

THE FOUNDATION FOCUS

October 2024

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Teresa Nelson
Executive Director

Dear Friends of The Foundation,

As we reach the halfway point of the fall semester, I am reminded of the incredible support that makes everything we do possible.

Our Donor Appreciation Luncheon was a highlight of the season, bringing together over 300 attendees to celebrate the transformative impact of your generosity. We also gathered for the Women of Philanthropy and Leadership of Brunswick Annual Dinner, honoring the remarkable women making a difference in our community.

In addition to these events, we're excited to share several key updates that you will read more about in this issue of The Foundation Focus:

- Our recent Relief Drive successfully delivered much-needed supplies to families affected by recent storms.
- BCC Health Sciences students received

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additional scholarship support from the Assistance League.

- A new endowment was established, creating more opportunities for student success.
- Our campus fund drive exceeded its goal, raising over \$38,000 thanks to your generosity.

Thank you for being a vital part of The Foundation's work. Your support continues to make a lasting impact.

With gratitude,
Teresa Nelson
Executive Director, The Foundation of BCC

Uniting Students and Donors in Heartfelt Thanks



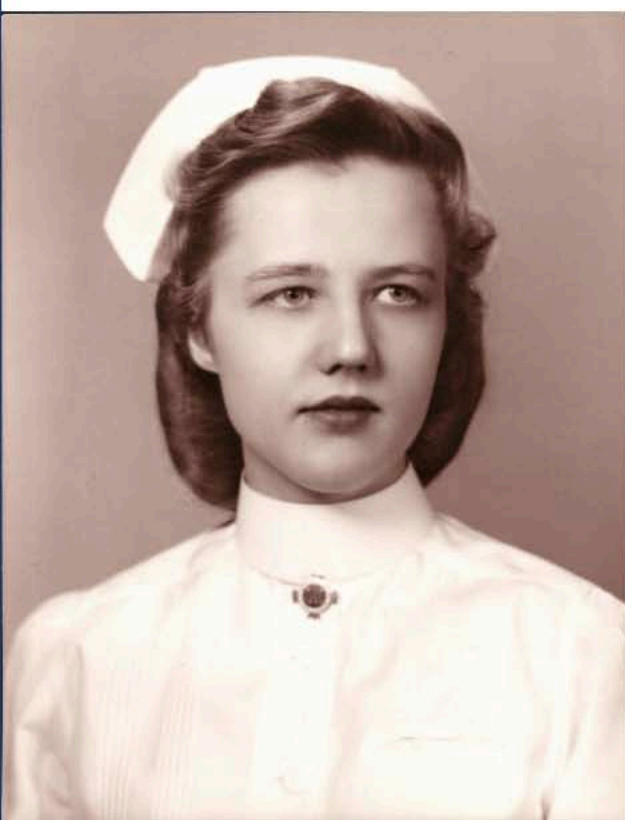
The Foundation had the pleasure of hosting more than 300 attendees at the 2024 Donor Appreciation Luncheon on October 4, where donors and the students they support came together for an inspiring afternoon. Scholarship recipients and Student Ambassadors Michael Hayes, Joseph Snapp, and Mark Williams shared their stories, each filled with gratitude for the generosity of the

donors who are helping to make their dreams reality.

Special thanks to event speakers: Teresa Nelson, Executive Director of The Foundation; Alan Holden, Chair of the BCC Board of Trustees; Dr. Gene Smith, BCC President; and Jill Ward, VP of the Foundation Board of Directors. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this event such a success!

Take a look at some of the moments we captured on [The Foundation of BCC Facebook Page](#).

The Foundation of BCC Announces New \$25,000 Endowment



The Foundation of Brunswick Community College (BCC) is honored to announce the establishment of a new \$25,000 endowment by Mr. Jan Vlach in memory of his beloved aunt, Dr. Loretta T. Zderad, a distinguished nurse educator and resident of Shallotte, NC.

Born in Chicago in 1925, Dr. Zderad devoted her life to advancing the field of nursing. She began her career with a Diploma in Nursing from St. Bernard's Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago. She then earned a Baccalaureate Degree from Loyola University, a Master's in Psychiatric Nursing from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and Master's and Ph.D. in Philosophy from Georgetown University.

Dr. Zderad's passion for education led her to teach at prestigious institutions, including the Illinois Neuropsychiatric Institute, Catholic University, Boston University, and Ohio State University. During her tenure at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Northport, NY, she rose to the position of Associate Chief of the Nursing Service for Education.

In 1976, Dr. Zderad co-authored *Humanistic Nursing* alongside Dr. Josephine Paterson, a groundbreaking text (translated into Spanish and Japanese) for international nursing education. She also shared her expertise globally, traveling to China in 1983 to lead a professional seminar.

Following her retirement in 1995, Dr. Zderad relocated to Shallotte, NC, where she developed meaningful friendships, traveled, and expressed her creativity through painting. She was well known in the community for her quiet demeanor, caring heart, and generous spirit, supporting numerous local organizations. Dr. Zderad's contributions to nursing and her community leave a lasting legacy.

The endowment established by Mr. Vlach will provide enduring support for BCC's nursing students, reflecting Dr. Zderad's lifelong dedication to education and service. "We are incredibly grateful for this generous gift from Mr. Vlach in memory of Dr. Zderad," said Teresa Nelson, Executive Director of The Foundation of BCC. "Her legacy of compassionate care and commitment to education will continue to inspire future generations of healthcare professionals at BCC."

NEWS & NOTES

Assistance League of Greater Wilmington Makes a Lasting Impact on BCC Health Sciences Students



The Foundation of Brunswick Community College (BCC) is delighted to announce a generous \$35,000 donation from the Assistance League of Greater Wilmington in support of our Health Sciences students. This incredible gift is part of the League's long-standing *Operation Scholars* initiative, which has been transforming students' lives since 2015 by offering financial aid to those pursuing careers in healthcare. Over the years, the Assistance League has contributed an impressive \$178,750 to BCC, a testament to their deep commitment to education and the health of our community.

"The Assistance League's unwavering support ensures our students have the resources they need to thrive in the healthcare field," said Teresa Nelson, Executive Director of The Foundation of BCC. "We are profoundly grateful for their dedication to building a brighter future for both our students and our entire community."

The Assistance League of Greater Wilmington is a remarkable all-volunteer nonprofit organization, part of a nationwide network focused on transforming lives through philanthropy. Since its founding in 2012, the Greater Wilmington chapter has grown to more than 150 members and serves Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender counties. Through their *Operation Scholars* program, they are helping shape the next generation of healthcare professionals who will undoubtedly make a lasting impact on our region and beyond.

To learn more about the programs offered at Brunswick Community College and how we're preparing students for successful careers in healthcare, **visit our website today!**

BCC Relief Effort Delivers Critical Support to Storm Victims





At Brunswick Community College, the spirit of community support shines brightest in times of need. We are proud to announce the overwhelming success of our recent Relief Drive, which was made possible by the generosity of our college family and our broader community. In the wake of the devastation caused by a tropical storm and Hurricane Helene, BCC mobilized to make a significant impact, collecting one and a half truckloads of essential supplies.

These donations were delivered to *Brunswick Family Assistance* for distribution locally and to *Blue Ridge Community College* (BRCC) to support communities in western North Carolina that were hit hardest. The heartfelt effort also included raising \$6,000, which is being used to purchase cold-weather necessities like blankets, sleeping bags, coats, gloves, and hats for adults and children, helping them stay warm in the months ahead.

While the Relief Drive focused on aiding storm-affected communities, BCC remains dedicated to addressing ongoing needs closer to home. Donations to our college's [two food pantries](#)—serving both students and employees—are always appreciated and go a long way in providing comfort and relief to those facing difficult times.

If you are interested in continuing to make a difference, we invite you to get involved. For more information on how you can contribute to BCC's relief efforts or [support our food pantries](#), please reach out to The Foundation of BCC Executive Director Teresa Nelson at (910) 755-7320 or email her at nelson@brunswickcc.edu.

Celebrating Student Success



In September, the Foundation hosted the Women in Philanthropy & Leadership of Brunswick (WPLB) for their Annual Membership Dinner at Odell Williamson Auditorium.

The evening was dedicated to celebrating student success, a theme that resonated throughout the event. The room was filled with inspiring stories of scholarship recipients and Student Ambassadors. The highlight of the evening was speeches from two exceptional students, Erin Howdershelt and Kylea Dowler. Both students shared personal challenges and triumphs and expressed their appreciation to the WPLB and the many other donors for making their college education at BCC a reality.

BCC Employees Surpass Fundraising Goal

WOW! We're beyond thrilled to announce that BCC employees went above and beyond, raising \$38,314 for the Campus Fund Drive, surpassing our \$36,000 goal! Their generosity is a testament to how much our BCC family cares about our students' success. Thank you for giving back and helping to create opportunities for our students to thrive.



Every Dollar Counts



If you'd like to help further the mission of The Foundation of BCC in support of our students, please scan the QR code on the left and make a gift of any size. Every dollar counts and is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support and generosity.

For information on mentor or volunteer opportunities, please reach out to Teresa Nelson at nelsont@brunswickcc.edu.

Our Contact Information

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The FOUNDATION of
BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Brunswick Community College Foundation, organized in 1982, is a charitable organization 501(c)(3) instituted to enhance BCC's mission to a level of excellence and purpose for students and the community. The Foundation is a vital resource for the acceptance and solicitation of all gifts for the support of education and the continued growth and progress of BCC. Brunswick Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, political affiliation, genetic information, sexual orientation or disability.