

SUMMER & FALL 2022

REACHING OUT

NEWSLETTER FROM WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY'S
DIVISION OF EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH



From the Executive Director:

DR. CAROLYN M. CALLAGHAN

Greetings, it is hard to believe that summer has come to an end and fall semester is upon us. As we normalize activities in our work and personal endeavors, I hear many people talk about the loss of joy, curiosity and creativity.

That is discouraging to hear and I wanted to see for myself why people were feeling this loss, and what could be done from a lifelong learning perspective to change the narrative on this. ***Continued on page 2.***



From the Executive Director continued....

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In the past year, I personally embarked on a discovery of what lifelong learning means to all the age groups served by Educational Outreach, and also to me, not only as the executive director, but as Carolyn; what did I want out of my lifelong learning journey?

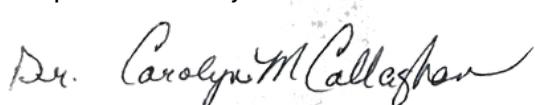
To prepare for our return of busy summer programming, I wanted to understand our populations by becoming a student – an online learner, a workforce skill attainer, a conference-goer, a lecture series member, a hands-on learner, and an educator. I immersed myself in the mission of Educational Outreach - proactively cultivating personal and professional growth through high quality courses, programs and services. This is something that the Ed Outreach teams aspires to achieve every time we create a new professional development training or welcome back participants that have been coming for 20 plus years to us for enrichment opportunities - we put the learner at the center of all we do.

I hoped to experience a journey of unique experiences and transformational learning. Guess what I found? The exact things that I had been hearing others were losing. I discovered the joy, curiosity and creativity in my journey as a student that I could then use in my role as executive director to ensure we continue to stand by our mission and offer the same experiences to our diverse populations. I learned about salamanders, ferns, photography, financial modeling, strategic planning sustainability, project management, and bitcoin...just to name a few topics. I looked at the world differently in new areas of wonder. I observed the other participants sharing in the growth of knowledge through collaborative learning. It is an amazing thing to see and be part of!

Having witnessed the entirety of diverse programming to date, I discovered Educational Outreach is so much more than a vehicle to cultivate personal and professional growth; Educational Outreach employs true collaboration, flexibility and advocacy to serve our region and its citizens in vibrant educational partnerships. In turn, this brings joy to personal and professional life, gives the zest of curiosity to inspire new ideas and perspectives, and allows us to catch the spark creativity for new projects or attaining new goals in our careers.

I invite you to learn more about opportunities to engage these three important aspects of learning through our distance learning programs, contract programming, military support and trainings, summer session offerings, professional development and workforce trainings, customized corporate trainings, conferences, youth programming and camps, our testing center, and enrichment opportunities offered through continuing education.

To reiterate what I have learned, I hope you keep cultivating joy, get curious, and let creativity guide you in your lifelong learning journey. I look forward to working with you to help you grow personally and professionally.

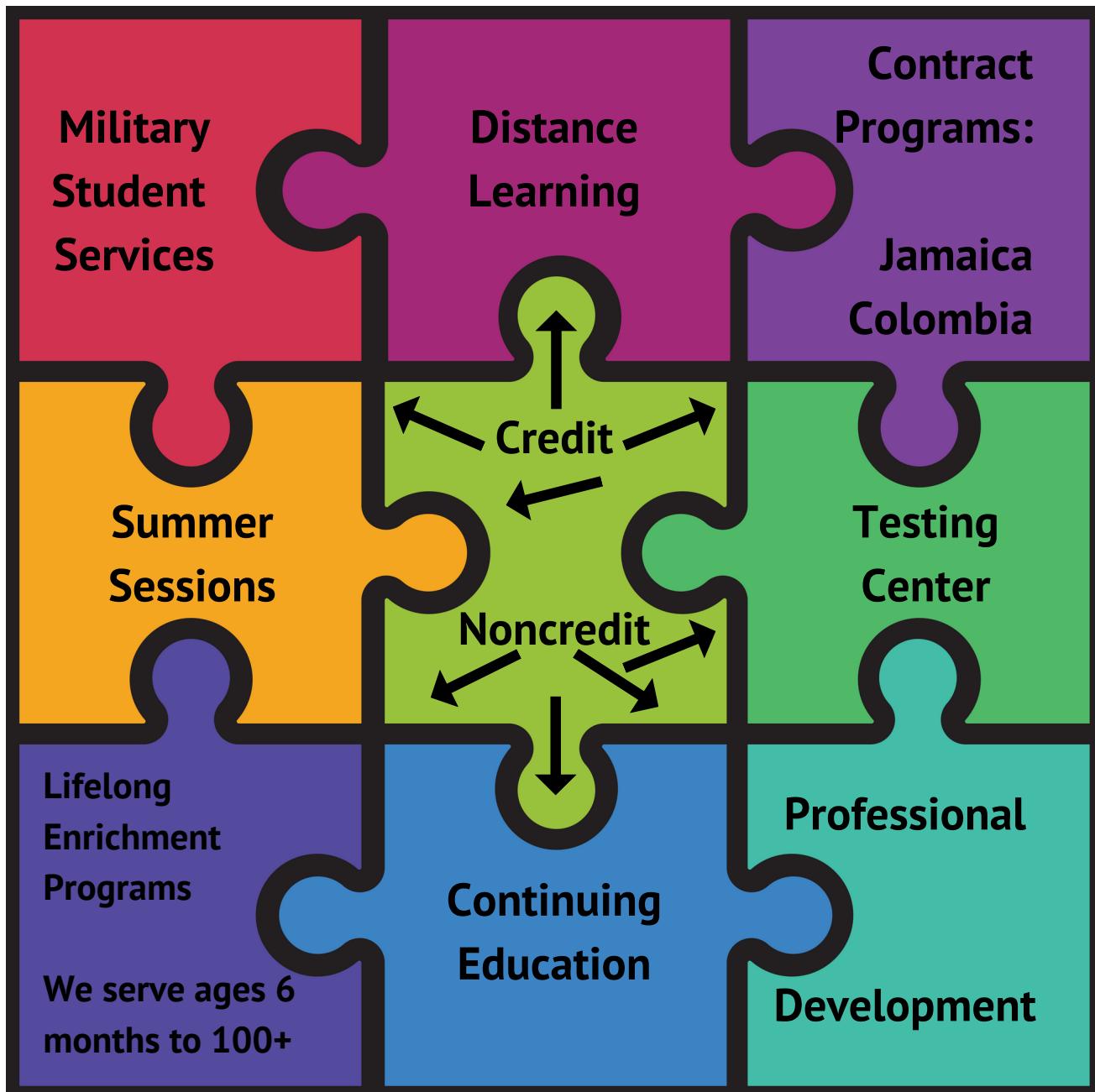


Dr. Carolyn McCallaghan

The Educational Outreach Puzzle... How "Whee" Fit Together!

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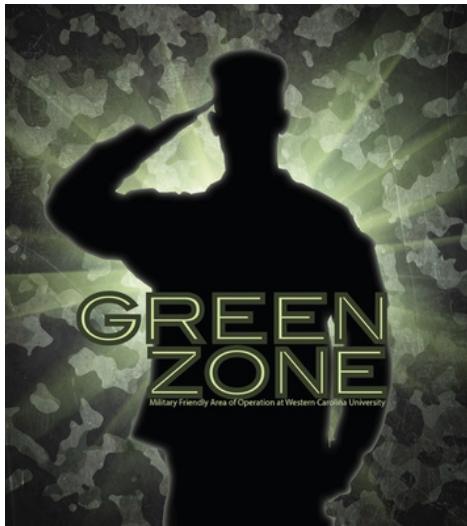
We know it is puzzling how the division "fits" together. You may be wondering, "why is Continuing Education in the same office as Military Student Services!?" Hopefully this visual puzzle will help The Division of Educational Outreach make a little more sense!



As you can see, we are made up of credit and non-credit programming. The Division is receipt-funded, which means we are essentially our own "business" and by us bringing in profit from non-credit programming, we are able to support credit programming initiatives where in any other department they would not be able to do these events, because state funds are limited for these programs. We hope this helps you understand the puzzle that is Educational Outreach!

What is Green Zone Training?

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Each semester, Briana Ford, Director of Military Student Services, hosts the Green Zone Training for WCU faculty, staff and students. This training is designed as a cross-cultural learning opportunity designed to support and empower student veterans, provide a safe place for military students, and provide faculty, staff, and students with an understanding of the military experience and the transition from military to student. It provides information and resources to help faculty, staff, and students assist military-affiliated students succeed in the academic environment.

For more information, email Briana Ford at blford@wcu.edu.

EO Staff Spotlight: Bobby Hensley

When did you start at WCU/Ed Outreach?

January 2001.

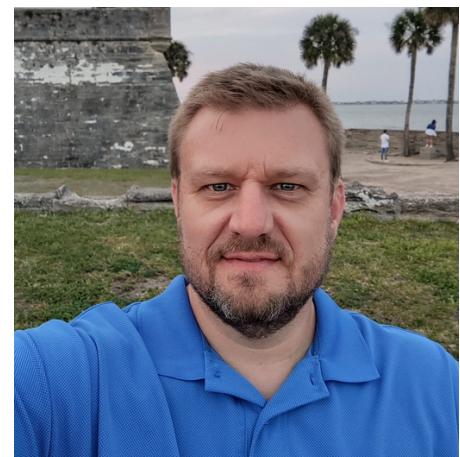
What your job involves:

I would say that I definitely have a multifaceted job that has expanded over the 22 years I've been at Western. Besides coordinating non-credit programs, conferences and some professional development workshops, I also manage our relationships with 3rd party online providers such as Ed2Go, Educational Fitness Solutions. I am also the Test Center Administrator for WCU's testing center. We have recently become a fully certified Pearson Vue and PSI/Pan Testing center. We administer hundreds of commercial certification tests for Scantron as well as academic tests like CLEP, TEAS, MAT, GRE, PRAXIS and several other exams.



What your favorite thing about working in EO is:

I enjoy helping students of all ages achieve their next learning goal. Whether it's kids who are learning to swim for the first time or adults who are achieving a new certification for their job, it's great to work with so many different kinds of people and see them take the next step toward their goal.



Summer Snapshots of Ed Outreach

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We had a fantastic few weeks of summer camps and conferences! This is the first year we have been able to host the Dulcimer U Summer Gathering and the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference in-person since 2019. It was like a family reunion seeing so many familiar faces that we have not seen in a while! Below are some snapshots from summer 2022:



Writing Nature Camp - This was a new kids camp with Sue Wasserman, the Great Smokies Association Writer in Residence in the GSMNP.



Robotics with Legos Camp - Always a favorite! We held three sessions this summer.



A WCU Volleyball camper learns to play the dulcimer during a Dulcimer U "flashmob" in the dining hall.



Behind the scenes at the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference which had its highest attendance in over 20 years - 394! The conference was held in-person with a virtual option.

Celebrating Distance Learning

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In May 2022 we hosted a celebration for all of the WCU Distance Learning students that were walking in the spring commencement ceremonies the following day. This gave graduates the opportunity to connect with fellow classmates, see their distance learning representatives and even some of their faculty, face-to-face. It was heartwarming experience to celebrate these student and their families! We wish all of our graduates continued success in their future endeavors!



Whee Go the Distance!

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We know that for many adults, the first step is usually the hardest when considering going back to school. This is why we are bringing the first step directly to you with our Whee Go The Distance Road Trip Tour!

The Office of Distance Learning at WCU along with the Office of Admissions, Financial Aid, Transfer Advising, Registrar's Office, and Military Student Services will be traveling from Cullowhee to a city near you during the 2022-2023 academic year. During these events we plan to have opportunities for speaking with offices in attendance, on-site admissions for those who have pre-applied, preliminary transcript evaluation, and meeting current students in the Distance Learning programs. These nights are specifically designed for students who would be transferring to WCU with prior college experience.

With NC Promise, WCU programs are incredibly affordable regardless of where you call home in North Carolina.

Fall Visits (We will be closer to WNC in spring 2023, so stay tuned for dates!)

Greensboro, NC - Monday, September 26

Rocky Mount, NC - Tuesday, September 27

Jacksonville, NC - Wednesday, September 28

Fayetteville, NC - Thursday, September 29

Scan the QR code for more information!



Jamaica Program Spotlight

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This past spring, we started a weekly #tuesdaytoast alumni spotlight series for our Jamaica program graduates to learn more about them and how WCU helped them achieve their professional and personal goals! Here is an alumni story that we want to share with you:



"My master's training has offered me the opportunity to transit to another level in my career. The knowledge garnered at WCU is truly world class. I am rated among the best of my peers and my level of confidence while doing my presentations is unquestionable because WCU has taught me how to captivate my audience with 21st Century information."

WCU Graduation Year : 2016 & 2019

Degree/Major B.S & M.A. Ed.

Current Occupation: What is your job title?

Special Education Coach (Student Support Coach)

Current Occupation: What organization do you work for?

Ministry of Education

The faculty member(s) who had the greatest influence on me was/were:

Dr. Oren, Dr. Bloom, Dr. Carpenter, Dr. Blair, and Dr. Dole

Share your best memory from your time at WCU:

The day when WCU's Chancellor Dr. Belcher came to the cafeteria and ate with the students!

If you could use one word to describe your experience at WCU, what would it be?

Priceless

What is something people may not know about you?

I am very shy.

Anything else you would like to share with your friends, family, colleagues and other graduates?

I had a wonderful time at the picnic that was held by the creek. All the faculty members who taught the various courses were present. WCU believes in the wholistic development of their students.



Cadene Fearon-Smith

Staff Accomplishments

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This past May, Brittany Marshall, our Student Services Specialist for Contract Programs, graduated with her M.E. in Innovation Leadership from WCU. Brittany started as a student worker in Ed Outreach and has worked her way up to her current position. We could not be prouder of Brittany and the work she has and continues to do in our division and for our students! Congratulations Brittany!

Lifelong Learning in Practice

Several Ed Outreach team members are going back to school! This is lifelong learning in practice!

Julia Duvall - earning her M.A. in Integrated Marketing Communication from UNCW

Briana Ford - earning her M.S. in Library Sciences from NC Central University

Jen Phillips - earning her Ed.D in Educational Leadership from WCU

Chelsea Pressley - earning her B.S. in Management from WCU

Lee Roddick-Brown - earning her Ed.D from Appalachian State University

Way to go ladies! We are so proud of you!



Professional Development

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This summer we welcomed Dennis Ford, Ph.D. to the Ed Outreach team as our Workforce Training and Outreach Coordinator. We want to hear from **YOU** what your needs are for professional development and workforce training. We can customize training based on your organization's needs and build a training program that works for your team. Below is the fall 2022 schedule that we have in the works and programs available for customization. Visit pdp.wcu.edu to see a full line-up of programs and feel free to contact us at 828.227.7397 for all of your training needs!

Sign up for our email list at pdp.wcu.edu or by scanning the QR code below.

Training Schedule for Fall 2022:

High Impact Leadership Certificate - Five Fridays in Sept. (2, 9, 16, 23 & 30) Can take all 5 workshops and earn a certificate or take an individual workshop as a stand-alone training. All workshops will be held from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at WCU Biltmore Park in Asheville.

Employment Law Horror Stories - End of October, information coming soon!

Tenets of Project Management - information coming soon!

Giving and Receiving Constructive Performance Feedback - information coming soon!

Professional Outdoor Industry Certificate - information coming soon!

Other programs and topics offered:

Grant Writing Certificate
Event Planning Certificate
Digital Marketing Certificate
Non-profit-focused trainings
Start-up business-focused trainings



SCAN ME:



LIFE@WesternCarolina is a lifelong education program specifically designed to provide learning opportunities to adults ages 50 and over. In this program, learners will participate in non-credit educational presentations led by current and retired WCU faculty and staff and other educators from the region.

- Membership registration is now open for the 2022-2023 membership year!
- Semester-long memberships are available.
- 2022-2023 Schedule (Cullowhee & Biltmore Park)

12 non-credit sessions will be offered each semester. Classes will meet in Cullowhee, NC on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Cordelia Camp Building. Classes will also meet at WCU's instructional site at Biltmore Park Town Square on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Members pay dues (\$110 for returning members, \$125 for new members) each academic year (fall and spring semesters, 24 sessions total).

Members may choose to attend on a semester basis for an \$80 fee per semester.

*Please note that if a member joins for the Fall-semester membership and they decide at a later time to join for the Spring-semester as well, they would need to pay \$80 for each semester.

For more information and to get an application, visit life.wcu.edu.

**LIFE@
WESTERN
CAROLINA**

Our Vision, Mission, Core Values and DEIB

Vision:

Educational Outreach will serve as the gateway for transformative learning to meet the needs of an ever-changing world.

Mission:

Educational Outreach proactively cultivates personal and professional growth through high quality courses, programs and services.

Core Values:

Advocacy

Collaboration

Flexibility

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging:

The Division of Educational Outreach at Western Carolina University champions the ideals of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) through our core values of Advocacy, Collaboration and Flexibility. We will be proactive in our approach to learn and grow from the perspective of others and continue to work on these ideals. DEIB will be a core foundation of all courses, programs and services we offer throughout the division.

EO Staff

Dr. Carolyn M. Callaghan - *Executive Director*

Bryce Ammons - *Administrative Support Associate*

Julia Duvall - *Public Communication Specialist*

Briana Ford - *Director, Military Student Services*

Dennis Ford - *Workforce Training and Outreach Coordinator*

Bobby Hensley - *Associate Director of Continuing Education*

Brittany Marshall - *Student Support Specialist for Contract Programs*

Tony Miller - *Associate Director of Distance Learning*

Jen Phillips - *Business Officer*

Chelsea Pressley - *Executive Assistant*

Lee Roddick-Brown - *Student Services Specialist for Distance Learning*