



THE FOUNDATION FOCUS

September 2025

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Dear Friends,

As we step into fall, I am reminded of the many ways our community continues to show up for BCC students.

This issue of *Foundation Focus* is filled with examples of generosity, creativity, and celebration—from meaningful gifts that strengthen scholarships and programs, to special events that highlight both our campus and the people who make it vibrant.



Contact

The Foundation of BCC

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Each story reflects what happens when people come together with a shared belief in the power of education. Whether through philanthropy, the arts, or support for athletics, these moments remind us that the Foundation's work is not just about raising funds—it's about raising opportunities, confidence, and futures.

Thank you for being part of this mission. Your support helps our students achieve more than they ever thought possible, and together, we are building a legacy of success that will carry forward for years to come.

With gratitude,

Teresa Nelson
Executive Director
The Foundation of Brunswick Community College

WPLB Stronger than Ever in Support of Students

Nearly 80 members of Women in Philanthropy & Leadership of Brunswick (WPLB) recently gathered with BCC leadership, staff, and our always-amazing Student Ambassadors for the Annual WPLB Dinner.

Ambassadors Sarah Long and Rachel Long shared their powerful stories of perseverance and gratitude, reminding us all why scholarships matter. Since its founding, WPLB has raised more than \$100,000 and helped 100 students pursue their dreams of higher education.

Special thanks to our Student Ambassadors for sharing their stories and representing BCC with such heart.

Here's to another year of women leading with generosity and vision!



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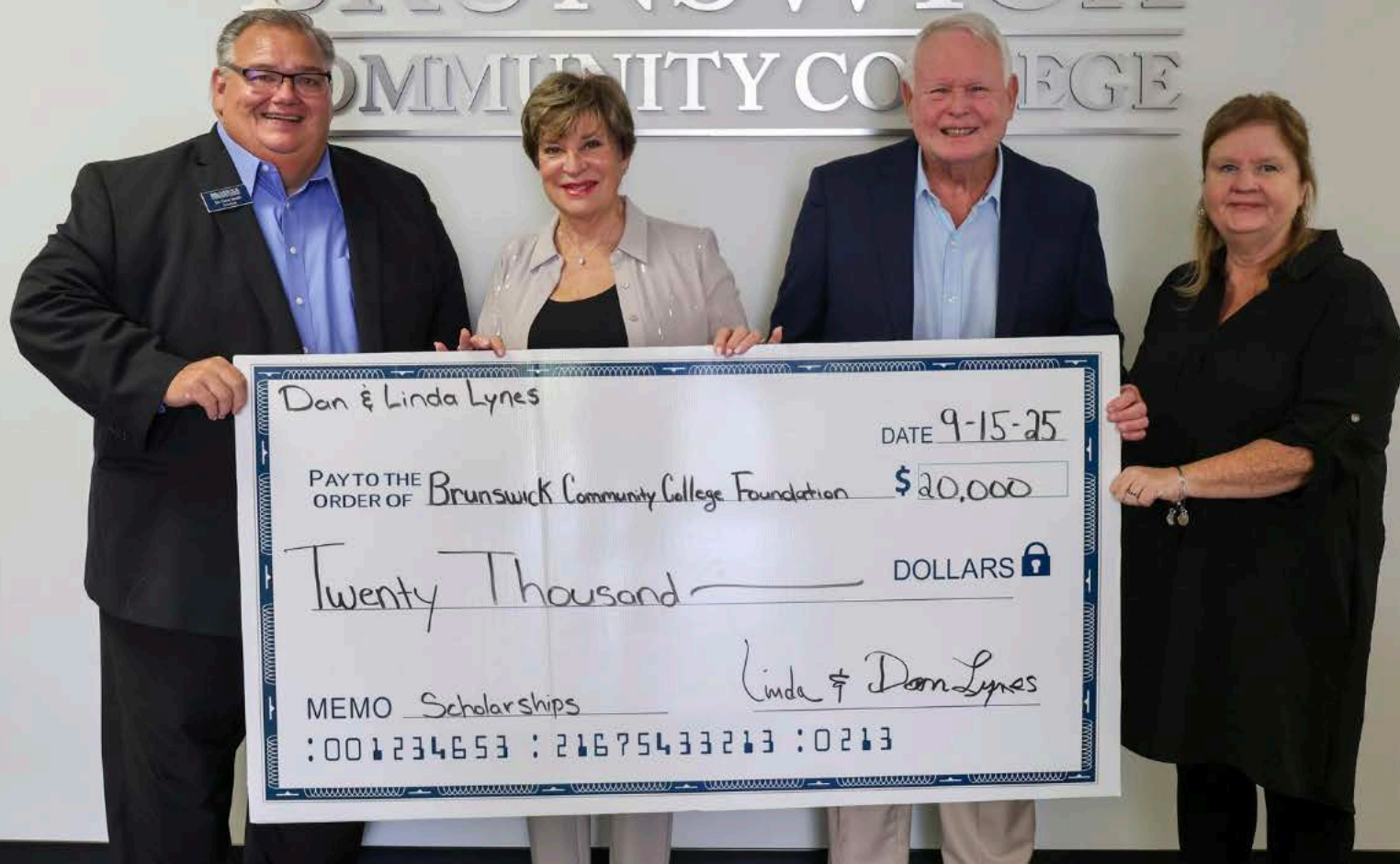


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Lynes Scholarship Support Grows with New \$20,000 Gift

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Daniel and Linda Lynes visited last week to present a \$20,000 gift in support of student scholarships, meeting with BCC President Dr. Gene Smith and Foundation Executive Director Teresa Nelson.

The Lynes family established their endowed scholarship in 2009 and have continued investing in BCC students ever since—helping more Dolphins cross the finish line each year. Their latest gift expands opportunities for students to persist, complete, and step confidently into the workforce and further education.

“Dan and Linda are incredibly giving and genuinely care about the students they help,” said Teresa Nelson. “They take time to talk with students to get to know them and learn about their goals. That kind of relationship has a lasting effect.”

Art, Legacy, and Color: Southport Center Celebrates the Work of Dorothy Gillespie



BCC's Southport Center for Heritage Arts received a bold new symbol of artistic legacy—a one-of-a-kind sculpture by acclaimed American artist Dorothy Gillespie, donated by her son, Gary Israel, on behalf of the Dorothy M. Gillespie Foundation.

Gillespie, known for her energetic and colorful aluminum installations, enjoyed a career that spanned over 70 years. A native of Roanoke, VA, she studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art and the Art Students League of New York and went on to become a leading voice in public art and arts advocacy. Her work championed the inclusion of diverse artistic voices in both museums and public spaces.

BCC hosted an official dedication event combined with a special screening of a documentary titled "*Dorothy Gillespie – Courage, Independence, and Color*." This compelling film traces Gillespie's remarkable career.

The photo above was taken in front of the sculpture at the formal dedication of Gillespie's sculpture at BCC's Southport Center.

NEWS & NOTES

Carolina Border Shields Supports Recent BLET Grad



Meet BLET Class 73 graduate Trent West. Trent is pictured with members of the Carolina Border Shields, who awarded him a scholarship.

Class 73 recently graduated and was the first at BCC to complete North Carolina's newly expanded 874-hour BLET curriculum. With determination, discipline, and teamwork, this class not only met the challenge but exceeded expectations—earning a 100% pass rate on the North Carolina Training & Standards State Exam.

Shout Out to PN Grads



Among BCC's newest graduates of the Practical Nursing (PN) Program was Brei'Anna Wilson. Pictured on the right in the second row, Brei'Anna was honored with the Connie B. Milliken Scholarship Award.

We are incredibly grateful for this scholarship and to the many foundations, organizations, and individuals who support our Nursing students!

Congratulations to all of our newest PN grads!

Congratulations, Trent, and thank you Carolina Border Shields for investing in this new law enforcement officer.

American Legion Post 543 Supports BCC Softball



The American Legion Richard H. Stewart, Jr. Post 543 recently presented a gift of \$1,000 in support of the BCC Softball Team. The check was presented by Post Commander Mike Carton to Head Coach Maliq Johnson and BCC President Dr. Gene Smith during a special ceremony on the softball field, with team members proudly gathered.

“Our American Legion Post 543 is proud to support the BCC Softball program as part of our Children and Youth pillar of the National American Legion organization,” said Commander Carton.

The Children and Youth pillar is one of the American Legion's four core values, dedicated to instilling patriotism and citizenship through education and leadership. Locally, the Post 543 Americanism and Children and Youth Committees work with schools and organizations to foster self-improvement opportunities and help young people accomplish their life goals.

This generous support underscores Post 543's commitment to empowering local students—both in the classroom and on the field.

Save the Date



BCC DOLPHINS ATHLETICS

GOLF TOURNAMENT

NOVEMBER 1ST

AT LOCKWOOD FOLLY COUNTRY CLUB



The 2025 Annual Dolphins Athletics Golf Tournament is happening Saturday, Nov. 1 at Lockwood Folly Country Club.

Enjoy a fun-filled day of golf, lunch, and prizes—all while supporting BCC student athletes in baseball and softball.

➡ 9:00 AM Shotgun/Scramble Start | 8:00 AM Registration

Click on the button below to learn more, register, or explore sponsorship opportunities. Let's hit the greens for our Dolphins!

[Learn More & Register](#)

Make a Gift Today



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

{{Organization Name}}
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