

BCC Working To Justify Addition Of Two Widely-Accepted Associate Degree Programs

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick Community College wants to upgrade the degree programs it offers to students, adding both the associate of arts and associate of science degrees.

BCC now offers an associate degree in general education (AGE) but sees a need to offer stronger degrees that are more widely accepted by other colleges and universities. It hopes to accomplish that by expanding an existing contractual arrangement with UNC Wilmington.

Staff is already studying the feasibility of adding an associate of arts (AA) degree, and received trustees' approval last week to expand that study to look at adding the associate of science (AS) degree. Through a lengthy documentation process, BCC must justify the need for the additions to the N.C. Department of Community Colleges and its governing board and win their approval of the changes.

"If we can add these degrees, it would enable us to serve our students better, to provide them with better credentials for the workplace and in transferring to other schools," said BCC President W. Michael Reaves.

Johnnie Simpson, vice president for instruction, said BCC has recognized a need for an AA degree for several years. It is just now realizing the need for an AS degree, as the college develops more "2 + 2" agreements that help students

completing two-year technical programs at BCC transfer to four-year schools to continue their education.

BCC and N.C. State University, for example, are exploring possible transitions from BCC's aquaculture and recreational grounds management programs to four-year programs at NCSU. Carolina Power & Light Co. is discussing training for its employees with BCC that also would have a heavy math/science orientation, with ability to transfer credits to a four-year program desirable.

The youngest of the state's community colleges, BCC is also one of only 10 of the 58 campuses that does not offer a college transfer program. All of those 10 do offer a general education degree (AGE) in a contractual arrangement with a university. One campus, Central Carolina, offers the AGE and the more widely accepted AS and AA degrees in cooperation with Campbell University.

That is similar to what BCC hopes to offer, in concert with UNCW, Simpson said.

"For a stand-alone program, you have to have a large faculty. We'd have to add eight or 10 faculty members. I honestly think the contract program is wonderful for us."

Along with ease of student transfer, the program offers stronger personal contacts among faculty and staff of the two schools and staff development for community college faculty members.

General education (AGE) is the local college's fastest-growing curriculum program. Enrollment has more than doubled since the program began in 1988, accounting this fall for 34 percent (273) of the 804 students enrolled.

Under the contract with UNCW students pay BCC tuition and take classes at BCC. They are taught by faculty meeting UNCW standards, and use the same textbooks and course outlines employed at UNCW.

Students completing the program at one time received two transcripts, from BCC and UNCW, to make it easier to transfer to other schools. However, to satisfy concerns raised by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, that system has been changed. Students now receive a transcript from BCC, supported by a letter from UNCW Chancellor James R. Leutze attesting that their work at BCC has met the university's standards.

Requirements for an associate of arts degree are much more specific than the AGE as to course students take as electives and include a foreign language requirement.

An AS degree requires "many, many more science courses," said Simpson, allowing students to complete more biology, chemistry and physics courses at the two-year school before transferring. "I really think the science will strengthen our curriculum and our transfer capabilities."

Six Injured In Accident Sunday Outside Calabash

Six people were injured Sunday afternoon in a two-car accident just east of Calabash on N.C. 179.

James Floyd, 17, of Ocean Isle Beach, was charged with failure to yield in the 1:30 p.m. wreck.

Trooper R.E. King said Floyd was traveling east on N.C. 179 in an 1986 GMC truck when he attempted to make a left turn into a private driveway in the path of an oncoming vehicle, a 1991 Oldsmobile operated by Lyle Mouse, 37, of Albemarle.

The injured included Floyd and two of his three passengers, Sarah Gridauskas, 16, and Steven Webb, 17, also of Ocean Isle Beach. While Mouse was not hurt, his passengers, Robin Mouse, 33, of Albemarle, and Andy Harris, 36, and Sharon Harris, 33, both of Kannapolis, were injured.

Damage to Floyd's truck was estimated at \$3,500, and damage to the Mouse Oldsmobile, \$5,000.

In an earlier accident at 2:10 a.m. Sunday, Katherine Roush, 33, of Wilmington was charged with driving while impaired and careless and reckless driving following a two-car accident 5.2 miles south of Leland on U.S. 17.

Trooper H.R. Smith, who investigated the accident, reported Roush

was driving north on U.S. 17 in a 1989 Nissan when her vehicle struck the driver's side door of a 1980 Dodge being pushed by its driver north on U.S. 17.

Both Roush and her passenger, Doug Dudley, 34, of Bolivia, were transported to New Hanover Regional Medical Center with complaints of injury.

Larry Best Jr., 17, of Leland, the second driver, and all four of his passengers were also transported with complaints of injury. The passengers were Benny James, 16, and Antwain James, 14, both of Leland, and Ternel McCallister, 17, and George McCallister, 15, both of Wilmington.

Damages were estimated at \$2,500 to Roush's car and \$200 to Best's vehicle.

Several injuries were also reported in a three-vehicle chain reaction accident last Wednesday, Sept. 21, on N.C. 211 just west of Southport.

Charles Engle, 75, of Boiling Spring Lakes, driving a 1992 Dodge truck, and Terry Smith, 25, of Southport, driving a 1993 Ford, were stopped for traffic in the east-bound lane. A 1984 Chevrolet approached from the rear, reported Trooper D.A. Lewis, and struck

Engle's vehicle in the rear. In turn, Engle's truck struck Smith's Ford.

Damian Williams, 16, of Long Beach, driver of the third vehicle, was charged with failure to reduce speed.

Williams and his passenger,

Ardianna Williams, 13, were transported to Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport.

Damages were estimated at \$1,000 to the Williams car, \$700 to the Engle truck and \$400 to the Smith car.

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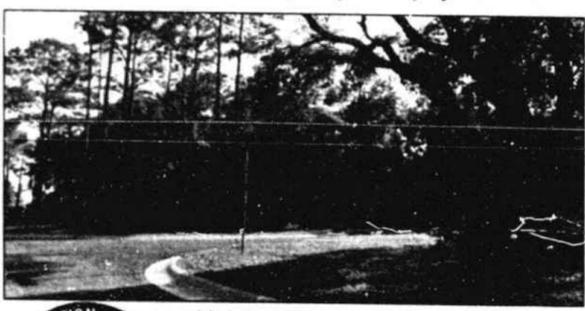
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