

THE FOUNDATION FOCUS

January 2024

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Dear Foundation Community,

Happy New Year! As we step into the fresh canvas of 2024, I extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt gratitude to you for being an essential part of the Foundation of BCC family. We've shared incredible growth, collaboration, and memorable moments as our students continue to soar. With the dawning of a new year, let's set our sights even higher.

We returned from break, raring to go and enjoyed participating in BCC's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. service activities and celebration. BCC employees and students volunteered with Brunswick Family Assistance. It was a tremendous experience and a reminder of how fun and easy it is to lend a hand.

As we look ahead, expect a calendar brimming with engaging events, beginning with Bella Italia, our annual fundraising gala. We still have a few sponsorship opportunities available if you'd like to offer your support. Bella Italia is our largest fundraising effort of the year, and always a fantastic time surrounded by people who share a passion for ensuring a bright future for our students, college, and community.

Here's to a wonderful year.
Teresa Nelson
Executive Director

Foundation Staff Volunteers with Team BCC

The Foundation of BCC staff were among the team of volunteers who set to work at the Brunswick Family Assistance (BFA) Food Pantry in Bolivia, NC. Working in shifts, our volunteers spent the day prepping boxes, sorting donated clothing, preparing food boxes for families, stocking shelves, and assisting with client orders. The camaraderie was fun and inspiring, and the impact made by the Food Pantry on the community is immeasurable. We are grateful for all that BFA does and look forward to volunteering again soon! It was a great way to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.! Check out the [Brunswick Family Assistance](#) website to learn how you can contribute to the good they do.



Ambassador Spotlight: Terissa Jordan



It takes only a few minutes with BCC Nursing student Terissa Jordan to be sure she has chosen the right profession and be grateful for it, too. Terissa is finishing her final semester at BCC before taking the NCLEX-RN exam and achieving her dream of becoming a registered nurse.

"This has been quite a journey," said Terissa. "I was accepted into the program once before but had to withdraw. I struggled in school for the first time ever, so I decided to take a break and try again." Terissa explained that because of the time that passed, she had to start all over, beginning with the application process. "I was accepted at three schools but chose to return to BCC, even though I live in Pender County," said Terissa. "BCC's program is modern and up to date. The facilities are top-notch, as are the instructors. Even though I had to withdraw on my first attempt, they believed in me. That meant a lot."

Terissa is now in the homestretch and excelling in every way. To help with tuition costs, she secured a spot in the work-study program. She also received a scholarship from the Foundation and became a Student Ambassador. Terissa works at New Hanover Hospital as a Nurse Aide.

"I'm on my way and not ready to stop anytime soon," said Terissa. "I want my two children to know that if they want something, they need to go for it, regardless of the hurdles they may need to overcome." After graduating from BCC, Terissa plans to pursue her Bachelor's Degree at UNCW and then continue to earn her Masters.

In the meantime, she is enjoying her role as an ambassador. "I've never been a very social person," she said. "Being an ambassador has given me the confidence to open up and get out there. I'm learning a lot and enjoy representing BCC. That's something I plan to do way beyond nursing school. I will be back."

We look forward to that, Terissa!

An Enchanting Evening Awaits



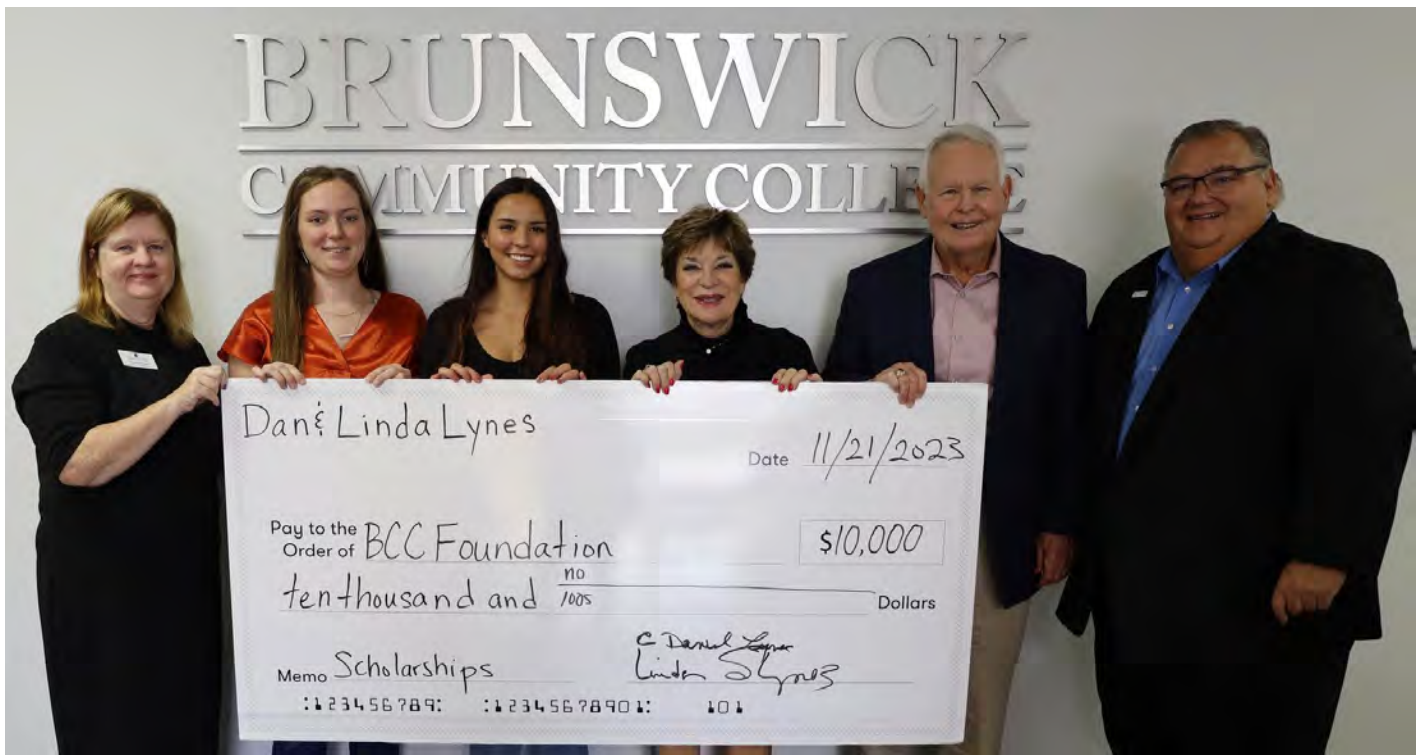
It's Bella Italia time once again and we are more excited than ever to host our 8th annual event. It takes place on February 3, at the St. James Community Center in St. James, NC from 6-10 PM. There will be exquisite food and wine, inspiring speakers, music, dancing, and fun in support of student success at BCC. For sponsorship and individual ticket information, contact Teresa Nelson at (910) 755-6530.

A Taste of Southern Hospitality

One of the benefits of being a Student Ambassador is the extra training they receive, which includes a lesson on manners and etiquette. We are in the South, after all! Recently, ambassadors had fun with BCC's Onya Gardner, Etiquette Expert and Dean of Continuing Education and Workforce Development. The lesson focused on the do's and don'ts at special events, like Bella Italia. There was talk of and practice with proper dress and grooming, utensils and place settings, napkins, handshakes, eye contact, silencing cell phones and smartwatches, and so much more. We won't reveal all of Onya's secrets but promise that our ambassadors are prepared to impress.



Donor Spotlight: Daniel and Linda Lynes



Just prior to the holidays, longtime supporters Daniel and Linda Lynes made a visit to The Foundation of Brunswick Community College (BCC). They brought with them a gift of \$10,000 toward an endowed scholarship established in their name in 2009. This was the most recent addition to a scholarship funds that today amount to over \$350,000.

"BCC is fortunate to have the support of people like Dan and Linda, whose kindness and generosity know no bounds and has benefitted countless students," said The Foundation of BCC Executive Director Teresa Nelson. "For that, we are incredibly grateful."

As part of the Lynes' visit to BCC, they caught up with two of the students they've helped , Alexa Evans and Victoria Howard. Like many Foundation donors, the Lynes enjoy getting to know the students they support and welcome a lasting friendship.

"The Lynes family has helped me continue my path to becoming a Registered Nurse," said Howard. "I have 5 children and going through school and keeping up with everyday life and bills would not be possible without the support from others through the BCC Foundation. With less stress over financials, I have managed to maintain my honor roll status in the National Technical Honor Society. I am forever grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Lynes for their generosity and support."

Alexa Evans echoed Howard's sentiment. "College is expensive and unaffordable for so many of us," she said. "I'm thankful that there are families like the Lynes who are helping people like me get the degrees we need to be successful."

Pictured include (l to r) Foundation Executive Director Teresa Nelson, Alexa Evans, Victoria Howard, Linda Lynes, Daniel Lynes, and BCC President Gene Smith. To learn more about how you can establish a scholarship or volunteer as a mentor, please get in touch with Teresa Nelson at nelsont@brunswickcc.edu or (910) 755-6530.



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