

History of Fayetteville Technical Community College

In 1961, visionaries in Cumberland County recognized the need for a local institution to offer further job training and educational opportunities for high school graduates and other adults. Those visions and dreams became reality with the opening of the Fayetteville Area Industrial Education Center (IEC). As the 18th IEC in the state, the institution would attract new industry and provide technical education to a seven-county area serving Cumberland, Hoke, Bladen, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, and Harnett counties. Classes began September 1961 in the unoccupied downtown Central Elementary School while the physical facilities in the present location were being finished. The College's first building, Lafayette Hall, contained approximately 38,000 square feet of classroom and laboratory space. The campus consisted of 10 acres. The Institution opened with 3 full time administrators, 53 full-time students, and 6 full-time faculty members. Four instructional programs were offered its first year: Automotive, Air Conditioning, Welding, and Electronics.

Local leaders who were instrumental in establishing this Center were Thornton Rose, Neill Currie, Marion Currie, Henry Rankin, Roscoe Blue, Paul Thompson, Howard Hall, William West, James Gray, Dr. Herbert Vick, Beth Finch, F.C. Franklin, and Gibson Prather. These individuals were later appointed as the Center's first Board of Trustees to establish policy and develop long range plans. Other important figures in the College's history include C. Reid Ross, Superintendent of the Fayetteville City Schools, and John Standridge, the Center's first Director.

On May 17, 1963, the NC General Assembly passed a bill creating the statewide Community College System. On July 3, 1963, the Fayetteville Area IEC officially became part of the newly created System.

Following the resignation of John Standridge, Howard Boudreau was appointed President in October 1963. He began working with the local Board of Trustees and IEC staff to develop educational programs to meet the needs of business and industry.

In October 1963, the Center's progress in providing quality educational programs resulted in the Board of Trustees requesting that the status "Technical Institute," be given to the Center. This request was granted by the State Board of Education in January 1964 and the name Fayetteville Technical Institute (FTI) was adopted. With the status of "Technical Institute," the Board of Trustees was granted authority to award the Associate in Applied Science Degree, in addition to diplomas offered in numerous programs.

On November 3, 1964, the people of Cumberland County voted in favor of a \$300,000 bond referendum to provide more classrooms, laboratories, and shop areas for the growing institution. This bond referendum was matched with a \$144,000 grant from the federal government. In 1965, a master plan was developed for the utilization of the 53 acre campus, pending finalization of the

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transfer of 43 acres from the city schools to the College. In 1966, the Board of Trustees acquired this additional 43 acre tract of land adjacent to the original 10 acre campus.

A major academic step for FTI came with accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1967. It meant that course credit would be recognized at other colleges within the state and out of the state. It would also benefit the institution as it sought funding from private foundations and the federal government for assistance with program development and facilities expansion.

On May 4, 1968, the Board of Trustees again went to the people with a \$900,000 bond referendum which was approved by the voters in an effort to implement its long range building program. One and a half million dollars was generated with matching state and federal monies to provide educational facilities and parking for the rapidly growing student population of the college.

In 1968 the North Carolina Association of Community College Trustees was incorporated. To assist in furthering the aims, goals, and development of NC's community colleges, Mr. Paul H. Thompson, FTCC's first Board of Trustees chairman, was elected the Association's first president.

During the 1970's, the Institution made numerous additions to both its curricular offerings and its physical facilities. In 1973, the State of North Carolina appropriated \$1.3 million dollars in construction money for an addition to Cumberland Hall. During 1974-75, FTI responded to the needs of the military at Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base by establishing an educational office at Fort Bragg.

On November 5, 1974, Cumberland County voters again responded to the needs of the institution by approving a bond referendum of \$3.5 million dollars. Construction projects stemming from the bond proceeds doubled the present size of the physical plant, providing additional space for 17 new curricular offerings, thereby increasing the number of curriculum programs offered to 55. During the decade of the 1970s, the Rose Garden was developed, and construction was completed on the Paul H. Thompson Library, an administration building, two greenhouses, several temporary classrooms, and the Cumberland Hall wings. During this time the Horace Sisk building with its surrounding property was also acquired.

In 1983 President Howard E. Boudreau retired after thirty years of leadership in the field of technical and vocational education. Under his direction and that of the Board of Trustees, Fayetteville Technical Institute established itself as one of the leading two year institutions in the southeastern United States. He had seen the development of an accessible, state of the art institution capable of providing outstanding training opportunities for the people of Cumberland County.

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On July 1, 1983, the Board of Trustees selected Dr. Robert Craig Allen to become the second president of the Institution. Dr. Allen moved from Robeson Technical College where he had been president for 18 years. He had begun his community college career teaching at FTI and moved into administration when the Robeson Technical unit was established in 1965.

In 1985 a study entitled "Proposed Capital Needs 1985 86" was undertaken. This study indicated a need for facilities to provide an environment for teaching the new and emerging technologies. The proposed expansion included the Student Center, the Center for Business and Industry, and the Advanced Technology Center.

In November of 1987, the State Board of Community Colleges established the Commission on the Future of the NC Community College System. FTI's Board Chairman, Mr. Harry F. Shaw, was selected to serve on this prestigious Commission. The resulting report of this committee, released in 1989, outlined 33 recommendations for action and change for the System. All 33 recommendations were adopted by the State Board and the General Assembly, and a strategic implementation plan was developed.

In January 1988, the Fayetteville Technical Institute became Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) when the North Carolina Department of Community Colleges and the North Carolina General Assembly encouraged all the technical colleges and institutes in the state to become community colleges. The change was in name only, as the purpose of Fayetteville Technical Community College remained intact.

On November 3, 1992, by nearly a 2 to 1 margin, Cumberland County voters passed the FTCC Bond Referendum which provided for numerous facility renovations and the construction of a Literacy and Continuing Education Building on the main campus. On November 2, 1993, North Carolinians passed a \$250 million community college bond referendum. From the passage of the state bond, FTCC received \$6 million for construction of a Health Technologies Center. In addition, FTCC was selected as one of the first sites in the state for the NC Information Highway (NCIH). Being on the NCIH provided tremendous opportunities for enhancing the educational opportunities of FTCC's student population: distance learning, learning resource linkages, industrial training, and economic development by telecommunications. Additionally, in 1993/1994 a Facilities Master Plan for the College extending to 2010/2015 was created.

In 1996 President Craig Allen retired after 13 years of leadership and service to FTCC and 33 years with the North Carolina Community College System. Dr. Allen's vision for the future of FTCC brought new facilities, state of the art technology, and innovation to community college education. He established a foundation for the educational future of Fayetteville and Cumberland County.

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On July 1, 1996, Dr. Linwood W. Powell was appointed Interim President. In late 1996, the 75,000 square foot Continuing Education Center was completed, and ground was broken for the Health Technology Center.

On July 1, 1997, Dr. Larry B. Norris began his tenure as President of FTCC. He had served for 28 years as an instructor and administrator at the College and had worked with Mr. Boudreau, Dr. Allen, and Dr. Powell. His installation as President took place on October 3, 1997, and his legacy of impressive additions to the campus, on and beyond the main campus, began.

Shortly after Dr. Norris took office, the Health Technology Center was completed, and classes began in that imposing structure in the spring of 1998. The construction of an addition to the Administration Building was begun that summer. In the fall of 1999, the building was completed and dedicated as the Thomas R. McLean Building, in memory of a loyal, long-time Trustee.

The ground breaking for the Early Childhood Educational Center took place in January 2000, with construction beginning in the spring of that year. The building, which was completed in the fall of 2001, was to become the model child care facility for Eastern North Carolina. The Center was certified on September 13, 2001, and opened for child care services on September 17, 2001.

In April 2000, approximately 10 acres of property was purchased in Spring Lake for the construction of the future Spring Lake Classroom Center. In August 2000 an architectural firm was hired to design the building, and the Center was completed in the summer of 2004. The grand opening of the Spring Lake Center, together with the dedication of the William S. Wellons, Sr. Memorial Auditorium, was held on Sunday, September 12, 2004. In November 2004 the Board of Trustees approved the Spring Lake Classroom Center to be designated as the Spring Lake Campus.

In November of 2000, the passing of the NC Higher Education Bond Referendum enabled FTCC to receive \$38,491,174.00 for campus improvements. In February 2002, the NC State Board of Community Colleges approved the establishment of a Horticulture/Landscape Management Technology Center. In October of that year the Fayetteville City Council deeded FTCC four acres of land for the Center at the Cape Fear Botanical Garden. Construction on the new Center began in April 2004, and the building was completed in April 2006. The Center became the Horticulture Educational Center in January 2006. Classrooms in the Center were available for use in May 2006, and the dedication and open house were held on September 10, 2006, at the Garden.

In March 2003, FTCC purchased the YMCA property adjacent to the College on Fort Bragg Road. In September 2003, the Board of Trustees approved the naming of the building as the Criminal Justice Center. The Criminal Justice

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Center (YMCA) building number 1 was occupied on March 1, 2004, and classes began at the Center in the summer of 2004. In December 2008, the Center was renovated to establish the Cosmetology program on campus. The name was changed to the Salon and Spa Services Educational Center.

A multi-phased renovation to the Horace Sisk and Lafayette Hall buildings was completed between May 2004 and June 2006.

In the spring of 2004, the College celebrated the groundbreaking for the Virtual College Center which houses Media Services, the Success Center, and classrooms. In September 2005 the building was dedicated as the Harry F. Shaw Virtual College Center to honor long time Board of Trustees member Harry F. Shaw, who served as Board Chairman for 29 years.

In August 2004, the Student Center was dedicated as the Tony Rand Student Center in honor of Senator Anthony E. Rand.

In December 2004, the purchase of the Furr Property (former King Rental) was recorded with the Cumberland County Register of Deeds. Current Plans are to demolish the existing building and incorporate the property into the landscape design for the Service Merchandise renovations. Renovations to the property are projected for July 2010.

In October 2005, the Bulla property (3.5 acres), located adjacent to the Continuing Education Center, was purchased and designated to be used for parking. In January 2006 approval was granted by the Board to accept the parking lot engineering design for the property. Construction began in May 2008 and completed in August 2008. The parking lot provides an additional 400 spaces.

In March 2006, six lots (5.87 acres) adjacent to the Spring Lake Campus were approved for purchase by the Board of Trustees. A Campus Lighting Project to provide more lighting across the main campus began in 2006 and was completed in June 2007.

In May 2006, the Board of Trustees requested approval from the North Carolina Department of Community Colleges to transfer the YMCA property, the five lots adjacent to the Spring Lake Campus, and the Furr (King Rental) property to Cumberland County as security for the advancement of funds in the amount of \$5,000,274 to FTCC. In turn, the funds would provide a match for the State Bond funds.

FTCC entered an Administrative Agreement with Cumberland County to deed the properties to the County. The County would lease the properties back to FTCC for a term ending on April 30, 2011. The County would deed properties back to FTCC at the end of the lease, free of the deed of trust.

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In November 2006, the Board of Trustees approved an addition of 8,820 square feet to the Thomas R. McLean Administration building. Construction began in summer 2008 with a completion date projected for summer 2009.

On September 19, 2006 the former Service Merchandise building along with 3.32 acres of land was purchased. In January 2007 the Board of Trustees approved a \$5,932,500 general classroom building project for the former Service Merchandise building. The architectural firm, HH Architecture, was approved by the Board for the design. Renovations to the building are projected to be completed in summer 2010.

On August 1, 2007, Dr. Larry B. Norris, the third President of FTCC, retired after 38 years of service to the College, having served 10 of those years as President. While at the helm, he witnessed impressive expansions on the main campus, as well as a Spring Lake Campus and a Center at the Botanical Garden, both strategically placed for the purpose of serving students in underserved locales.

On June 30, 2007, long time Trustee Harry F. Shaw retired from the FTCC Board after serving for 38 years, 29 of those years as Board Chair.

The FTCC Board of Trustees selected Dr. J. Larry Keen as the fourth President, effective August 1, 2007. The State Board of Community Colleges approved Dr. Keen on June 15, 2007.

In April 2008, FTCC purchased the MacKethan property located on Fort Bragg Road including a one story building consisting of approximately 5,000 square feet of floor space located on the .57 acre property. Current Plans are to demolish the existing building and incorporate the property into the landscape design for the Service Merchandise renovations.

In December 2008, 60 acres of land located off Old Raeford Road was purchased and is the future location of the FTCC Western Campus Off-Campus Center.