



JENAÏNE PIGOTTE, Sahketha Brown and Tamesha Livingstone are among 11 high school students enrolled in the cosmetology program at Brunswick Community College.



FOUR WEST BRUNSWICK seniors leave their BCC principles of electricity course with a good foundation for a variety of careers. Above are (front, from left) David Fulwood, Jay Gray and (back) Eric Andreis and Benji Makin.

BCC Courses Expand Options For High School Students

BY SUSAN USHER

Some wanted a head start on their vocation; others, to learn a skill not offered at their particular high school or to explore a career possibility.

Those are the reasons approximately 20 county students gave for enrolling in courses at Brunswick Community College for the 1993-94 term while still enrolled in high school.

Under two programs—Huskies Bill and dual enrollment, high school students ages 16 and older can take college curriculum courses at a community college, earn college credits and possibly high school credits too,—with tuition waived.

Under the Huskies Bill, BCC can offer class sections just for high school students in courses not offered by their public school. The other option, dual enrollment, allows advanced high school students to mainstream into existing college curriculum classes; no county students took advantage of that opportunity this year.

After taking three hours of coursework at their high school, students report to class at BCC's main campus in Supply, where they are treated—and graded—like any other college student.

For the cooperating schools, the experiences of these teenagers and those before them help improve articulation between high school and college classes, part of an attempt to insure that students who continue their education at the community college level are better prepared.

For some students the experience was pleasantly surprising, for others, college offered a shock or two, including a glimpse of how some of the subjects and skills taught in high school can be useful later.

For West Brunswick students Tamesha Livingstone and Sahketha Brown, a BCC class reaffirmed life-long career plans.

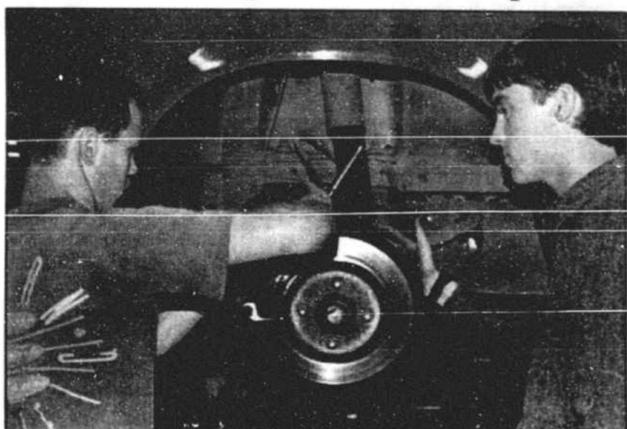
"I like people and I like to experiment with hair. This is something I had planned on doing ever since I was growing up," said Tamesha, pausing in the middle of a comb-out of a mannekin. "But I didn't know there would be so much bookwork."

They are two of 16 students (down to 11 by the end of the year) from West and South Brunswick high schools who enrolled in a basic cosmetology class section created just for them and taught by Tim Galloway.

Normally the students would either be in class or out on the "floor" with real customers. But this is exam time; hence the mannekins, Galloway explains.

Some students, like Tammy Roberson and Shawnda Hewett, who wants to eventually open her own business, will continue training this summer, encouraged by prospects of getting a cosmetology license and going to work quickly.

Others plan summer jobs in other fields, with the hope of saving money to either return to BCC or continue their education elsewhere come fall.



MICHAEL TOMPKINS and Nathan Francis, South Brunswick High School students, replace brake pads on a car owned by former BCC auto mechanics enrollee Mike Wescott, now a student at N.C. State University.

"I'm glad I took it," said Ali Karagiannis. "I have always liked working with hair but never thought I'd do it for a living. This has helped me decide. I will probably do this for a few years, save some money and then go on to something else."

Ditto for Tamara (Tammy) Roberson, who said, "I figured I'd better go ahead and finish or I might not be able to come back."

"I decided if I don't want to do this all of my life, I think it would help pay for what I do want to do later, like going to college."

High school students who enroll in cosmetology next fall will have better learning conditions, Galloway said. This year they had to "borrow" shampoo sink space from other BCC classes. Next year their classroom will be fully equipped for up to 20 students.

Prospects are good for high school students enrolling in BCC's electronics program as well.

West Brunswick High School students Eric Andreis, Jay Gould, David Fulwood and Benji Makin, along with Brian Yow and Jason Wilkes, signed up for courses in principles of electricity and technical math, both required in BCC's electronics engineering technology program. Make a decent grade and pass the end-of-the-course test and they could earn not only credit toward a two-year degree, but also a physics credit toward their high school diploma.

"This stuff is pretty hard," Eric said, not the easy credits he had an-

icipated at all. "Real hard," added Jay. What they recognized quickly was the need for a stronger technical/applied math background. Their high school math had not prepared them for college-level technical math.

There's a chance future enrollees will have that missing element. Beefing up high school technical math so that students will be better prepared for community college work is one goal of the new Tech Prep program being instituted by Brunswick County Schools and BCC.

BCC lead electronics instructor Billy Lee has been "very understanding," the students said.

According to Lee, the electronics program courses "really lay a good foundation for a lot of career choices." If students decide to continue in the program, some of the first-year pressure will be off with one course behind them, he said, and they can concentrate on doing well in their remaining classes.

Program graduates can enter the workforce directly, and often find their jobs easier than their coursework was, or continue on in a four-year degree program. For example, they can transfer to UNC-Charlotte with 64 credit hours.

For South Brunswick High School seniors Michael Tompkins and Nathan Francis, BCC was able to provide a vocational program their high school doesn't offer: auto mechanics.

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Taught by Roy Hornaday, the afternoon course provided training in inspecting, diagnosing, repairing and adjusting automotive vehicles through both classwork and shop practice. Next year he will offer afternoon classes in braking systems and suspension and steering systems if enough students sign up from high schools that don't offer their own auto mechanics programs.

Most high school students who enroll in Hornaday's classes do so for personal enrichment, to learn more about their own vehicles, not to get ahead in a career.

While he plans to move to Nevada after graduation, Michael said he's al-

ways wanted "to mess with cars" and may eventually get a degree in auto mechanics. Nathan will be leaving for the U.S. Army and a career in demolition work such as bomb dismantlement.

"It's too bad," said Hornaday. "Everybody's hollering for mechanics and they're all leaving."

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