Education Student Affairs program offered an identity-based mentoring program for their graduate students.
- The HESA program hosted "Community Conversations" for the graduate students.

- Project Discovery (a federal trio grant program) hosted *Welcoming Schools* trainings through the Human Rights Campaign and invited partners from target schools that the grant serves.
- Project Discovery also provided an adaptive cycling program for an amputee student participant.

Programs and Initiatives

- The College of Education and Allied Professions Teacher Education Programs obtained CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) accreditation. "Educator accreditation is a seal of approval that assures quality in educator preparation. Accreditation makes sure that educator programs prepare new teachers to know their subjects, their students, and have the clinical training that allows them to enter the classroom ready to teach effectively."
- Additionally, the WCU Teacher Education programs received the 2022 Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). This recognition is awarded only to programs achieving accreditation by CAEP with no stipulations or areas for improvement. WCU is one of only 32 teacher education programs recognized this year.
- The University Participant (UP) Program became the first ever fully accredited postsecondary program for students with intellectual disabilities. The accreditation comes after an extensive review process led by the Inclusive Higher Education Accreditation Council (IHEAC). WCU's UP program is a fully inclusive 2-year program that serves approximately 12 UP students with 30 WCU students consistently serving in paid support roles (working up to 10-15 hours per week), 20 academic support coaches sharing experiences in their college courses, and more than 200 WCU students from a variety of different disciplines continuing to volunteer with the program.
- The Doctorate in Health Service Psychology (PsyD) program received accreditation from the American Psychological Association (APA), retroactive to the site visit last year.
- The undergraduate elementary education program received an A+ rating from the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) for its preparation of teachers in the foundations of teaching reading. The program was one of only 48 nationwide to receive the rating (and only five in North Carolina out of 23 that were reviewed).
- CEAP received a \$1.5 million donation to establish the Goodnight Distinguished Professorship in Early Literacy.
- Two new teacher education programs were approved that will convert our current Birth-Kindergarten pathways to licensure that do not result in a credential from the university to undergraduate certificate programs. These certificates provide ways to track students working towards these teacher ed licenses outside of existing programs (as requested by the UNC SO) and to help students, faculty, and advisors keep track on requirements and progress. They include a Certificate in Birth-Kindergarten and a Certificate in Birth-Kindergarten Add-on Licensure Program.
- In Fall 2020, CEAP made a notable commitment to youth mental health by implementing Youth Mental Health First Aid as a certification training for all residential Intern II candidates. This initiative aimed to equip interns with the necessary skills to support the mental well-being of adolescents and young adults. Building on this effort, CEAP trainers Amanda Chapman and Jenny Stewart received a university grant aligned with the university's Mental Health and Wellness theme to conduct two sessions over the 22-23 academic year. These sessions were attended by WCU faculty, staff, and students. The goal was to raise awareness about the importance of mental health support for youth and empower adults with the knowledge and skills needed to respond effectively to mental health challenges faced by young individuals.
- This year, the Office of Field Experiences collaborated with faculty and staff to revamp and enrich the early field experiences of teacher candidates. This effort aligned with the newly implemented revisions to the professional education sequence courses, aiming to create more comprehensive and meaningful experiences that promoted collaboration with school partners and catered to the diverse needs of students. The revisions to the early field experiences have received positive feedback from our students, faculty, and school partners, highlighting the effectiveness and impact of the collaborative efforts between the Office of Field Experiences, faculty, and staff.
- The professional advising staff added two new certified Gallop Global Strengths Coaches to the team in the past year. In the 23-24 academic year, the Suite 201 Student Success Center Coaching program will be formalized and assessed as specific student populations are identified and targeted for this value-added co-curricular opportunity.
- The Counseling program reinstated the Chi Beta Chi chapter of the Chi Sigma Iota National Counseling Honors Society for graduate students.
- The Counseling program offered Praxis exam study sessions to assist school counseling students passing licensure exam.

- The Leadership (LEAD) minor had 15 graduates in May 2023
- The Master's in Human Resources program launched a MSHR donation campaign in May 2023.
- The MSHR program launched one new course and has one new course in progress.
- The HESA program facilitated a mid-year graduate student retreat in January 2023.
- The Project Discovery program highlighted two-year credentials and programs through workforce symposiums and career exploration events created in collaboration with three local community colleges.
- Six teacher education students in elementary, middle, and secondary education were part of the Transformative Rural-Urban Exchange (TRUE) 2022-2023 Cohort. These students engaged in cultural competence learning modules, a two-day retreat with their counterparts from NC A & T in February, and a week-long campus exchange and local school visits in March and April. Six faculty, three from each campus, also participated in the program. This was the first year since March 2020 that students participated in all aspects of the program: learning modules, retreat, and exchange. WCU participants visited historic James B. Dudley High School, the first high school in Guilford County for African Americans, and the Civil Rights Museum in downtown Greensboro. NC A & T students visited Cherokee Central Schools, the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, and other local schools.
- Dr. Jon Campbell and colleagues (Drs. Ogletree, Cooper-Duffy, Price, and Rose) continue the work on project INTERACT, a collaborative training initiative sponsored by the Office of Special Education Project. Specifically, project INTERACT (INTERprofessional Autism Collaborative Training) is a 5-year, Department of Education funded Personnel Preparation grant designed to increase the number and quality of personnel serving children with high-intensity needs, specifically Autism and moderate to severe intellectual disabilities. This program trains 12 graduate students each year, four from each of the participating WCU disciplines (Psychology, Special Education, and Speech-Language Pathology). Dr. Jon Campbell represents psychology on this effort.
- Psychology in collaboration with the CEAP Dean's office sponsored the Unified Protocol for Transdiagnostic Treatment of Emotional Disorders (UP), with Dr. Shannon Sauer-Zavala. This full-day experience was held in the Blue Ridge Conference Center on WCU campus, and was attended by nearly 80 graduate students, faculty, and practitioners from the community.

Student Successes

- The PsyD program graduated its first class on May 12, 2023. During 2022-2023, Drs. Rebecca Daniel, Alyssa Raggio, and Heather Styles-Turbyfill completed yearlong APA accredited internships which fulfilled the final clinical training experience to earn the doctoral degree at Western Carolina University. Another nine PsyD students (100%!) matched successfully to APA accredited doctoral internships.
- CEAP Alumna Caitlin Lambert was named the North Carolina Association of Colleges for Teacher Education 2022 Student Teacher of the Year. As a student, she was a member of the Honor's College, a CEAP Ambassador, and on the Dean's Student Advisory Council. She earned her B.S.Ed. in Elementary Education in 2022 and is currently a first-grade teacher at East Franklin Elementary in Macon County, North Carolina.
- Interns in our teacher education programs have earned a 99% pass rate on the edTPA assessment for two consecutive years. The edTPA assessment measures the readiness of pre-service teachers to plan instruction, teach, and assess students. It is a requirement for obtaining a teaching license in North Carolina.
- EdD had recent graduate, Alison Joseph, won the 2022 Staff Inclusive Excellence Award at WCU.
- MSA had 2023 PMC Graduate, Consie Girty, has been named Superintendent of Cherokee Central Schools.
- MSA had Emily Parker, Kalisa Norman, Kiki Alimonos, and Jill White travel to San Diego, CA, to present at the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) Annual Conference, Title: "Building School Leaders' Capacity to Serve Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care, and Trauma."
- The Counseling Program had two students with poster presentations at the North Carolina Counseling Association conference.
- The Counseling program had one student hired as first official school counselor at The Catamount School and an additional counseling graduate assistant also worked there two days per week.
- The Counseling program also had one student accepted for summer 2023 research assistantship grant.
- The LEAD program had strong connections with co-curricular student leadership programs (current SGA President, CJ Mitchell, and ASG President, Estefany Gordillo-Rivas, are LEAD Minors).

- The Birth-Kindergarten (BK) program moved edTPA to Internship I with great success, leading to 69 students who completed the edTPA and 96% of students that met proficiency on their first submission.
- BK Student Ambassadors continue to represent the needs and abilities of distance learning students and early childhood professionals at WCU.
- BK selected 14 emerging early childhood leaders as part of the LEAF in ECE grant, a grant funded by Dogwood Health Trust at close to one million dollars.
- One BK Student was the Paraprofessional of the year for her county school system.
- Over 30 PRM and Experiential and Outdoor Education (EOE) students attended this year's Adventure Education Conference and five EOE graduate students presented workshops.
- A dozen PRM/EOE students attended this year's International Association of Experiential Education conference.
- Three EOE students presented papers at the Symposium on Experiential Education Research
- PRM students received student scholarships to attend the Resort and Commercial Recreation Association Conference.
- A grant, written by PRM 461 students, has been received for a screening of Motherload, a documentary that celebrates cargo/utility bicycles as a mitigating tool to fight climate change.
- PRM students in PRM 361 partnered with Kituwah Elementary in Cherokee to offer a Nature Walk at Great Smoky Mountains National Park and offered a four-week outdoor activity club for the LEAP afterschool program serving EL students.
- 16 EOE master's students completed their thesis research or culminating project assisting regional K-12 schools, environmental education centers, and a variety of other formal and non-formal education programs.
- The HESA program had 1 student as finalist for the WCU 3 Minute Thesis, 2 students who presented at SACSA regional conference, 1 student who presented at ACPA international convention, and one student who received the Future Scholars Award from The Academy of Leisure Sciences.
- The Project Discovery program has students who will be attending a host of postsecondary institutions, from SCC to Yale and institutions all over the country. WCU will see the highest enrollment of 4-year bound program graduates.
- Alexis Allread, a graduate of the Elementary Education program, and Ariana Hunter, a secondary science education program graduate, were named finalists for the NC Beginning Teacher of the Year Award. There were only 27 finalists from across the state.
- The North Carolina Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance recognized several WCU alumni at its annual meeting:
 - Middle School Teacher of the Year: Katherine Thomas, Buncombe County Schools (WCU alum, Clinical Educator)
 - College/University PE Teacher of the Year: Dr. Stephanie Little, Meredith College (two-time WCU alum, former clinical educator/clinical faculty)
 - Middle School Principal of the Year: Angela Lunsford, Catamount School (WCU alum)
- The honor society in psychology, PsiChi, celebrated 22 new inductees this year, the second largest "cohort" in the department's history.
- A total of 15 graduate students from the MA, SSP, and PsyD programs were awarded the 2023 Summer Graduate Research Assistantships to conduct research under the supervision of faculty mentors.
- Psychology students were authors and co-authors on over 30 presentations at the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) Conference in New Orleans, LA, in April of this year. Students from the graduate programs also hosted a panel at the conference, centered on preparation for graduate school.

Faculty & Staff Successes

- Dr. Kofi Lomotey was awarded the 2023 Distinguished Contributions to Social Contexts in Education Research Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Educational Research Association Division G.
- Dr. Roya Scales was awarded the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER) A.B. Herr Award for distinguished service in the literacy profession.
- Dr. Lori Unruh was the 2023 recipient of the prestigious NASP (National Association of School Psychologists) Presidential Award in recognition of outstanding service to children and school psychology.
- Dr. Dustin Evatt won the "Faculty 3-Minute Research" Competition at WCU this spring.
- Dr. Alvin Malesky was the recipient of the Botner Award for Superior Teaching (CEAP, 2023)

- Dr. David Solomon, recipient of the Peak Performer Award (CEAP distinguished alumni honor roll)
- Dr. Sam Castelblanco, David Scales, and Alicia Grande received CEAP Over & Above Awards
- Human Services Total Scholarship Summary: 92 Presentations, 30 journal articles, 14 book chapters, 9 grants, 9 awards (university to national), 6 podcast / webinar features, 4 media interviews/ appearances.
 - EdD/MSA: 13 Articles, 4 Book chapters, 4 Grants, 28 Presentations/Keynotes, 7 Awards (university to national).
 - COUN: 8 regional and 2 state conference presentations, 4 articles, 1 professional newsletter article, 3 reviewed journal articles, Emerging Leader and Social Media committee chair for the Association for Child and Assignment Counseling (ACAC)
 - BK: 9 presentations, 1 faculty three-minute research participant, 1 article, Grants: 1.) Dogwood Health Trust, Co-PI, \$868,855, 2.) NC Pandemic Response, NC NTSP, PI, \$69,466, 3.) SUTEP Grants, Co-PI, \$5,000, Provost's Scholarship Development Award
 - HR: 6 book chapters, 14 conference presentations, 1 grant application, 1 peer-reviewed journal article, 4 media interviews/appearances.
 - PRM/EOE: 20 research and teaching presentations at national and international conferences, including an invited Keynote presentation at Southeastern Environment and Recreation Research Conference and an invited international webinar at a university in Indonesia, 9 peer-reviewed papers (3 with EOE grad students as lead authors)
 - HESA: 3 journal articles, 3 book chapters, 9 presentations, 1 other publication, 6 podcast / webinar features, and 1 grant from a regional professional organization
 - Project Discovery: 2 conference presentations
- Psychology Total Scholarship Summary: At least 12 journal articles and 13 book chapters, as well as well as more than 50 presentations at regional, national, and international conferences.
 - Gangel, M., Kemmerly, R., Wilson, L., Glickson, S., Frazier, P., Tennen, H., Jayawickreme, E. (in press). Does perceived posttraumatic growth predict measured changes in current-standing and state posttraumatic growth? *Clinical Psychological Science*.
 - Whitman, M. R., Rice, W. R., Menton, W. E., McCord, D. M., Ben-Porath, Y. S. (in press). The meaning and clinical implications of low MMPI-3 Self-Importance scores. *Journal of Personality Assessment*.
 - Campbell, J. M. & Hammond, K. H. Best practices in rating scale assessment of children's behavior. To appear in A. Thomas and P. Harrison (Eds.), *Best Practices in School Psychology*, VII. Bethesda, MD: National Association of School Psychologists. In press.
 - Vess, S. F., & Campbell, J. M. The efficacy of parent-child interaction therapy (PCIT) for families of children with autism spectrum disorders. *Autism and Developmental Language Impairment*.
 - Gardner, L., Cederberg, C., Hangauer, J., & Campbell, J. M. (in press). Law enforcement officers' interactions with autistic individuals: Commonly reported incidents and use of force. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*.
 - Gardner, L., Campbell, J. M., Gilchrest, C., McClain, M., & Shahidullah, J. (2022) School-Clinic collaboration for autism spectrum disorder assessment: Interprofessional considerations. *Psychology in the Schools*.
 - Randolph, M., & Schilling, E. J. (2023). Hemophilia. In M. M. Perfect, C. A. Riccio, M. A. Bray (Eds.), *Health-related disorders in children and adolescents: A guidebook for educators and service providers* (2nd Ed.), American Psychological Association.
 - Schilling, E. J., Randolph, M., & Boan-Lenzo, C. (2023). Predictors of job burnout in practicing school psychologists. *Journal of Applied School Psychology*, 39(1), 24-39
 - Broomell, A., Martha Ann, B. Structure and Development of Executive Function from Infancy to Late Childhood. (in press). *Cognitive Development*.
 - Wolsey, T. D., Scales, R. Q., Grisham, D. L., Scales, W. D., Lenski, S., Smetana, L., Yoder, K. K., Dobler, E., Young, J. R. (2022). Exploring seven novice elementary teachers' formative literacy assessment practices: A multi-state study. *Literacy in Teacher Preparation and Practice: Enabling Individuals to Negotiate Meaning* (pp. 153 – 177). Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.
 - Barton, P., & Solomon, D. T. (in press). Alternatives for families: A cognitive behavioral therapy. In P. T. Clements, D. T. Solomon, S. Seedat, B. Barol, & C. Schoonover (Eds.), *New perspectives on mental health issues in child maltreatment: Multidisciplinary strategies for assessment and intervention*. Florissant, MO: STM Learning.

- Brown, J., & Solomon, D. T. (in press). Application of psychometrics to child maltreatment assessment instruments. In P. T. Clements, D. T. Solomon, S. Seedat, B. Barol, & C. Schoonover (Eds.), *New perspectives on mental health issues in child maltreatment: Multidisciplinary strategies for assessment and intervention*. Florissant, MO: STM Learning.
- Moomaw, M., & Solomon, D. T. (in press). Childhood maltreatment and trauma-informed care in the LGBTQIA+ community. In P. T. Clements, D. T. Solomon, S. Seedat, B. Barol, & C. Schoonover (Eds.), *New perspectives on mental health issues in child maltreatment: Multidisciplinary strategies for assessment and intervention*. Florissant, MO: STM Learning.
- Solomon, D. T., Grist, C. L., & Johnson, A. (in press). Introduction to evidence-supported treatments for child maltreatment. In P. T. Clements, D. T. Solomon, S. Seedat, B. Barol, & C. Schoonover (Eds.), *New perspectives on mental health issues in child maltreatment: Multidisciplinary strategies for assessment and intervention*. Florissant, MO: STM Learning.
- Unruh, L. E., Minke, K. M., & Rossen, E. Future of School Psychology. *School Psychology Professional Issues and Practices*. Springer.
- de Jong, D., Faulkenberry, R., Konda, O., & Joyner, B. (2023). Masturbation. *Encyclopedia of Mental Health* (3rd edition). Elsevier.
- Poovey, K., de Jong, D., Rancourt, D. (2023). Disordered eating and women's sexual function: The role of interoception. *Journal of Sexual Medicine*.
- Reis, H., Li, S., Ruan, Y., de Jong, D., Tsai, F.-F. (2022). Are you happy for me? Responses to sharing good news in North America and East Asia. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*.
- Olah, A. & Ford, T. & Norman, K. (2023). Disparagement humor permits unsafe COVID-19 behaviors: A prejudiced norm perspective. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*.
- Olah, A. & Junkin, J. & Ford, T. & Pressler, S. (2022). Comedy Bootcamp: stand-up comedy as humor training for military populations. *Humor*.
- School of Teaching and Learning Total Scholarship Summary: at least 28 journal articles, book chapters, and books, as well as more than 100 presentations, ranging from local to international.
 - Dr. David Virtue, Botner Distinguished Professor of Middle Grades Education, launched a new book series, AMLE Innovations in Middle Level Education Research, published by Routledge in partnership with the Association for Middle Level Education.
 - Dr. Resa Chandler and colleagues received a \$34,657 grant from the UNC System for their project “Fostering Critical Thinking in Human Motion Analysis.
 - Dr. Charmion Rush and Dr. Tammy Barron received a 5-year renewal grant for \$50,000 from the NC Department of Instruction for their project “North Carolina State Improvement Project (NCSIP) Improving Instruction for Students with Disabilities Grant-Institution of Higher Education (IHE) Partner.”
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Community Engagement, including Advancement

- “Dear Human Resources” is ranked #8 in the top Human Resources (HR) podcasts by Speakers Associates and just aired its 63rd episode.
- The CEAP received a \$1.5 million donation to establish the Goodnight Distinguished Professorship in Early Literacy. There will be a \$1 million match from the UNC System to create a total endowment of \$2.5 million.
- In April, CEAP awarded \$305,000 in student scholarships for the 2023-24 academic year. This amount marks a more than 10% increase over last year and a 100% increase in six years.
- CEAP awarded eleven SUTEP grants totaling \$17,499 to support initiatives that enhance our teacher and professional education partnerships including collaboration with P12 partners and within and between WCU colleges.
- Two EdD faculty helping lead Jackson County Public Schools in their ICS for Equity training.
- The MSA program has signed MOUs with 18 school districts. EDL faculty engages regularly with principal mentors, district administrators, and superintendents throughout aspiring leaders' programs and as our interns lead school and district change improvement projects.
- The Counseling program hosted three Supervision Symposiums with site supervisors, including many who are program alumni and employers of program graduates (Dec 2022, March 2023, May 2023)
- The Counseling program had field placements (practicum/internship) in 22 schools and 36 clinical mental health agencies across Fall and Spring semesters.
- The Counseling program also provided student support at The Catamount School, had 5 invited community workshops, and had the NC Counselor Education Faculty Consortium.
- The BK program offered consulting at Carolina Day School, Swain County, Cherokee Central Schools, and Dora Reed Head Start.
- BK Faculty were board/committee members at the following: Board Member with Haywood Community College Foundation, School Improvement Team Member at Bethel Middle School, Parent Advisory Council: Bethel Elementary School, Swain County Community Early Literacy Committee, Cherokee Central Schools Early Literacy PLC.
- BK faculty also facilitated 5 community presentations.
- Over 1,050 MSHR students have served as HR consultants through the HR Consulting Initiative. Latest clients include Girls on the Run of the Triangle, Piedmont Farm Animal Refuge, and Veterans Bridge Home, among others.
- The HR Consulting Initiative has recently been contacted by Blue Ridge Public radio (NPR) to conduct a compensation analysis.
- The PRM program has officially adopted to maintain Panthertown’s 1.8-mile Blackrock Trail. They pursued this service opportunity to give back to the landscape that supports the PRM program, and to open USDA Forest Service internship opportunities for their students.
- The HESA Program Developed new fundraising system, had various faculty consulting projects, and had many internship placements at external sites.
- Project Discovery has provided over 4,500 services to 780 students in 14 schools in WNC served by the Talent Search grant.
- Project Discovery received a donation from program alumni in the band Rainbow Kitten Surprise of \$8,000.

[College of Engineering and Technology \(CET\)](#)

[Dr. Randy Collins, Dean](#)

Summary

- The College of Engineering and Technology at WCU plays a vital role in the region to prepare students for professional practice, and advances engineering and technology through applied research and development activities. Our applications-focused, project-based learning approach and industry engagement differentiates WCU from other colleges of engineering.

- This year, the college has focused on outreach and engaging with our constituents and elected officials, as we launch our strategy to respond to regional industry needs for expanding the engineering and technology talent pipeline. As the only public college of engineering west of I-77 in North Carolina, we are positioning the college as the go-to institution for engineering talent for our region’s employers. As a result, our programs’ graduates are in high demand for both internships and permanent jobs.
- Concurrently, we are focusing on expanding partnerships with community colleges, and create efficient pathways for students to complete a four-year degree in engineering, engineering technology, and construction management at WCU. Our focus includes both traditional college-age transfer students as well as non-traditional students who may already be working in industry.
- CET has had a fast-paced year of many successes, and we are enthusiastic about the future.

Programs and Initiatives

- School of Engineering + Technology
 - Under the guidance of Dr. Martin Tanaka, Tau Beta Pi, the preeminent engineering honor society, installed the NC Eta chapter at WCU – an event 10 years in the making.
 - The Engineering + Technology Faculty established a new certificate program: Robotics and Automation.
 - The school added several key pieces of equipment to expand research and lab capabilities – fluid dynamics parallel pump and impact jet, injection molding machine, spectrum analyzer, power analyzer, controls lab equipment, and several more.
- Kimmel School of Construction Management
 - Bachelor of Science CM degree received initial ABET accreditation (ANSAC)
 - CM minor revised and curriculum proposal approved
- The Rapid Center
 - Provided engineering services to approximately 100 clients for the year, covering product designs, prototyping and 3-D printing, and test and analysis.
 - The Rapid Center partnered with the Corporation for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI) to submit a \$50K proposal to NC IDEA. The Rapid Center was awarded \$25K to fund five capstone projects to support small and start-up NC businesses, which were completed in May 2023.
 - Through the same CEI and NC IDEA partnership, the Rapid Center was awarded \$30K to fund six engineering capstone projects for the AY 22-23.
 - The Rapid Center partnered with the West Bridge Vocational (WBV) Center to develop a proposal for the Golden Leaf Foundation. WBV was awarded \$850K, and from this grant, the Rapid Center is being funded \$130K to design and implement improvements for a number of their assembly stations.
 - The Rapid Center Director led a grant proposal activity for a 3-year, \$3M initiative in response to the NSF, “The Quantum Leap: Leading the Next Quantum Revolution.” Not awarded.
 - Rapid Center Director contributed as Co-PI for a \$400K NSF grant proposal, “Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity (EPIIC).” Preliminary proposal was accepted. Full proposal is under review at NSF.
 - A multi-function device used for sinus procedures, developed for an ENT surgeon by and engineering capstone team and later refined by the Rapid Center team, was approved by the FDA for commercial use. The unit is being manufactured in Charlotte NC.

Student Successes

- School of Engineering + Technology
 - The IEEE Robotics team took 9th Place among all engineering schools in the Southeast (IEEE Region 3) in its annual IEEE Southeast Regional competition. Faculty advisor Dr. Adam Harris and seven students traveled to Orlando, FL for this year’s competition.
 - Six Engineering + Technology students presented their research at NCUR (National Conference on Undergraduate Research) in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.
 - Allison Royer, a senior in BSE-ME, presented her bioengineering research on tensile strength of deer tendons at a conference held at Harvard University.
- Kimmel School of Construction Management

- Fourteen students participated in the ASC Region II Competition.
 - 3 students earned 1st or 2nd place trophies in their respective categories
- Seven students participated in the CMAA NC Chapter Fall Symposium.
- Megan McIntosh had an academic paper accepted for publication and presentation at the ASCE International Conference on Transportation & Development. She also presented the research at the WCU Undergraduate Research Expo.
- Four students participated in the CIOB Global Student Challenge
 - Selected as top 10 finalist (WCU was the only US institution in top 10).
- Five students were inducted into Sigma Lambda Chi Construction Honor Society.
- Atalia Taylor, MCM student, selected as Student Commencement Speaker for Fall 2022 graduation ceremony.
- The Rapid Center
 - With Dr. Ritenour as lead instructor, the Rapid Center led 25 student teams (93 students) for engineering capstone projects. The Center managed all agreements, material purchases, student team travel and project close-out.
 - The Rapid Center employed five engineering interns during the summer of 2022. The engineering team completed over 10 projects for internal and external clients, generating approximately \$20K in revenue.
 - The 2022 engineering intern team design and fabricated 300 holiday ornaments for the WCU Staff Senate, generating over \$3,000 in scholarship funds.

Faculty and Staff Successes

- School of Engineering + Technology
 - The FLiTE program welcomed its first cohort of students, who will spend four years in their scholarship program, led by Drs. Paul Yanik, Chip Ferguson, Andy Ritenour, Scott Rowe, and Wendy Cagle (Business). FLiTE (Fostering Leaders in Technology Entrepreneurship) is a \$1.5M NSF grant, serving 36 students over a six-year span.
 - Dr. Sudhir Kaul led a team (Jack, Collins, Ferguson, Stone) to seek funding from the Golden LEAF foundation to establish a new Robotics and Automation lab. The project was funded, with \$470k granted for equipment purchases over four years to equip this new laboratory.
 - Dr. Martin Tanaka spent a month in the Washington, D.C. area performing research with the FDA on his \$100k NSF grant, modeling the leaching of hazardous materials from polymeric biomaterials.
 - Dr. Bora Karayaka led a team (Ritenour, De Silva (Chemistry), Ferguson) that administered a \$200k grant with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), providing scholarships for students with an interest in the energy sector.
 - Dr. Sudhir Kaul spent approximately a month as a Fulbright Specialist in Indonesia, lending his expertise in Engineering Education and establish international connections for future student/faculty opportunities.
 - Dr. Yanjun Yan was awarded the Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching, the top teaching award in the UNC System.
 - Dr. Yanjun Yan and Dr. Gael Graham (History) led a group of 18 WCU students to Japan for 2+ weeks, where students earned credit for two courses – ENGR 365 and HIST 308.
 - Dr. Amber Thompson and Mr. Monty Graham led a team to coordinate the transfer of multiple pieces of polymer manufacturing equipment that occupied two tractor trailers from the App State Hickory campus – worth several hundred thousand dollars at a cost of \$8,900 total.
- Kimmel School of Construction Management
 - Faculty Awards
 - Gauhar Sabih - Distinguished Student Engagement Award, College of Engineering and Technology.
 - John Hildreth – Associated Schools of Construction International Outstanding Researcher Award.
 - Chris Cox – IEOM Distinguished Professor of the Year Award.
 - Sponsored Research Projects
 - Nine active research projects with a total value of \$1,263,999.
 - Hildreth, J. (Principal), Karayaka, H. B. (Co-Principal), Sponsored Research, "Vessel Electrification Investigation for the NCDOT Division Fleet", North Carolina Department of Transportation, State, \$287,742.00.
 - Hildreth, J. (Co-Principal), Sponsored Research, "Maximizing Proceeds from the Fleet Asset Disposal Sales Process", National Cooperative Highway Research Program, Federal, \$300,000.00.

- Hildreth, J. (Co-Principal), Sponsored Research, "Guideline for Decision-Making for Repair vs. Replacement of Highway Maintenance Equipment", National Cooperative Highway Research Program, Federal, \$350,000.00.
- Hildreth, J. (Co-Principal), Sponsored Research, "Repair vs. Replacement of Highway Maintenance Equipment", NCHRP, \$50,044.
- Sabih, G. (Principal), Grant, "Effects of Water Content on Workability of Ready-Mix Bagged Concrete", Kimmel School of Construction Management, Western Carolina University, \$2,000.00, Funded.
- Sabih, G. (Principal), Grant, "Investigating Thermal and Mechanical Inputs for Rigid Pavement Design in North Carolina", NCDOT, State, \$238,713.00.
- Sabih, G. (Principal), Steffen, R. (Co-Principal), Grant, "Effects of Urea on Mechanical and Thermal Properties of Paving Concrete", Western Carolina University, Western Carolina University, \$10,000.00.
- Steffen, R. (Principal), Sponsored Research, "Eco-Panels & EPIC Block Testing", Eco-Panels, \$10,500.
- Suk, S.-J., Contract, "Support for the Construction Industry Institute's manufacturing and life sciences sector", Construction Industry Institute, \$15,000.
- Publications, Technical Reports, and Presentations
 - Two academic publications, one technical report, and four presentations.
 - Cox, C., Gulf South Summit presentation, Service Project Based Learning in Construction Management.
 - Cox, C., IEOM 8th North American Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management, Panelist Global Engineering Education Forum
 - Hildreth, J., AEMP EquipmentShift, "Navigating a Stormy Equipment Market: A Procurement & Acquisition Panel," Association of Equipment Management Professionals, Cincinnati, OH. (October 2022).
 - McIntosh, M., & Sabih, G. Effects of Climatic Factors on Jointed Plain Concrete Pavement's Performance. Austin, TX: ASCE International Airfield & Highway Pavements Conference.
 - Sabih, G. (2022). "Modeling Concrete Pavements for Bending Stresses Considering Nonlinear Thermal Gradient and Aged CTE". Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering.
 - Steffen, R. E., College of Engineering and Technology Lunch and Learn, Sp 2023, "12 Years of Structural Engineering Experimental Testing and Analysis at WCU," WCU College of Engineering and Technology.
 - Suk, S. (2023) "Manufacturing and Life Science Benchmarking Summary Report for 2022." Construction Industry Institute.
- Workshops
 - Hildreth, J., Mousavi, E., & Collins, W., Associated Schools of Construction Estimating Boot Camp, June 20 – 22, 2023, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- The Rapid Center
 - Recruited 15 faculty across the College of Engineering and Technology to mentor engineering capstone teams. Paid out over \$22,500 in faculty professional development funds to reward mentorships.

Community Engagement, including Advancement

- School of Engineering + Technology
 - Five SET faculty members spent a day with elementary, middle, and high school students in Cherokee on their Mini STEM Day 9/14/2022.
 - Three SET faculty members served as judges for the high school senior capstone projects at Martin L. Nesbitt Discovery Academy, a STEM school in Asheville.
 - Dr. Scott Pierce led a team of SET faculty and staff to host 82 students and 7 faculty members from Nesbitt Academy on 4/19/2023.
 - Dr. Bora Karayaka and EE student Stefan LeClair created a weatherproof box and repaired a solar panel and water pump system that services the local Cullowhee Community Garden.
- Kimmel School of Construction Management
 - Fall Construction Career Fair – 80 companies attended.
 - Spring University Career Fair – 40 companies attended.
 - Industry sponsored and/or supported student participation at the following events (\$30,000 direct contributions):
 - Fall CM Kickoff Picnic

- Fall Charlotte Area Field Trip
- Fall ASC Region II Competition (Atlanta)
- CMAA NC Chapter Fall Symposium (Raleigh)
- Residential Construction Competition
- Fall Homecoming Tailgating Event
- Spring Charlotte Area Field Trip
- CM End-of-Year Celebration (Cherokee)
- I-26 Reconstruction Project Presentation
- Laying Foundations – People Skills for New CM Professionals – Symposium
- Kimmel School launched CM Corporate Sponsorship Program
 - Received contributions totaling \$92,000.
 - 11 Platinum Sponsorships, 13 Gold Sponsorships, 3 Purple Sponsorships.
- Construction Industry Advisory Council (CIAC) drafted Construction Internship Best Practices document.
- Two companies provided materials and equipment in support of faculty research projects.
- Industry hosted 63 formal student internships during the academic year.
- The Rapid Center
 - The Rapid Center hosted two STEM camps in July 2022 for regional middle school students. Rapid Center interns instructed the students in design and prototyping techniques. The summer 2023 intern team will be leading two similar camps in June and July 2023.

Diversity Initiatives

- School of Engineering + Technology
 - Dr. Nelson Granda Marulanda took a large group of SHPE (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers) students to Charlotte for the SHPE National Convention. Multiple students received job interviews and offers on the spot at the convention.
 - Engineering + Technology students have been active in SWE (Society of Women Engineers), NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers), and SHPE (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers) with faculty advisors Dr. Yanjun Yan, Dr. Peter Tay, and Dr. Nelson Granda Marulanda, respectively.
 - ENGR 350 continued delivering a module on Diversity in the Workplace with visits from Chief Diversity Office Ricardo Nazario-Colon. This course is required of all students in BSE, EE, ECET, and ET-AST.
- The Rapid Center
 - The Rapid Center team made multiple site visits to Haywood Vocational Opportunities, Waynesville NC, recommending process improvement techniques to meet product demand more efficiently for a surgical tray kit, and reduce potential for work-related injuries.

[College of Health and Human Sciences \(CHHS\)](#)

[Dr. Lori Anderson, Dean](#)

Programs and Initiatives

Each academic year, the college has a theme word to highlight and inspire the year ahead. This year the word was “revivification.” Revivification was chosen because of its meaning – renewal or the act of bringing into prominence. In addition, revivification represented where the college was in its work of reviewing, revising, and endorsing the college's mission, vision, strategic plan, and bylaws. Over the academic year, the college accomplished this renewed foundational work and is well-positioned to start the new academic year. The following are specific examples of new initiatives and program accomplishments in the college:

- Communication Science and Disorders
 - Continued implementation of classes/clinic education related to the INTERACT grant (4th year) for specialty training in autism and interprofessional education with Special Education and Psychology students and faculty.

- Summer Camps: 1) Conducted Camp LEAD – a literacy summer camp (4 weeks) for students who are in 3rd grade and above and diagnosed with a disability, including literacy problems, and 2) planned a Summer Intensive Stuttering Program to be offered July 2023.
- Expanded adult clinical sites to include the Jackson County Department on Aging.
- Health Sciences
 - Reaccreditation self-studies and site visits occurred for the MSAT, EMC, Environmental Health Sciences (ENVH), and Recreational Therapy (RT). MSAT, ENVH, and RT have received continuing accreditation status, and the EMC program awaiting a final decision.
 - The EMC Program offered four new courses (Critical Care Paramedic I & II; Community Paramedic I & II), and the program began the process of redesigning the residential EMC Program.
 - Environmental Health Sciences (ENVH) program instituted an inaugural “roll out” of Community-Engaged Program service-learning activities and increased curricular and extracurricular student engagement.
 - The Health Sciences faculty created and delivered a two-part series of four professional development seminars over the advising days and participated in an inaugural symposium of health sciences undergraduate programs in partnership with Kennesaw State University.
 - Internships have been created by Chelsea Burrell and Katie Pincura at MountainWise, Jackson County Health Department, and NC Special Olympics.
 - Student Support Services participated in recruitment events and facilitated cross-training opportunities (CHHS Info Session) for Admissions staff and Advising Center staff and created multiple ‘What If...’ documents to support Pre-Nursing students in exploring possible major options if they want/need to change majors.
 - Four programs and our student services center participated in the state HOSA conference, displaying health professions and WCU to hundreds of middle and high school students.
 - Programs revised and refined marketing, recruitment, and retention plans tailored to their professions and needs.
- Nursing
 - Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education awarded the DNP Program a five-year initial accreditation.
 - The Master’s Entry Program in Nursing and the BSN-DNP Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program continue to move through the WCU curriculum approval process.
 - The Pathways to Equity in Nursing (PEN) scholars program continues to grow, serving more than 45 students in pre-nursing and prelicensure nursing programs.
 - Enrollment increases in the ABSN program (↑ 53 students/cohort), and the BSN program (↑ 30 students/cohort).
- Physical Therapy
 - Graduated the second cohort (45/48 students during Covid) with Biltmore Park expansion.
 - MAP Health received the WCU Community-Engaged Outreach Award for 2022-2023.
 - Lori Schrodtr facilitated two collaborations: 1) Jackson County Senior Center and Samaritans Feet and assisted with fitting 90 older adults from Jackson County with new safe footwear and 2) WCU Nursing and UNC-A Pharm D collaboration focusing on team-based care for older adults.
 - WCU DPT was awarded 2nd place for this community activity in the APTA-NC Falls Prevention SIG PT/PTA Challenge.
 - MAP Health students took the initiative to create exercises to help manage pre-diabetes and Type 2 diabetes mellitus classes in Spanish for Vecinos Farmworker Health Program.
 - Integrated telehealth services in Honduras have been expanded through MAP Health and the WCU DPT curriculum as part of the Integrated Clinical Education course series. Student hours in Honduras: 418 in person, 134 in telehealth.
- Social Work
 - Continued success in HRSA behavioral health workforce training grants.
 - Collaboration with Criminal Justice on Community Care program with Sylva Police Department to provide holistic, supportive care to individuals in crisis. Applied for a full-time grant-funded position at Sylva Police Department through Dogwood Health Trust.
 - Graduated the largest MSW class (68 graduates).
- Culturally Based Native Health Program (CBNHP)

- For the Advanced Care Planning Grant entitled “My Way” (PI: Goins), cultural training for grant-contracted students and professionals working in the Cherokee communities was provided.
- Assisting in developing a culturally appropriate healthcare leadership curriculum for Cherokee Indian Hospital.
- Working with WCU’s CAPS center staff to help develop a cohort supervision space that uses an indigenous framework to facilitate a decolonized and multiculturally congruent Mental Health learning space.
- Working with Cherokee Studies and other program leadership on a 3–5-year plan to recruit and retain Indigenous faculty/staff at WCU.
- Invited panel presentation by the Smithsonian Institution’s Recovering Voices program on “Ama: Cherokee Water is Life,” for the international conference “Living with Water, Decolonizing Approaches to Environmental Justice” for the Center for Research and Practice in Cultural Continuity hosted by the University of Warsaw, Poland. via Zoom.
- Invited lecture “Colonization of Indigenous Peoples: Historic and Intergenerational Trauma as it Impacts Contemporary Health & Postcolonial Recovery,” for EBCI National TERO (Tribal Employee Rights Office) Conference: Exploring the Impact of Intergenerational Trauma on Tribal Workforce, Cherokee, NC.

Student Successes

CHHS enrollment (as determined by fall census data) for fall 2022 was 2,416, a 5.8% decrease from the fall of 2020 (2,566). SCH generation for the fall of 2022 decreased by 5.3% from 31,827 a year ago to 30,134. Applications to our programs remain strong. Both graduate and undergraduate students present their research at local, state, and national forums. CHHS students are engaged in service in various settings ranging from local communities to international locations. First-time pass rates for most CHHS programs are at or near 100%. Overall pass rates continue to exceed the national averages for all programs. Examples of additional students’ accomplishments include:

- Communication Sciences and Disorders
 - 93% pass rate for Praxis (certification) for June 2022-May 2023.
 - 100% employment rate for graduate students who graduated in both December and May.
 - Six graduate and one undergraduate student published research or master’s thesis papers.
- Health Sciences
 - Lauren Butz presented at the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Annual Symposium and Clinical Expo in June.
 - Mackenzie Campbell and Evan Joseph secured an Academic Project Grant and presented their research on prescribed burns as a contributor to fine particulate matter at the American Geophysical Union's annual meeting, at the 2023 RASC, and at the Seven Minute Summaries: Undergraduate Research in Public Health symposium.
 - Bradley Roberts co-authored a poster on La Crosse Virus risk factors in Western North Carolina, presented at the American Society of Tropical Medicine Annual Meeting.
 - All senior Recreational Therapy research groups had their posters accepted for presentation at the American Therapeutic Recreation Association annual national conference.
 - Peyton Burr (EMC Senior) won the Brian Belcher Award for professional excellence.
 - Alexis Johnson (EMC Senior) won the Barbara Lovin Award for academic achievement.
 - Mackenzie Campbell and Mitch Mullin presented a poster at the 2023 RASC on *Aedes j. japonicus* in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
 - Daygan Shouse presented a poster at the 2023 RASC on evaluating the impacts of a community engagement activity on influenza disease and vaccination knowledge among undergraduate students.
 - Michael Chapman presented a poster at the 2022 SoCon Undergraduate Research Forum – Evaluating the Impacts of a Community Engagement Activity on Influenza Disease and Influenza Vaccination Knowledge, Attitudes, & Intentions Among Undergraduate Students Enrolled in an Introductory Public Health Course.
- Nursing
 - Our BSN programs achieved a 98.7% NCLEX first-time pass rate for Spring 2022 graduates and a 100% NCLEX first-time pass rate for Fall 2023 graduates.
 - For the Spring 2023 graduates, the DNP-FNP student first-time pass rate was 100%, and the DNP-Nurse Anesthesia first-time pass rate is currently 100% (1 student still to take). Improvement was noted for DNP-Anesthesia with the implementation of mandatory study plans and study skills consultations.
 - One FNP student published a paper based on their master’s thesis.

- DNP-Nursing Anesthesia students traveled to Washington, DC, to meet North Carolina’s legislators and discuss access to care in rural areas.
- Pre-licensure students traveled to Jamaica and to Atlanta to provide health services to underserved populations.
- Physical Therapy
 - 96% pass rate on national boards, which is equivalent to the state and above the national rate for DPT programs.
 - Nine students attended a national Pro Bono Physical Therapy Conference in Pennsylvania, where six students presented on topics related to the successful operation of our MAPHealth clinic, including improving language access.
 - Five students attended the NC APTA state meeting, with three students presenting their doctoral project work.
 - Five students attended the national conference of the APTA, the annual Combined Sections Meeting in San Diego, where three students presented research related to doctoral projects.
 - Gabriella Ware, a second year DPT student, was awarded the Scholarship of Excellence Award from the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions. She also organized an eyeglass drive that raised 300+ reading glasses to be shared in Honduras.
 - Twenty recent WCU DPT graduates were inducted into the national pro bono honors society.
 - The DPT student Honduras Liaison Team raised over \$1000 to support a new laptop for the Fuente de Vida organization, enabling them to provide better telehealth services to students in Honduras.
 - Eleven students, along with five recent WCU DPT graduates and DPT faculty Todd Watson, traveled to Honduras to provide care for clients in collaboration.
 - Ruby Dixon, a second-year student, led the regional Consortium of Pro Bono Physical Therapy Clinics in North Carolina.
 - Alyssa Fennel (2nd-year DPT student), and Reah Barger (1st-year DPT student), led and expanded the WCU DPT social media presence, collaborating closely with the university social media team and significantly increasing public exposure.
 - Morgan Forbes-Robinson participated in the 3-minute thesis presentation at WCU's Graduate Research Symposium.
- Social Work
 - Lyndsey Parham (MSW student under Dr. Murphy-Nugen's mentorship) received a \$4,850 award from the Macro United Conference to conduct a case study and present on the rural emergency and disaster response to Tropical Storm Fred's flooding in Haywood County.
 - Kyla Allison – Ann Lashley Inspiration Award and So-Con Student-Athlete of the Week.
- Culturally Based Native Health Program (CBNHP)
 - MedCaT student from 2016 completed medical school and began a pediatric internship this year.
 - The Native Health Certificate program graduated three students – a pharmacist at Cherokee Indian Hospital and a Cherokee Studies enrolled EBCI member.

Faculty Successes

CHHS has 105 faculty and 16 staff collectively between the Cullowhee campus and Biltmore Park. We have a very productive faculty. While their primary duty is teaching, they are productive in scholarship with grant writing and publishing in well-known journals. CHHS faculty are actively engaged in clinical practice and provide service at the local, state, and national levels, and many are in leadership roles. This year, CHHS submitted twenty-one (21) grant submissions. Awarding of grant monies is competitive and the college received \$1.45M in new awards compared to \$1.85M last year.

- Communication Sciences and Disorders
 - Faculty participated in 14 presentations at the American Speech Language Hearing Association and at the Joint World Congress for Stuttering and Cluttering.
 - Faculty had six publications in varying journals. Examples include the Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, Journal of Fluency Disorders, and Advances in Neurodevelopmental Disorders.
 - Received funding for Early childhood speech/language services for Spanish-speaking families in rural spaces by the Ash Foundation.
- Health Sciences

During the year, 21 peer-reviewed manuscripts were published; 16 manuscripts are under review; 36 presentations were given, seven of which included students; seven poster presentations; four book chapters were published; and three technical reports were written. One internal grant was awarded, and four external grants were awarded. Faculty were engaged in the institution, community, regional, and professional organizations. They served on 244 various positions on committees or boards; 144 positions were internal to WCU, 18 were within the community or region, and 82 were professional service opportunities. A few other faculty accomplishments include:

- Jessica Kirby continues to serve as a reviewer for the Athletic Training Education Journal and the Journal of Athletic Training. Additionally, this year she joined the NC Athletic Trainers' Association's Professional Development Committee and co-chaired the Student Programming sub-committee.
- Tara Peterson serves on the NCATA DEI committee and MAATA LGBTQ+ Committee and continues to serve at the NATA Career Center.
- Melissa Snyder served on the NATA Foundation Free Communications Committee, NATA Foundation Research Agenda Committee, and Athletic Training Education Conference Planning Committee. She also served as a reviewer for multiple journals and an external member of a Doctor of Athletic Training student's research committee.
- Brian Byrd Awarded: 1) La Crosse encephalitis in WNC – a pilot project to determine opportunities to reduce environmental risk factors (funded by the NC Collaboratory, total award \$150,000) and 2) Aedes surveillance and La Crosse encephalitis investigations (funded by the NC Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control – Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity, total award \$30,000).
- Sara Duncan was Awarded two Grants: 1) Cherokee Preservation Foundation (total award \$11,352) and 2) WCU's Sustainable Campus Initiative (total award \$900).
- Elizabeth Wall-Bassett was accepted as a Fellow into the Johns Hopkins SOURCE Service-Learning Academy.
- Katie Pincura was appointed state policy chair of the American Association of University Women-North Carolina in July 2022 and moderated two statewide events for AAUW-NC featuring prominent North Carolina civil rights attorney Rob Schofield.
- Jennifer Hinton was elected to the Board of Directors and installed as President-Elect for the American Therapeutic Recreation Association.
- Nursing
 - Faculty Awards: Sheila Price received the Betty Huff Faculty Award and Mary Knowlton was named one of the Top 100 Nurses in North Carolina.
 - Faculty practice: Eighteen faculty report participating in clinical practice.
 - During the year, 21 presentations were given, and five grants were submitted. A few notable accomplishments include:
 - Da Costa, M. (2022). Strategies to Address Microaggressions and Promote Inclusivity in Nursing Education. 15th Annual Mentoring Conference: Fostering Diverse Communities of Mentorship: Evidence-Based Practice for Reciprocal Growth. UNM Mentoring Institute, Albuquerque, NM.
 - Durbin, T. (2023). Principles of Adult Education: Classroom Management Techniques for New Educators. Assembly of Didactic and Clinical Educators. American Association of Nurse Anesthesiologists, Austin, TX.
 - Hensley, TL. (2023). The Time is Now for School-Based Telehealth. Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center (MATRC) Telehealth Summit, Norfolk, VA.
 - Hudgins-Graham, BN. (2023). Developing a professionalism rubric for clinical courses in prelicensure Nursing education. Nursing Education Research Conference (NERC), National League for Nursing, Washington, DC.
 - Messer, AW (Presenter & Author), Young, LL (Presenter & Author). (2022). What nurses need to know to care for people with substance use disorders. North Carolina Nurses' Association Webinar.
 - Sheppard, FH (Presenter & Author), Livsey, K (Author Only), & Martin, D (Author Only). (2023). Nurse-led Goal Setting Activities to Enhance Older Adult Health Care and Self-advocacy. Southern Gerontological Society's 44th Annual Meeting and Conference, Norfolk, VA.
- Physical Therapy
 - Tim Eckard published one manuscript, presented at one state and national conference.
 - John Carzoli completed part one of a two-part Fulbright US Scholar Teaching and Research Award in Bolivia related to elements of excellence and signature pedagogy in physical therapy education.

- Lori Schrodtt offered Walk with Ease (a 6-week evidence-based program) to over 30 older adults in Sylva and Asheville as a product of collaborations with Healthy Aging NC, the Land-of-Sky Area Agency on Aging (Region B), Southwestern Commission Area Agency on Aging (Region A), and the Jackson County Senior Center.
- Tammy Simmons was the winner of the people choice award in the second faculty 3-minute thesis competition at the WCU Graduate Research Symposium.
- Ashley Hyatt presented at one national conference and completed all coursework of a Ph.D. in Physical Therapy.
- Social Work
 - Turner Goins received the University Scholarship Award to recognize her distinguished achievements in research.
 - Continued funding of the HRSA Workforce (Integrated Care) grant, which graduated 36 recipients.
 - Scholarship: 10 peer-reviewed publications.
- Culturally Based Native Health Program (CBNHP)

Lisa Lefler is the program director of the Culturally Based Native Health Program. A few accomplishments this year include:

 - Service on two advisory boards, a review board, a planning committee, and an awards committee.
 - Invitation to speak on a panel on NPR radio Charlotte Station WFAE on Indigenous women's issues regarding Maternal and Child Health.
 - Book chapter accepted for publication, "Kituwah (Cherokee) Matrilineality and the Future for Communal Healing and Wellness," in *American Indian Women of Proud Nations. Essays on History, Language, and Education*.

Community Engagement including Advancement

The college continues to be very active with the communities we serve. CHHS maintains 1,950 active clinical contracts with external sites to provide clinical and experiential experiences for our students. These sites are primarily in NC and the Southeastern United States. The college also manages or supports the following clinics which provide health care services for our region: WCU Balance & Fall Prevention Clinic, Vecinos Farm Worker Clinic, PT Solutions, WCU Speech & Hearing Clinic, and the MAP Health Clinic (WCU and Biltmore Park). Examples of community engagement include the following:

- Communication Sciences and Disorders
 - Established the Cullowhee Chapter of the National Stuttering Association.
 - Along with graduate students, providing services to persons with Parkinson's Disease and others with mild cognitive impairment and dementia at the Jackson County Department on Aging.
 - Provided bilingual evaluation and treatment services to approximately nine JCPS special and general education students and their families. Travel to schools to complete screenings, assessments, and assistance with interdisciplinary play-based evaluations.
 - Rebozo Research Network – an interdisciplinary group of WCU faculty who meet monthly to collaborate on scholarship and advocacy in service of Latino families in the westernmost counties of NC.
 - Led workshops to provide training on hearing screenings for public schools in Swain, Macon, Jackson, Haywood, and Graham counties.
 - The Speech and Hearing Clinic was featured as a college priority for the 'One Day for Western' giving challenge and received over \$5,000 in matching gifts.
- Health Sciences
 - Athletic Training students assisted with pre-participation physical examinations and provided patient care to many areas' schools and at the NCHSAA State Wrestling Tournament.
 - In collaboration with the National Park Service, Environmental Health students conducted Mosquito surveys for an invasive species in the Great Smokies Mountain National Park.
 - Environmental Health Science faculty and students engaged with ~75 local high school students in a community-based environmental education project to learn about and assess local air and water quality.
 - In collaboration with the Friend of Nantahala Lake, Environmental Health Science faculty and students monitored and reported on the water quality of Nantahala Lake.
 - Katie Pincura participated in the Healthy Carolinians working group of the Jackson County Department of Public Health to work on addressing community health issues in Jackson County.

- Chelsea Burrell participated in numerous community activities, including Healthy Carolinians, MountainWise, Jackson County Health Dept., Swain County Schools Health Advisory Council, and WNC Health Communicators' Collaborative.
- Nutrition & Dietetics students engaged with a variety of community organizations to produce three community nutrition interventions based on needs assessments they completed with community partners for older adults the previous semester. These students served over 150 hours with community organizations in this service-learning class.
- Recreational Therapy students participated in numerous service-learning projects, including Full Spectrum Farms, Pathways Center, UP Program, HIGHTS, Camp Lakey Gap, Hinds Feet Farm, Jackson County Senior Games, the Hermitage, a fall festival for people with disabilities, Person First Services, and Homebase.
- Jennifer Hinton supervised three afternoons of programming on the WCU Teams Course with the HIGHTS program from Haywood County and served on the Jackson County Trails and Greenways Committee, HIGHTS Board (based in Jackson County/ serving all of WNC), and Person First Human Rights Committee and provided approximately 10 hours of informal consultation to the Nantahala Outdoor Center for accessibility endeavors.
- Paige Dagenhard-Trainer and Debbie Logan offered several sessions to high school students for the HOSA Regional Conference (Western counties of NC) in Jackson County, NC. Paige also attended the state HOSA conference and offered several sessions to the high school students attending in Greensboro, NC.
- Nursing
 - Six SON faculty served in leadership roles as an officer or Board of Directors members for healthcare-related community organizations.
 - Eighteen SON faculty served in leadership roles for professional organizations.
 - Four SON faculty volunteered in professional organizations as committee members.
- Physical Therapy
 - MAP Health services continue to impact the region with 502 patient visits and 3,050 student hours, and 600 clinician hours.
 - MAP Health organized multiple fundraisers to support client care and clinic operations.
 - Students served by assisting at an annual Parkinson's 5K Run/Walk in Asheville, organizing and participating in a shoe fitting and foot assessment service for older adults through the Jackson County Senior Center, and organizing a blood drive and an Interdisciplinary CHHS patient appreciation night.
 - MAP Health was featured as a college priority for the 'One Day for Western' giving challenge and received over \$500 in matching gifts.
- Social Work
 - Conducted a housing needs assessment as part of the Design for Health interdisciplinary initiative.
 - Participated in Whee Walk Together, a program promoting intercultural dialogue and community engagement between community members with diverse backgrounds.
 - Faculty serve on the Board of Directors for five regional committees, serve as committee members on four regional committees, volunteer at three regional programs, and serve on an Advisory Committee and medical review board.
- Culturally Based Native Health Program (CBNHP)
 - Continue to collaborate with the Center for Native Health to provide summer health career camps (MedCaT) for youth in our region at WCU and at Wake Forest University Medical School.
 - Work with the Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center to address health disparity issues and impacts on Indigenous communities.
 - Working with the Smithsonian Institution's Health and Culture Workgroup regarding the contemporary application of Traditional Knowledge.
 - Working with EBCI on developing a culturally appropriate measure for intergenerational trauma.

Diversity and Inclusion Goals

A few highlights this year include:

- Jessica Kirby has presented introductory talks on neurodiversity and working with neurodivergent patients to Indiana State University, Manchester University, and Loras College.

- Melissa Snyder was trained by the National Coalition Building Institute to provide diversity, equity, and inclusion training. She facilitated one training to WCU students, faculty, and staff through the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Program.
- Tara Peterson presented on providing inclusive healthcare to transgender and gender diverse patients to 3 Athletic Training Programs (Baylor University, Merrimack College, University of Georgia), as well as the St. Luke’s Hospital Sports Medicine Program in Pennsylvania, and the Emergency Medical Care program here at WCU.
- Students in the AT program traveled to Clemson University to learn from their Adaptive Sports Program and Cherokee, NC to learn about their culture and healthcare processes to help advance the understanding of patient-centered care and how individuals’ cultures play a role in our patients.
- EMC developed DEIA content for clinical preceptor training and currently developing plans to strengthen DEIA integration throughout the Program.
- Environmental Health faculty participated in Green Zone and Mental Health First Aid training. Added Diversity and Equity as learning outcomes in two courses. Faculty also participated in professional development related to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TILT) – enhancing student success equitably.
- MAP Health students took the initiative to create exercises to help manage pre-diabetes and Type 2 diabetes mellitus classes in Spanish for Vecinos Farmworker Health Program.
- Expansion of the MAP Health Telehealth program in Honduras with students participating.
- The department (Social Work) is reviewing all syllabi in both programs to update language and policies relating to DEI.

The David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts (BCFPA)

Dr. George H. Brown, Dean

- During the 2022-23 academic year, the David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts (BCFPA) focused its efforts on several key areas including recruitment and enrollment growth, building audiences through quality artistic programming, aligning operations to the new UNC budget model, and strategically preparing to contribute to the WCU Comprehensive Campaign.
- Using the Accept’d Platform during the 2022-23 academic year, BCFPA contacted 50,459 individuals via email who expressed interest in our programs. That effort yielded 619 new applications for admission into our programs, a 70% increase over 2021-22. Additionally, faculty and staff members from all the college’s units took part in a wide array of recruiting activities across North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia. Activities included on-campus workshops, visiting dozens of high schools, presenting workshops and masterclasses, and judging various competitions. Additionally, the Pride of the Mountains facilitated a major recruiting trip to Atlanta visiting and performing at multiple schools not previously engaged. Based on census data, enrollment in the college has increased, overcoming the Pandemic declines, and is on its way to recovering to pre-Pandemic levels.
- Integrated with these activities, the college has again produced hundreds of creative events over the academic year – faculty and student art exhibits, film festivals, a wide range of musical concerts including student and faculty recitals, professional artists exhibiting in the Fine Arts Museum, a variety of performances in the Performing Arts Center, musical theatre and traditional theatre events, animation showcases, student produced work in all disciplines, and artist in resident events – all focused on engaging student and community members on campus and across the region. Some highlights from college creative activities include:
 - The WCU Fine Art Museum hosted 9 exhibitions in 2022-2023 including *We Will Not Be Silenced: Standing for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women*, *The Way I’m Wired: Artist Reflections on Neurodiversity*, *When Was the Last Time You Saw a Miracle? Prints by Corita Kent* while Bardo Arts Center Performance Hall hosted seven performance events including *Pilobolus: The Big Five-OH!*, *Mariachi Sol De México® de José Hernández*, *Imani Winds-Black and Brown*, and *The Second City Swipes Right- An Incomplete Guide to the Ultimate Date Night*. Over 8000 patrons attended these BAC events.

- On February 19th and 20th, 2023, the School of Music hosted a Flute Festival to honor Dr. Eldred Spell, who passed away in December 2022. The event brought members of his family and alumni from across the country to campus, where an original composition commissioned by Flute studio alumni was premiered in his honor.
- 73 artists submitted 209 works of art for the 55th Annual Juried Student Show, of which 27 works by 24 artists were exhibited and reviewed by this year's juror, Margaret Curtis.
- The School of Music presented fifteen faculty recitals, thirty-one guest artist recitals and master classes, forty-five student degree recitals, eighteen large ensemble concerts, seventeen small ensemble concerts, and a high school choral festival and band festival during the 2022-23 academic year.
- Bardo Arts Center hosted 127 public events which brought a total of 36,376 visitors through Bardo Arts Center in 2022-2023.
- Stage and Screen produced four mainstage theatre productions, beginning with *Quilters the Musical* directed by retiring Director of the School, Claire Eye. This production performed both on campus at WCU as well as at the Village Green in Cashiers. Other mainstage theatre productions this year were *Clue*, and *She Kills Monsters* at University Auditorium, and *Jekyll and Hyde*, directed by WCU Stage and Screen Alumni Cory Phelps in the Bardo Arts Center.
- The School of Arts and Design's Watershed Space had several shows including *Next Level* featuring works by exiting MFA students Lori Park and Shannon Swenton, the *Stack Collapse* show, *The Fingerboard Orchestra*, and *It's All Relative*, a month-long series of workshops and exhibition focused on kinship photography.
- Film and Television Production received 30 film submissions for consideration of screening in the 2023 "Controlled Chaos Film Festival". Thirteen of these students' films were chosen for live and streamed showing, plus an additional 8 films were selected and presented at a second "after-hours" festival.
- Additional exhibits and performances are listed in unit accomplishments below. These successes were realized by student's commitment to their artistic discipline, the dedicated work of the faculty and staff, and the efforts of the college leadership team:
 - School of Art and Design: Acting Co-Directors Erin Adams and Jane Hughes
 - Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center: Denise Drury Homewood
 - School of Music: Andrew Adams
 - School of Stage and Screen: Claire Eye
 - Associate Dean: Jane Hughes
 - Budget Officer; Melody Huddleston
 - Executive Assistant: Theresa Marie McKenzie

Leadership Changes

- At the end of June 2023, Claire Eye retired as the Director of the School of Stage and Screen after twenty-one years teaching at WCU. Tory Depew assumed the Director's position in Stage and Screen beginning July 1, 2023. Additionally, following a year of exceptional service by Erin Adams and Jane Hughes as interim Co-Directors of the School of Art and Design, Rod Laboray assumed the Director's position in the unit beginning July 1, 2023.

BCFPA achievements

- Fifth Anniversary: The 2022-2023 academic year marked the fifth anniversary of the college being named in honor of Chancellor David Belcher. This anniversary coincided with the final installation of the commissioned bust and plaque featuring David's likeness on a pedestal outside the Bardo Arts Center.
- Public Art and Apodaca Hall: WCU Fine Art Museum oversees the WCU's Art on Campus program and is responsible for the management, conservation, and acquisition of artwork to public spaces on WCU's campus. Bardo Arts Center Executive Director, Denise Drury Homewood, chairs WCU's Public Art Committee. This year the Museum coordinated and managed the installation of several new works at Apodaca Sciences Building including a kinetic sculpture inspired by chaos theory titled *Illuminated Sphere* by Kate Vogel and John Littleton, and a monumental sculpture by Hoss Haley that highlights the region's unique geology titled *Staurolite*. Museum staff organized a national request for proposals for a new outdoor sculpture at the Highlands Biological Station, received dozens of highly qualified applicants, convened a selection committee, and selected the proposal for a new sculpture titled *Samara* by artists Lily Kuonen and Jim Benedict.

- Holidays on the Plaza: On December 8, 2022, faculty, staff, and students across the Belcher College participated in the second annual Holidays on the Plaza Celebration. Due to inclement weather, all performances were quickly transferred to the second-floor lobby of the University Center, exemplifying the adage “The show must go on!” The college was honored to be an active participant in the planning, development, and facilitation of this community celebration as well as to provide entertainment and creative activities throughout the event.

Programs and Initiatives

- School of Art & Design
 - LIVLAB, a collaborative studio comprised of WCU Faculty, BFA and MFA art students, and volunteers continues with environmentally appointed programming and grant seeking. The studio added two 3-D printers bringing the total to five, a new 3-D scanner, AV video making and editing equipment, two sound recording devices and two sewing machines.
 - SoAD hosted an educational class for the 2023 Judaculla Camp in the summer of 2023 focused on screen-printing with Tatiana Potts, Professor of Printmaking and Book Arts.
 - The School of Art and Design hosted sixteen Visiting Arts and Scholars during 2022-2023, including: Julia Gartrell, Liz Rundorff-Smith, Sue Wrbican, Lauren Kalman, Flor Widmar, Lee Walton, Kia Witherspoon, Courtney Leonard, Virginia San Fratello, Jake Ingram, Nate Hart, Shelley Gruendler, Margaret Curtis, Colby Coldwell, and Donna Rhodes. Five Classroom guest lecturers included: William Fick, Maria Britton, Donna Rhodes, Chris Puzio, and Bradley Herling.
 - A new student group was established in SOAD. *Student-Made* is a program that helps student creators start or expand their small businesses, began and is being overseen by arts administrator Beth Moore.
- School of Music
 - The School of Music hosted an alumni reception at the North Carolina Music Educators state conference in Winston Salem in November 2022. In addition, several of our faculty members gave presentations at the conference for music educators across the state.
 - The school partnered with the Bardo Arts Center to present a week-long residency by the Grammy-nominated Imani Winds, including a public concert, master classes, presentations, and discussions.
 - The Pride of the Mountains Marching Band hosted seventeen bands at the Tournament of Champions, travelled to Indianapolis and played at Lucas Oil Stadium as exhibition performers at the Bands of America Grand National Championships, and the annual summer symposium had 260 students and sixty adult participants from around the country.
 - The SOM’s Sounds of the Season concert was back after two years of COVID and performed to a capacity audience.
- School of Stage and Screen
 - HIVE week: In its second year HIVE week (formerly known as Guest Artist week) took place in the fall of 2022. 16 guest artists were brought to campus from stars of the stage and screen to technicians and designers working globally. 72 Workshops in total were presented by these 16 guest artists, 11 faculty and staff, and 28 students. We were excited by the talent we were able to bring in, and the participation of our faculty and especially our students.
 - The Musical Theatre Program presented the musical *Quilters*, directed by Claire Eye at the Village on the Green in Cashiers, NC to sold out performances. This performance run was sponsored by Vision Cashiers and represent the 3rd collaboration supported by that community.
- Arts and Entrepreneurship Certificate
 - Denise Drury Homewood continues to lead, manage, and teach courses for the Arts & Entrepreneurship Certificate for the Belcher College. In the 2022-2023 academic year, a total of 31 students enrolled in A&E classes. Denise Drury Homewood taught the core Arts & Entrepreneurship FPA 439 in fall of 2022. Guest presenters for the A&E intensive courses this year included Ken Sanney, Jen Swearington, Calista Colbert, and Jill Jacobs covering such as website design, copyright for creatives, artist self-care and emotional wellbeing, and business tips for creatives.
 - Greg McPherson led a mini-semester course titled Art in the Public Realm which provided students real world, hands-on training in outdoor sculpture preservation using WCU’s Public Art Program. This year the course focused on cleaning and preserving several works in the outdoor sculpture collection.
- Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center

- During the 2022-2023 academic year, the WCU Fine Art Museum saw a total audience of 4,595 individuals, which is a 21% increase from last season. Museum faculty and staff hosted a record-breaking 73 group tours of the WCU Fine Art Museum, which is a 30% increase from last year. Groups served included k-12 school groups, WCU departments and classes, and community organizations Kituwah Preservation and Education Program, Methodist Home for Children, and Unity Healing Center.
- Bardo Arts Center Performance Hall saw a total of 3,525 individuals, which is a 42% increase in ticket attendance from last year's Performance Hall season. This year's season focused on bringing a diversity of expression to the stage with attention to the WCU Campus Theme of Mental Health and Wellness.
- The Learning Live! Museums series hosted 16 group tours for K-12 schools from the from the following NC counties of Buncombe, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Swain, Henderson, Cleveland, as well as Greenville County, SC. Schools served include SOAR Academy, Robbinsville High School, Pisgah High School, Swain Middle School, Jackson Community School, Buncombe County Middle College, Catamount School, Blue Ridge High School, North Hendersonville High School, and Shelby High School.
- The Learning Live! Matinee series hosted five performances for regional schools during the 2022-2023 academic year including *Pilobolus is a Fungus*, *Mariachi Sol De México® de José Hernández*, *The Nutcracker* featuring The Ballet Conservatory of Asheville, *Imani Winds: Musical Journey Around the World*, and *The Second City's Improv All Stars*. In total, this series saw 2,627 children in attendance, which is a 47% increase in attendance from last year's Learning Live! Series. Students came from Buncombe, Jackson, Haywood, Swain counties and the Qualla Boundary. This series served students ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade from the following schools: Mountain Discovery, Summit Charter, Erwin Middle School, New Kituwah Academy, Heritage Christian School, Fairview Elementary and their Exceptional Children Program, Smoky Mountain High School and their Exceptional Children program, Cullowhee Valley School, Cherokee Central Schools, Blue Ridge School, as well as several homeschool groups. Unique to this year, Bardo Arts Center presented *The Second City's Improv All Stars* performed on the campus of Smoky Mountain High School through a partnership the BAC hopes to continue in the coming years.
- Bardo Arts Center Box Office manages all ticket operations for events within the Belcher College at University Auditorium, Niggli Studio Theatre, and elsewhere. This year the Box Office successfully transitioned to a new ticketing software, Audience View Campus. In the 2022-2023 year the Box Office managed ticket sales for 28 events on campus and off-site.

Student Successes

- School of Art and Design
 - Five Interior Design majors were selected to participate in the Beinenstock Future Designer Summit, with all expenses paid.
 - Abigail Gulley presented at the Annual SoCon Academic Exchange's SURF Conference on *Cognitive Disability Informed Design and the Impact of Acoustics within a Religious Setting*.
 - Avery Grice presented at the Research and Scholarship Conference on the *Role of Interior Design within Equitable Community Development*.
 - Nyx McDougle presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research on *Homeless Shelter Design in America*.
 - Avery Pittman, a first-year entrepreneurship and interior design major won first place in the Western Carolina University College of Business Pitch Competition. Pittman also competed in the Southern Conference Pitch Competition at Mercer University. Pittman pitched her idea for 3D virtual dorm room tours for incoming freshmen.
 - Ceramics student, Jenna Orbeck was accepted to give a research and poster presentation at the 2023 Research and Scholarship Conference and was awarded an internal Academic Project Grant.
 - 23 Interior Design majors volunteered to participate in a design competition to remodel the Intercultural Affairs Office (ICA). Designs were presented to ICA stakeholders in March of 2023 and the winning design is being built and installed this summer.
 - Interior Design sophomore, Leslie Smith and three construction management students were 1 of only 10 international teams selected to advance to the finals of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) Global Student

Challenge design competition. WCU's team was the only US team to advance to the finals in this international design competition.

- Studio Art major Amber Rousseau was interviewed by The Western Carolina Journalist regarding her work the painting *Death Parade* focusing on bird collisions on campus.
- Nicole Petersohn received a scholarship for a summer workshop at Pocosin, titled *Exploring Native Materials*.
- Jenna Orbeck received a scholarship for a summer workshop at Arrowmont, titled *All Things Pottery*.
- Jeannie Regan received a scholarship for a summer workshop at Penland, titled *Behind the Seams*.
- School of Music
 - Keaton Shaw was selected as a participant in the summer 2023 symposium presented by Imani Winds at the Juilliard School of Music in New York.
 - Clarinetists Robert Ray and Shelby Taylor Henri Selmer Paris International Summer Academy held at Michigan State University in summer 2023.
 - Some of our students travelled to Prague in the summer of 2022 to perform in concerts presented by the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles.
 - A group of students went to the Percussive Arts Society International Conference (PASIC) in Indianapolis in November 2022.
 - Several voice students participated in the auditions of the National Association of Teachers of Singing in Winston Salem, and one went on to the regionals.
- School of Stage and Screen
 - Grace Hayes directed *Elephants Graveyard* at Hart Theatre in Waynesville with several stage and screen students performing, stage managing and designing.
 - Stage and Screen students Sam Rodd, Max Morter, Dabney Doepner, Brian Bush, Luke Younts, Grace Dombrowski, Reagan Mulvey, Kate Mullis, and Riley Ready are performing in HART's production of *Big Fish* with Grace Hayes as assistant director.
 - Jessi Hoadley is performing in *A Chorus Line* and the Broadway Cabaret at Dr. Phillips Center in Orlando Florida and is on the creative team for *Bring It On* with the youth theatre.
 - 24 Students travelled to SETC to interview with professional companies, receiving got multiple offers from theatres across the country.
 - Sydney Riley won second place in the Undergraduate Lighting Design Competition for her design of *She Kills Monsters* which comes with much prestige and a monetary award.
 - Javan Delozier Big Fork. Danny Zuko in *Grease* and Ensemble in *Fiddler on the roof* Addams Family and *Escape to Margaritaville* at Bigfork Summer Playhouse in Bigfork MT.
 - Students are working locally at theatres including Flat Rock Playhouse, Dollywood, and Unto These Hills in Cherokee, as well as places such as Disney World, Florida Studio Theatre, Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, Crane River Theatre, Weathervane Playhouse, Des Moines Metro Opera, and Carnival Cruise Lines, to name just a few.

Faculty Successes

- School of Art and Design
 - Professor of Interior Design, Patrice Brown published an article entitled *Thriving While Educated and Black* in the IDEC Exchange publication and was selected to present a research paper on *US & European Rural Built Environments* at the European Society for Rural Sociology in Rennes, France in July of 2023.
 - Professor of Photography, Susan Martin was awarded artist residency at Elsewhere Studios in Paonia, Colorado.
 - Professor of Painting, Ron Laboray selected as a Visiting Artist at Rennes II University in France.
 - *Interior Design: Living in Poverty and the Absence of Health, Safety, and Welfare*, by Shelby Hicks, was published in the Journal of Interior Design. She also presented four different conference proceedings at IDEC, CIDQ and EDRA.
 - Tatiana Potts, Professor of Printmaking, had her work exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Arts in Jacksonville, FL and was invited to exhibit her work at the Print Santa Fe Show in New Mexico.
 - Distinguished Professor of Visual Arts and MFA Director, Tom Ashcraft exhibited *Emergence: A Survey of Southeastern Studio Programs 2023* at the Bascom Center for Art from January through April of 2023. Tom is also working on a commissioned piece for an exterior site in Washington, DC.

- Ceramics Professor, Heather Mae Erickson published an article entitled *Cultivating Balance in Life, Classrooms and Community Through Wholehearted Teaching* at StudioPotter.org and was invited to deliver a virtual lecture to an international audience at Critical Connections in Ceramics Expo event.
- School of Music
 - Andrew Adams served as editor of the fourth edition of the *Resource Handbook for Academic Deans* that was released by Johns Hopkins University press in January 2023.
 - Trevor Bailey was a presenter at the CBDNA conference in Orlando in June 2022.
 - Travis Bennett was the featured guest artist at the Horn Day, held at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau. At the Southeast Horn Workshop at the University of Central Florida in March he performed a solo, judged the college solo competition, and four of our students competed in a quartet competition. Travis played thirty-six concerts, including orchestral, solo, and chamber music. Twenty-nine of those concerts were off-campus and five of them were out of state.
 - Chris Beyt is furthering his reputation as a composer, performer, sound designer, and recording, mixing, and mastering engineer for his album *New Roots* which came out last year and has had radio plays in North America, South America, and Europe. He gave a presentation for the Association for Popular Music in Education in Detroit entitled “Empowering Students to Get Their Music Out into the World: Incorporating the Technological Imperative into Existing Music Curricula.”
 - Jack Eaddy conducted honor bands across the region and around the country. He was also a panelist at virtual conferences and in person in Chicago, Daytona Beach, Orlando, Atlanta, and Columbia, SC, and Baton Rouge.
 - Adam Groh directed the percussion ensemble at PASIC in Indianapolis, one of approximately twenty-five groups selected out of more than five hundred proposals. He played with the Asheville and Des Moines Symphonies. He also held guest Artist Residencies at East Tennessee State University and Washington State University in Pullman, Washington.
 - Ian Jeffress performed at two international conferences and took part in the world premiere of a new version of a saxophone quartet concerto and the regional premiere of another concerto. He has four album-length recording projects on which he appears as soloist, featured soloist, or chamber musician. As a solo musician and a member of the Assembly Quartet, he’s commissioned and premiered twenty-five new works by diverse composers, with six commissions on course for delivery in 2023 and 2024.
 - Justin Kennedy has an ongoing research project exploring control possibilities of existing audio hardware and analog equipment using face- and eye-tracking software. The Phonos Foundation invited him and a colleague to be Artists in Residence in Barcelona, Spain.
 - Leonidas Lagrimas presented at the National Conference for Keyboard Pedagogy in July 2023, as well as at National-level conferences for the Music Teachers National Association, the College Music Society, and the Frances Clark Center. He has also been actively involved as a Guest Artist at several universities throughout the United States as a solo and collaborative performer.
 - Christina Reitz gave presentations for the Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association and the International Alliance for Women in Music. She also numerous articles and book reviews published this year.
 - Mike Schallock had a two-day residency at Emory and Henry University in April. He performed with Whiteside Brass four new seasonal arrangements to open concert presented by the Mountain Winds Community Band and performed at other events with Whiteside Brass. He played with the Asheville Choral Society Yuletide Candlelight Service.
 - Damon Sink’s “Hymn: Under Menin Gate” was commissioned by Brad Ulrich and performed by System Five Brass for the annual Armistice Day ceremony in Ypres, Belgium (Nov. 2022). “Those Who Dream by Day,” for flute and organ (2022) was commissioned by Regina Dill and performed in October 2022. His orchestration of “Les rêves de Columbine” by Amy Beach was performed by the University of Toledo Orchestra, April 22, 2022.
 - Zsolt Szabo performs regularly in the trombone section of the Atlanta Symphony. He also plays regionally with Brevard Philharmonic and has appeared with the Asheville Symphony and Western Piedmont Symphony. In June last year he was Guest Principal Trombone and guest performer with the Targu Mures Philharmonic Orchestra in Romania

- Shannon Thompson performs with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra, Hendersonville Symphony, and Brevard Philharmonic. She presented “Adapting String Works for Performance on Clarinet,” at the International Clarinet Association, conference in Reno, Nevada on July 3, 2022.
- Allison Thorp presented “Beginning Improvisation in the Choral Setting” for the North Carolina American Choral Directors Conference at Duke University in October 2022.
- Brad Ulrich performed the “Last Post” at Tyne Cot Cemetery for British Soldiers killed in the Battle of Passchendaele. He performed at three Great War Remembered concerts in Ypres, Belgium, during Armistice Week in November 2022.
- Margi Underwood presented “The Czech Connection in Robert Kurka’s The Good Soldier Schweik Suite,” at the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles in Prague in July 2022.
- School of Stage and Screen
 - Terry Martin designed scenery for *Cinderella* at HART Theatre in Waynesville.
 - Ashlee Wasmund served as Movement Director/ Choreographer for Idaho Repertory Theatre’s *My 80-Year-Old Boyfriend*. Additionally, Ashlee’s company Calliope Stage produced *Calliope Shorts* on October 22-24 and *The Greatest Christmas Story Ever Told by Two People or A Christmas Carol* December 22.
 - Callan White Hinman performed the role of Sharon in *The Roommate* and Sonia in *Vania Sonia Masha and Spike* at NC stage in Asheville.
 - Colin Wasmund was contracted for voiceover work for two audiobooks: *The Wolf of Corwisk Castle- Book 4* and *Habits for Happiness*. He also performed in a feature role for the film *Outlaw* directed by Mario Van Peebles.
 - Leo Lei and Tory Depew designed lighting and costumes respectively for *Smoke on the Mountain* at A.D. Players in Houston TX.
 - Tory Depew designed Costumes for *Gingerbread* and *Clue* at Oak Ridge Playhouse in New Jersey
 - Josh Overbay’s film “Spyder” was selected and screened at the 2023 Dark Red Horror Film Festival in Albuquerque NM.
- Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center
 - Rachel Hood and Sara Rincon attended the Kennedy Center’s Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability Conference and have implemented new initiatives at BAC that support audiences with disabilities and foster belonging.
 - Carolyn Grosch served as Past- President of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Preservation Consortium.
 - Denise Drury Homewood serves as the North Carolina state representative for the Association of Academic Museums and Galleries and a member of the North Carolina Presenters Consortium University Presenters Group.
- The Dean’s Office
 - Dean George Brown was selected to serve as Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee for the International Council of Fine Arts Deans (ICFAD).

Community Engagement including Advancement

- School of Art and Design
 - Pride Pots is a socially engaged project led by Heather Mae Erickson and focused on creative placemaking and fostering safe spaces for belonging. Ceramic works created through the initiative were exhibited at The Clay Studio in Philadelphia during June 2023. Proceeds from the sales of the work will be applied toward creating an endowed scholarship for the School of Art and Design’s MFA program, providing financial support to student who has interests in ceramics, service learning, and community engagement.
 - Design for Health (D4H) is a multidisciplinary initiative addressing health issues related to the built environment and focused on the older population living in poverty in Appalachia. Shelby Hicks is the founder and lead investigator of this social justice movement and community project. D4H was awarded \$70,000.00 Grant from the American Society of Interior Designers for the Design for Health: Resilient. Age-inclusive. Design. (RAD)
 - Printmaking professor, Tatiana Potts and her students from the Fall and Spring Introductory Printmaking course worked in collaboration with Cherokee learners and created a book of images and with the Cherokee language.
 - Photography professor, Richard Tichich developed a traveling student exhibition called the Sharing with Sylva and Beyond at Tuscola High School, Haywood Community College, and Southwest Community College. Previous

installations occurred at the Health and Human Services Building, Music/English offices, and Sylva Cancer Center's Offices.

- School of Music
 - Trevor Bailey serves on the Board of Directors of the Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps in Casper, Wyoming.
 - Leonidas Lagrimas was appointed to the editorial committee board of American Music Teacher, the main peer-reviewed journal of Music Teachers National Association.
 - Jeananne Nichols hosted the Community Ukulele Jam at the Lazy Hiker designed to engage music education students in the basics of participatory music learning, connect with our community through a musical experience that anyone could be a part of, and launched the ukulele club at The Catamount School.
 - Christina Reitz was appointed Assistant Editor in fall 2022 of the International Alliance for Women in Music Journal, one of the most important periodicals for women in music. She also serves on the IAWM's Board of Directors.
 - Allison Thorp competed for and was selected as the new Artistic Director for Womansong, Asheville's largest and oldest women's chorus. In September she was invited by the state board of NCMEA to serve as the adjudicator for Soprano IIs across three regions of the state.
 - Brad Ulrich conducted the WCU Trumpet Ensemble at the Trumpet Festival of the Southeast in Atlanta in January 2023.
 - Margi Underwood is active regionally and nationally as a symposium conductor and director. She appeared at Shenandoah University Instrumental Conducting Symposium, North Carolina Band Directors Association All-State Honors Band Clinic, Great Lakes Concert Band Festival, and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts Invitational. She is also a member of the editorial review board for the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles.
 - Pavel Wlosok was invited to the Akademia Muzyczna in Krakow, Poland, for a residency in the fall of 2022 as part of his scholarly reassignment.
- School of Stage and Screen
 - Tory Depew was elected to serve as Secretary for the USITT SE organization and has organized for WCU to host their weekend of masterclasses for area theatre students and professionals in October of 23.
 - Josh Overbay presented his work *Spare the Child* at a symposium for child abuse and neglect at Lake Junaluska and other Child abuse panels across the country.
- Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center
 - Bardo Arts Center continues to collaborate with WCU's Cherokee Center, Cherokee Studies Program, and members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian community on the building-wide permanent exhibit on Cherokee language and culture, a project funded by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation. This exhibition is set to open in the fall of 2023.
- Friends of the Arts
 - After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Friends of the Arts once again hosted an in-person gala for the 2022-2023 year. Guest Master of Ceremony was WCU Alumni Tyler McKenzie; the event showcased student talent from across the Belcher College. Additionally, working in connection with the Advancement Division, the college participated in the One Day for Wester Campaign, raising \$52,415 for BCFPA Unit support. The 2023-24 FOA Membership drive was kicked off concurrently with ODFW, raising an additional \$42,009 to date. All totaled, fundraising activities of the College through the Friends of the Arts exceeded \$100,000 for the 2022-2023 academic year.
 - In accordance with the FOA Rules for Procedure, in Spring 2023 the Advancement Council was dissolved and replaced with an Advisory Board in preparation for the WCU Comprehensive Campaign.

The Brinson Honors College (BHC)
Dr. Jill Nelson Granger, Dean

Brinson Honors College at Western Carolina University is a community of engaged students, across all academic disciplines, seeking opportunities for going above and beyond what is expected in their classroom and academic pursuits, and striving for academic excellence. Likewise, Honors students take their passions beyond the classroom to lead the University in myriad ways and are active in service to the wider community. These top student scholars are supported by the University through a network of devoted faculty and staff members, who provide Honors students with extraordinary opportunities and academic challenges. WCU's Brinson Honors College serves as a point of distinction for the University, a showcase for student achievement, and enhances the reputation of WCU by bringing attention to excellent academic opportunities, close faculty-student relationships, and a living-learning community that is a national model for excellence in Honors education.

Programs and Initiatives

In 2022-2023, Brinson Honors College completed the sixth year of implementation of the Program Development Plan that was created following an external review that was concluded in 2017. Highlights of accomplishments related to strategic initiatives outlined in that plan include:

- Recruitment and Enrollment
 - Recruitment of new first-time, first-year Honors students for fall 2023 was robust this year. Given present trends, we are poised to exceed our enrollment goal by nearly +100 students or +23%. Two new initiatives that likely played a role in in-state recruiting (North Carolina residents) of top student scholars were the rollout of the Brinson Honors College Guaranteed Admission (BHCGA) and the new Catamount Commitment scholarship opportunity. Implementation of the BHCGA (modeled after the "Great Grades Guarantee" which applies to WCU admission) allowed WCU to provide early information about Honors admission to prospective students based on their high school academic credentials. The Catamount Commitment scholarship program boosted overall scholarship dollars to outstanding students, providing \$3,000 annual, renewable scholarships to students in the top academic achievement bracket based on high school weighted gpa. This new scholarship program replaced the base honors-specific merit funding from previous years. With the Catamount Commitment scholarship, more students than ever before received renewable merit-based funding. However, with the restriction of Catamount Commitment funds to NC residents, merit-based funds for out of state students were greatly diminished this year.
 - Robust enrollment for fall 2023 was also generated by Honors admission being streamlined in Slate (the new Admissions Office CRM) and with Admissions Counselors being able to facilitate BHCGA processing and make recommendations for other strong students. Moving the workflow of Honors admission into Slate provided efficiencies as overall numbers increased. Yield (number enrolled as a percentage of those admitted) is on par this year, point-in-time, to last year: 14.8% this year compared to 14.9% last year.
 - The academic qualifications of Honors students remain strong (deposited student averages): unweighted high school GPA 3.90, weighted high school GPA 4.37, class rank top 12%. Admitted students this year represent the third consecutive class admitted under test (ACT/SAT)-optional criteria. For the third year, we continued to expand the path for interested students to gain access to Honors. Over 60 students have been admitted to Honors for fall 2023 through that process.
- Improved Efficiencies
 - Working with the IT Department over the past several years, the BHC has been working to automate the management of current honors enrollment each semester, i.e. if the student is in good standing by meeting the requirements leading to graduating with full honors or is not meeting those benchmarks. At the end of the spring 2023 semester, this project rolled out to students using their home page on MyWCU. This self-serve information provides students with updates on their standing, using academic information direct from Banner (campus database). This automation is expected to save the BHC staff significant time and effort in both processing and communications; it has already proven to reduce errors and provides student will real-time versus point-in-time information.
 - In the 2022-2023 academic year the BHC's administrative support positions were fully staffed with both an Executive Assistant and a University Program Associate. Numerous efficiencies were gained this year in program

and event planning, budget management, communications, student training, student and prospective student services, and more. As a high priority outcome of the 2017 Program Development Plan, realizing the administrative support has also had positive effects and improved efficiencies in the work of other BHC staffers and our students.

- Developing the Vision: Alumni Engagement and Faculty Development
 - A new initiative to recognize Faculty and Staff Excellence in Honors at WCU was rolled out in 2022-2023, supported by the Campus Honors Advisory Committee. The new campus-wide award recognized excellence in the classroom, student engagement and the honors path (leadership, community engagement, undergraduate research, study abroad, and career development). BHC was delighted to recognize Dr. Brian Railsback, Professor of English Studies and former Dean of the Honors College at WCU, as the inaugural recipient of the new award.
 - For the second year in a row, BHC hosted a nationally recognized speaker in Honors on campus in Cullowhee. Dr. Greg O’Dea, Associate Dean of the Honors College at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, gave a presentation entitled “Start by Being Human” as the featured speaker for BHC’s annual thank you luncheon for all WCU faculty who taught an honors course in the past year.
 - BHC continued a relatively new tradition, the Honors Leadership Pinning Ceremony, this year in which we recognize students for on-going leadership in the BHC. This special event featured an Alumni Panel, bringing three young alumni back to campus to talk about their own leadership on campus, and their trajectories since graduation.

Student & Staff/Faculty Successes

- Dr. Lori Oxford joined the Brinson Honors College in January 2023 as the new Associate Dean. Dr. Oxford, Professor of Spanish in WCU’s World Languages Department, has been at WCU since 2008 and has served as department head in World Languages and as program coordinator for the Latinx minor. In 2022, Lori received the WCU Excellence in Community Engagement Award for her work with Vecinos, a nonprofit health care organization serving and advocating for farmworkers and uninsured, low-income adults in western North Carolina. Lori has taken over 170 students on study abroad and will bring significant experience in student study abroad to help elevate that part of BHC’s Honors Path. Lori recently published a new book entitled, Pedro Juan Gutiérrez’s Dirty Realism: Reinventing Cuban Spaces, published by Lexington Books, which came out in May 2023. Dr. Oxford was promoted to Professor at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year.
- Graduates with full honors this year numbered 235 (4 fewer than last year). There were 182 who graduated in May 2023 (compared to 184 in May 2022, 152 in May 2021, 166 in May 2020, 164 in May 2019, and 155 in May 2018). There were 53 who graduated in August and December 2022 (compared to 55 in 2021, 57 in 2020, 47 in 2019, 40 in 2018, and 53 in 2017).
- Brinson Honors College continued to work closely with faculty sponsors of WCU’s chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, a highly selective, multidisciplinary national honor society recognizing outstanding college juniors and seniors. This year, the WCU chapter initiated 60 students. To be invited to join Phi Kappa Phi, students must be in the top 7.5% of their class
- BHC Dean, Jill Granger, authored a chapter, “Fostering Student Leadership,” in a 2023 book, Honors Colleges, edited by Richard Badenasuen and published by National Collegiate Honors Council.
- Dean Granger maintained an active role at the national level in honors this year and in November 2022 she served as a mentor and co-presenter at the *Beginning in Honors* workshop, which is a signature program at the National Collegiate Honors Council’s national meeting.
- Thirteen BHC student leaders, including eight first-year students, attended the Southern Regional Honors Conference which was held in Charlotte, NC in March 2023. BHC Advisors, Emily Sharpe and Colin Townsend, along with Dean Granger accompanied the group.

Community Engagement including Advancement

- The BHC Advisory Board, together with the Board of the Center for Life Enrichment (Highlands) hosted a reception in September 2023 at Cedar Creek Club in Cashiers. More than 20 BHC honors students attended along with Advisory Board and CLE Board members, guests, and WCU Development and BHC Staff.
- Gifts and pledges to Brinson Honors College funds this year totaled \$181,949. Major gifts increased the Elingburg scholarship fund and the Brinson endowment. Dean Granger and family established the Nelson Family Fund, in memory of Thomas B. and Ronald F. Nelson. The largest annual gifts this year were in support of student study abroad, including

a \$5,000 grant from the Fred Moss Trust. During the 2022-2023, more than \$15,000 were awarded to students for study abroad.

- WCU’s inaugural “One Day for Western” campaign in March 2023 resulted in over \$6,000 to support three BHC student initiatives: community service mini-grant program, student travel for professional conferences, and student study abroad.
- BHC’s Annual Conference for Undergraduate Regional Engagement (CURE) was held in September 2022 with more than 350 students in attendance. Dr. Scott Eldredge, head of WCU’s Communications Department and winner of the 2022 WCU Excellence in Community Engagement Award, was keynote. Dr. William Moultrie, WCU’s new Associate VC for Student Success was speaker for the closing plenary. 16 concurrent sessions featured local non-profit organizers and campus partners.
- Associate Dean Lori Oxford and Dr. Lane Perry, assistant professor in the College of Business, were sponsored by Jack Brinson and the Baumrucker Foundation to travel to Bolivia in May 20023 to scout opportunities for future student travel abroad in conjunction with Highlands Bolivia Mission and the Baumrucker Foundation Hogar de Niños.

Graduate School and Sponsored Research (GSR)

Dr. Jeff Lawson, Dean

Graduate School

- Graduate Enrollment

	Final Headcount	% Increase/Decrease previous year	Student Credit Hours	% Increase/Decrease previous year
Fall 2022 (Census)	1679	-3.1%	14,148	-2.72
Spring 2023 (Census)	1690	-7.2%	13,461	-7.15

Programs and Initiatives

- Recruiting and Marketing of Graduate Programs
 - o The Graduate School maintained representation at a variety of on-campus events, as well as at networking and recruitment events in North Carolina. Western Carolina University is a co-sponsor of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours events, which we attended and presented at each month to network with the Asheville business community and promote graduate programs, particularly at WCU Biltmore Park. Additionally, we have joined the Young Professionals of Asheville Committee, a part of the Chamber, to further our recruitment efforts with potential applicants under the age of 40.
 - o Graduate School Open House monthly live virtual events alternate between Cullowhee and Biltmore Park with Online Programs occurring during the same week at Cullowhee. These events will continue to be live virtual sessions and include marketing, recruiting, and Program Director/faculty conversations that are effective recruiting and relationship-building events that are organized by the Graduate School. Programs with unique spaces for laboratories, clinical practice, equipment, and training are encouraged to host a regularly occurring in-person event to connect prospective students with their spaces.
 - o 2 WUNC (North Carolina Public Radio) ads ran in June and July promoting virtual open houses and our teaching masters’ programs.
 - o On April 3, 2023, the Graduate School launched a social media campaign on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Posts include graduating students, application tips (Tip Tuesday), and highlighting program and student achievements (Feature Friday). Engagement has increased in audience and engagement:
 - o \$25,000 was awarded for the Invest in Teachers Scholarship to assist with recruitment and retention in WCU programs in education, including:
 - o By July 2023, Graduate Admissions Staff had processed over 4,700 applications for the 2022-2023 academic year.
- Graduate Student Support

- o Graduate Student Association (GSA) utilized part of their base budget of \$25,000 for both graduate student travel grants and professional development grants.
- o The \$100,000 in recurring tuition scholarships for graduate students was supplemented with \$90,000 from the Graduate School scholarship funds. A total of \$190,000 of scholarship money was allocated in the 2022-2023 academic year.
- Events
 - o Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition (November 2022): First Place: Nicole Cook, Biology – M.S.; Second Place: Melissa Rogers, Biology – M.S; People’s Choice: Sara Rivera, Biology – M.S
 - o Faculty 3 Minute Research Talk (#MR) combined with Faculty Scholarship Celebration. With a total of 18 faculty participants ranging across disciplines, the first-place winner was Dr. Dustin Evatt, second place was Dr. Channa De Silva, and People’s Choice was Dr. Tammy Simmons
 - o The recipient of the 2022 Curtis Wood Mentoring Award was Dr. Heather Rimes, Assistant Professor and MPA Director. This award has been established thanks to the generosity and long-standing commitment to WCU graduate students by the esteemed Dr. Curtis Wood, Professor of History, who served at WCU from 1969 to 2005.
 - o The WCU Graduate School attends a North Carolina Graduate Education Day every spring. The event provides WCU, its graduate faculty and staff, and its graduate students an opportunity to talk with NC legislators and their staff about the importance of graduate education in North Carolina. One of the highlights of the event is the opportunity to showcase graduate students and their research topics to the NC Legislature. May 2023 legislative visits returned to an in-person event, and students Andie Chilson, nursing education, Ted Hillert, biology, and Cassandra Knobloch, chemistry, met with North Carolina legislatures and highlighted the unique issues facing the citizens of rural western North Carolina.

Office of Research Administration (ORA)

- Overview
 - o Western Carolina University principal investigators received over \$7.5 million in external awards. ORA submitted 91 proposals requesting more than \$23 million for research and programmatic support. At quick glance, WCU Faculty received salaries (not including fringe) in the amount of \$1,545,686 from 62 different grants during this fiscal year. WCU students, both graduate and undergraduate were also highly supported through sponsored research with the following highlights:
 - 15 unique grants supported educational awards to students totaling \$2,403,919
 - 31 unique grants supported student wages (not including fringe) totaling \$330,861
 - 2 unique grants supported student travel totaling \$23,171
 - 1 unique grant supported student health insurance costs totaling \$3,416
 - Reimbursements were made to students for mental health services totaling \$9,837.63
 - o Taken together, WCU’s commitment to sponsored pursuits helps advance critical strategic goals for the university that span, academic, student, and advancement excellence.
 - o In FY 23, the College of Health and Human Sciences received the most award dollars, \$2,251,318. The College of Arts and Sciences received the highest number of awards, 25.
 - o Fiscal Year Comparison of FY 22 and FY 23

Sponsor Source in \$				Total Proposal Submissions		
	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change
Federal	\$17,621,584	\$10,559,503	-40.08%	34	22	-35.29%
Non-Federal	\$5,524,393	\$12,533,412	126.87%	71	69	-2.82%
Total	\$23,145,977	\$23,092,915	-0.23%	105	91	-13.33%

Proposals in FY 22		
Sponsor Type	Count of Title	Sum of Total Funds
College/University	12	\$ 2,369,906
Federal	34	\$ 17,621,584
Foundations	10	\$ 1,005,249
Industrial Groups/Organizations	4	\$ 66,500
Non-Profit Organizations	20	\$ 590,133
Professional/Academic Assoc & Soc.	2	\$ 60,000
State	23	\$ 1,432,605
Grand Total	105	\$ 23,145,977
Proposals in FY 23		
Sponsor Type	Count of Title	Sum of Total Funds
Federal	22	\$ 10,559,503
Foundations	23	\$ 5,367,037
Non-Profit Organizations	10	\$ 158,808
State Government (NC)	15	\$ 1,162,612
Association	5	\$ 150,475
Educational and Research Institutions	15	\$ 5,392,828
Business and Industry	1	\$ 301,652
Grand Total	91	\$ 23,092,915

[Assessment and Undergraduate Studies](#)
[Dr. Carol Burton, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs](#)

The Vice Provost for Academic Affairs provides oversight for the three centers in Undergraduate Studies (Centers for Career and Professional Development (CCPD), Community Engagement and Service Learning (CCESL), and the Mountain Heritage Center (MHC), the Office of Institutional Assessment, as well as several other initiatives. Additionally, the office administers the Liberal Studies program for all undergraduates, the Campus Theme, and the Intentional Learning Program that supports students’ engaged and experiential learning. The Center for Career and Professional Development is also responsible for the university’s Quality Enhancement Plan, DegreePlus. Collectively, these units employ 22 staff members and serve thousands of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members.

- **Assessment**

- In September, Dr. Jen Schiff, Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs, was named Interim Director of Institutional Assessment on the departure of Dr. Amy Strickland to become Chief of Staff at UNC Asheville. Associate Director Laura Walker Andrews accepted a faculty position at Brevard College.
- Over 100 Continuous Improvement Reports (CIRs) due by November 4, resulted in a 100% submission response rate for the first time in the office’s history; 174 programs/units on campus received detailed feedback regarding their continuous improvement reports.
- The Provost approved all future program reviews to occur online, and increased compensation for both external and internal reviewers.
- Interim Director Schiff, presented on “best practices” in support unit assessment at the UNC Registrars’ Conference in Durham, NC.

- Dr. Karen Price, Vice President at Belmont Abbey College, became the new permanent Director of Assessment on June 29th, 2023.

- **Career and Professional Development**

Under the directorship of Dr. Theresa Cruz-Paul, CCPD:

- Offered more career fairs this academic year than previously, hosting nine fairs for approximately 558 employers and 1,566 students. Three of the nine fairs were new and did not track student attendance since they were offered in open spaces.
- Conducted the inaugural CCPD Career Carnival, where students could learn more about CCPD resources while having fun and winning prizes at various carnival game stations. There were over 400 students in attendance (estimate).
- Offered 177 tagged DegreePlus events this year, with 4,212 students attending at least one face-to-face event.
- Instituted a sign-in kiosk for all appointment types; additionally, students filled out a survey upon signing out, which increased our survey responses from 33 total in AY 2021-22 to 1,047 total in AY 2022-23. Below are the responses for how satisfied they were with their appointments with the office
 - 912 (87.1%) were very satisfied; 110 (10.5%) were satisfied; 21 (2%) were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied; 1 did not choose a selection
- Authored and published "[Increasing First-Generation Students' Access to High-Impact Practices](#)" in ProQuest.
- Led a session at the annual NC Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) conference and met with 38 employers at their locations over a 9-month period to discuss their recruitment needs and promote On-Campus Recruiting opportunities for our students.
- Staff attended a multi-day showcase event sponsored by the Southern Hospitality Internship Program (SHIP), offering internship opportunities in Pigeon Forge, Sevierville, and Gatlinburg, co-sponsored by WCU's Hospitality and Tourism program.
- Partnered with the School of Nursing to introduce a Healthcare Meet & Greet career fair for healthcare-specific employers at the College of Health and Human Sciences.
- Presented a Criminal Justice panel in the CCPD Career Studio with an FBI Security Specialist, Homeland Security TSA Air Marshals, NC State Crime Lab, NC State Bureau of Investigation Fire and Arson Investigator, and Crime Scene Investigator.
- Created the Summer Jobs Fair as an outdoor event at the Catafount for summer and part-time jobs. Hosted 46 employers with a regional focus.
- Partnered with Intercultural Affairs to produce a career panel of representatives from the City of Asheville, Asheville Jewish Community Center, and Enterprise Holdings focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.
- Offered career-related sessions for the Judaculla Camp for our Cherokee students in Summer.

The Associate Director:

- was selected to present nationally at NACE for the second year. She will be presenting on "Designing a High-Impact Student Employment Experience" in June; and co-authored and published "[Preparing for the Post-University Transition: Supporting Homeless, Emancipated, Orphaned, and Other Independent Students](#)" in the *College Student Affairs Journal*.
- created an information session for NACE members regarding the Hire Advantage Supervisor Program she created at WCU. More than 75 people attended the webinar, which was recorded and uploaded to NACE's forum on student worker training. More than 100 institutions from across the US, including Cornell, Texas A&M, John Hopkins, UC-Berkley, James Madison, Auburn, Xavier, Cal State-Fresno, and University of Connecticut participated.

- **Community Engagement and Service Learning**

Under the new directorship of Dr. Amanda Hall, formerly of Virginia Commonwealth University, the Center

- Re-aligned the staffing structure of CCESL to better align with institution priorities, including redesign of an existing position into the Civic Engagement Coordinator.
- Updated and/or created more efficient frameworks and processes for internal and external operations.
- Increased social media post engagement by 407% (Facebook) and 156% (Instagram) in the past 90 days.

- Strengthened existing and/or cultivated new internal partnerships to enhance mission and priorities of the Center while better aligning with the Strategic Plan of the Institution, partnering with Residential Living, Athletics, Honors College, Campus Activities, Summer Bridge Programs, Orientation, University Police Department and the Center for Career and Professional Development
- Created and launched an “Introduction to Community Engagement at WCU” pre-orientation module (including video and quiz) that is required of all new/incoming students – completed by 2,500 students this summer.
- Launched the CCESL IMPACT Awards, recognizing community-engaged partnerships between students/staff/faculty and community partners. This year’s awards highlighted the impact of 13 partnerships, six faculty/staff change-makers, one senior leader, two Student Democracy Coalition fellows, 16 Lily Award recipients, and 15 Jacob Medford Scholarship recipients.
- Created and implemented the Faculty/Staff Snapshot Survey to capture the current landscape of community engagement at WCU
 - 170 respondents (48 faculty and 122 staff)
- Hosted and facilitated the *2023 Experiential Commons Scholar Summit* (a National community engagement learning retreat) at WCU Biltmore Park, March 23 – March 26, 2023, in partnership with the Experiential Commons podcast, AERA Experiential Education and Community Engagement: Scholarship and Practice SIG, and GivePulse.
 - 55 participants; 21 different universities and organizations represented
 - 10 different states represented (AZ, AR, GA, MD, MA, MN, NC, TX, VA, DC)
- Created a new “Find your Spark. Make a Difference. Live Western” community engagement leadership workshop for students.
- Implemented a new monthly faculty/staff newsletter and hosted a community partner “Town Hall” in Oct. 2022 to meet our partners and garner feedback/insight.
 - Approx. 30 attendees representing 25 different community organizations
- Conducted a community Needs Assessment facilitated by external consultant who led a full-day community partner feedback workshop to garner community insight and actionable strategies to enhance CCESL/institutional partnerships with the community (results pending).
- Partnered with Residential Living to co-facilitate the first annual *Paws for a Cause: Operation Dorm Clean-out* which resulted in approximately 2,000 lbs of clothing items and three truckloads of food items donated to HOMEBASE, The Community Table, Cherokee Family Safety, Teen Challenge of the Smokies and Pathways Thrift Store.
- Facilitated a Holiday Donation Drive for Homebase resulting in over \$3,000 of cash and in-kind donations for WCU students utilizing Homebase resources over Winter break.
- Implemented a new, monthly Community Partner newsletter that currently reaches 175+ community organizations.
- **Liberal Studies**
 - The Liberal Studies assessment process also had a successful year, with a submission response rate of 98% - the highest in its history.
 - Approximately 154 individual faculty received personalized written feedback as part of the Liberal Studies assessment process.
 - The Liberal Studies Summer Scoring Workshop took place in June 2023. Fourteen faculty volunteers scored ~2,000 student artifacts over a two-day period, while also providing formative feedback on assignment design regarding three student learning outcomes – Means of Expression, Awareness of Self, and Information Literacy.
 - The Liberal Studies Committee chose to revise their objectives by adding three more in the categories of diversity, equity, and inclusion. These new objectives will be included in the AY 2023-2024 assessment process.
- **Mountain Heritage Center**

The MHC welcomed new director Dr. Amber C. Albert, formerly of Wake Forest University’s Reynolda House in March.

 - In FY23, Mountain Heritage Center (MHC) service concentrated around exhibitions of regional history on and off-site:
 - Away From Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories
 - Crossroads: Change in Rural America

- Coverlets: New Threads in Old Patterns
- Water is Life College of Health and Human Services, interpretation of the cultural basis of health care within the Cherokee community
- Mountain Persistence WCU Public History program
- WCU Student and Faculty Engagement
 - 35 separate programs conducted for a reach of 797 students and 21 faculty from 7 different departments
 - Students curated an off-campus companion exhibit to Crossroads titled, Mountain Persistence: Western North Carolina Adapts to Change
 - Undergraduate interns and federal work study students assisted with collections care
 - Graduate level interns worked on community projects with MHC staff mentorship
 - MHC employed multiple students as Museum Gallery Attendants who, as part of their duties, gave public tours, assisted public programs, and helped with K-12 tours
- MHC Community and Programmatic Partners
 - WCU Public Policy Institute
 - Jackson County Public Library
 - Museums on Main Street Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Services
 - North Carolina Humanities Council
 - Hunter Library Special Collections
 - WCU Culturally Based Native Health Program
 - St. David's in the Valley Episcopal Church
 - Southwestern Community College
- Regional K-12 education
 - 21 programs reached 800 students and 70 teachers
- Traveling exhibition rotations continue with these borrowing partners:
 - Folkmoot
 - Swain County Tourism Development Authority
 - Museum of the Southeast American Indian
 - Mountain Gateway Museum
 - the Cherokee County Arts Council.
- Co-sponsored Public Programs
 - 48th annual Mountain Heritage Day
 - Rooted in the Mountains Symposium
 - Kephart Days
 - Non-Profit Roundtable: Change in Rural America
 - Regional quilt education events
- MHC public programs
 - Exploring Black History on the Blue Ridge Parkway lecture
 - Sparky Rucker Concert
 - blacksmithing demonstrations
 - Open House Reception for Crossroads and Welcome for New Director.
- **Undergraduate Studies**
 - The Office of Undergraduate Studies (UGS) facilitated the 2022-2023 Campus Theme of Mental Health and Wellness; the Steering Committee reviewed over 20 funding requests and awarded over \$20,000 for programs and events related to the theme including Staff Appreciation Day with Human Resources, Mental Health First Aid session with Counseling and Psychological Services, and a suicide awareness and prevention walk with the Out Of The Darkness registered student organization.
 - UGS allocated over \$96,000 in Intentional Learning funds to support students, faculty and staff with activities directly related to intentional, integrative, engaged teaching/learning, on- and off-campus. This included student travel to present at conferences in New York City, Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Dublin, Ireland to name a few.

Programs and Initiatives

- Coulter Faculty Commons (CFC)
 - The CFC adopted a new mission statement focused on advancing excellence in teaching, learning, and scholarship through collaboration, creation, and celebration.
 - The CFC welcomed new members, including Dr. April Tallant as the Senior Educational Developer and Ian Selig as the Educational Developer. They also added three Faculty Fellows to work on specific programs.
 - A new advisory group was formed with representatives from various academic and administrative departments.
 - The CFC provided 74 consultations, conducted 15 workshops in collaboration with other departments, had 148 attendees at signature events, and sent out 82 marketing notifications through email, newsletters, blog posts, and Instagram.
 - Collaborated with the Provost office on New Faculty Orientation for approximately 42 new faculty.
 - April Tallant and Alexia Jennings led eight Faculty Forward workshops that included fostering community, mindfulness, and equitable teaching strategies. The program accommodated 17 faculty participants through face-to-face and Zoom sessions, resulting in 18 registered attendees and increased teaching self-efficacy.
 - The CFC held two Teaching & Learning Days offering faculty opportunities to learn about excellence in teaching and learning. In the Fall semester, Dr. Susan Blum presented on Ungrading, while the Spring semester featured John Willson discussing Neurodiversity in the Classroom. These events attracted 43 and 30 faculty members, respectively.
 - The CFC hosted the Summer Institute for Teaching and Learning (SITL) after graduation, providing faculty with a relaxed environment to gather, network, and explore ideas. Themed "the Joy of Learning and Teaching" (JOLT), the institute featured keynote speeches by Cyndy Caravelis and Cynthia Alby. This year, a "Lightning Round" presentation allowed faculty to showcase their proposals.
 - The CFC initiated projects and initiatives such as the Online Learning Maturity Project, Competency-Based Education for the School of Nursing, and addressing the impact of generative AI technology in education.
 - They also introduced programs like Popcorn & Pedagogy, Burnout Resilience Online Workshop, Eye-Mask & Meditation Program in partnership with Campus Recreation & Wellness, and Reading Groups to promote academic excellence, support faculty well-being, and foster cross-disciplinary discussions.
 - Preliminary results of the Faculty Forward teaching and learning workshop series showed a statistically significant increase in teaching self-efficacy among participants.
 - The CFC continued its efforts to support faculty members, provide resources, and create a collaborative and innovative teaching and learning environment at WCU.
- Highlands Biological Station
 - Three highlights of the last year for HBS:
 - Grant highlights. (A) NSF: Our \$186,000 NSF-Capacity grant project (DBI- 2122771; "Expanding Walk-in Environmental Control Chamber Capacity and Functionality at Highlands Biological Station") continues. (B) North Carolina Science Museums Program ARPA grant: We were awarded \$147,000 over two years to (i) implement the HBS wayfinding and interpretive signage plan, recently developed with Equinox Environmental, and (ii) fund a design for the new "south gateway" entrance to the Station on Horse Cove Road adjacent to the Nature Center. (C) WCU faculty member Jerry Miller and HBS AD Jason Love, working with colleagues at WCU and Virginia Tech, received a \$120,000 grant for their project "Microplastic concentrations and dynamics in southern Appalachian headwater streams."
 - Program Review. In Fall 2022 we underwent a successful Program Review, with an evaluation team from WCU, University of Utah, and Thomas More University. HBS received high marks in the strongly positive report submitted by the reviewers. In their final report, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities/next steps, and threats were identified, providing a roadmap to further strengthen the Station and its programming.\
 - Facilities and Equipment Improvements. In this fiscal year alone, we have made great strides with facilities and equipment improvements between NSF funding (ongoing \$186,000 project replacing our walk-in environmental chambers), UNC system office funding (total of \$145,000 in research equipment funds), and

WCU R&R and year-end funding (\$250,000 in R&R toward Nature Center structural repairs, plus \$180,000 in year-end funds).

○ Selected In-house HBS Research Activity in 2022-2023

- Bird banding as part of the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program is now in its 4th year at HBS. The project is funded for 7 years thanks to HBF (HBS Bird Friends). This year, in addition to bird banding, the project also involves collecting ticks on behalf of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS), with a particular focus on Asian Longhorned ticks. HBS also participates in the Caterpillars Count! project led by Dr. Allan Hurlbert at UNC-CH.
- The microplastic project focuses on studying the concentrations and dynamics of microplastics in southern Appalachian headwater streams. The team, consisting of Jason Love, Jerry Miller (WCU), Austin Gray (VT), and Robert Youker (WCU), plans to deploy three atmospheric deposition collectors to quantify the abundance of microplastics falling from the atmosphere. The collectors will differentiate between wet and dry deposition and will be placed along a precipitation gradient. Additionally, stream water samples will be collected during storm events to assess microplastic concentrations and loads.
- The assessment of degraded vs. reference wetlands in the Little Tennessee River floodplain involves a collaborative effort between Rada Petric, Jason Love, WCU student Heather Pratt, and former IE students Reagan Jarrett, Grace Kinder, and Juliet Spafford. The project includes surveys of various organisms such as odonates, flying insects, butterflies, wetland macroinvertebrates, and invasive exotic plants. Sonic bat detectors, bird/frog detectors, and wildlife cameras are also deployed. The project aims to collect "pre-treatment" data and compare degraded and reference wetlands as the degraded wetlands are slated for restoration.
- Rada Petric and Jason Love collaborate with the US Forest Service and NC Wildlife Resources biologists to assess bat use of abandoned mining shafts. Acoustic bat recorders are used to survey the mines, which are important habitats for federally listed or soon-to-be-listed bats affected by White Nose Syndrome. The project will continue in the fall as an IE research project.
- During the summer, HBS leadership mentors three North Carolina School of Science and Math (NCSSM) high school students as part of their internship program. The students stay at WCU and travel to HBS each day to assist with ongoing projects. They also document and share their experiences through blogging.
- NSF-funded research and education collaborations with HBS involve hosting programs and events. For example, Dr. Mark Dugo from Johnson C. Smith University holds a Summer Sustainability Science Camp for African American students majoring in environmentally related STEM disciplines. Drs. Jessi Allen (Eastern Washington Univ.) and James Lendemer (NY Botanical Garden) conduct courses and workshops at HBS to increase professional lichen competency. Dr. Dan Johnson from the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry plans to hold a plant hydraulics workshop at HBS. Drs. Heather Coan and Cheryl Waters-Tormey from WCU are involved in a collaborative NSF/LSAMP project promoting STEM education for minority students, with HBS serving as a venue for advisory board meetings and student symposia.
- Pending: Drs. Brian Byrd (WCU) and James Vonesh (Virginia Tech) are resubmitting an NSF-REU grant proposal. If approved, it will support short courses for vector biology, mosquito control, and public health
- James Costa, HBS Director, was named winner of the 2023 Stephen Jay Gould Prize of the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE), a prize awarded annually "to recognize individuals whose sustained and exemplary efforts have advanced public understanding of evolutionary science and its importance in biology, education, and everyday life in the spirit of Stephen Jay Gould." His biography of Alfred Russel Wallace was published by Princeton University Press in March: *Radical by Nature: The Revolutionary Life of Alfred Russel Wallace*.

● Office of Global Engagement

Below is a summary of the activities of the Office of Global Engagement for the 2022-23 academic year. Under continued pressure both domestically and abroad, the WCU Global staff rallied with creativity and resilience while providing exceptional service to students, faculty, and staff.

- International Enrollment: Overall international enrollment in the US has rebounded by 80% after the pandemic, with strong enrollment from China and India. There is also increasing diversity from emerging markets like Nigeria, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Spain, Canada, and Mexico. Graduate students have surpassed undergraduate students, and popular fields of study include math/computer science, engineering, business, and social sciences.

International student enrollment at WCU is also rebounding, with efforts to improve the application process and support.

- Education Abroad: Despite the challenges of the pandemic, international engagement participation increased by over 100% at WCU. The number of students participating in international credit-bearing experiences has grown, thanks to the implementation of a customer relations management platform (Via TRM) and streamlined processes for course approvals, budgets, and financial aid. Efforts are also underway to lower barriers and offer more study and internship abroad opportunities. WCU has been awarded a grant to provide free passports to students and plans to launch its own US Passport facility.
- Faculty-Led Programs: Faculty-led programs have rebounded, with successful trips to diverse destinations and disciplines. The process has been made more customer-friendly and efficient, benefiting from faculty cooperation and improvements in the process.
- Intensive English Program: The Intensive English Program at WCU has been altered to incorporate more online curricula and custom programs. However, due to the declining enrollment in Intensive English programs nationally, WCU has decided to suspend all online and in-person offerings after Fall 2022.
- Visiting Scholars: WCU has hosted several visiting scholars and practitioners from different countries, including those sponsored by Fulbright. Efforts are underway to welcome more visiting scholars and practitioners, expanding collaborations and global connections.
- Global Partnerships: WCU is evaluating its portfolio of exchange partners and developing a long-term strategy for partnership development. Efforts include joint degree programs, curriculum mapping, virtual exchange promotion, and coordination of joint faculty research. The focus is on deepening relationships with existing partners and expanding connections in regions like Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, and the Middle East. WCU has been accepted into the Global E3 Consortium, providing more opportunities for students, and attracting international exchange students.
- Campus, Community, and Global Engagement: WCU is actively engaging with departments, individuals, and administrative units across the university and the wider community. Collaborations, support for curricula, and initiatives like the International Festival and the Going Global! Living Learning Community promote global diversity and engagement. Hosting a cultural ambassador from Japan has had a positive impact on the Office of Global Engagement and the larger community in Western North Carolina, with workshops and presentations conducted at various venues.
- Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines (PSDS)
Activities and accomplishments in addition to supervising/co-authoring all joint publications listed below with PSDS staff.
 - Rob Young
 - Secured \$295k grant from the National Park Service
 - Received approximately \$52k in donations added to Foundation funds.
 - Invited/Plenary presentations
 - New Jersey Association of Flood Plain Managers
 - Martha's Vineyard Climate Conference
 - Restoring America's Estuaries Annual Meeting
 - American Association of State Floodplain Managers Annual Meeting
 - Stetson University Science Café
 - Tampa Bay Regional Resilience Council
 - Daytona Beach City Commission
 - New Hanover County Board of Commissioners
 - Board Service
 - Healthy Gulf, New Orleans
 - Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Washington DC
 - American Water Security Project, Florida
 - Editorial Board, Journal of Coastal Research
 - Technical Advisor: UN Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP)

- Bulgarian Center for Coastal and Marine Studies
- Appointed Service
 - Governor of South Carolina’s Floodwater Commission
 - Governor of Virginia, Technical Advisory Committee, Virginia Coastal Master Plan
 - SC Ocean and Coastal Resource Management Technical Advisory Committee
- Advisory services to non-profits
 - Southern Environmental Law Center
 - South Carolina Coastal Conservation League
 - South Carolina Environmental Law Project
 - Surfrider Foundation
 - Horry County Rising
- Media
 - Notable, published Op Eds in the New York Times, Raleigh News and Observer, Charleston Post and Courier, Tampa Bay Times, Coastal Review Online
 - Appearances: PBS News Hour, CNN, NBC News, Netherlands National Television, among others
 - Developed the Downeast NC initiative to help unincorporated areas in NC counties find the capacity to plan for coastal hazards and flooding. Funded the initiative through our donated funds. In cooperation with the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center. Partners (NCSU, UNC, and Duke).
- Katie Peek
 - Published white paper on The Potential Cost/Benefits of Buyouts in Rodanthe, North Carolina. <https://psds.wcu.edu/projects-and-research/municipalprojects/rodanthe-buyout-study/>
 - Published 16 park-specific reports as part of the Coastal Hazards & Sea-Level Rise Asset Vulnerability Assessment Project.
 - Elected as Treasurer for the Board of Directors of Horry County Rising <https://horrycountyrising.com/>
 - Finalized Coastal Hazard VAs at 9 northeast region NPS units (ASIS, BOST, INDE, THKO, GLDE, EDAL, SACR, SAIR, SAMA)
 - Conducted multiple webinars to NPS units, presenting the Coastal Hazards & SLR Asset Vulnerability Assessment Protocol.
 - Instructor for Geology 140, Spring 2023
 - Attended SC Beach Advocates Annual Meeting <https://scbeaches.org/2023-annual-meeting>
- Holli Thompson
 - Published white paper on The Potential Cost/Benefits of Buyouts in Rodanthe, North Carolina. <https://psds.wcu.edu/projects-and-research/municipalprojects/rodanthe-buyout-study/>
 - Published 16 park-specific reports as part of the Coastal Hazards & Sea-Level Rise Asset Vulnerability Assessment Project.
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 - Conducted multiple webinars to NPS units, presenting the Coastal Hazards & SLR Asset Vulnerability Assessment Protocol.
 - Attended SC Beach Advocates Annual Meeting <https://scbeaches.org/2023-annual-meeting>
- Blair Tormey
 - Research
 - 3 invited abstracts
 - Published 16 park-specific reports as part of the Coastal Hazards & Sea-Level Rise Asset Vulnerability Assessment Project.
 - Conducted multiple webinars to NPS units, presenting the Coastal Hazards & SLR Asset Vulnerability Assessment Protocol.
 - Service

- Elected as Vice Chair of SE Geological Society of America
- Elected Chair of 2024 SE Geological Society of America Conference, Asheville, NC
- Session Chair - RAIL Symposium, UNC Asheville
- Session Chair - 2023 SE Geological Society of America Conference, Reston VA
- Attended Society of American Archaeology 88th Annual Meeting, Portland OR
- Attended 2022 Geological Society of America Conference, Denver, CO
- Attended SC Beach Advocates Annual Meeting, Isle of Palms, SC
- GSA Council, October 2022, April 2023
- Field Trip Leader, Enloe Cemetery, Great Smokies NP, WCU Leadership Regional Tour
- GPR Surveys
 - ❖ African American Experience Project, Great Smokies NP
 - ❖ Davidson River Cemetery, Brevard, NC
- Teaching
 - Instructor for ESI 140, Oceanography, Fall 2022
 - Andy Coburn
 - Instructor for PSC 326 and ES 350
 - Co-author on selected publications above
 - Redesign of PSDS Beach Nourishment Database
 - Faculty Advisor WCU Sustainable Campus Initiative
 - WCU Sustainability Plan Selection Committee
 - Established an MOU between CU and the University Centre of the Westfjords(UCW) in Ísafjörður, Iceland
 - Served as WCU Representative on the Accelerating Outdoors Advisory Committee
 - Served as PI for the ARC-funded Accelerating Outdoors: Outdoor Recreation Powering Economic Recovery & Growth Across WNC Project
 - Helped plan and coordinate 3rd annual WCU School of Engineering + Technology Outdoor Gear Hackathon
 - Worked with WCU Office of Educational Outreach to create a training program and certificate for a regional outdoor adventure business
 - Developed and submitted two outdoor planning program applications for Jackson County, NC
 - Part of NCGrowth: Co-working Concept Advisory Team
- Undergraduate Research
 - In AY 2022 – 2023 efforts surrounding UGR practices and programs saw continued signs of a return to normalcy and pre-pandemic UGR engagement. Specifically, the UGR efforts in AY 2022 – 2023 focused on maintaining the programmatic baseline created in the last academic year that includes supporting undergraduate student participation, bolstering communication and marketing efforts, and formalizing strategic campus partnerships that help achieve the UGR mission. Participation data demonstrates WCU efforts to value, promote, and provide this high-impact practice continued maintained during the 2022 – 2023 academic year.
- Highlights/Achievements in last year
 - Maintaining full-time in-office/person work related to coordination of UGR activities and events.
 - Maintaining hosting in-person (with hybrid options) UGR events like RASC and SURF.
 - Coordination and conclusion of the NSF sponsored L.E.A.R.N. grant at WCU (final report completed Nov. 30, 2022).
 - Networking and partnership building and continuation of formal working groups with offices at WCU who are strategically connected to UGR efforts (BHC, CFC-ORA-UGR).
 - Established a partnership with the Department of Communications in the College of Arts & Sciences and the Marketing Department in the College of Business to host WCU Communication and Marketing

students as interns – developed and implemented a full communication and marketing plan for the AY 2022 – 2023.

- Continued work on a comprehensive UGR Strategic *Vision* based on the preeminent literature surrounding the establishment of formal offices of undergraduate research.
- Took a leadership role on the UNC UGR Research Council as a proposal reviewer for the UNC RFP (AY 2022 – 2023)
- Continued service on the Brinson Honors College CHACO Board.
- Joined the Office of National and Internal Awards (ONIA) board – to begin in fall semester of AY 2022 – 2023.
- Successful combination of two research and scholarly activities into one headlining event – RASC and Faculty Scholarship celebration (March 2023)

Office of Student Success (OSS)

Dr. William Moultrie, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success

Programs and Initiatives

- Division of Student Success
 - The Student Achievement Taskforce included 11 members from across campus and was led by Student Success. This group
 - reviews and assess the impact of previous recommendations on student achievement.
 - identifies new challenges and opportunities in the educational landscape.
 - engages in data-driven discussions to develop evidence-based strategies.
 - formulates practical recommendations to improve student achievement across campus
 - Student Success staff contributed to the UNC System Intercollegiate Athletics and Financial Transparency Report.
 - Student Success staff managed the fifth-year report for SACSCOC
 - Principle 12.1 Student Support
 - Principle 12.4 Student Complaints
 - Student Success staff served on the DEI Community of Practice Group: Utilizing Data to Build Community.
 - WCU was accepted as a First Scholars Network Member by the Center for First-Generation Student Success.
- Advising Center
 - The Advising Center, in partnership with Residential Living, successfully organized the inaugural Lundi Gras celebration, held on the Monday preceding Advising Day. This event brought together multiple offices, such as Suite 201, the Center for Career & Professional Development, Financial Aid, and Residential Living, to offer valuable information and address the specific queries of freshmen. Approximately 180 students attended and had the opportunity to engage with representatives from each office, gaining essential insights into upcoming registration and other relevant matters.
 - Finish Line is a program designed to support students in completing their first bachelor's degree, catering to both students who have temporarily paused their education and new transfer students. In the current academic year, a total of 22 students successfully graduated through the Finish Line Program, contributing to a cumulative count of 157 graduates since the program's inception in the fall of 2015.
 - In both the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters, the Advising Center organized the Majors Fair, a valuable event for students who were uncertain or undecided about their academic paths. This fair offered them the chance to explore various majors and connect with potential academic advisors. As a result, a total of 31 students who participated in the event decided to declare a major, taking an important step forward in their academic journey.
 - EAB Navigate is WCU's student-centered success platform that connects students to advisors and other student support offices. The Navigate platform is widely used across the institution based on its functionality and user-friendly reports & analytics. Academic advisors and tutors are the main users of this platform, but other support offices and faculty are expanding their use.
 - Total Advising Center Notes: 4,440

- Total Campus/Non-Advising Center Notes: 18,430
- Total Campus/Non-Advising Center Summary Reports: 13,990
- Total Advising Center Summary Reports: 5,956
- Math and Computer Science Tutoring Center (MTC)
 - In 2022, the MTC and the Math and Computer Science Department, along with help from the Division of IT, the Provost's Office, Academic Advising, and others, implemented a new math placement diagnostic and learning tool: AEKS PPL. Students can take ALEKS up to five times, potentially exempting MATH 100 Precalculus I Support, MATH 130 Precalculus I, MATH 146 Precalculus II, and placing as high as MATH 153 Calculus I.
 - The MTC successfully relocated back to Stillwell, specifically to room 437, in May 2022.
 - Two complimentary LSAT courses were offered to students who were interested in taking the LSAT. These courses were provided during both the Fall and Spring semesters.
 - Two informative GRE review sessions were provided to students majoring in Integrated Health Sciences, with one session taking place during the fall semester and another during the spring semester. These sessions aimed to equip students with valuable knowledge and resources to prepare for the GRE exam.
 - During the academic year 2022, Navigate recorded a total of 3,998 visits to the MTC, which accounted for approximately 67% of the pre-pandemic traffic. This represents an increase of approximately 56% compared to the traffic recorded in AY 2020.
- Office of Accessibility Resources (OAR)
 - In the 2021-22 academic year, the OAR (Office of Accessibility Resources) introduced the Accessible Information Management (AIM) platform. This platform serves as a centralized system for managing student registration, onboarding, intake, and accommodation procedures.
 - In December 2022, the OAR expanded AIM by integrating the Housing Accommodations module. This enhancement streamlined the process for students to request and receive housing accommodations, while also prioritizing the security and confidentiality of student medical information and disability documentation.
 - In March 2023, the OAR implemented the Test Scheduling module within AIM. This module greatly improved the efficiency of scheduling accommodated tests for students, faculty, and OAR staff. With these advancements, AIM has played a vital role in enhancing accessibility and ensuring a smoother experience for students requiring accommodations throughout their academic journey.
 - 2022-23 OAR Data:
 - Fall 2022
 - 655 students registered
 - 421 students sending accommodation letters
 - 1940 accommodation letters sent
 - 355 students with testing accommodations
 - 163 final exams proctored in OAR Testing Center
 - 577 total exams proctored in OAR Testing Center
 - Spring 2023
 - 659 students registered
 - 418 students sending accommodation letters
 - 1915 accommodation letters sent
 - 339 students with testing accommodations
 - 156 final exams proctored in OAR Testing Center
 - 632 total exams proctored in OAR Testing Center
 - In February 2023, the OAR joined forces with the Coulter Faculty Commons to organize Access Fest, a half-day event exclusively tailored for faculty and staff. Access Fest featured a series of workshops aimed at enhancing inclusivity in various aspects of education. These workshops covered topics such as Designing Inclusive Communication Materials for Students and the Public, Creating and Implementing Equitable Course Policies, Ensuring Accessibility in Canvas and Digital Teaching Materials, and Addressing Accessibility Concerns in Spaces and Events.
- Office of Student Retention (OSR)

- OSR (Office of Student Records) oversees several essential academic processes, including Academic Standing, Appeals, the Learning Contract Program (LC 101), and facilitating academic approval for readmission following suspension or dismissal. These responsibilities involve managing and evaluating students' academic progress, providing guidance and support through the appeals process, implementing the Learning Contract Program to enhance student learning outcomes, and assisting with the readmission process for students who have been suspended or dismissed. The OSR plays a crucial role in promoting academic success and supporting students in their educational journey.
 - 469 appeals reviewed; 53% approved
 - 523 Student participants in LC 101 (a 149-student increase from last year)
 - 133 residential students reviewed for readmission after suspension/dismissal through the Statement of Academic Intent process and updated the process in Spring 2023 to include the SAI portion in the returning student application
- OSR led changes to the Withdrawal Policy and Returning after Suspension Policy that will be updated in the 2023-2024 Catalogs.
- MAPS re-created the First-Gen Advocacy Training Program and trained over 80 staff and faculty members to provide additional support for first-generation students.
- MAPS hosted First Gen Week in November, and a Community Resource Panel as part of National Hunger and Homelessness Week which included 16 community partners who support public health and wellness.
- MAPS support 126 first gen and independent students through the COMPASS advising program, RISA student group, and partnership with Homebase/Baptist's Children's Home.
- The First Gen Advisory Board created a plan for first-gen peer mentoring and professional mentoring to begin in Fall 2023.
- Two 1889 grants supported OSR programming:
 - ASP Abroad: 16 students who were previously enrolled in ASP or Catamount Gap traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina for a cultural immersion experience in March 2023
 - First-Generation Student Programming: multiple programs were funded by this grant for first-gen students including a young alumni panel
- MAPS also continued support of independent populations through the COMPASS advising program, RISA student group, and partnership with Homebase/Baptist's Children's Home.
- The ASP and GAP programs are in full swing for Summer 2023, with 48 ASP participants, 59 Gap participants, and 9 PAL mentors.
- 1117 students enrolled in a student transitions course (USI 101, USI 130, LEAD, and COUN 140)
- Two successful Chancellor's List Award Ceremonies:
 - Fall 2022: Dr. Jeremy Jones speaker; 2050 students recognized
 - Spring 2023: Alumnae Preston Blakely; 1962 students recognized
- Writing & Learning Commons (WaLC)
 - During the academic year 2022-2023, a total of 2,108 individual students sought assistance from the WaLC, resulting in 9,257 interactions across eight different service areas. The majority of these student contacts (80%) took place in person.
 - WaLC's Academic Skills Consultants conducted 64 academic skills workshops for classes and student groups while writing tutors facilitated 4 writing workshops.
 - During the fall of 2022, the WaLC (Writing and Learning Center) introduced a new writing fellow model aimed at addressing genre conventions specific to various disciplines' unique writing styles. This model emphasized understanding and catering to the specific needs of different genres. As a result, students sought writing assistance through 383 visits, seeking guidance on 12 different genres. The implementation of this model provided valuable support to students in honing their writing skills across diverse academic disciplines.
 - Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leaders served twelve different subject areas, and students made 2389 visits to SI review sessions and SI Leaders' office hours.
 - From Spring 2022 through Fall 2022, students who attended Supplemental Instruction (SI) earned an average of .605 grade points higher in targeted courses than students who did not attend.

- The DFW rate for students who attended SI was, on average, 19.54% lower for students who attended SI versus those who did not.
- Based on end-of-semester survey results from Spring 2023,
 - 96% of SI attendees would recommend attending SI to other students.
 - 98% agree that participating in SI helped them understand course content better than they would have on their own.
 - 98% felt welcomed in SI sessions.
 - The overall satisfaction rate regarding their experience with the SI program is 4.7/5 (5=best, 1=worst).
- Course tutors conducted sessions for 138 different courses across all six academic colleges. The table below represents the 15 courses with the highest counts of tutoring contacts. These top 15 courses are distributed across 3 academic colleges: College of Business, College of Arts and Sciences, and David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts.
- Forty-nine WaLC tutors were certified according to the College Reading and Learning Association's guidelines for Tutor Program Certification
 - 40 Level I Certified Tutors
 - 6 Level II Advanced Certified Tutors
 - 3 Level III Master Certified Tutors

Student Successes

- 22 new members were inducted into the Tau Sigma Transfer Honors Society.
- ASP alumnus CJ Mitchell was elected president of the Student Government Association.
- Dabney Doepner, a senior majoring in Musical Theater, was named the recipient of the Kim L. Brown Award for Excellence in Tutoring and was awarded a \$1,100 educational stipend.
- Kait Lindman and Katie Gregorich were accepted to WCU's graduate Communication Sciences and Disorders program
- Emmie Black won Unsung Hero Award
- Bipana Bohori won the Emerging Leader of the Year Award
- Kait Lindman was awarded the Catamount Leadership Award from WCU Campus Activities.
- Rei Feeley was awarded the Celebration of Diversity and Inclusion Award from WCU Campus Activities.
- Natalie Ferrer was awarded the Transformative Leader of the Year Award from WCU Campus Activities.
- Sara Bruinsma participated in WCU's research and scholarship conference poster competition.
- Writing tutor Caitlyn Cable was awarded the Dean's Outstanding Scholar Award in English Studies.
- Tutors Caitlyn Cable and Ashley Gross presented "I Don't Care Anymore: A Burnt-Out Cry for Help?" at the Southeastern Writing Center Association conference in Memphis, Tennessee
- The Most Valuable Tutor awards were earned by Jacob Dillhyon, Keanu Ammons, Lily Devlin, and Brayan Mauricio-Gonzalez. These awards were voted by their peers in the MTC, recognizing their outstanding contributions as tutors
- Brady Smith, Dalton Rogers, and Richard Prange were voted as The Naturals. This special recognition is given to new tutors who exhibit exceptional skill and proficiency in their first semester of tutoring
- Ian Green was accepted into the University of Nebraska's Graduate program for Electrical Engineering.
- Nathan Eckhoff was accepted into the University of Florida's Aerospace Engineering program.
- Brayan Mauricio-Gonzalez was offered a job right after graduation at Microsoft.

Staff Successes

- Melissa Day was elected as chair-elect of the Staff Senate
- Katie Pierce became a First Gen Advocacy Training facilitator.
- Katie Pierce became certified in Adult Mental Health First Aid.
- Mattie Davenport hosted the virtual North Carolina Writing Center Directors' Day.
- Chesney Reich served as a reviewer for the Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- Bright Idea Staff Awardee
 - Sibley Bryan
- Most Innovative Program Awardee

- Mentoring and Persistence to Success
- Program of Excellence Award Nomination
 - Advising Center
 - Mentoring and Persistence to Success
 - Writing and Learning Commons
- 2022-2023 Paul A. Reid Distinguished Service Award for Administrative Staff Nomination
 - Richard Gamble
 - Travis Bulluck
- WCU Star Staff Award Nomination
 - Hannah Boone
 - Jessica Ottie
 - Mary Fischer
- WCU Senior Leadership Fellow Program Selection
 - Mary Fischer (2022)
 - Chesney Reich (2023)
- Celebrate Excellence Leadership Awardee
 - Advocacy Award: Mentoring and Persistence to Success

Office of Institutional Program Effectiveness (OIPE)

Dr. Timothy Metz, Assistant Vice-Chancellor

Programs and Initiatives

- Modeling student success risk:
 - Dwayne Tutt, Associate Director, has updated the CATiream new freshmen retention risk model to account for the current test-optional admissions policy, and to incorporate findings from a successful student survey conducted in the 2022 Spring semester. This same survey is being incorporated into the preregistration process for Fall 2023 new freshmen. The model allows the Office of Student Success to better place students in appropriate courses, and to target high-risk students with support programs.
- Enrollment modeling improvements:
 - Tim Metz updated a new freshmen enrollment model, based on analysis of data from the 2022 admissions cycle, and enrollment outcomes of applications submitted via the CommonApp platform. The total student enrollment model was updated using data from the new graduating student funnel data dashboard, which indicates how close each student is to graduating.
- Student Achievement dashboard revised and published:
 - Nathan Hodges, Business Intelligence & Data Analyst II, redesigned and updated a key public dashboard displaying student success data for undergraduate and graduate students. Public publication of student achievement data is a requirement for institutional accreditation with SACSCOC.
- SACSCOC 5th year interim report submitted:
 - WCU is preparing the required 5th year report to maintain accreditation through SACSCOC. Tim Metz is overseeing the reporting process. The project involves a wide range of offices and WCU staff who are contributing to the report. The report will be submitted to SACSCOC in March 2023.

Staff Accomplishments

- Tim Metz presented a session entitled, *A Quick Easy, Low-cost Compliance Readiness Audit*, at the 2022 SACSCOC Annual Meeting, December 5, 2022.
- Dwayne Tutt presented a session entitled, *Prescriptive Analytics for Student Success in the Era of Optional Testing*, at the 2023 NCAIR Conference, April 3, 2023.
- Nathan Hodges presented a session entitled, *Modeling Undergraduate Enrollment with Markov Chains*, at the 2023 NCAIR Conference, April 3, 2023.

- Billy Hutchings and Tim Metz were nominees for the 2023 Star Staff Award.

Educational Outreach (EO)
Dr. Carolyn Callaghan, Executive Director

Educational Outreach serves a student body of life-long learners from PreK-12 to adult students of all ages. Our overarching goals strive to provide access and high-quality opportunity to pathways of educational attainment from short-term learning opportunities (workshops, certificates, conferences, or camps) to adult degree completion programs. Our students learn to swim, take a class in the summer to catch up, gain a professional certificate for career advancement, earn an online bachelor’s degree, or learn more about native plants in a four-day conference. We provide opportunities for military members, veterans, and their family to get credit for their service and apply that credit toward a degree. We administer summer session with a wealth of online classes and learning opportunities. We deliver international access through our distance learning and in-country educational opportunities in Jamaica and Colombia. We provide opportunities for professionals, new graduates, career changers and community member to hone their skills through career-building continuing education and non-degree certificate programs. We provide testing opportunities in our newly appointed Pearson-Vue authorized testing Center. We support youth and kids camps in the summer and school in-service days. We offer educational conferences tied to our strong heritage, academic strengths, and geographic location. Finally, we support opportunities for our life-long learning series for our active and engaged senior alumni and friends.

Distance Learning Programs, Initiatives and Student Success

- In fall 2022 distance learning enrollment exhibited continued growth. Total distance enrollment was 2,825 (2,166 undergraduate and 659 graduate) up 2.4% from the previous fall. Distance students now make up 24.3% of the total university enrollment.
- Educational Outreach and the College of Education and Allied Professions held commencement in-person in October 2022 for two cohorts in Jamaica: one Bachelor of Science in Special Education cohort in Montego Bay, Jamaica, and one Bachelor of Science in Special Education cohort in Kingston, Jamaica. Eighteen degrees were conferred in Montego Bay, nineteen in Kingston.
- Returned to in-person instruction for three international contract program cohorts that began in 2022: Master’s in educational supervision cohorts in Montego Bay, Jamaica and Cali, Colombia, and master’s in special education in Kingston, Jamaica.
- Re-established an academic credit agreement with 2nd Nature TREC in March 2023 under contract program services in Educational Outreach.
- In the fall, Distance Learning conducted its fourth Priorities Survey of Undergraduate Distance Learners. The response rate was excellent with over a 36% completion rate. Distance shared the results with stakeholders during the spring. The results will be used to enhance services for distance students during the next year.
- In spring of 2022, Distance Learning applied for and received a grant through the UNC System and the Lumina Foundation. The University of North Carolina System’s Adult Learners: Moving Forward and Moving Together grant allowed Distance Learning to host a series of community college advisor forums and adult online program information nights across the state. The \$35,000 grant was awarded in April and the events were held the week of September 26-29, 2022, in Greensboro, Rocky Mount, Jacksonville and Fayetteville.
- Over 60 representatives representing 19 community colleges attended the forum events across the four locations. We received excellent feedback from all the participants and look forward to hosting more forums moving forward as budget allows.
- Educational Outreach held a successful Community College Forum in Hickory on April 18, 2023. We had 21 community college representatives from 7 area community colleges.
- Educational Outreach continued its yearly mailing to the presidents of all the NC Community Colleges. The mailing congratulates the community college on their former students who graduated from WCU in Spring 22. This was well received and several of the president’s sent notes or called to thank us and or the Chancellor for the information.

- Distance Learning funded and attended 8 events throughout the year to promote online programs at various professional conferences and employers. Distance Learning continues to work with programs with capacity to recruit and retain online students.
- Distance Learning participated in the Online Learning Maturity Plan working group. The group met throughout the year and developed a draft of a strategic plan for online learning that will be shared with campus stakeholders during the 2023/24 academic year. Feedback and updates will be made and then the plan will be submitted for approval.
- In Spring 2023, Educational Outreach with support from the Provost's Office hosted 7 distance faculty at the UNC Learning and Technology Symposium held at UNC Charlotte.
- Distance Learning continued to host spring and fall graduation party events. We averaged 40-60 people per event including graduates, their guests and campus partners. We were able to partner with the Registrar's Office to ensure information was shared effectively about these events.
- Distance Learning hosted over 40 orientation live events in summer 2022 and 20 live events between fall 2022-spring 2023. We averaged 15 students per event and the program or major specific night events averaged 60 students each night. We partnered with IT, the CFC, the WaLC, Birth to Kindergarten and others to lead these sessions. We also were able to host a five-student panel of returning students who answered questions for new students from their experiences.

Military Student Services 2022-23

- Military Student Services provides support for military veterans and military-affiliated students in both distance learning programs and campus students. By acting as liaison between the branches of service, Veterans Administration, and the University Departments, the Office can assist students in getting the maximum use of their education benefits, transitioning to college life, developing a peer support network, and progressing to graduation.
- Briana Ford is a member of the UNC Military Affairs Working Group and chairs the WCU Military Advisory Committee. She also continues to serve on the Veterans Council of Western North Carolina. In May 2023, Briana was nominated and selected as one of 15 military-related educators from the region to attend an exclusive Army Educator Tour program held in April at Fort Benning, Georgia (since renamed Fort Moore).
- Military Student services completed a VA audit in the fall and received no findings from the audit. We continue to review our processes to maintain a high standard of accuracy, reducing debts with the VA and improving the student experience.
- The Veterans Resource Center in the University Center continues to be a busy area and an asset for our military affiliated students. During the 2022-23 academic year, there were 85 unique visitors to the VRC, with many students visiting the center multiple times per week.
- Bill Davis, a 20-year Navy veteran, joined Military Student Services in February 2023 as the new Military Outreach Coordinator. Bill utilizes his vast knowledge and personal experiences in the military and higher ed to better assist WCU's current military affiliated students. Bill has visited 5 bases this spring to participate in education fairs and build relationships with the Education Offices.
- Military Student Services "Student Spotlight" – MSS has been able to ramp up its focus on highlighting military veteran students and military-affiliated students here at WCU in 2023. Since March 2023, we have highlighted 12 students on social media and on our website during Women's History Month (March); Month of the Military Child (April); and Graduates (May). These "Student Profiles" have featured veterans of various military branches and dependent children, in a variety of campus, distance learning, and hybrid programs in undergrad and graduate studies.
- Finding Future Catamounts - While serving as the MSS Outreach Coordinator, Bill has visited seven military bases and attended education fairs and events from February to June 2023, where he connected with 66 potential future Catamounts, passed out 120 Distance Booklets to prospective students, and provided 48 more booklets to the ESO. Additionally, he was able to connect with about a dozen WCU alumni.

Office of Professional Growth and Enrichment Programs, Initiatives and Student Success

- The Office of Professional Growth and Enrichment offers in-person and online workshops, certificate programs, camps, conferences, and membership series for lifelong learners of all ages. Several regional and global employees from for-profit and non-profit organizations attended training and enrichment programs with WCU.
- Educational Outreach conducted needs assessments, feasibility modeling and customer surveys for industry clusters to determine needs, fiscal positioning, and formats for future training, and creation and modification of existing programs to meet the needs of individuals and organization in an ever-changing economy.
- The online Professional Outdoor Industry Certificate with a national focus was created in response to a growing need for workforce training in the outdoor industry and is in partnership with Andy Coburn, the WCU Outdoor Industry Liaison.
- Other popular training programs for our region include organizational structure & transformation, communication strategies and topics, grant writing, leadership, project management, Lean and Six Sigma, and human resource topics.
- Customized trainings with individual companies and associations in the region and globally helped employers upskill and provide talent development uniquely designed to the client's needs.
- WCU's testing center provides access to the community in the administration of needed entrance and certification exams such as PRAXIS, GRE, TEAS, CLEP, MAT, etc.
- Since becoming a Certified Pearson Vue Testing Center in Fall 2021, we have delivered 192 Pearson Vue Exams. In 2023- The WCU testing center added a 4th commercial testing partner and became a PROV certified center which does computer-based licensing exams for NC Cosmetology candidates, further extending our cooperation with SCC graduates.
- In June 2022 WCU became a Certified PSI-Pan Testing Center which will allow us to do additional professional Commercial testing for new areas including government service (i.e., Border Patrol and FAA) along with North Carolina Real estate.
- The 2023 Native Plant Conference is having its highest attendance with over 430 participants registered to attend. We have also continued to branch out from the summer event with a couple of short courses which were offered throughout the year: Native Plants 101 and Wildflower photography with your smart phone and organic gardening.
- Educational Outreach continues to offer various academic-focused youth programs (particularly summer camps). Kid's Art Day was offered on the 2022 Veteran's Day holiday in partnership with the School of Art and Design. Camps offered in summer 2023 include LEGO Robotics, Step Back in Time (partner: Mountain Heritage Center), Science in Nature, Science Laboratory, Tales From the Dead: An Introduction to Forensic Anthropology For High School Students (partner: Forensic Anthropology Department), Rocket to Creativity (partner: School of Teaching and Learning), The Science of Forensics for Elementary Students (partner: Forensic Science Department) and Writing in Nature. This collection of programs caters to ages five through high school and will serve over 160 K-12 students in the surrounding community this summer – 66 in Rocket to Creativity camp alone.
- The LIFE@WesternCarolina program continues to provide educational opportunities for those over fifty-five years of age. Twelve live online sessions were held during the fall 2022 semester. Eleven in-person sessions were during the spring 2023 semester, with the continued option for live, online viewing. The 2022-2023 membership year ended in April 2023 with a successful in-person reception at Lake Junaluska. The LIFE@WCU Cullowhee group grew by 55% from the 2021-2022 membership year and there was increased interest in the member-led Curriculum Committee. This program will resume in-person meetings in fall 2023.

Community Engagement and Accomplishments

- Educational Outreach started a newsletter that is distributed twice a year to over 40,000 contacts with upcoming events, division successes and human-interest pieces.
- Representatives of Educational Outreach conduct numerous and extensive visits, meetings and events to promote our lifelong learning efforts and WCU. Same highlights include Tourist Alumni Night, Rotary engagements, Chamber events, and festivals. We frequently engage with military bases, community colleges, associations and workforce boards, and employers.
- Executive Director, Carolyn Callaghan serves the National and South Region of University Professional Continuing Education Association (UPCEA) in many leadership capacities: Award Chair and member of the Planning committee

for the Southern Region, presenter at regional and national conferences, and Vice-Chair for Professional Development for the Community Economic and Engagement Network. Carolyn serves on WCU Board for American Association of University Women and the Board of Directors for Shelton House Museum in Waynesville, NC.

- Briana Ford was nominated for the 10th year in a row for the Star Staff Award. She serves as Lead Sponsor for Holiday Mail for Heroes Campaign. She is a volunteer for WCU Student Veteran Association. She serves as a member of the Veterans Council of WNC, Sylva, co-chair. She also serves as a member to the Southeastern Council on Military Education, NC Board member. Additionally, she is a member of the NC Association of Coordinators of Veterans Affairs. Outside of work, Briana is working on a Master of Library Science degree at NC Central.
- Lee Roddick-Brown attended the 2022 UPCEA MEMS & RNL Conferences. She was nominated for the Bright Idea & Star Staff Award. Distance Learning was nominated for Program of the Year. Lee is working on her EdD at Appalachian State.
- Tony Miller was a nominee for the 2022/2023 Star Staff Award for Administrative Staff. Distance Learning was nominated for the 2022-2023 Administrative Program of Excellence – Irene Welch Award. Tony attended WCET/State Authorization Network Meeting on behalf of the UNC SAN Network. He also attended the University Professional Continuing Education Association (UPCEA) Marketing, Enrollment and Student Success Conference.
- Brittany Marshall completed a graduate certificate program in Project Management in May 2023 and graduated from Leadership Ashville Class 41. She was nominated for WCU’s Star Staff Award. She has been assigned as the Project Manager for Educational Outreach’s Destiny One implementation. In fall 2022 she served on the UPCEA South Region Award Committee. She continues to be active in UPCEA professional development and trainings offered by the American Camp Association (ACA) and CampDocs.
- Jen Phillips began WCU’s Ed.D program in Summer 2022. She wrapped up her role with the UPCEA Budget Committee in Summer 2022. She helped coordinate and work the table at Sylva Pride in September 2022. Personally, she participated in several community fundraising events that benefitted transfer and first-generation students as well as LGBTQIA+ initiatives.

Hunter Library
Dr. Chuck Thomas, Dean

Statistics and Information at a Glance

- Hunter Library is the intellectual center of the University and provides information resources, services, spaces, expertise, and opportunities that allow users to explore, grow, and create. Key operational statistics about the library can be viewed on the library’s regularly updated online dashboard: <https://tinyurl.com/2n47rxxr>.

Collections

- The library purchased several digital archives (Harper’s, Newsweek, New Yorker, and journals from the American Institute of Physics) with one-time funding. These purchases provide perpetual online access for authorized library users.
- Expanded access to more than 200 new films through the Kanopy streaming collection.
- Expanded access to digital books and magazines for curriculum support or leisure reading, through an app provided by the vendor OverDrive. This growing collection provides eBooks, audiobooks, and 4,791 magazine titles.
- The library has a new section on the main floor to highlight new books acquired throughout the year.
- A new batch of letters from the McFee-Misemer Collection was added to the library’s online Civil War Collection. These letters were used with ENGL 618 students’ last fall.

Personnel Transitions

- New Employees
 - Staff member Allyson Take hired August 2022
 - Staff member Kerri Arbuthnot hired October 2022
 - Librarian Emily Wros hired April 2023

- Librarian Mandy Choie hired May 2023
- Staff member Chris White hired May 2023
- Departures
 - Librarian Jill Ellern departed August 2022
 - Staff member JoAnn Marvel departed October 2022
 - Staff member Elizabeth Marcus departed October 2022
 - Staff member Dana Wood departed February 2023
 - Librarian Adam Olsen departed May 2023
 - Staff member Carol Hicks departed May 2023

Programs and Initiatives

- Librarians Beth Thompson, Erica Barnett, and Ali Norvell began work on an affordable textbook initiative, in support of University Bookstore efforts to help students access supplemental class readings at little or no cost to the students.
- In collaboration with a Biology faculty researcher, the library began initial development of a “FireFLI” project database and website. The database will eventually grow into a comprehensive collection of searchable taxonomic literature on fireflies.
- The library took a series of comprehensive and coordinated steps to help manage the rising costs of shipping materials for distance learners, interlibrary loans, and other print resource sharing.
- Like many other libraries across the nation, this year Hunter Library eliminated most overdue fines normally charged to users, and revised its policies related to replacing lost or damaged items. These changes reduce barriers for low-income users and encourage more usage of the library.
- Due to a mold outbreak caused by significant temperature and humidity fluctuations throughout the building, the library took several steps:
 - Installed temperature and humidity sensors to collect data 24/7 about the library’s environmental conditions.
 - Created a real-time dashboard of current and historical data to detect changes and take actions when necessary.
 - Based on recommendations from external library preservation experts, have coordinated with WCU Facilities to plan for cleaning the buildings HVAC systems.
 - Cleaned, treated, or discarded print materials affected by the mold.
 - For older print journals that were affected by the mold and deemed unsalvageable, the library purchased online access to these online databases:
 - Newsweek Archive
 - Harper’s Archive
 - New Yorker Archive
 - AIPP Journal Archive
 - ProQuest Art database
 - EBSCO Art database

Faculty Successes

- Librarians Liz Harper and Scottie Kapel were awarded tenure and promotion.
- Librarian Adam Olsen was awarded a grant of \$9,310 from the State Library of North Carolina to conduct a usability study of library spaces.
- Librarian Sarah Steiner and Dr. Amanda Wray of UNC-A co-authored and were co-awarded a grant of \$2,884 from the North Carolina Humanities non-profit to train 28 local participants in collecting oral history stories.
- Dean of Library Services Chuck Thomas was awarded a grant of \$148,000 from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to co-lead a multi-institutional research project on diversity in the library workforce.

Community Engagement

- Library employees regularly donated food and hygiene supplies to HomeBase to support students experience a housing or food crisis.
- In September 2022, staff member Jenny McPherson staffed a listening station at the Sylva Pride event, to showcase the library’s LGBTQ+ oral history collection.

- In April 2023, several library employees volunteered after-hours in support of the campus SAGA Pride event. Activities included a storytime, poetry readings, and a listening station showcasing the library's digital oral history collections.
- Special Collections continued a traveling exhibition program. The Haywood County Public Library hosted the exhibit for three months last summer. Currently, the exhibit is rotating through four branches of the Nantahala Library System. Other displays have been shown in Robbinsville and Andrews and will continue with Murphy and Hayesville this summer.
- Librarian Liz Harper gave a presentation in March 2023 to the Waynesville Rotary Club in honor of Women's History Month. The talk was about women represented in the Carr and Ruth Hooper collection, the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, and the Misemer Civil War letters.
- Hunter Library participated in WCU's "One Day for Western" fund-raising campaign by focusing on priorities related to supporting students. In a single day, more than 20 donors donated over \$2,000 to the library.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belongingness Progress

- With support from the Office of the Provost, this year the library hired librarian Mandy Choie as its first-ever Research Fellow. The fellow serves a two-year term, and is tasked with designing, conducting, and supporting research projects related to improving library services to support diverse groups of users.
- Hunter Library partnered with numerous faculty, staff, and students to host community read-ins in celebration of National/International Holidays. These events served as a space for faculty, staff, student, and community members to build connections, hear personal stories from members of WCU, and explore aspects of the library's collections. Librarian Jazmyne Baylor and staff member Joshua Everhart worked with other colleagues and partners to plan these events. Participating WCU community members included:
 - Black History Month
 - Associate Vice Chancellor William Moultrie
 - Dr. Ricardo Nazario-Colon
 - Dr. Tiffany Jackson
 - Dr. David Walton
 - Amber Ellington
 - Megan Brown
 - Asst. Professor Patrice Brown
 - Women's History Month
 - Jazmyne Baylor hosted "Reflecting on the Works of Audre Lorde."
 - Valentine's Day
 - Berna Karayaka and Bora Karayaka hosted "Rumi's Love Poetry."
 - National Coming Out Day, and LGBTQIA+ History Month
 - Beulah Land (Student and community member)
 - Rubella Work (Student and community member)
 - WCU Pride Celebration
 - Dr. Travis Rountree
 - Jazmyne Baylor
 - Sarah Steiner
 - Librarians Jazmyne Baylor and Erica Barnett presented "Counternarratives and the Civil Rights Movement" as part of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week at WCU.
 - The library conducted an audit of several information vendors to better understand what resources they sell that support researchers on the topics of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.
 - Librarian Rebecca Saunders worked with other partners in the Western North Carolina Library Network (WNCLN) to replace outdated, problematic, and racist or exclusionary terminology in the WNCLN shared online library catalog system.
 - Hunter Library employees authored, co-authored, or made scholarly presentations related to the topics of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging:

- Berkana, J., Saunders, R., & Hallyburton, A. All y'all: Creating inclusive language and image guidelines for an academic library's LibGuides. ACRL Distance and Online Library Instruction Virtual Poster Session. (April 24-28, 2023)
- Hallyburton A, & Allison-Jones, L. Mental health bias in physical care: An integrative review of the literature. *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*. February 2023. doi:10.1111/jpm.12911
- Hallyburton, A. (2022). Diagnostic overshadowing: An evolutionary concept analysis on the misattribution of physical symptoms to pre-existing psychological illnesses. *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*, 31(6), 1360-1372. <https://doi.org/10.1111/inm.13034>
- Rountree, T. A., Steiner, S. K., Queer Studies Conference, "Recursive Activism: Documenting, Remembering, and Celebrating LGBTQ Voices in WNC," University of North Carolina Asheville, University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, NC. (March 25, 2023). [Peer-Reviewed]
- Barnett, E. (2022) Collection and Vendor Relationships: Diversity Evaluation and Communication, *Serials Review*, DOI: 10.1080/00987913.2022.2119058
- Kapel, S., & Schmidt, K.D. (2023, March). *It starts with a spark: A phased approach for incorporating DEIA into research guides* [Poster session]. ACRL 2023 Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Saunders, R. "Dropping the other I-word: Indigenous American representation in a network library catalog through local LCSH replacements," Amigos Library Services: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Cataloging & Technical Services Conference. (February 8, 2023)

Other Noteworthy Events, Programs, and Activities

- Special Collections employees supported the very popular Kephart Days annual celebration in Bryson City by making a presentation, creating an exhibit in the reading room, and attending various events throughout the multi-day event.
- In December 2022 the Friends of Hunter Library hosted a social event in downtown Sylva. Dr. Ben Steere, the 2022-2023 Hunter Scholar, delivered a presentation on his research project on Native American dwelling structures.
- During WCU's annual Faculty Scholarship Celebration in March 2023, Dr. Luiz Lima Da Silveira of the Biology Department was announced at the 2023-2024 Hunter Scholar. This award will support his research on fireflies.
- The library added a collection of 45 boardgames and expanded its collection of Tabletop Role Playing Game Books. These materials were used to support library game nights in October and February. Over 40 students attended each event. Many students commented on how they made new friends at the events.
- By partnering with the local non-profit Hights, the library has been able to schedule therapy dog visits for students in the library roughly once a month.
- Librarian Cara Barker planned and hosted the library's first workshop on making and publishing "zines".

Special Initiatives and Announcements

- Hunter Library joined at least 13 other UNC System institutions' libraries in a joint RFP to purchase a new shared online catalog system. A final purchase decision is expected before the end of the 2023 calendar year.
- Barbara Kephart Crane (Horace Kephart's granddaughter) donated \$25,000 to the existing endowment in her name. These funds support Hunter Library Special Collections.

WCU Programs in Asheville
Dr. Kevan Frazier, Executive Director

Summary

- WCU Programs in Asheville at Biltmore Park had a great academic year in 2022-23 as it began to fully emerge out of the Covid-19 Pandemic. In-person classes and external bookings returned to pre-pandemic levels. Conferences returned as well, with the instructional site hosting two national academic association conferences and a regional conference on broadband expansion. Enrollment remained steady in Asheville, matching 2021-22 levels. The University continued its role as a key strategic partner in economic development in the area because of the

University's ability to offer degrees, certificates, and professional development conveniently in the metro Asheville/Hendersonville corridor. The University's instructional site continues to be a great investment for the community and WCU.

Overview for 2022-23

- Western Carolina University's Programs in Asheville continues to be the leader in graduate education for the metro Asheville/Hendersonville area. In 2022-2023, the University offered 4 doctoral, 11 masters, and 2 baccalaureate programs, as well as 2 graduate certificates, at its instructional site in Biltmore Park Town Square in south Asheville. For 2022-23, enrollment was strong with 720 students and 14,756 credit hours generated.
- In addition to the curricular offerings, in-person continuing education and professional development programs returned with further expansion of these programs scheduled for 2023-24. WCU Programs in Asheville also continued to grow the University's relationships in Asheville and Hendersonville within the business and non-profit sectors as well as with local and state government entities. Through its Programs in Asheville, WCU is a vital force in metro Asheville's growth, development, and quality of life.

Facility Changes

- With continued growth, WCU's instructional site at Biltmore Park is taxed in regard to classrooms, labs, and offices. Upgrades were made in classroom and meeting room teleconferencing and other minor changes were made to stretch classroom availability.

Future Expansion

- WCU has leased 12,000 additional square feet in Biltmore Park and will begin to upfit this new space, as well as adjust existing spaces during the coming year. The goal is to open the new and renovated spaces in fall 2024.

Community Outreach

- One of the Executive Director's key roles for the University is to serve at the WCU's chief community development officer in metro Asheville. This includes building and expanding relationships with the community colleges, universities, chambers of commerce, businesses, non-profits, arts organizations, and local governments. From internships, to consulting, to instruction, WCU's colleges worked with dozens of business and community organizations throughout Asheville and Hendersonville.
- WCU Programs in Asheville continued and grew its partnerships with the Asheville Chamber, the Asheville/Buncombe Economic Development Council, the Land of Sky Regional Council, ExploreAsheville, and numerous local trade groups such as the Hotelier Association, the Asheville Independent Restaurant Association, and the WNC Attractions Collaborative. Additionally, WCU's Programs in Asheville continued active involvement in the Land of Sky P-20 Council which is leading metro Asheville's role in supporting myFutureNC's attainment goal of 2 million North Carolinians with a high-quality post-secondary credential by 2030. WCU is crucial in helping to meet this goal and in building Western North Carolina's work force.

Cherokee Center
Mrs. Sky Sampson, Director

Programs and Initiatives

- 2022-23 Events
 - My Culture is Not a Costume Campaign
 - We installed our exhibit in ICA and pushed information out on social media to make people aware of costume choices.
 - Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration
 - We incorporated our Native American Heritage Festival into Indigenous Peoples Day due to the number of events we complete during the month November.

- We hosted over 400 students, faculty, and staff at this event of crafts, food, weapons demo, performances, and more.
- MMIW Exhibit
 - We started and completed an exhibit project on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women across the country. This exhibit highlighted local women and girls tied to WCU as we raised awareness of MMIW in the southeast.
 - We hosted over 4,000 visitors to the exhibit and reached over 6,000 people on social media alone.
 - We also hosted over 200 people including tribal leadership and partners at this exhibit reception.
 - We are now in the planning process to travel this exhibit throughout the area first and our hope is to confirm a travel for the next 3 years with some of the profit going towards our local Cherokee Qualla Boundary Chapter of MMIW.
- Rock Your Mocks
 - We gathered in the center of campus of about 30 local community members. We walked the entire campus and impacted roughly 400 people directly. We then shared videos of our walk on social media and impacted over 1000 people.
- Indigenous Community at WCU Exhibit
 - Our office created a WCU Indigenous Community Exhibit in the Intercultural Affairs Gallery to highlight students, faculty, staff, and alumni at WCU that identify as indigenous people.
- EBCI Appreciation Football Game
 - This is our annual football game to recognize the local tribal community and the land that WCU sits upon.
 - The game highlights the land acknowledgement, recognizes our people, allows them to participate in the coin toss and tailgate together prior to the game.
 - Our main goal is to get alumni to join us back on campus and encourage others to attend WCU.
- Other Partnered events
 - Wear Red Day for MMIW Awareness
 - Multicultural Mental Health Showcase – Campus Themed event for Mental Health
 - Hosted approx. 200 people mental health issues across multicultural groups.
 - Rooted in the Mountains Symposium
- Judaculla Camp
 - We hosted 11 students in 2022 and 14 in 2023.
 - The camp includes both active learning and outdoor activities on and off campus. The students live on campus for 5 days and experience college life firsthand. Our visit was selected as their favorite location visited out of 9 colleges and universities last year.
- Decision Day Celebration at CHS
 - Celebrated 38 students this year with over 70 in attendance.

Other Projects and events attended

- New Faculty Orientation Fair
- Western Wednesday Live Stream
- Medicine Walk for Students and another for Community Members
- Mini Stem Day at Cherokee Central Schools
- Over 15 Group Tours of Museum of the Cherokee Indian
- Real Life Expo event
- SLOAN Foundation Partnerships
- Native Student Bowling Night
- EBCI Alumni Western Club Bowling Night
- Recruitment and Assistance at high schools
 - Swain High School, Smoky Mtn High School, Cherokee Central Schools, and Robbinsville High School
- Hosted UNCP American Indian Center Staff for development visit to WCU
- Hosted many teams of staff, groups, and classes this year for a tour or educational presentation on the Eastern Band of Cherokee and the WCU connection.

- Customized 20 stoles in Spring of 2023 for indigenous college graduates.
- Awarded 2 recipients for the Dr. Jerry Wolfe Gadugi Award at CHS
- Initiated and awarded 2 recipients for the first annual Tommye Saunooke Gadugi Award at Smoky Mtn High school.
- International Festival Information Table Set up

Awards/Recognitions

- The WCU Cherokee Center was nominated for a CSL Impact Award this year and for several staff/department of excellence awards.

Committee Participation

- Cherokee Center Advisory Board
- Cherokee Studies Committee
- Digali'I NASO committee
- ICA Advisory Board
- HW Exhibits for Bardo Exhibit committee
- Cherokee Signage Committee
- National American Indian Women's Assoc.

Digali'I WCU Native Student Org Involvement

- Christmas Field Trip and Lunch
- Partnered on multiple workshops throughout the year
- Attended meetings every Monday

Office Changes

- Ordered updated porch furniture to create space for students to study outside or after regular business hours.
- We are trying to attract more students to our space.