

Mr. James David Kiser, 42, died peacefully at his home on Monday, April 13, 2020, surrounded by his loving family. Due to public gathering restrictions issued by the State of North Carolina funeral services will be private. David was born February 13, 1978, a son of James W. "Jimmy" Kiser, Jr. and Mary Flake Kiser. He graduated from N.C. State University in 2000 and was a dedicated Wolfpacker. He was employed with Claybourn Walters Logging Company, and was a member of Brown Creek Baptist Church. Survivors include his wife of 15 years and love of his life, Mary Beth Eaton Kiser of the home; two precious children, Dylan Kiser (age 12) and Megan Kiser (age 9); his parents, Jimmy and Mary Kiser of Wadesboro; his sister Holly Hammonds and her husband Mark and their two children, Lily and Henly; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Jimmy and Sue Eaton of Monroe; his brother-in-law Roger Eaton and his wife Lisa and their two children, Jimmy (Mili) Eaton and Colin Eaton. David was an avid hunter and fisherman. He spent much of his spare time either hunting or fishing with his children. He loved nothing more than preparing for the upcoming season. The following narrative expresses David's feelings about hunting and his family wishes to share it with you. "And on the 9th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, 'Now that I have a caretaker, I need a protector, so God made a hunter. He needed someone who would have a steady hand, and a keen eye. A person who would be willing to trade long hours in the cold to provide for his family. They would have respect for the animals, the land, and would teach youngsters the same. So God made a hunter!'" In keeping with David's wishes, memorials may be made to Hands of a Sportsman (www.handsofasportsman.org), a group dedicated to the mission of providing individuals with challenges, which may be physical, emotional, financial, or circumstantial, the opportunity to participate and enjoy the sport of hunting. Leavitt Funeral Home is serving the Kiser Family. Online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

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Wingate, SPCC Continue to Work Together to Break Down Barriers for Students

Wingate University and South Piedmont Community College officials announced a new scholarship program last summer and promised to continue working together to break down educational barriers. Now, they've signed four more agreements aimed at increasing access to baccalaureate-degree programs, providing students with a seamless transfer pathway and improving retention and graduation rates at both schools.

"According to My Future NC, our state needs 2 million residents with high-quality credentials or post-secondary degrees by 2030, and unless universities and community colleges work together, we'll miss the mark," said Wingate President Dr. Rhett Brown. "We're so grateful to have South Piedmont as a partner as we try to make degrees more doable."

He said the agreements are especially significant in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, which may leave local students who had initially considered traveling out-of-state for college looking for opportunities closer to home.

South Piedmont President Dr. Maria Pharr reiterated Dr. Brown's sentiments and added, "The partnership between South Piedmont Community College and Wingate University provides a unique and transformational opportunity to advance educational attainment and economic mobility through seamless and progressive credential completion for our students. Crafting this partnership has highlighted the fact that great things happen when true collaboration and student centeredness stay at the heart of our thinking. We are honored and excited to partner with Wingate University on this novel and contemporary approach to higher education."

Brown and Pharr have put their seals of approval on the following:

- **Road2Wingate Agreement:** Open to students enrolled in Early College or Career and College Promise or those in the first semester of community college enrollment, Road2Wingate ensures that students complete a College Transfer Success seminar at South Piedmont and take part in academic advising sessions with representatives from both schools. Once they complete an associate degree with a GPA of at least 2.5, their admission to Wingate is guaranteed. Road2Wingate students can use Wingate's library and attend athletic events free of charge. Upon graduation from South Piedmont they will be eligible for the Gateway to Wingate Scholarship, which caps tuition cost at \$2,500 per year.

- **Articulation Agreement: AA/AS Degree in Early Childhood Education/Practitioner Pathway to Bachelor of Liberal Studies in Education Studies/Language and Literacy Concentration (K-6).** Students with an associate degree can transfer 59 semester credit hours from South Piedmont to Wingate and take 61 more at the University to earn their BLS.

- **Articulation Agreement: Psychology AA/AS to BA/BS.** Students with an associate's degree in psychology can transfer 60 to 62 credit hours from South Piedmont to Wingate and take 64 to 68 more to earn their bachelor's in one of Wingate's most popular and versatile majors.

- **Memorandum of Understanding between Wingate University and South Piedmont Community College for University Honors:** This allows students who make at least a B on honors courses at South Piedmont and have a GPA of 3.4 or higher to apply up to 6 credit hours toward Wingate University honors requirements.

Dr. Travis Teague, who leads the University's Office of External Academic Partnerships, said the new agreements will streamline the transfer process while maintaining the rigor and integrity of the University's programs. He said the partnership will not only encourage and motivate students to complete their associate degrees at the community college, but it will also give them a great start at Wingate. "It's a win-win situation for South Piedmont and Wingate, but most importantly, it's a win for the students," Teague added.

The agreements that Pharr and Brown have signed may also serve as a playbook for similar partnerships between institutions in other parts of the U.S. since Wingate and South Piedmont are part of a Council of Independent Colleges pilot program to make it easier for students to pursue liberal arts degrees at independent colleges.

"We know that community college students can enhance their prospects for successful and timely completion of bachelor's degrees at private colleges, and we also know that CIC colleges and universities can benefit tremendously by increasing the number of well-prepared community college transfer students," CIC President Richard Ekman said in announcing the grant.

Already two dozen local students, including business management major Dillon Hill, have taken advantage of the Gateway to Wingate Scholarship program since its inception late last summer.

"The reason I decided to continue my education past my associate's degree is because I feel like in today's world you need to have many factors to stand out. Higher-paying jobs don't just recommend bachelor's degrees, they normally require them and sometimes more," Hill said. "My mom always told me that lack of education should never be the reason why you didn't get a promotion that you want."

Hill heard about the Gateway Scholarship from Dr. Pharr and has found it very helpful. After he graduates next year, he plans to find a job in human resources and pursue his MBA via Wingate's evening classes.

A comprehensive, independent and growing university, Wingate offers 35 undergraduate majors as well as graduate and professional programs. Wingate is home to the Cannon College of Arts and Sciences; the Levine College of Health Sciences; the Byrum School of Business; and the College of Professional Studies, which includes the Thayer School of Education and the School of Sport Sciences.

Learn more at www.wingate.edu.

South Piedmont Community College is a two-year college offering certificates, diplomas, and associate's degrees to residents in Anson and Union counties. They offer small class sizes with flexible scheduling options geared toward student success.

Learn more at www.spcc.edu.

Meals are Ongoing for Anson County Students

Anson County Schools issued this statement on Sunday, April 19: This is a reminder that lunch may be picked up Monday through Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Wadesboro Elementary School. Breakfast for the following day will be provided with the lunch. Meals for several days will be provided on Thursday of each week.

Meal plans may be adjusted based on communications from government officials.

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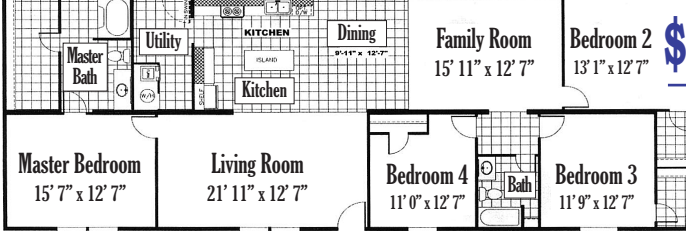
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Peanut butter	Canned Green Beans
TV Dinners - Meals in a Box	Canned Corn
Canned foods with pop-top lids	Canned Beans
Apple Sauce	Raman Noodles
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Pudding Cups and Jello	Crackers
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