

# Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College (A-B Tech)

# Policy Manual

## Policy 105: History

The Asheville-Buncombe Industrial Education Center, later to become Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute, was made possible by a bond election in 1959 designating $300,000 for site development and construction of buildings. Two modern buildings, providing 30,000 square feet of floor space, were constructed on a twenty-acre tract of land on Victoria Road owned by the Asheville City Board of Education.

During its first four years of existence the Center operated under the administration of the Asheville City Board of Education. Floyd P. Gehres was the original director, serving until October 1960, when he resigned to accept a teaching position and was replaced by Thomas W. Simpson.

Many organizations and individuals were instrumental in events leading to the establishment of the Center, and the first executive advisory committee was composed of persons whose leadership in this respect had been outstanding. The members of the first advisory committee were: L. F. Zerfoss, Director of Industrial Relations at American Enka Corporation, Chairman; John M. Barnes, Manager of Personnel Services at Champion Paper; Coke Candler, Chairman of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners; J. Gerald Cowan, Wachovia Bank and Trust Company; E. C. Funderburk, Superintendent of Asheville City Schools; and T. C. Roberson, Superintendent of Buncombe County Schools.

Construction of the first two buildings was completed during the summer of 1961 and classes started in September of that year. Up until this time certain classes, largely of a short-term nature, were being conducted in temporary quarters.

Acceptance of the program by industry, trainees and the general public was outstanding from the outset, and numerous short courses continued to be conducted in addition to the curriculum classes. At the end of the **1961-1962** school year a total of 107 classes, with an enrollment of 2,046, had been completed.

Enrollment in all phases of the Center program continued to increase during the second year of operation. Several new areas of instruction were added, demand for short term and upgrading courses continued, and the Area Redevelopment and Manpower Development and Training Acts added to the total scope of the operation. The Center facilities were completely filled, and it became necessary to provide meeting areas away from the Center for many classes. During this year a total of 236 classes, enrolling 4,728 students, were conducted. The first graduating class of 84 was composed of five technology and 79 trade students.

With enrollment of students for the **1962-1963** school year, it became apparent that existing facilities would not be adequate to meet training needs of the Center’s geographical area and allow for future expansion. In an effort to provide for these needs, plans for a third building supplying approximately 20,000 square feet of floor space were developed, and application was made to the State Literacy Fund for a loan to finance the proposed construction. On February 7, 1963, the State Board of Education approved a loan of $200,000 for this purpose. This building, completed and occupied during September 1964, was designed to provide five classrooms and five major instructional areas.

Legislation was enacted during the 1963 session of the North Carolina General Assembly, which provided for the transfer of administration of industrial education centers to the State Department of Community Colleges. This change became effective July 1, 1963, and since this date the Center has been operated under jurisdiction of a local Board of Trustees. Members of the first Board of Trustees were: L. F. Zerfoss, J. Gerald Cowan, Joseph Belton, Coke Candler, Herbert Coman, W. W. Shope, John M. Reynolds, John M. Barnes, Ernest Mills, W. B. Dillard, Paul W. Markwood, and John Giezentanner.

Additional curriculum areas were added to the Center program for the **1963-1964** school year; the majority of courses offered during the day were expanded to offer one section on a full-time (six hours per day) basis. With the inauguration of these additions all available space at the Center (day and evening) was completely filled by pre-employment curriculums, making it necessary to house all other programs at facilities away from the Center. At the same time demand for training in locations throughout the 15 county area served by the Center continued to increase. As of December 31, 1964, enrollment for the year indicated an increase of over 25 percent in hours of instruction as compared with the previous year.

Concurrent with the legislation providing for transfer of administrative functions, the General Assembly of 1963 also made provision for conversion of industrial education centers to technical institute status. The Board of Trustees of the Asheville Center made a request for conversion to such status and tentative approval for this change was given by the State Board of Education on October 3, 1963. Upon completion of evaluative procedure, final approval was received and on January 8, 1964, the Asheville-Buncombe Industrial Education Center was officially designated as Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute. With the change from Industrial Education Center to Technical Institute, Associate in Applied Science degrees were awarded for the first time in August 1964.

The Institute experienced a third very successful year during 1963-64, completing the year with a total enrollment of 5,195 and a graduating class of 135 (22 technical, 113 trade students). A marked increase occurred in applications for enrollment in the technical preparatory curriculums, and for the first time the Institute was forced to refuse admission to qualified students in some areas.

The transfer of administrative jurisdiction from the Asheville City Board of Education to the local Board of Trustees also made necessary the transfer of title to buildings and site. The Board of Education was most generous in the regard, transferring title to the buildings and 19.37 of the original 20-acre tract to the local Board of Trustees. This transaction was completed on June 9, 1964.

During 1963-64 three extension units of the Asheville Institute were approved. These units, located at Sylva, Marion, and Murphy, were scheduled to operate for a year or more under general supervision of the parent institute, after which they might attain independent status. None of the units became operational to the extent of enrolling full-time students during this year.

The role of the Institute continued to expand during the year **1964-1965**. Enrollment at the parent institution reached a total of 6,009 in all programs, and further growth was registered in practically all full-time curriculum areas. It was again necessary to refuse admission to some qualified applicants. The class of 1965 totaled 142 with 22 from the technical areas and 120 from trade.

The Jackson County and Marion-McDowell extension units enrolled their first full-time students, and the Tri-County Unit (located in Murphy) conducted numerous extension classes. A fourth unit (located in Haywood County) was approved but did not become operational until August 1965.

At the beginning of the **1965-1966** school year pressure for enrollment was such that every effort was made to provide for acceptance of a larger number of students. Additional space to house the Business Administration and Executive Secretarial programs was obtained by leasing Biltmore High School. Also, every effort was made to more efficiently utilize existing Institute facilities. Students were scheduled for classes as early as 8:00 a.m. and as late as 5:00 p.m. Some classes met on Friday evenings and others until 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays. With these changes some increase in enrollment was possible. This graduating class boasted 46 technical students and 143 trade students to total 189. Edwin Gill, NC State Treasurer, delivered the commencement address.

It was during the 1965-66 school year that approval was granted for a fourth building to house a unique hotel-motel training program and correct inadequacies in existing facilities. The $712,000 structure was financed jointly by state funds, Vocational Act monies, and support from the Appalachian Act.

At the beginning of the **1966-1967** school year, curriculum student enrollment was over 700. Eight new instructors were employed to enhance the diversity and qualifications of the staff and add the Civil Technology curriculum. With the maximum utilization of facilities and staff developed from previous years, the only possible major increases in enrollment were in the areas of extension and general adult education. Bids for the fourth building were awarded in October; completion and occupancy were scheduled for fall 1967. The graduates this year totaled 196 with 90 representing the technical programs and 106 from trade curriculums. Roy Taylor, 11th District Congressmen, delivered the commencement address.

Other notable events during this school year included the visit by members of the Appalachian Regional Commission on October 12 to formally break ground for the fourth building and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson’s visit to tour adult basic education courses on March 14.

The opening of the school for the **1967-1968** year was delayed until October 2. The unusual rainfall during much of the summer threw construction of the 41,000 square foot hotel-motel-classroom complex behind schedule. Since the Biltmore High School facility had been vacated and equipment stored in campus classrooms, no classes could be started until the new building became available. New curriculums in Industrial Engineering Technology and Hotel-Motel-Restaurant management were begun this year, but the Culinary Technology curriculum had to be postponed a year since equipment was incomplete.

It was during 1967-68 that the units began breaking away. Jackson County achieved independent status and the State Board of Education assumed the parent role with the others effective January 1, 1968.

In April 1968, months of coordinated effort culminated in a visit by an evaluating committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Interest in the report of this committee extended through the entire staff and student body. Although the written report was received in June, the decision on accreditation was not to be made until December at the annual convention of Southern Association.

A total of 203 graduates crossed the stage in August at the Institute’s commencement exercises. Seventy were awarded an Associate in Applied Science degree and 133 received state diplomas. Claude Ramsey, President of Enka Corporation, delivered the commencement address.

September 1968 marked the start of a significant year for the Institute. There was excitement in beginning a new Culinary Technology curriculum, which had received publicity in television interviews in three states as well as newspaper articles; there was gratitude and enthusiasm in opening the motel rooms for patrons with attractive new furniture donated by the manufacturers.

There was unbridled delight when funding was complete for a new administration building and a paramedical facility. However, there was disappointment, too, when Southern Association deferred accreditation – followed by renewed dedication as each one worked intensively to implement the recommendations of the visiting committee.

The architectural firm of Six Associates was selected to design the new buildings. Appalachian Regional Commission funds of $917,758, Higher Education Facilities Act funds of $195,000 and local funds of $278,190 (which includes $28,000 for purchase of Faith Cottage) was used for these projects. Construction of the administration facility was allotted $487,500 of the funds; the remaining $903,448 was designated for constructing and equipping the paramedical building.

Fall enrollment for the **1968-1969** year totaled 827 and three new faculty positions were generated by the steady increase in full-time student equivalencies. The 1969 graduating class totaled 232 (98 with associate degrees and 134 with technical diplomas). Charles Holloman, President of the Department of Community Colleges, delivered the commencement address.

The **1969-1970** school year started with a capacity enrollment and ended with 7,862 who had been involved in some phase of Institute instruction during the year. In August, 226 of these crossed the stage of Asheville High School and officially became graduates of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute. Associate in Applied Science degrees were awarded to 106 of these and 124 received technical diplomas.

The year was highlighted by accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in December and awarding of contracts for construction of the administration and paramedical buildings in the spring. Wider student involvement was assured through the addition of another counselor, increased student activities, and greater interest in sports.

**1970-1971** saw a record 1,025 new and returning students enroll in curriculum courses. At ceremonies in August, 106 were granted Associate in Applied Science degrees and 147 received diplomas.

During the year an intercollegiate sports effort was launched with the organization of a basketball team. The team, newly selected cheerleaders, a supportive student government association, and interested faculty and staff members combined to give the entire student body more opportunities for participation as well as a sense of school spirit.

Construction of the administration building was completed in late spring and staff members swiftly transferred offices to the new facility. Greater administrative efficiency and wider services were possible with this consolidation.

The **1971-1972** school year the paramedical building was completed and ready for occupancy. This tenth anniversary of the school marked the first time that its oldest curriculum, Practical Nurse Education, was housed on campus. Enrollment in dental programs was delayed until 1972-73 so that the staff might be selected, and equipment installed.

The second season of intercollegiate basketball finished with a 12-9 record. The student government association demonstrated growth and maturity in its leadership activities and the adoption of a more sophisticated constitution.

The staff, too, grew as it delved more deeply into the self-study required for reaffirmation of accreditation. More in-service opportunities were offered and consortium activities, directed by Mrs. Sara Morris, centered on surveys to determine the image of the Institute through the eyes of prospective students and the follow-up of graduates.

Two hundred ninety-five graduated in August 1972, with 160 receiving diplomas and 135 awarded the Associate in Applied Science degree.

**1972-1973** – The year of the self-study and Southern Association began with the Institute’s largest enrollment, 1,320. More space was provided for these students by leasing the Asheville Catholic High School property and negotiations for eventual purchase were begun.

In the spring the Institute hosted a visiting committee representing the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

A committee of the American Dental Association visited the dental programs in June 1973.

On August 24, 1973, the 11th commencement exercise was held and 126 received diplomas, 21 technical diplomas, and 168 A.A.S. degrees were confirmed.

During **1973-1974** the Institute purchased the Asheville Catholic High School property, adding 78 acres of land, a gymnasium, classroom building and two historical homes to the existing 28-acre campus.

The Business Education Division added new program options in Office Technology, BA-Marketing, and Data Processing Operations. The Hospitality Division demonstrated its skills by operating the Downtown City Club for a day. Students also served Governor Holshouser and guests at the Governor’s Western Residence.

In December 1973, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaffirmed the Institute’s accreditation. The American Dental Association granted full accreditation to the Dental Assistant program, while the Dental Hygiene program received provisional accreditation.

The ABTI basketball team had a very successful season, posting a 22-5 record. The team took first place in the Western Technical School Tournament and ended the season ranked sixth nationally in the National Little College Athletic Association.

The Board of Trustees authorized the formation of the AB Tech Foundation. This organization received nontax funds and donations for the purpose of fostering the Institute’s goals and image.

In an effort to assess the training needs of the Institute’s service area, approximately 40 staff members participated in the Business-Industry Community Survey.

**1974-1975** – On August 23, 1974, the Institute held its graduation ceremonies in the gymnasium, awarding degrees and diplomas to 357 students. The new school year began with a fall quarter enrollment of 1,492 students.

The Student Government Association promoted a leadership workshop for the purpose of helping students develop leadership skills. Participants contributed to the Institute’s welfare through increased involvement in Institute activities.

In August, a two-year lease was signed with the Western North Carolina Historical Association for the restoration of the Smith-McDowell House.

Working with Six Associates Architects, a master site plan was developed in conjunction with the master program developed the previous year.

The AB Tech Foundation received its first donation and the level of community support increased.

**1975-1976** – This school year began on a tragic note due to the death of Thomas Simpson, our president. President Simpson had devoted many years of outstanding leadership to our Institute and our community.

The 388 students who graduated at the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium were designated the Thomas W. Simpson class in honor of our late president.

Harvey L. Haynes, Dean of Instruction, assumed the leadership of AB Tech. Dean Haynes was appointed Acting President during an interim period in which the Trustees appointed a presidential selection committee. The selection committee ultimately selected Mr. Haynes as the Institute’s new president.

**1976-1977** – 1,662 new and returning curriculum students were registered at the beginning of the fall quarter. The Board of Trustees approved two major construction projects for the campus: a multi-story engineering technology building and a skill center. For the first time, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners approved capital reserve funds for the Institute. The Institute also received grant monies from the Buncombe County Recreational Department to construct a recreational complex. This complex will consist of six tennis courts, an outdoor basketball court, a volleyball court, and a paved jogging track.

Severe winter weather forced the Institute to close for a record number of days.

The Institute, for the third year in a row, experienced drastic budgetary cuts from the state.

Graduation this year was held in the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium. A record number of graduates, 420, received degrees and diplomas.

The fall quarter enrollment of 1,686 students was slightly higher than the previous year.

**1977-1978** – In July of 1977 the Library staff moved to new quarters in the Learning Resources Center. The new LRC, with approximately 12,000 square feet of space, has shelving capacity for 30,000 volumes, seating for 128 students, and a well-equipped audiovisual services area.

The Institute starts construction of the Skill Center and Engineering Technology building. Several lesser construction efforts were completed, such as the North parking area, backup heating systems, electrical substation, and the recreational complex.

Enrollment in the Continuing Education classes soars to over 10,000 students.

**1978-1979** – Fall quarter enrollment of curriculum students increased greatly, with a final count of 1,975 being recorded. The Institute noted that 134 of that number of students have four or more years of college.

A new program in Criminal Justice was added to the Institute’s thirty-odd curricular offerings.

**1979-1980** – In August 1979, the Board of Trustees approved changing the name of the institute to Asheville-Buncombe Technical College. Enrollment again increased. Two thousand and sixty-two curriculum students enrolled for the fall quarter. Part of the increase was due to the addition of a third group of machine shop students. The group was scheduled in the previously unused time period between the day and evening programs.

The evening programs continue to account for approximately 50 percent of the College FTEs.

The Engineering Technology building was occupied, adding another 3,900 square feet to the physical plant.

Continuing Education scheduled 596 classes with a headcount enrollment of 13,283 students. The total headcount for the College was 15,345.

**1980-1981** – Fall curriculum enrollment broke the record with headcount at 2,317. A new curriculum in Emergency Medical Science, a two-year program to graduate paramedical personnel, was started.

**1981-1982** – Again a record enrollment for curriculum materialized. Two thousand five hundred and fourteen curriculum students entered the fall quarter. A new curriculum in Manufacturing Resources Planning started. Continuing Education offered our community 661 individual classes and enrolled 14,489 students. The total headcount for the College for the year was 17,003.

**1982-1983** – The class of 1983, the largest ever graduated from the College, overflowed Wolfe Memorial Auditorium.

Fall curriculum enrollment again sets a record with 2,615 students registered for the fall quarter. Committee work commenced on the self-study for reaffirmation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

In this year of continued growth, the College suffered a large budget cut. Travel funds for faculty and staff were eliminated, and other emergency measures were used to avoid cutting back on classes for curriculum students.

Continuing Education had approximately a 30 percent reduction in its budget but still enrolled 12,199 students in 591 classes.

**1983-1984** – Walter Allen, Superior Court Judge, delivered the commencement address for the August graduation. Over 500 students received diplomas and degrees.

The Fall Quarter opened with 2,505 students which was a slight decline from the fall quarter, 1982.

Mandatory accident insurance was approved for full and part-time students. The Mountain Tech Lodge opened for seven days a week during the summer months.

**1985-1986** – Design of a pedestrian bridge was approved. A contract was awarded for a technology building and a renovation study of the existing vocational buildings was approved. Administration was given permission to discuss with Madison County Commissioners a plan to construct a building in Madison County. Six Associates was chosen to design the renovation and expansion of existing vocational buildings.

President Haynes joined the Chancellor of Western Carolina University for a trip to Swaziland, Africa.

A policy concerning college-owned vehicles (for presidential use) and a readmission policy for nursing programs were approved.

James Hagan, Instructor, Business Administration, was selected as the first Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year.

**1986-1987** – August of 1986 saw 440 students walk across the stage and receive degrees and diplomas. Dr. Myron Counter, WCU Chancellor, delivered the commencement address.

Fall quarter curriculums opened with record enrollment of 2,847. Forty-six counties, fifteen other states and thirteen foreign countries were represented in enrollment. Continuing Education classes were conducted for 15,106. The approximate enrollment for the 1986-87 year was in excess of 18,000.

The Board of Trustees approved the extension of the lease on the Smith-McDowell House between A-B Tech and the WNC Historical Association. An offer was made to purchase the St. Genevieve-Gibbons Hall property. Funding for the Technology Building was obtained through the support of the local delegation to the General Assembly. The construction of a pedestrian bridge continued. The Trustees selected a firm to design a Madison County Center. Trustees also approved a policy for a Continuing Education Internal Audit Plan and approved the College’s request for a bond referendum.

Ned Fowler, Emergency Medical Science instructor, was selected as the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year.

A-B Tech launched a campaign to win approval from Buncombe County voters for a $6 million bond request.

**1987-1988** – Board of Trustee members voted to change the name of the College from Asheville-Buncombe Technical College to Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College.

A-B Tech graduated 375 at the annual ceremony in Thomas Wolfe Auditorium. Lou Bissette, Mayor of Asheville, delivered the commencement address.

The fall quarter opened with 2,788 students, which established a new record for FTE enrollment. Continuing Education classes were conducted for 15,560 students in 678 classes offered, an increase of 54 classes and 454 students over the past year. Total headcount for the College exceeded 18,500.

A $6 million bond request was overwhelmingly approved by Buncombe County voters. Buncombe County Commissioners purchased and deeded to A-B Tech the St. Genevieve-Gibbons Hall property. The General Assembly awarded A-B Tech $3 million to renovate vocational facilities. Construction was begun on the Madison Campus

The pedestrian bridge to link the campus over Victoria Road was completed in November.

A Child Care Center under the direction of Buncombe County Child Development was opened in October.

Robert Werth, Chef Instructor, was selected as the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year.

**1988-1989** – This year marked the beginning of the transfer curriculum, known as the A.S. (Associate in Science degree).

Three hundred and seventy-five graduates received degrees and diplomas in August 1988. David Brown, UNCA Chancellor, delivered the commencement address.

Hamilton Gregory was selected as the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year.

Enrollment in curricula programs registered 3,051 students for the fall. Noncredit enrollment was 14,601, making a total headcount of enrolled students approximately 18,000.

Major construction projects in progress included a $1.85 million Birch Building addition/renovation, and $1.7 million in renovations and expansions of the Education Building, renovations and expansions of the Vocational buildings and new construction of the Madison campus.

A-B Tech enrolled 19 students in America’s first decorative painting apprentice-ship training program by the prestigious City and Guilds of London Institute. These students helped to renovate Asheville’s City Building. The program was named a winner of the Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County’s Griffin Award for excellence in preservation effort.

President Haynes was named by his peers as a transformational leader among community college presidents. He was honored in a special Medallion Awards Ceremony at the National Leadership Conference in San Francisco.

**1989-1990** – A-B Tech set another enrollment record registering 3,200 students for a 4.9 percent increase over fall quarter 1988.

Governor Robert Scott, State President of the Department of Community Colleges, delivered the address for the 1989 graduation. President Harvey L. Haynes announced his retirement at the graduation ceremony to be effective June 30, 1990.

The Board of Trustees established procedures to conduct a presidential search for President Haynes’ replacement.

The Madison campus of A-B Tech was officially opened in January of 1990. In dedication ceremonies the 19,000 square foot building, costing $1.2 million, was named in honor of Representative Liston B. Ramsey.

In March of 1990 the Board of Trustees nominated K. Ray Bailey to become third president of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. In April Mr. Bailey was approved by the State Board of Community Colleges.

Western Carolina University and A-B Tech formed a partnership to bring bachelor’s degree programs in engineering technology to Asheville. WCU will provide faculty, curriculum, and award the degrees. A-B Tech will provide classrooms, laboratories, and other facilities.

**1990-1991** – K. Ray Bailey assumed his duties as President of the College in July.

A-B Tech graduated approximately 377 students on August 26 in the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Auditorium. The speaker was Harvey L. Haynes, President Emeritus. Kathryn P. Daughton, Chairman of the Nursing Department, was honored as the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year.

A-B Tech Trustee Talmage Penland became State President of the North Carolina Association of Community College Trustees.

**1991-1992** – In August A-B Tech graduated 412 students at the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium. Robert Burgin, President of Memorial Mission Hospital, delivered the address. Joseph Franklin was awarded the Faculty Member of the Year award.

College enrollment was up in 14 programs over the previous year. Spring enrollment was still down in many of the vocational programs but began to see an increase in the fall of the year.

The Board approved an affiliation agreement between Buncombe County Emergency Medical Service and the Emergency Medical Science program.

In March of 1992 the renovation of the Gymnasium is finished.

**1992-1993** - Dr. Dennis King became the new Vice President, Student Services.

The 30th annual commencement program was held in the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium on August 28 with 407 graduates. Robert L. McElrath, Professor, ETSU and former TN Commissioner of Education gave the address. Trustee Gordon H. Greenwood was presented with the College’s first President’s Award, the highest honor the College bestows on an individual. This award was established to recognize people who make extraordinary contributions to the College. Mary Louise Carpenter, Counselor, was awarded the first Outstanding Staff Member of the Year award.

The Board of Trustees adopted the Master Facility Plan as recommended by President Bailey. The Board introduced a resolution requesting the Board of Commissioners for Buncombe County to call an election on the question of issuing bonds to provide funds enlarging and improving the facilities for Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. A revised Mission Statement and Philosophy for the College was approved.

**1993-1994** – Martin Nesbitt, NC House of Representatives, gave the commencement address for the August graduation. Kathy S. Toler was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year award.

A-B Tech was victorious in its efforts to ensure passage of two bond referendums to provide funding for capital projects. In April $7.5 million was approved for the expansion of the Learning Resources Center. Voters across the state passed a $250 million bond to provide A-B Tech with a new Public Service Occupations Building and an addition to the Rhododendron Building, renovation of Sunnicrest and the expansion of the Chestnut Building.

There were 4,049 students registered for fall quarter. This was a 2.2% increase over fall of 1992.

The College was reaffirmed for a ten-year period by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

**1994-1995** – Patsy B. Reed, UNCA Chancellor, delivered the address at the August 1994 graduation. Sharon E. Metcalfe was recognized as the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year and Wanda Love as the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Deborah L. Harmon was the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year. Enrollment continued to rise with 4,132 students enrolled for the fall session and a yearly total of 11,979.

The Board of Trustees approved a $21.2 million budget, with a Buncombe County allocation of $2.9 million and $42,000 from Madison County.

The Continuing Education Division was reorganized to meet the increasing needs of business and industry and to expand continuing education services to citizens in Buncombe and Madison Counties.

Dr. Max Hutchins was named Associate Vice President for Continuing Education and Off-Campus programs.

In December 1994 the College was reaffirmed for a ten-year period by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The newly renovated Azalea Building was finished in January of 1995. The LRC project was progressing. Meetings were scheduled to discuss plans for the Rhododendron, Sunnicrest and Chestnut expansions.

**1995-1996** – In August the College awarded diplomas and conferred degrees to 403 graduates. John Bardo, WCU Chancellor, delivered the commencement address. Sheila Tillman was the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year and Pamela J. Brown the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Mary Alice Church-Steurer was the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year.

The College Relations Division was organized with the emphasis on developing a Foundation and continuing to market and improve the image of the college.

The College managed a $22 million budget that allowed for 13 new or reorganized positions.

Sheila Tillman, Chairperson, Hospitality Education Department, was named the winner of the 1995 state Excellence in Teaching Award during a program honoring outstanding employees of the North Carolina Community College System.

A new and renovated Learning Resources Center was dedicated. Ground was broken for a $3.2 million Public Service Occupations Building. Specifications were completed for additions to the Rhododendron Building (Allied Health) and the Chestnut Building (Maintenance) and the renovation of Sunnicrest for the Business and Industry Services Division.

A-B Tech’s GED program graduated the most students of any program in the state.

A-B Tech won two of the three major awards presented by the North Carolina Association of Educational Office Professionals during the state conference in Greensboro. Mr. Bailey was named 1996 Administrator of the Year and the A-B Tech Local NCAEOP received the Strive for Excellence Award. Secretary Kathryn Lemieux was installed as the Association’s State President.

**1996-1997** - Virgil Smith, President and Publisher of the Asheville-Citizen Times, delivered the commencement address for the August 1996 graduation. Trustee Herbert Coman was named the recipient of the College’s 1996 President’s Award. Teresa Kennedy was the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year and Steven Johnson the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Faye P. Muse was the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year.

The Board of Trustees adopted a new mission statement created through campus-wide input.

The inactive A-B Tech Foundation was re-established to support students, employees and programs.

The College converted from the quarter system to semesters to be more in line with public schools and universities and to allow students to transfer credits more easily to four year institutions.

Student organizations Phi Beta Lambda and Phi Theta Kappa won national and international awards. The culinary program placed among the top four in the U.S. in hot food competition.

A-B Tech awarded 662 GEDs, more than any other community college in the state.

**1997-1998** – The College awarded degrees and diplomas to 511 during its 36th annual commencement exercises on August 16, 1997. Jesse L. White, Jr., Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, delivered the commencement address. David Holcombe was the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year and Jodee Sellers the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Anne Plant was the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for a $3.2 million, 35,769-square-foot Public Service Building. Construction began on a $6 million, 42,000-square-foot science lab/classroom building.

The Trustees voted to restore the name of the Magnolia Building to its original name of Fernihurst.

A-B Tech received an $80,000 grant from the NC Community College System to conduct a project called EVE (Education as a Vehicle for Equity) to increase the awareness of gender equity on campus, in the community and in business and industry.

A-B Tech Trustee Talmage Penland received the I. E. Ready Award at the North Carolina Community College System’s Day of Recognition.

**1998-1999** – Talmage Penland, Attorney and Member of the Board of Trustees, delivered the commencement address at the August 7 graduation with 417 students receiving diplomas and degrees. Mr. Penland was the recipient of the President’s Award. Pat Lail was the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year.

The A-B Tech Foundation sponsored a raffle called “Santa Spree 98” to raise funds for mini-grants to train faculty. This fundraiser generated more than $30,000 for the Faculty and Staff Mini-Grant program.

A scholarship fund was donated by several Enka High School graduates and colleagues in honor of Jesse Copp Kramer, a former Enka High School teacher. The interest from the $20,000 will help several students from Hominy Valley Community to attend A-B Tech each year.

WNC legislators introduced a bill that would restore the historic Fernihurst building. If passed the $2.5 million renovation would allow the culinary program to double its current enrollment.

A-B Tech received $200,000 from the Janirve Foundation to equip a new science building on campus. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ferguson, a member of the Foundation’s board of directors, and his wife, donated trusts that total $1 million to support the A-B Tech Foundation.

**1999-2000** – During the annual commencement ceremony on August 6, 394 degrees and diplomas were awarded. H. Martin Lancaster, State President of the North Carolina Community College System, gave the commencement address. Brian McDonald was the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year and Judith Robinson the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Nancy Markhoff was the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year.

The college celebrated its 40th anniversary. A-B Tech has grown from a small office in Asheville City Hall with a staff of three in 1959 to a 22-building, 145-acre campus and fully accredited institution that offers 49 technical and pre-baccalaureate programs.

Through partnership with Eblen Children’s Charities, A-B Tech provided dental care for our community’s children. New partnerships were forged with UNCA to create a bridge for our transfer program and with the NC Department of Corrections to offer a foodservice technology program at Craggy Correctional Center.

Textile manufacturer BASF announced plans to donate its former corporate offices and technical and research centers to the College. This was the largest property donation ever to any community college in the country. This allowed the College to move forward with a proposed regional technology center, featuring a small business incubator and corporate technology training and conference center. Some start-up costs for the project were funded by House Bill 275.

The A-B Tech Child Care Center became the first childcare center in Western North Carolina and one of only four in the state to earn the highest rating possible under the state’s stringent new licensing system.

The Santa Spree fundraiser for 1999 netted A-B Tech over $48,000 for the Faculty and Staff Mini-Grant program.

Jo Ann Crompton, secretary to President K. Ray Bailey and the Board of Trustees, was named Educational Office Professional of the Year by the North Carolina Association of Educational Office Professionals.

President K. Ray Bailey assumed leadership of the Presidents Association of the North Carolina Community College System.

In April, A-B Tech was the site for a campaign rally by Tipper Gore, wife of presidential candidate Al Gore, on behalf of her husband.

**2000-2001** – The Foundation experienced growth in its scholarships program with the establishment of four new endowed scholarships. Mr. and Mrs. H.D. Crews contributed $100,000 and United Health Care contributed $10,000.

The A-B Tech Child Care Center earned accreditation from the national Association for the Education of Young Children.

The 38th annual commencement on August 4 saw 374 students awarded degrees and diplomas. UNCA Chancellor James H. Mullen, Jr. delivered the commencement address. Pamela Silvers, Instructor, Computer Technologies, received the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year award and Heather Vaughn, Instructor, English, received the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year award. Diane Hall, Secretary, Admissions Office, received the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year award.

More than 11,000 individuals were enrolled in business and industry training programs in 2000-2001.

October 25, 2000, A-B Tech and BASF Corporation sign documents for property donated by the Corporation of nearly 37 acres and three buildings at its Enka site. A-B Tech will establish a small business incubator and corporate technology center expected to have a multi-million dollar impact on the area’s economy.

Voters approved a $3.1 billion statewide bond referendum for higher education. The bonds will fund $14 million worth of construction projects for A-B Tech, including a new computer technologies center and a new hospitality education center, on the Asheville campus and renovations to the buildings donated by BASF on the Enka Campus.

Santa Spree raised over $55,000 for the Faculty and Staff Mini-Grant program.

In February, the Board of Trustees chose a name for the Corporate Technology Training and Conference Center on the new Enka Campus. The Center was named in honor of A-B Tech President Emeritus Harvey Haynes.

The College became a regional academy for the Cisco Networking Academy Program.

In April, A-B Tech earned a superior rating under new performance measures mandated by the General Assembly. These measures determine how well community colleges meet the needs of students, employers, and business and industry.

**2001-2002** – A-B Tech was one of five community colleges in the state earning a superior rating under new performance measures mandated by the General Assembly to determine how well community colleges meet the needs of their students and business and industry.

A-B Tech Trustee Gordon “Buddy” Greenwood, President and CEO of the Bank of Asheville, was appointed to the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges.

State Treasurer Richard H. Moore delivered the commencement address at the August 3 graduation. Four hundred twenty-six students received degrees or diplomas. Karen Baker was the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year and Kenet Adamson the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Merion Presha was the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year.

More than 26,000 curriculum and continuing education students enrolled in 2001-2002, setting a new record. The College had the largest enrollment of any institution of higher education in Western North Carolina.

A-B Tech and Mission St. Joseph’s Health System partnered on two initiatives designed to stem a growing shortage of health care professionals in the community – expansion of the College’s Associate Degree Nursing program and creation of a Surgical Technology program.

The Foundation received more than $209,000 in contributions, the most ever in its short history. A-B Tech employees contributed $27,000 of that amount in the annual Universal Campaign.

On November 5, 2001, one of the buildings on A-B Tech’s new Enka campus was named the Harvey L. Haynes Corporate Technology and Conference Center after the College’s second president.

The College and Buncombe County Health Center shared a national award for their collaboration on the Children’s Dental Sealant Program, providing 390 third graders from the Asheville and Buncombe County schools more than $39,000 worth of sealants free of charge to help prevent tooth decay.

The Santa Spree annual event raised over $53,000.

President K. Ray Bailey was honored as the Partners in Education Volunteer of the Year at a Partners Salute hosted by the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce.

**2002-2003** – The College is ranked among the fastest growing community colleges in the country in the publication Community College Week.

Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue delivered the address at the August 2 graduation with 478 students graduating. Kelly Randolph, Business Administration Instructor, received the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year award; Rock Doddridge, Social Sciences Instructor, Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year award, and Martha McLean, Director, Enrollment Management, the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year.

Two culinary teams represented Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College in Washington D.C. at the American Culinary Federation National Hot Food and Knowledge Bowl competitions. The team brought home a Silver medal.

The Foundation raised an unprecedented $709,000. The remainder of the Grace Joan Love Schneider legacy gift in the amount of $730,000 was received. A New Horizons Grant from the Community Foundation of WNC for $12,500 along with individual gifts in support of the College’s Career Bridge project were received. The first A-B Tech Board Campaign yielded more than $35,000 with 100% participation. The Universal Campaign raised $23,000.50 in employee contributions.

A-B Tech was one of only four institutions in the North Carolina Community College System to earn a superior rating for the second consecutive year.

**2003-2004** – North Carolina Senator Steve Metcalf delivered the commencement address at the August 1 graduation with 600 students graduating and a standing room only crowd attending. Employees Sherry Shields, Dental Hygiene Instructor, received the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year award; Lorraine Silverman, Instructor, the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year award, and Skye Myrick, Executive Director of Occupational Training and Public Safety, the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year Award. Trustee Joe B. Roberson was presented the President’s Award.

J. Herbert Coman was named Trustee Emeritus for his nearly four decades of service to the A-B Tech Board of Trustees. The student center was named the J. Herbert Coman Student Activity Center in his honor.

A-B Tech Foundation Board member Jim Daniels is appointed by the North Carolina House of Representatives to serve on the State Board of Community Colleges.

The Laurel Auditorium was renamed the Ferguson Auditorium in honor of Jack and Carolyn Ferguson who had donated $3 million in a charitable remainder trust.

The renovated Dental Clinic, for which the College raised $80,000 from the WNC dental community for equipment for the renovation, was celebrated.

A Transfer Advising Center opened in July to help the ever increasing number of transfer students make a successful transition to four-year colleges and universities. A-B Tech added a second commencement ceremony in the spring to accommodate the growing number of graduates each year.

Through the Quality Enhancement Program, a Smoking Committee designated smoking and non-smoking areas and signage to help address the concerns of students, faculty and staff.

President Bailey received the Land-of-Sky Regional Citizenship Award recognition for his volunteer efforts with over 30 local and regional nonprofit organizations.

Pam Silvers, Faculty Association Representative and Business Computer Technologies Chair, was recognized as one of the 40 semifinalists for the David R. Pierce Faculty Technology Award, sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and Microsoft.

A-B Tech was one of only three community colleges of the 58 in North Carolina to earn a superior rating for the third consecutive year on a state report card that evaluated how well the colleges serve their students and business and industry.

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College was the only college in the United States and only one of 21 worldwide to receive the 2004 Inviting School Award.

The Universal Campaign was the most successful ever. The College raised $27,611.48 and the employee participation rate was 67%. The College received $8,143 from two granting sources to fund the *Together We Read* community program. The Foundation awarded $24,044.56 to twenty-eight students.

March 26, 2004, the Balsam Computer Technology Building officially opened. Balsam was the first building in Buncombe County to be completed with funding from a 2000 statewide higher education bond referendum. This building will serve the community for years to come with programs like Digital Media, Regional Cisco Academy and Medical Office Administration.

Ernest Grant, an A-B Tech graduate of PNE, was awarded the Outstanding Alumni Award at the AACC conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dan G. Lunsford, President of Mars Hill College, was the speaker for A-B Tech’s first spring commencement held May 14, 2004, with 312 students graduating. Heather Vaughn was the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year and Chrystal Cook the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year.

Groundbreaking was held on May 26, 2004, for the $7 million Hospitality Education Building. Our nationally acclaimed Culinary Technology Program, Hotel and Restaurant Management, and Baking and Pastry Arts Program would now be housed in this building which was expected to be completed in the fall of 2005. The historic home, Fernihurst, would become a fine dining restaurant with the students serving the public.

The College’s biotechnology initiative achieved major milestones with a $320,000 grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation and the opening of the Western Office of the NC Biotechnology Center located on the Enka Campus. A-B Tech used the grant money to create a center offering incubation for small companies supported by education and training.

The first annual A-B Tech Foundation Invitational Golf Classic was held June 4 at the Mount Mitchell Golf Club. The tournament raised $19,226 for student scholarships.

**2004-2005 –** Kennon Briggs, Vice President of Business and Finance with the System Office, delivered the commencement address at the August 6 graduation with 220 students graduating. Deborah Lonon, Invitational Education Coordinator/Instructor, was presented the Staff Member of the Year Award.

In December 2004 A-B Tech received reaffirmation of its accreditation for the next ten years by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

President Bailey was presented the Doctor of Humane Letters degree by Mars Hill College President Dr. Dan Lunsford at Mars Hill College’s December commencement.

Richard B. Hurley, Human Resources Manager of Square D Company and A-B Tech Trustee delivered the commencement address at the spring 2005 graduation on May 13 with 395 students receiving their diplomas and degrees. Christy Andrews, Nursing Instructor, was Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year and Veronica Dooly the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year.

The Foundation’s goal for 2004-05 was $315,000. The goal was exceeded by 41% with a total in contributions of $444,015.96. The second invitational golf classic was held June 3 at Mount Mitchell Golf Club. The Foundation made approximately $24,000.

The addition of a full time Grant Writer/Coordinator increased the College’s capacity to submit and receive grant funding for critical needs identified by the program and facilities planning process.

The Foundation awarded the most scholarships ever totaling over $60,000.

**2005-2006 -**- Ernest Grant, A-B Tech PNE graduate, delivered the commencement address at the August 5, 2005, graduation with 200 students receiving their diplomas and degrees. Marty Rice, Maintenance Mechanic and Safety Technician, was honored as the 2005 Outstanding Staff Member of the Year.

The College was again rated a Superior College.

A fundraising event was held on September 25 at the Market Place in Asheville to support the Hospitality Education Center.

President Bailey was selected by the Asheville-Buncombe Community Relations Council as the recipient of its seventh annual Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Achievement.

In November 2005 President Bailey received the 2005 North Carolina Community College President of the Year Award at the System’s Day of Recognition Awards Luncheon in Raleigh.

A-B Tech employees donated $35,683 to the 2005 Universal Campaign, with an eleven percent increase in donations to the Foundation.

The Small Business Center received the 2005 SBA Partner Award as Top Performer in the Western Region from the U.S. Small Business Administration. The award was given for distinguished achievement and performance in the support and advancement of small business development and job creation.

**2006-2007 -**- Sarah Schober not only delivered the August 4, 2006, commencement address, but she also received three degrees-an associates in arts, an associate in science and an associate in applied science in Biotechnology. A total of 211 degrees and diplomas were conferred. Kathryn Lemieux was honored as the 2006 Outstanding Staff Member of the Year and Sara Hill was honored as the 2006 Outstanding Continuing Education Instructor of the Year.

A-B Tech at the Mall opened in August. A two-classroom space offered credit and non-credit courses during the day and evening.

President K. Ray Bailey announced his retirement to be effective July 31, 2007. A search committee was formed and the search firm, Hockaday-Hunter & Associates, was selected.

On February 5, 2007, the Board of Trustees approved a Tobacco Free Policy to be effective August 1, 2007.

The Board of Trustees approved a 10-year lease on the Smith-McDowell House with the WNC Historical Association.

President Bailey was awarded The Order of the Long Leaf Pine from the Governor’s Office of Citizen and Community Services.

New programs in CT/MRI and Resort & Spa Management were approved.

The Foundation received donations exceeding $500,000.

A-B Tech received a $250,000 grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation as part of a highly collaborative effort to retain more than 200 existing jobs and add 275 new manufacturing jobs in Buncombe County at the Volvo Construction Equipment plant. The College also received more than $445,000 in NCCCS BioNetwork Grant awards.

Marty Rice, maintenance mechanic and safety technician, received a 2006 Asheville-Buncombe Excellence in Public Service Award.

The Compensatory Education program was selected as a 2006 recipient of the Mayor’s Committee for Citizens with Disabilities Award.

A Spirit of the Mountains Award was presented to A-B Tech as employees surpassed goals for giving during the 2006 Universal Campaign by donating a record $39,233 to the College Foundation and $33,889 to the United Way of Asheville & Buncombe County.

The A-B Tech Hot Food Team took first place and a gold medal at the NC State Student Hot Food Competition at the Art Institute of Charlotte.

A new instructional division, the Emergency Services Academy, was launched with Skye Myrick named Head.

U.S. Representative Heath Shuler gave the commencement address at the Spring 2007 ceremony. Carol Hutchinson was presented the Faculty Member of the Year Award and Alec Fehl was awarded the Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year Award.

Richard Hurley, A-B Tech Trustee since 1996, was honored with the 2007 President’s Award, the highest honor the College bestows during the May commencement ceremonies.

**2007-2008** – The College’s pictorial history book, *We Will Move Mountains,* was printed.

Dr. Betty Young was named the fourth President of A-B Tech in August 2007. Her inauguration was held on May 2, 2008, in the Ferguson Auditorium, followed by a reception prepared by Hospitality Education faculty and students.

A campus law enforcement agency was established, and the first police officers were administered the oath of office.

The Brumit Center for Hospitality Education was named for the hospitality complex and programs.

The Laurel Building was renamed the Ferguson Building to honor the charitable remainder trust of Jack and Carolyn Ferguson.

New curriculum programs in Medical Assisting, Sustainable Agriculture, and Entrepreneurship – were approved.

The Culinary Team was named national champion in the American Culinary Federation’s Student Team Competition in Orlando, FL.

The Small Business Center was one of the three in the state recognized as Regional Small Business Centers of Excellence by the State Board of Community Colleges in Raleigh.

Anne Ponder, Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, delivered the commencement address at the May 16 graduation with 526 students graduating. Marlene Roden was presented the Faculty Member of the Year Award and Leigh Mitchell was awarded the Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year Award.

Following feedback from faculty, staff, and alumni, a new A-B Tech logo was chosen.

The Foundation awarded 130 scholarships totaling about $130,000.

U.S. Representative Heath Shuler announced a $354,240 appropriation to create a WNC Clean Energy Business Incubator at A-B Tech’s Enka Campus.

The Veterinary Medical Technology program was granted full accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities.

A-B Tech’s Communications Office received eight awards, including a gold for its view book, *Learning to Succeed*, in a national competition sponsored by Admissions Marketing Report.

Fernihurst Renovation Project earned the 2008 Griffin Award by the Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County.

Human Resources sponsored A-B Tech’s first Adjunct Job Fair to help fill part-time instructor positions in Instructional and Continuing Education divisions.

Glenna Gunter, secretary for the Allied Health & Public Service Division and Carol Hutchinson, Business Administration Instructor, were among the recipients of the 18th Annual Asheville-Buncombe Excellence in Public Service Awards.

Buncombe County Manager, Wanda Greene, delivered the commencement address at the August 1 graduation with 184 students graduating. Michele Hathcock received the Staff Member of the Year Award and Bethany Faber received the Continuing Education Instructor of the Year Award.

**2008-2009** – A-B Tech entered into a partnership with Madison County Schools to create an Early College on the A-B Tech Madison Campus, with an enrollment of 38 students.

The fall semester enrollment reached a record high, passing 7,000 for the first time in the College’s history.

A-B Tech and Volvo Construction Equipment were recipients of a Distinguished Partners for Excellence Award from the NC Community College System.

A ribbon-cutting event was held on October 2 in dedication of historic Fernihurst and the new Brumit Center for Culinary Arts and Hospitality, in honor of Joe and Janice Brumit.

A ribbon-cutting event was held on October 23 in dedication of the new K. Ray Bailey Student Services Center, in honor of President Emeritus K. Ray Bailey.

The Communications Office earned three Medallion Awards in the National Council for Marking and Public Relations’ District 2 Competition. In addition, they received four awards, including two gold, in the national competition sponsored by Admissions Marketing Report.

Carriage House Theatre, located in Fernihurst Annex A, celebrated its grand opening with the Drama Club’s production of “Miss Julie.”

A-B Tech’s student culinary team won first place in the American Culinary Federation’s North Carolina State Student Hot Food Competition on January 10. They also placed first at the Southeast Regional Student Team Competition on April 18-19.

Dr. Betty Young resigned her position as fourth President of A-B Tech effective March 6. A Presidential Search Committee was formed and made the recommendation to appoint Richard Mauney, Executive VP for Finance and IST, as Interim President.

Dr. Dennis King, Vice President for Student Services, received the Distinguished Administrator Award from Phi Theta Kappa. Dr. King also spoke at the August graduation.

President Emeritus K. Ray Bailey was elected to the State Board of Community Colleges by the North Carolina House of Representatives.

Lanier Cansler, secretary of Health and Human Resources for NC, delivered the commencement address at the May 15 graduation with 499 students receiving degrees and diplomas during the College’s largest spring ceremony. Chris Fay was presented the Faculty Member of the Year Award and Darrin Jackson was awarded the Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year Award.

Don Kent, Custodial Services Coordinator, was honored with an Asheville-Buncombe Excellence in Public Service Award on May 20.

**2009-2010** - The A-B Tech Board of Trustees named Dr. Hank Dunn, Chancellor of Ivy Technical Community College’s Central Indiana Region in Indianapolis, as the College’s fifth president in January 2010 after a nationwide search. Dr. Dunn began work March 1, 2010.

A-B Tech was recognized for exceptional performance by the North Carolina Community College System.

A team of A-B Tech computer students placed second in the nation in the Juicy Ideas competition, beating MIT.

Thirty-nine thermal collectors were installed on four campus buildings to provide1,895 gallons of hot water heated by solar energy each day.

The Global Institute of Sustainability Technologies received two grants for $354,240 and $666,050 from the Department of Energy.

Buncombe County Sheriff Van Duncan was the speaker at graduation on May 14 where 920 students were candidates for degrees and diplomas in the first spring/summer combined commencement ceremonies.

Justin Page received the Staff Member of the Year Award and Carl DeTroia received the Continuing Education Instructor of the Year Award. Paula Trilling was presented the Faculty Member of the Year Award and Jan Clarson King was awarded the Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year Award.

**2010-2011 -** Sustainability Technologies was added to A-B Tech’s associate degree programs.

Culinary Alum, Daniel Gorman, was named the National Student Chef of the Year by the American Culinary Federation.

The A-B Tech Foundation received a $25,000 grant from the Wachovia-Wells Fargo Foundation for the College's Project New Futures during the Wells Fargo Community Partners Program on Nov. 2.

A-B Tech’s Foundation held its first “April in Asheville”, a fundraising gala with proceeds to benefit the Foundation’s scholarship program and the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Department.

A-B Tech student Cynthia Schwartz was honored as a high achieving community college student during the North Carolina Community College System’s Academic Excellence Awards luncheon on April 14 in Raleigh.

Veterinary Medical Technology students begin classroom studies at the newly built Buncombe County Animal Shelter.

The student Culinary Team won first place in the Southeast Regional Competition and competed for the national title in Dallas.

The fall semester opened with 7,736 students enrolled in classes.

U.S. Sen. Richard Burr visited A-B Tech’s Center for Business and Technology Incubation June 1 to tour incubator businesses and partners.

Educator and author John N. Gardnerdelivered the Commencement address on May 13 at the Asheville Civic Center, where more than 1,000 students were candidates for degrees and diplomas. English Chair Ellen Perry was the College’s Faculty Member of the Year. David Self was the Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Theda “Blair” McKee, a GED/Adult Basic Skills Instructor, was named Continuing Education Instructor of the Year. Randy Rose, Associate Director of Plant Operations, was recognized as Staff Member of the Year.

A-B Tech, in conjunction with Eblen Charities and Three Streams Family Health Centers, opened a primary care clinic for College employees and students.

**2011-2012 -** On November 8, Buncombe County voters passed a referendum to increase the local sales tax by one-quarter of a cent to fund construction and renovation projects at A-B Tech.

The College joined Achieving the Dream, a national non-profit dedicated to helping more community colleges students stay in school and earn a degree or certificate.

Job Board, a job-posting website, was launched to help area employers fill job vacancies and residents to find jobs.

The words “Community College” were added to the College’s logo.

The College hosted a Skills Gap Symposium to gather information from area employers on the skills they need in their workplace.

New programs were Cybercrime Technology in collaboration with Catawba Community College, Healthcare Business Informatics and Cosmetology Instructor were added.

Bill Murdock, Executive Director of Eblen Charities and an A-B Tech alumnus, delivered the Commencement address during ceremonies on May 12 in the Wilma Sherrill Center at UNC Asheville.

English Instructor Lisa York was named Faculty Member of the Year and History Instructor Nina LaFerla was the Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Machining Instructor Bruce McCurry was the College’s Continuing Education Instructor of the Year and Community Relations & Marketing Director Mona Cornwell was Staff Member of the Year.

A-B Tech Community College received a $199,896 grant from the National Science Foundation for a project titled *Skilled Students Get Jobs: Recruiting Women and Engaging ALL Students.*

The College decided to preserve the Ivy Building, a 76-year-old auditorium formerly part of the St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines School, while building the new allied health facility adjacent to it.

**2012-2013**

A redesigned website was unveiled August 1.

Culinary Arts program celebrated 45 years and the Craft Beverage Institute of the Southeast was launched.

Graduate Daniel Gorman was named Best Young Chef in the World after the Hans Bueschkens Junior Chefs Challenge in South Korea.

A-B Tech opened a South Buncombe County location on Airport Road.

U.S. President Barack Obama mentioned A-B Tech during a stop at Linamar in Arden.

A Campus Volunteer and Intern program was started.

Jack and Carolyn Ferguson donated $5 million to the A-B Tech Foundation.

New programs in Pharmacy Technology, Medical Office Administrative Assistant and Food Service were begun.

U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows of the 11th District delivered the Commencement address on May 18.

Business Computer Technologies Instructor Kathie Doole was named Faculty Member of the Year and Biology Instructor Adina Reilly was the Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Occupational Training Instructor Deanna Rice was the College’s Continuing Education Instructor of the Year and Manager of Customer and Instructional Technology Support Cris Harshman was Staff Member of the Year.

**2013-2014**

The Brewing, Distillation and Fermentation program began.

Dr. Hank Dunn resigned his position as fifth president of A-B Tech as of January 1, 2014. Dr. Dennis King, Special Assistant to the President for Reaccreditation, was named interim president.

Duke Energy awarded a $195,000 grant to the Craft Beverage Institute of the Southeast.

A-B Tech created a composites training center for GE Aviation expansion.

The Student culinary team made its eighth trip to the Final Four in the national competition.

The College started a bi-weekly radio show on WRES 100.7 FM.

The College renamed the building located at 93 Victoria the “Dr. Joseph B. Roberson, Sr., Building” in honor of Dr. Roberson’s outstanding contribution to the College as a former Trustee.

K. Ray Bailey, President Emeritus of A-B Tech and former Buncombe County Commissioner presented the Commencement address on May 17. Hospitality Education Instructor Walter Rapetski was honored as Faculty Member of the Year. Psychology Instructor Karen Townsend was recognized as Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Information Center Director Aaron Richman was designated as Staff Member of the Year. Ursula Gullow was named Continuing Education Faculty Member of the Year.

**2014-2015**

Dr. Dennis King became the sixth president of A-B Tech on August 4, 2014.

The Veterans Café space opened in the Ferguson Building.

Central Sterile Processing and Pharmacy Technology were added to the curriculum.

Buncombe County funded a ten-year Master Plan for the College

Dr. David O. Belcher, Chancellor of Western Carolina University, delivered the keynote address at the May 16 Commencement Ceremony. The College presented Honorary Degrees to Jack and Carolyn Ferguson, and to County Commissioner and Trustee Mike Fryar. Biology Instructor Helen Burrell was honored as Faculty Member of the Year. ACA and Developmental Reading and English Instructor Joanna Bolick was recognized as Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Administrative Assistant in Basic Skills Kathy Hipps was designated as Staff Member of the Year. Karen Baker, Nurse Aide Instructor, was named Continuing Education Faculty Member of the Year.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) officially announced the reaccreditation of A-B Tech for the next ten years during the organization’s annual meeting in December.

The Composites Training Center of Excellence opened on November 6 in the Maple Building on the Asheville campus. As an outgrowth of GE Aviation’s expansion in Buncombe County, the Center allowed current and prospective GE Aviation employees to train in a hands-on environment with state-of-the-art machinery. Facilities include 5,000 square feet of training floor/lab spaces as well as an adjacent classroom which can accommodate 20 participants.

Buncombe County and A-B Tech dedicated a new classroom building at the Buncombe County Public Safety Training Campus in Woodfin in October. The $5.9 million two-story 41-000-square-foot building houses A-B Tech’s Fire Services Technology, Criminal Justice, Basic Law Enforcement Training, Emergency Medical Sciences and Critical Care Transport programs. A-B Tech offered degree and certification programs for students, as well as professional continuing education for all areas in fire, law enforcement, emergency sciences and support agencies.

Stella Galyean was named the statewide winner of the Dallas Herring Achievement Award from the North Carolina Community College System for her accomplishments at the College in March.

**2015-2016**

New academic programs in Aviation, Health and Fitness Science, Occupational Therapy Assistant, HVAC AAS, and Engineering Associate and Environmental Engineering were offered.

Don C. Locke, Ph.D., Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, delivered the keynote address at the May 14 Commencement Ceremony. Trustees Mrs. Kaye Myers and Mr. Richard Hurley were presented with Honorary Degrees at the Ceremony to honor their contributions to the College. Communications Instructor Erika Lytle was honored as Faculty Member of the Year. Beth Stewart, Dean of Arts and Sciences, was designated as Staff Member of the Year. English Instructor Rachel Adams was recognized as Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Bob McCurry was named Continuing Education Faculty Member of the Year.

Due to financial constraints, the College closed the Haynes Building located on the Enka campus. The College agreed to change the name of the Rhododendron Building to the Haynes Building.

A-B Tech’s new Ferguson Center for Allied Health and Workforce Development was dedicated in a ceremony held in the lobby of the new facility on December 1, 2015. The new building, located on the former St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines property on Victoria Road, serves more than 1,000 students.

Mission Health granted $1 million to the College’s new event center; the facility was named the Mission Health/A-B Tech Conference Center.

The College agreed with Buncombe County that the Haynes (Rhododendron) Building would be demolished to make way for a larger and more energy efficient building, paid for out of the quarter cent sales tax monies.

North Carolina passed a bond referendum to pay for renovation projects on community college campuses. A-B Tech started renovations on nine buildings.

The construction of a new 650 space parking deck was completed.

**2016-2017**

The College renamed the Holly Library as the “Don C. Locke Library” in honor of Vice Chair Don Locke who died suddenly earlier that summer.

New academic programs in Interventional Cardiac and Vascular Technology were approved.

UNCA Chancellor Mary Grant delivered the keynote address at the May 13 Commencement Ceremony. Honorary degrees were presented to Civil Rights Leader Miss Oralene Simmons and long-time employee Ms. Brinda Caldwell. Biology Instructor Russ Palmeri was honored as Faculty Member of the Year. R. J. Corman, Dean of Business and Hospitality, was designated as Staff Member of the Year. Developmental Math, English, and Reading Instructor Michelle Payton was recognized as Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Eric Cox, who teaches Culinary Technology, was named Continuing Education Faculty Member of the Year.

**2017-2018**

The Trustees named the Lecture Hall on the third floor of the Ferguson Allied Health and Workforce Development Center after Dr. Laurie Tapp, Veterinarian and Chair of the Vet Tech program, who died suddenly. Trustees also renamed the Balsam Building on campus for President Harvey Haynes. An honorary degree was awarded to Dr. Dan Lunsford, the retiring President of Mars Hill University.

The graduation speaker was Mayor Esther Manheimer.

Chair of Civil Engineering and Technology Jim Sullivan was honored as Faculty Member of the Year. Jason Fair was designated as Staff Member of the Year. Barbara Butcher was named Continuing Education Faculty Member of the Year.

Work was commenced on the renovation of the Ivy Building to be used as a home for the College Foundation as well as a meeting space and lecture hall. In addition, work was commenced on the repurposing of the Poplar Building as a home for various continuing education programs. The exterior of Sunnicrest was refinished and various improvements on the Ramsey Center in Madison County were completed.

The Board of Trustees agreed to recognize the outstanding service of select faculty members by conferring upon these individuals the title of ***Professor Emeritus*** upon their retirement after fifteen or more years of service. Ms. Shelia Tillman, Ms. Sherian Howard, and Ms. Randee Goodstadt were the first at the College to be awarded Professor Emerita status.

**2018-2019**

The Trustees named the Writing Center on campus for Lisa Johnson who developed the idea for the Writing Center and who managed it for years. In addition, the main dining room in the Magnolia Building was named for Chef Shelia Tillman upon her retirement. The Trustees acknowledged that Chef Tillman was instrumental in bringing national acclaim to our culinary program. She also started the baking and pastry and the brewing, distillation, fermentation programs.

A posthumous degree was awarded to Riley Howell, who was killed in a shooting on the campus of the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Mr. Howell attended A-B Tech until transferring to UNC-Charlotte. Credits were transferred back from the university in order to complete his degree.

The graduation speaker was President Dennis King, who announced his retirement in January 2020. Dr. Jason Fair was named NCCCS Staff Member of the Year.

Marlene Frisbee was honored as Faculty Member of the Year. Programmer Analyst Laurie Manley was designated as Staff Member of the Year. Brian Newsom was recognized as Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year. Adam Woody was named Continuing Education Faculty Member of the Year.

Ms. Lisa Johnson, Dr. Russ Palmeri, Mr. Tom Sharar, and Chef John Hofland were awarded Professor Emeritus status.

**2019-2020**

On February 3, 2020, Dr. Joseph Barwick became Interim President of the College.

On March 10, Governor Roy Cooper visited the Asheville campus and declared a State of Emergency for North Carolina due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

On March 17, Buncombe County issued a “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order, closed all businesses, and mandated that all residents stay home except for emergencies and essentials.

Dr. John Gossett was named as the seventh President of A-B Tech on March 19, 2020.

The College extended spring break for students by one week and converted as many courses as possible to an online format. The College ceased all face-to-face learning.

All events on campus were cancelled, including the May 2020 Commencement Ceremony.

Employees who were able, teleworked and those whose positions did not allow teleworking were able to use Pandemic Leave. The College keep all employees in a paid status. The College was deemed an essential business and remained open. Essential employees remained on campus.

Ms. Melissa Mathews was named Outstanding Adjunct Instructor, Mr. Adam Woody was named Outstanding Continuing Education Instructor, Ms. Jennifer Browning was named Outstanding Faculty Member, Mr. Damian Beavers was named Outstanding Staff Member, and Ms. Sarah Benson was named Outstanding Advisor for 2019-2020. Ms. Karma Crouch was awarded Professor Emerita status.

June 2020, phased reopening of all campuses began. The first wave of employees returned on June 15.

Dr. John Gossett started as President on July 1.

Student Services opened to all employees on July 5. Summer classes were conducted virtually.

Allied Health, Culinary, and Welding classes resumed in person for the fall of 2020. All other classes were conducted virtually.

On October 22, Pratt & Whitney announced its plan to locate a manufacturing facility in Buncombe County. Buncombe County will build, and A-B Tech will operate a 10,000 square Workforce Training Center to provide training for future employees of Pratt & Whitney, and other clients.

**2020-2021**

The Pandemic continued through the first half of 2021.

On January 5, 2021, A-B Tech and Buncombe County’s Department of Health and Human Services signed an agreement to use the Mission Health/A-B Tech Conference Center to store and administer vaccinations to the general public to combat the transmission of COVID-19.

Coronavirus vaccines were made available to the public in February.

A virtual Commencement Ceremony took place on May 15.

Mr. Michael Brunton was named Outstanding Adjunct Instructor, Mr. Chris Campbell was named Outstanding Continuing Education Instructor, Ms. Starr Silvis was named Outstanding Faculty Member, Ms. Barb Browning was named Outstanding Staff Member, Ms. Lindsey Carpenter was named Outstanding Advisor, and Ms. Kendra Joyner was named Outstanding Part-Time Staff Member for 2020-2021.

Following the Governor and Buncombe County, A-B Tech lifted the college-wide mask mandate on May 31.

On June 30, Buncombe County’s Department of Health and Human Services ceased giving vaccines in the Mission Health/A-B Tech Conference Center.

**2021-2022**

On October 4, 2021, the College’s new Strategic Plan was approved by the Board.

The Trailblazer Promise (free tuition for new and returning students) helped to increase enrollment back to pre-pandemic numbers.

King’s Common was dedicated to President Emeritus Dennis King.

ABCCM opened up the Transformation Village, which provides housing to women and children, in conjunction with A-B Tech’s continuing education department.

May 14, 2022, Commencement Ceremony took place in person, for the first time in two years. Dr. John Gossett gave the keynote address.

Ms. Sereitha Miller was named Outstanding Adjunct Instructor, Mr. Mark Applegate was named Outstanding Continuing Education Instructor, Ms. Susan Russell and Ms. Jillian McMeans were as named Outstanding Faculty Member, Mr. James Atkinson was named Outstanding Staff Member, and Mr. Peter Kennedy was named Outstanding Advisor for 2021-2022.

A-B Tech created three new leadership academies. A Chair and Trailblazer Leadership Academy for A-B Tech employees, and the Western Community College Leadership Academy which includes employees from Blue Ridge, Haywood, and Southwestern Community Colleges.

The College was the recipient of several grants to help serve underserved populations.

The Board of Trustees approved a new Cardiovascular Sonography Program.

The Board also approved demolishing the Haynes Tower on the Enka Campus, due to mold and other issues.

A-B Tech’s Barbering Program offered free back to school haircuts for all school aged children.

**2022-2023**

The Board approved replacing the roofs on the Technology Commercialization Center on the Enka Campus.

Continuing Education and Workforce Development introduced several new programs: Community Health Worker, Truck Driver Training, Certified Nursing Assistants, the Barber Academy, Customized Training, and the STEP (Skills Training Employment Program).

The Land of Sky received a $1.4 Million grant that A-B Tech will share with Blue Ridge Community College. The grant will fund work based learning, scholarships, and apprenticeships in the solar, electrical, and manufacturing fields.

The College received two “Best of Asheville” awards. A gold for being the best vocational school and a silver for being the best College in the area.

Chef Chris Bugher won the Culinary World Cup in Luxembourg, representing both A-B Tech and the United States of America.

Dr. Joan Heller and Ms. Paula Trilling were recognized by the Board of Trustees as Professor Emerita for their years of teaching accomplishments at the College.

The Board requested and the College received a five year extension on Senate Bill 807 which allows Buncombe County to build and oversee construction on the campuses of A-B Tech.

The Buncombe County Commissioners approved the purchase of 111 Victoria Road for future use by the College.

Ms. Laura Haire was named Staff Member of the Year, Ms. Marlene Frisbee was named Advisor of the Year, Mr. Bill Willard was named Faculty of the Year, Ms. Lisa Underwood was named Continuing Education Faculty of the Year, Ms. Hanna Lea was named Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year, and Ms. Dina Steinmetz was named Part Time Staff Member of the Year.

Mr. Clark Duncan, Senior Vice President of Economic Development was the speaker for the May 13 Commencement Ceremony.

Graduates from the Western Correctional Center for Women were allowed to attend the Commencement Ceremony in person – the first time ever!

Chef Chris Bugher won the World Association of Chefs Global Chefs Challenge, again representing both A-B Tech and the United States of America. This competition was held in Santiago, Chile.

The Computer Engineering Technology Program, Digital Media Technology, and the Sustainability Technologies associate degree were terminated.

**2023-2024**

The Certified Nursing Assistant program achieved a 98 percent pass rate!

The College renamed the Nursing Department “The School of Nursing” and received approval from the NC Board of Nursing for a new Practical Nursing Diploma.

Career and College Promise enrollment increased 31 percent over this time last year.

Article 46 sales tax funded repair and replacement projects continue on the Enka and Asheville campuses.

The College was selected to participate with 15 other national community colleges to address Community College Workforce Transformation and Implementation sponsored by the Lumina Foundation.

The Ophthalmic program was discontinued due to more eye care clinics providing training in house.

The Western Community College Leadership Academy (WCCLA), a cohort of A-B Tech, Blue Ridge, Haywood, and Southwestern Community colleges continues to be successful.

The College became certified as a BearWise Bear Campus, Pollinator Garden, Bee Campus, and Tree Campus. A new website called “Green A-B Tech” was created for all things sustainability.

The Small Business Center in Enka received a $50,000 unrestricted donation.

The Advanced Manufacturing Center was number one in the state in customized training expenditures!

Enrollment increased 178 percent in the Department of Transitional Studies!

The NC Office of the State Auditor completed the federal compliance audit which was clean, and no issues were found!

A-B Tech partnered with MANNA Foodbank, and WNC Community Health Services to create the “MANNA Community Market.” The Market is located on the Asheville campus and provides free grocery staples, fresh produce, and other perishables to those needing grocery assistance.

Updated: October 20, 2023