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**GRADUATION ISSUE! ENJOY OUR GRADUATION 2011 SUPPLEMENT AND MANY GRADUATION PHOTOS THROUGHOUT THIS EDITION.**

## SPCC Recognized as Exceptional Institution in North Carolina

South Piedmont Community College has been recognized as one of the top 12 performing institutions within the North Carolina Community College System.

The Critical Success Factors Report for 2011 recognized SPCC for Exceptional Institutional Performance (EIP). To achieve this recognition, the college had to meet or exceed all eight performance measures and have no licensure exam with a passing rate of less than 70 percent. To get the exceptional rating, SPCC's college transfer students had to perform as well as or better than University of North Carolina system students who began their college studies at a UNC institution.

SPCC showed one of the highest rates of progress among Basic Skills students in the state with 94 percent of 2,708 students completing a level, showing progress within a level or meeting a predetermined goal. The state standard is 75 percent. Basic Skills programs are General Educational Development (GED), Adult High School, Adult Basic Education, English for Speakers of Other Languages and Compensatory Education.

Eighty-six percent of SPCC students passed state examinations required for professional licensure or certification on the first attempt. The state standard is 80 percent. SPCC had no exam with a passing rate of less than 70 percent, a requirement for EIP recognition.

Ninety percent of SPCC students who transferred to a UNC institution had a grade point average greater than 2.0 after two semesters of study. The state standard is 83 percent.

Seventy-seven percent of SPCC students who enrolled in developmental courses in English, reading or math during the 2009-2010 school year completed the courses with a grade of C or better. The state standard is 75 percent. When students who had completed developmental courses went on to take college-level English or math courses at SPCC, 84 percent earned a grade of D or better. The state standard is 80 percent.

Ninety percent of SPCC students who completed their program of study or left the college reported they were very satisfied or satisfied with the overall quality of the college. The state standard is 90 percent.

Sixty-seven percent of SPCC students enrolled in the 2009 fall semester seeking a credential had graduated, remained enrolled at SPCC or transferred to a university or another community college one year later. The state standard is 65 percent.

SPCC reported a 94 percent satisfaction rate among clients receiving specialized training and services through Customized Training and Small Business Centers. The state standard is 90 percent.

The eight standards used to evaluate the state's 58 community colleges are:

- 1) Progress of Basic Skills students
- 2) Passing rates on licensure and certification exams
- 3) Performance of college-transfer students
- 4) Passing rates of students in developmental courses
- 5) Success rates of developmental students in subsequent college-level courses
- 6) Satisfaction of program completers and non-completers
- 7) Curriculum student retention, graduation and transfer
- 8) Client satisfaction with customized training

You can find the full report on the NC Community Colleges Website at [www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/Publications/docs/Publications/csf2011.pdf](http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/Publications/docs/Publications/csf2011.pdf).

## Ag Expo & Fair Set for September 23-24

Mark your calendars for this year's annual Anson Ag Expo & Fair. Slated for this fall, the 2011 Anson Ag Expo and Fair Planning Committee is gearing up for events to promote agriculture and natural resources, and their economic importance to Anson County. This year's festivities will be held Friday and Saturday, September 23-24 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center of SPCC in Wadesboro. This fall plan to visit the fair exhibits on display both Friday night and Saturday in the Ingram Room.

The event promises an array of activities and fun, along with some new attractions.

Friday's offerings will begin at 6 p.m. with the annual Ag Fair being exhibited in the Ingram Room and the Youth Livestock Show in the parking area.

Saturday will feature those same events continuing at 9 a.m., with the addition of the South Atlantic Woodsmen's Association lumberjack sports competition in the afternoon. All events are free to the public.

Be on the lookout for more information to come, including time schedules, children's activities, and much more. Come out and join the fun. Celebrate agriculture in Anson.

## Farm Service Agency Committee Nominations Begin June 15

Anson County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Acting Executive Director Tina Atkins reminds Anson County farmers and producers that local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee nominations begin on Wednesday, June 15. Farmers and producers are urged to participate in County Committee elections by nominating candidates by the August 1 deadline. This County Committee is vital to the Anson County farm community, providing a voice to landowners, farmers and producers to USDA.

To serve on the FSA Anson County Committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in an Anson County Committee election, and reside in the administrative area in which the person is a candidate.

Anson County farmers and producers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and women may also nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign the nomination form, FSA-669A. The form and other information about the Anson FSA County Committee elections are available online at [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections). Nomination forms for the 2011 election must be postmarked or received in the Anson County USDA Service Center by close of business on August 1. Elections take place this fall.

The FSA Anson County Committee do not approve or deny loans, they make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Committees consist of three to 11 members that are elected by eligible producers.

FSA will mail ballots to eligible voters beginning November 4. The voted ballots are due to the Anson County office by mail or in person by December 5. Newly elected Anson County Committee members and alternates take office on January 2, 2012. Contact the Anson County FSA office at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro or call 704-694-3516, extension 2, for more information.

## HOLLA! Relay Dance is Friday

HOLLA! is sponsoring a relay dance in the small gym at Anson High School for the youth on Friday, June 17 from 7 to 11 p.m. The admission fee is \$5.

## Anson County Graduates, "They Began Together and Should End Together."



Four schools together for graduation. Pictured here are graduates from Anson Academy in white, Anson County Early College in royal blue, Anson New Tech High School in red and black, and Anson High School in navy blue.

2011 will be a year to remember in regard to commencement exercises held on Saturday, June 11. For the first time all Anson County graduates came together as one to receive their much-anticipated diplomas. Including Anson Academy, Anson County Early College, Anson High School and Anson New Technology School, 277 diplomas were presented by school principals, Mr. Preston Waddell, Mrs. Deborah Davis, Mr. Chad Murphy and Mr. Chris Stinson.



Anson High School Valedictorian, Heather Lemmons, and Salutatorian, Nick Ingold.

Superintendent Dr. Greg Firm explained, "The decision to hold a single commencement was made last summer. We believed with Anson New Tech's inaugural graduation class and the need to award high school diplomas to Early College graduates who did not earn an Associates degree, now would be the perfect time to unite the schools through commencement."

"The significance was that irrespective of what school or program students attended, they began together and should end together. We also wanted to highlight the "all means all" message with respect to graduating from Anson County Schools. It takes the entire county, each town, our churches, our businesses, etc. to successfully graduate our students," continued Firm.

*Pomp and Circumstance* rang through the double-sided crowd of onlookers and a feeling of pride and joy seemed to resonate through the stadium where graduates marched in from each direction, while forming an eventual circle. The circle, a symbol of inclusion, wholeness, unity, completion, seemed appropriate, as the graduates from all schools, who began their journeys together, separated for a while, eventually circled around and became whole, complete and unified to end this phase of their lives together once more.

Valedictorians from each school spoke words as they relayed the "All Means All," message and came together with an emphatic ending, "We are Anson!" Strong words were stirred in to the days speeches to add purpose and guidance for what now lies ahead for these young men and women, ready to embark on the world of work, school or service. Calculating those words heard most often, I would like to share the list with hopes that each graduate listened and will go into the world with these words in their forethoughts. "Dream, bravery, soar, reach, perseverance, determination, courage, motivation and responsibility, sounds like a recipe for achieving success and, in turn, a great life.

Heed the word of your Valedictorians, Amy Pope, Heather Lemmons and LaTonya Liles as they prompt you to become the best person possible. Give of yourselves and care for others, become good community servants, prosper in your work, in your further education or whatever path you choose to follow. Life lies only in your hands so make good decisions and make those decisions count.

Do these good things and your life will be a worthwhile life with purpose, happiness, pride, joy and success. Good luck to each of you and may God bless you on your new path toward all things great.

Photos and story by Melanie Lyon



Also new this year was the stage presentation and positioning of graduates on the football field. This was done to better accommodate the participation of all four high schools.

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