

# EO HAPPENINGS

The official newsletter of  
Western Carolina University's  
Division of Educational Outreach  
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***Serving our local, regional and global communities through education and training***

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

Dulcimer U At Home

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HRD Cadaver Dog Training returns to campus

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**NEW** Outdoor Leadership Certificate program kicking off in Spring 2021

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WCU ranked by US News and World Report for online undergraduate and graduate programs

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Learn more about LIFE@Western Carolina!

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Come join us this summer to teach a non-credit course or kids program!

[learn.wcu.edu](http://learn.wcu.edu)



## A Message from Our Executive Director

*Dr. Carolyn M. Callaghan*

Since my arrival to Western Carolina University in July 2020, I have been astonished by the power and importance of this community - especially in a pandemic. Every day, this community continues to support and inspire me to fully engage in innovative approaches and collaborations to better serve our very diverse populations.

Having spent my career in a wide variety of higher education institutions working with what many refer to as "non-traditional" students, awareness and advocacy for what these students need in a degree or certificate program has been a high priority in strategic direction. The pandemic effect on the economy necessitates a commitment to lifelong learning and entrepreneurial opportunities in the chaotic world we find ourselves living in.

Educational Outreach serves a student body from Pre K-12 to traditional university students to adult students. We consider ourselves the Division of Opportunity, whether you are just learning to swim for the first time, want to get a certificate to boost your chances of getting that promotion or are interested in taking a dulcimer class to sharpen your skills, we offer something for everyone.

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**\*\*NEW\*\***

**PROFESSIONAL OUTDOOR INDUSTRY CERTIFICATE**

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# MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTINUED.....

Our overwhelming focus is on the adult student with the mission to provide post-university experiences for an ever-changing workplace. The blending of higher education and continuing education is a next-generational mind shift. This focus on lifelong learning strengthens the relationship between higher education and the needs of industry for training and services.

The assumptions of the concept of lifelong/ lifetime learning or the 60-year curriculum imagines the following:

- Continuous learning is an endless endeavor. We never stop learning.
- Retooling, upskilling, and competency acquisition throughout multiple occupational and personal shifts is the norm. More and more organizations are looking for potential employees with transferable skills and professional certificates.
- Influences of data-driven decisions, digital tool advancements, increasing globalization and artificial intelligence shape the world. Technology is ever-changing and we must evolve with it!
- Workforce demands are ever evolving, the employee/employer must embrace flexibility, adaptation, and creative innovation.

These assumptions demand new paradigms and models for lifelong commitment to lifetime education. We are always interested in new ideas! Let your passion or area of expertise become a new Educational Outreach partnership.

If you are interested in learning more about Educational Outreach or talking about a possible collaboration or partnership, please contact me or a staff member.

I look forward to the exciting year ahead and continuing our mission of extending access to our communities – locally, regionally, and globally, through innovative courses, programs and services that will help them achieve their personal and professional goals.

Sincerely,  
*Dr. Carolyn M. Callaghan*



# DULCIMER U AT HOME



Greetings Dulcimer Players!

We're happy to report that Dulcimer U is alive and well!

Although there is still much uncertainty about in-person gatherings this year, we are excited to announce that, throughout the Spring, we'll be bringing some of our great Dulcimer U programs direct to your living room with our new DULCIMER U: AT HOME series.

Visit [dulcimeru.wcu.edu](http://dulcimeru.wcu.edu) for more information and to register for upcoming workshops!

## About Dulcimer U:

Dulcimer U continues its long-standing tradition of giving students the absolute best educational experience available for the mountain dulcimer. Unlike many festivals around the country, Dulcimer U is not about the performers, it's about you....the student.

Through our expanding offerings, we will provide a first class instructional staff, many of which have earned advanced degrees in their various educational fields. Their experience as both classroom instructors as well as nationally sought after performers make them the very best at what they do.

Skill building will continue to be at the core of our programs, but we'll also be focusing on music theory, techniques, history and even technology applications for the dulcimer. Universities are known for advancing the body of knowledge in a particular field, so we'll also be focusing on innovation and what the future holds for this versatile instrument.



# HRD CADAVER DOG TRAINING RETURNS TO CAMPUS



We're BACK to it! Due to Covid 19 and associated restrictions, offering face-to-face courses has been limited at the university; however, we are happy to announce that our Human Remains Detection K9 Program is back at it! Thanks to the many cadaver donors who have given their remains in the name of science to Western Carolina University, the craft of training human remains detection dogs is possible.

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Our Cadaver Dog Training Workshops are held on the campus in Cullowhee, North Carolina. The workshops are offered in cooperation with the Forensic Osteology Research Station and the Emergency and Disaster Management Program at WCU.

These land-based workshops allow participants to work search areas including grassy fields, mountainous terrain, urban environments, buildings, and vehicles. Participants will have the opportunity to work a wide range of source materials; including the ability to expose their dogs to full body decomposition in the Forensic Osteology Research Station (FOREST).

For more information about the program, visit [hrddog.wcu.edu](http://hrddog.wcu.edu).

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## EO STAFF SPOTLIGHT

*Briana Ford, Director of Military Student Services.*

Briana has been in this role since 2013 and with WCU since 2007 in various roles. She has a close connection to the military, her father served in the US Army during Vietnam, she was married to a marine, and her son is currently serving in the Air Force.

Briana has earned several degrees from WCU. She has a B.A. in English Literature, a B.S. in Psychology, and a Master's Degree in Project Management. Briana is an honorary member of the WCU Student Veteran Association, a graduate of Leadership Asheville (33), and the chair of the WCU Military Advisory Council.

She has served on the board of the WNC Veterans Council since 2014 and as the co-chair of the planning committee of NC Strive-Western Region since 2016. Briana is also the current president of the Southeastern Council on Military Education. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, playing video games, and reading.



# PROFESSIONAL OUTDOOR INDUSTRY CERTIFICATE

***Build a career with purpose!***

Two Tracks: Leadership **OR**  
Small Business/Entrepreneurship

Finish in less than a year!

5 core courses and 3 electives

\$119 per workshop or \$825 for full certificate (20 percent discount!)



To help usher in a new era of growth and success in the outdoor recreation industry, WCU is launching an innovative Professional Outdoor Industry Certificate program with two tracks that offer core workshops in either Small Business and Entrepreneurship or Leadership and Management. The program will provide skills and knowledge to students and learners from a variety of backgrounds who are interested in the outdoor industry, economic development, and the public lands and natural resources policy sectors.

WCU is widely recognized as the Southeast's premier outdoor recreation and adventure university. We are leveraging and combining our academic excellence and experience in professional education with our outstanding and innovative outdoor-focused curriculum and deep connection to the nation's burgeoning outdoor recreation economy to offer this affordable, dynamic, and flexible professional outdoor certificate. When you work in the outdoors, you're getting paid to do what you love, but you're also making outdoor recreation more welcoming and accessible to everyone.

The certificate program provides participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to grow their businesses, sharpen their leadership skills, design and develop unique outdoor products, and shape the future of the Outdoor Industry for years to come.

## **WCU's program is unique as it offers:**

- Live online instruction from subject matter experts
- A pay as you go option, or you save 20% by enrolling in the full certificate
- An a-la-carte format offering flexibility in scheduling
- No prerequisite requirements to enroll
- Networking opportunities with Outdoor Industry professionals
- Customizable electives to enhance your individual certificate
- General CEUs or Contact Hours upon completion of each workshop

For questions, email our associate director of professional development, Jill Thompson, at [jthompson@wcu.edu](mailto:jthompson@wcu.edu).

For more information about the certificate program, visit [learn.wcu.edu/outdoor-certificate](https://learn.wcu.edu/outdoor-certificate).

# WCU RANKED BY US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT FOR ONLINE PROGRAMS (ARTICLE FROM WCU.EDU)

*Written by WCU's Geoff Cantrell*

Western Carolina University has been ranked among the top providers of online programs by U.S. News & World Report in numerous categories for 2021.

In its evaluation of undergraduate and graduate online programs offered by higher education institutions across the country, the magazine placed WCU at 27th for online bachelor's degree business programs and 32nd for veterans seeking online graduate degrees in business.

"As a university that is committed to meeting the educational needs of the region, it is important that WCU extend educational opportunities beyond the campus," said Carolyn M. Callaghan, executive director of educational outreach at the university. "Online programs provide a quality education to busy adults who cannot make it to campus to complete their degrees. And NC Promise has also made completing a degree more affordable.

The average in-state transfer student can complete their undergraduate degree for less than \$4,000." Other rankings included 164th for online bachelor's degree programs overall, 76th for online graduate business programs. WCU distance and online programs are designed to fit into individual schedules and lifestyles, and are consistently ranked as some of the best and most affordable programs in the nation.

Online bachelor's degree programs are offered in birth-kindergarten education, criminal justice, emergency and disaster management, emergency medical care, engineering technology, business administration and law, and innovation leadership and entrepreneurship, plus a program allowing registered nurses to earn their bachelor's degree in nursing.

Master's degree programs provided online by the university are construction management, entrepreneurship, health sciences, human resources, special education, nurse educator, nurse administration, project management, school administration, and elementary and middle grades education.

"WCU has been committed to providing high quality degrees and support to our distance students," Callaghan said. "Our most recent survey of undergraduate online students shows WCU meets and exceeds the expectation of students for both value of their degree and the quality of their instruction and student support."

U.S. News & World Report assessed schools based on four general, weighted categories for online programs: student engagement (35 percent); student services and technology (25 percent); faculty credentials and training (20 percent); and peer reputation (20 percent). WCU's online programs have continually been ranked among the highest by U.S. News & World Report, now in the 10th year of collecting data from distance education providers.

More information is available at [distance.wcu.edu](https://distance.wcu.edu) or 828-227-7397.

# LIFE@WESTERN CAROLINA



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.

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. 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.\*\*

\*\*For the safety of our members, ALL spring 2021 sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 10am-12pm online via Zoom.

## Annual Membership:

- 24 sessions (1 per week, 12 per semester, 2 semesters) Included in the 24 sessions are a holiday reception and an annual luncheon
- Borrowing privileges at WCU's Hunter Library
- Parking in Cullowhee and Biltmore Park

## Semester-Long Membership:

- Fall-Semester membership\* – 12 sessions between September – December; includes Holiday Reception
- Spring-Semester membership\* – 12 sessions between January – April; includes Annual Luncheon
- Borrowing privileges at WCU's Hunter Library
- Parking in Cullowhee and Biltmore Park

## Interested in becoming a LIFE@ Speaker?

Would you like to speak to our LIFE@ members about your area of expertise? A beloved hobby? Email [life@wcu.edu](mailto:life@wcu.edu) or call 828.227.7397 for more information.

Visit [life.wcu.edu](http://life.wcu.edu) or call 828.227.7397 for more information and to start your membership!

# INTERESTED IN SHARING YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH A BROADER COMMUNITY?



The Division of Educational Outreach's Office of Professional Growth and Enrichment invites you to share your expertise and passion by offering a non-credit short course or kids camp.

Educational Outreach serves the local, regional and nation-wide community. Our participants range in age from 6 months old to seniors and come from all backgrounds and educational levels.

Our non-credit and professional development offerings are engaging and enriching.

Our youth programs directly nurture interest in WCU and its programs and helps get kids excited about our university. We are always looking for new ideas and new instructors!

Here are some of the benefits of working with Educational Outreach:

- Teach what you love
- Earn extra compensation
- Opportunity for community engagement
- Profit sharing options for your department
- Flexible dates, times and program durations
- Flexible formats -- Online, On-campus or in Asheville
- Offering does not have to be in your primary academic discipline

## EO Staff

Dr. Carolyn Callaghan - Executive Director

Jim Craig - WCU Regional Coordinator at Western Piedmont Community College

Julia Duvall - Public Communication Specialist

Briana Ford - Director, Military Student Services

Bobby Hensley - Associate Director of Continuing Education

Brittany Marshall - Administrative Support

Tony Miller - Associate Director of Distance Learning

Catharina Nickel - Student Services Specialist for Contract Programs

Jen Phillips - Budget Officer

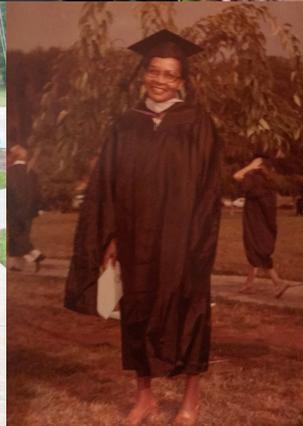
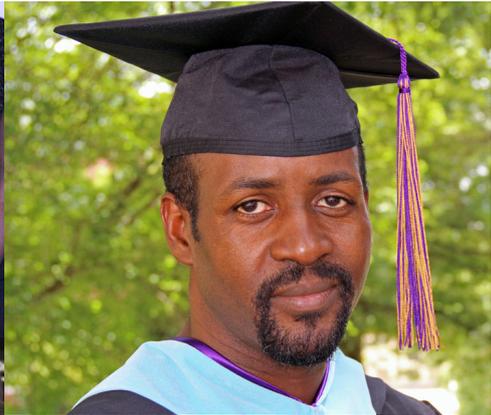
Chelsea Pressley - Administrative Support

Lee Roddick-Brown - Student Services Specialist for Distance Learning

Julia Smith - Executive Assistant

Jill Thompson - Associate Director of Professional Development

# SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR JAMAICA PROGRAM



# WORDS TO DESCRIBE EO

The team of Educational Outreach recently completed a retreat activity where we came up with words or phrases to describe what we do in EO. Take a look at the WordCloud we came up with! Of course it is in the shape of a cat paw. Go Cats!

