

WHAT'S UP IN ADULT EDUCATION

GUILFORD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Volume XVIII, Summer 2019

Contributors: Lottie Neal, Zeledith Blakely, Claire Ricci, Carolyn Bynum, Natasha Ford

Contributing Editor & Design: Diane Hankins

Inside This Issue

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 2019 Graduation | 1 |
| New TABE Tests | 1 |
| Giving Back to the Community | 2 |
| It's Never too Late | 2 |
| POWER Pathways Graduation | 2 |

IMPORTANT REMINDER

All TABE 9/10 and CASAS scores from 2018-2019 are now expired for ABE, ASE, and POWER students as of July 1, per the National Reporting System. All new and continuing students must now be tested on TABE 11/12 for ABE/ASE and CASAS Reading and Math Goals for POWER students. Please help our testing team ensure that all continuing students receive a placement on these new tests as soon as possible. These new tests are better aligned with the current High School Equivalency assessments, GED, HiSET, and TASC. The CASAS test for ESOL students is not affected by this change.

2019 GRADUATION

Adult Education celebrated the graduation of 241 Adult High School and High School Equivalency students at the High Point Theatre on June 18, 2019. Student speaker Ernest Milliner shared his 40 year journey from addiction to GED graduate and minister in an inspiring speech about the importance of education and persevering in the face of adversity.

In addition to GED and Adult High School, Adult Ed offers free citizenship classes to prepare eligible legal permanent residents for the U.S. naturalization process. In order to obtain citizenship, students must pass a written test and face-to-face interview process. Several students were presented with certificates to honor the completion of this process during the graduation ceremony.

Guest speaker Staff Sergeant James Pulliam, who was once a student in GTCC's Adult High School program, shared his experience as a recruiter and licensed aviation mechanic with a number of commendations for his service in the US Army. Pulliam has recently been promoted to Station Commander and is on track to become the first in his family to receive his bachelor's degree.

This was the last GTCC graduation for President Randy Parker, who is retiring after 40 years of service in the North Carolina Community College System as of July 31, 2019. Dr. Parker is a NC Community College graduate who served for 8 years as President of GTCC.

In addition to the graduation ceremony, more than 20 departments from continuing education and curriculum programs across the college participated in a fair for graduates and their guests at the Theatre to discuss options for post-secondary education at GTCC. Representatives from NC Works were also in attendance to provide information about employment opportunities.

Congratulations to our students and to the members of the Graduation Committee on a very successful event!

Giving Back to the Community

To support a few of the resources our students use, enabling them to persist in our programs, several staff went into the community this past spring.

Pictured below, Carolyn Bynum, ABE/ASE Coordinator, and Zeledith Blakely, Associate Dean of Adult Education, volunteered to help prepare and serve dinner to the clients of Open Door Ministries in High Point, NC. "This was a rewarding experience, and it felt good to know we were helping those in need," said Blakely. Open Door Ministries is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people regain their lives through supportive services and emergency assistance. Programs and services include a homeless shelter, serving daily meals (open to the public), distributing non-perishable and fresh food, obtaining permanent housing and acquiring and maintaining permanent jobs.

Additionally, staff attended the 'Empty Bowls' fundraiser to support the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina. Second Harvest partners with 18 counties, including Guilford, to promote healthy and hunger-free communities by offering educational programming, food and nutrition outreach services, and tools for family advocacy.

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. - C. S. Lewis

Student Proves it's Never too Late

At 85 years young, Willie Mae Alston proves you're never too old to start learning.

Alston's favorite saying is "Age is nothing but a number." She adds, "I may not be able to find the right syllables all the time, but that's alright because I have had some really good teachers that were interested in me reaching my goal and helping me." According to Alston, her highest aspiration is to get her GED, and her greatest achievement has been raising her children to be good, honest citizens.

After her husband passed away and the children were gone, Alston had a lot of time on her hands. She enrolled in ABE classes at GTCC fulfilling the promise she made to herself to complete her education. She attributes her work ethic and perseverance to having faith in doing and being anything you want to be.

POWER Pathways Graduation

POWER Pathways experienced its first graduating class this spring. Students were enthusiastic on graduation day as they had the unique opportunity to display and share their culinary creations with family, friends and teachers.

Fifteen students graduated with ceremonies taking place on both the High Point and Greensboro campuses. Eleven students earned their *ServSafe* Certifications which is a nationally recognized food service credential.

Students also had the honor of receiving personalized chef coats giving them a sense of pride and accomplishment. A number of graduates have found employment in the food industry in entry level prep cook and assistant capacities. The program is gearing up for the Fall semester which begins September 9, and will run for 13 weeks.