

From HRD to All-USA Academic FIRST TEAM

August 1974 might not have seemed particularly memorable to the staff at Blue Ridge Tech's HRD Program, but at that time, a seventeen year old high school dropout enrolled in the sixth HRD class offered by the school. Robbie Dalton (now Kirtley) was not sure what she wanted to do with her life. Friends of hers who



had been in HRD suggested she take the class, so she decided to give it a try.

During that eight week program, Robbie finished her GED and decided that she wanted to continue her education. However, her best laid plans did go awry. Instead of school, she went to work, married, raised her two children until the youngest was in kindergarten and then went to work again. For over 12 years she was employed by the local school system, first as a dishwasher, then teacher assistant and finally a cafeteria manager.

But she never gave up her dream of continuing her education. She enrolled in BRCC's College Transfer Program and graduated with honors in May, 1993. In the fall of that year, she enrolled in the college's Associate Degree Nursing Program.

In April 1995, USA Today announced the twenty community college and junior college students who had been selected from over 900 nominations to comprise the ALL-USA Academic First Team. Robbie Dalton Kirtley was one of the twenty.

While she was in Minneapolis to accept this award, she and three other two and four year college students were selected to meet with President Bill Clinton for a one-on-one talk about education. During his address later in the day, President Clinton referred to "his friend, Robbie Kirtley from Flat Rock, NC" and talked about some of her concerns.

Robbie graduated from the nursing program in May. While at BRCC, she received numerous awards and accolades. She is now pursuing her nursing career at a local clinic where she meets people who are where she was twenty-one years ago. She is telling them about HRD and other programs at BRCC that might help them.

We have had many "winners" complete HRD during the 149 classes we have offered. But Robbie is very special. Henry Hill, former Assistant Superintendent of Public Schools summed it up beautifully. He said, "I can think of no former student, based on where they began to where they are, who is more deserving than Robbie Dalton Kirtley."

Submitted by Jane Dana

Fayetteville Technical Community College's Basic Skills Department Selected to Offer the Immigration and Naturalization Service Approved CASAS Basic Skills Examination and Exam Preparation Classes

Fayetteville Technical Community College is about to launch two complementary educational offerings. Carrie Heffney, Director of Basic Skills at FTCC, is excited about the enhanced services which will now be available to our diverse immigrant population.

The Basic Skills Department was recently selected to offer the "CASAS Basic Citizenship Skills Examination" to eligible immigrants who would like to become American citizens. In 1992, the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS), a not-for-profit organization, received approval from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to administer the exam. Fayetteville Technical Community College is the only agency in North Carolina, besides the INS office, which will offer a citizenship examination.

Eligible immigrants who apply for, take and pass this exam later meet with an INS officer who will review the applicants's ability to speak and understand English.

"Citizenship is an important goal for immigrants," said Patricia Richards, Executive Director of CASAS. "The approval of this citizenship test will provide an additional avenue for all immigrants to meet their citizenship goals."

FTCC also requested and was awarded a \$28,000.00 grant by the North Carolina Community College System. This grant will allow the college to develop and offer special classes to help eligible immigrants prepare for the aforementioned CASAS Basic Citizenship Skills Examination.

Carrie Heffney, with her staff, has identified the personnel and resources needed to register these special classes for the Fall Quarter. Thus far, response to our marketing team's efforts have been excellent, with citizenship exam offered on campus on September 23. A "full house" is expected!

Submitted by Hubert Bullard

Central Piedmont Community College News

Central Piedmont Community College is very proud to announce that Nancy Marlowe Clifford has had her book THE SELF-DIRECTED JOB SEARCH published by Simon and Schuster Custom Publishing. This book is very well written, concise and best of all, it's affordable for those that are in to job search.

Nancy is the Program Facilitator for the Human Resources Development Program at CPCC and this is the first of her works to be published.

For anyone interested in getting a copy of this text for review, it can be purchased from: Simon and Schuster Custom Publishing, 160 Gould Street Needham Heights, MA 02194, Simon and Schuster Education Group. The toll free phone number is 1-800-223-2348.

Submitted by Jeff Sechrist