

Wake Tech Graduates Continue To Find Strong Job Opportunities With Business, Government

Graduates of Wake Technical Community College continue to find strong job opportunities with businesses, industries, medical facilities, government offices, and a variety of other agencies throughout the Wake/Triangle area. Many have established their own firms.

The college offers more than 70 career programs in business, engineering technology, health, public service and vocational fields. Students in these programs have explored the job market and see many options. They look forward to completion of their studies and to important work opportunities.

Willie Bost III is among those students preparing for a promising future. Bost enrolled in the two-year electronics engineering technology curriculum after talking with graduates who praised the excellent instruction they received at Wake Tech. He says he also liked the idea of gaining paid, practical work experience through the college's cooperative education (work/study) program.

With one quarter remaining before graduation, Bost is currently earning cooperative work experience at Buehler Products of Cary while taking evening classes at Wake Tech. After graduating, he plans to return to Wake Tech to earn an associate's degree in computer engineering technology and then find employment in some type of electronic field service.

"I would recommend Wake Tech very highly to anyone interested in the electronics field," he says.

The outlook is strong for engineering technology graduates, who find numerous opportunities as technicians in industry. In the electronics engineering technology program, for example, graduates may work as assistants to engineers or as liaisons between engineers and skilled craftsmen.

After earning an associate's degree at Wake Tech, a number of engineering technology graduates pursue a bachelor's or other advanced degree. Conversely, a number of students at Wake Tech have already earned a four-year degree and



BENEFITS FROM COOPERATIVE ED.—Ms. Callina Manley, a student in the administrative office technology program at Wake Tech, enjoyed her cooperative education experience in the public affairs department with the N.C. Department of Transportation.

are developing engineering technology skills for a career change.

Larry McQueen, a 1991 graduate of the automation/robotics technology program at Wake Tech, is an example. McQueen had earned a B.S. in biology and chemistry and worked for a number of years in state government before choosing to make a career change. Today, he has a career in automation at Western Microtechnology in the Research Triangle Park.

He enrolled in the automation/robotics technology program after investigating the job opportunities in this field and

inquiring about Wake Tech. He says he learned a great deal in the program, adding that the class sizes were small and the instruction personalized.

"I've always been mechanically inclined," he says. "I'm glad I developed a hands-on skill."

The cooperative education program adds another dimension for Wake Tech students, allowing them to gain practical experience and earn money. Callina Manley, an administrative office technology student, especially enjoyed her cooperative experience in the public affairs department with the N.C. Depart-

ment of Transportation.

Manley's responsibilities included typing, filing, working with special events, doing computer work and other duties. She adds that her curriculum classes gave her good preparation for her co-op work experience.

This combination of classroom instruction and cooperative work experience draws a number of students to Wake Tech. Enrollment continues to grow, and the college had the largest spring-quarter enrollment in its history.

"The college has had a very successful recruiting year—overwhelming, in fact," says Bob Brown, vice president for student services at Wake Tech. Applications for fall quarter admissions are 51 percent higher than they were at this point a year ago, he adds.

The college maintains close ties with area high schools by participating in career days, sponsoring open houses and getting involved in other recruitment activities. Recently, for example, second-year students in culinary arts programs at Wake Tech prepared a buffet luncheon for several Enloe High School students interested in food-service careers.

During the event instructor Fredi Morf also introduced a Wake Tech culinary technology student—Cheryl Craft—who won a bronze medal in a recent food preparation competition sponsored by the Professional Chefs of North Carolina and the N.C. Restaurant Association. Craft already has a promising job in culinary arts at the Cardinal Club in Raleigh, he noted.

The college researches local employment demands to determine programing needs. This fall, for example, the college will begin offering an associate degree program focusing on one of the top 10 careers for the 1990s: medical office technology.

This two-year program will prepare graduates to enter the medical secretarial field. Graduates may find employment with medical supply and equipment manufacturers, medical laboratories, physicians' offices, hospitals and other medical care facilities.

Two Wake County Teachers To Receive NC's Outstanding Art Education Award To Foster Creativity & Culture

Two Wake County teachers will receive Miss North Carolina's Outstanding Art Education Award. Terry Blalock, band instructor at Athens Drive High School, and Anne Kratzer, an art teacher at Farmington Woods Elementary School, will be visited by Jennifer Vaden Smith, Miss North Carolina 1991, on Friday. They are among seven teachers statewide chosen for the honor by Miss North Carolina in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Miss North Carolina will visit Athens Drive at 8:30 a.m. and Farmington Woods at 2:30 p.m. to personally present the awards.

Blalock, a 20-year educator, has been teaching band students at Athens Drive

for 10 years. He directs the school's wind ensemble as well as the concert, jazz and marching bands. One of his most memorable moments came after a marching band competition where his students performed in the rain. Afterward, he received a letter not only praising the band members' music, but their attitude and character.

"I try to instill an attitude of wanting to learn and doing your best," Blalock said. "Music is a vehicle for making students better people, helping them to understand culture and the arts."

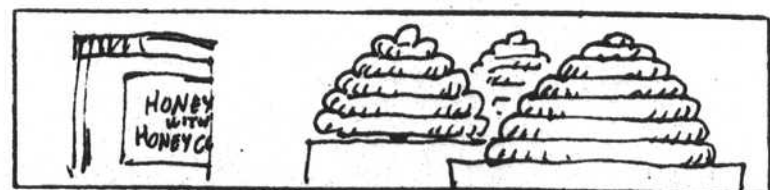
Kratzer has been teaching arts for 14 years, six at Farmington Woods. She is extremely involved in educating the community about the arts and even helps to coordinate an annual exhibition of stu-

dent artwork from Cary area schools. In 1985, she was Wake County's teacher of the year and the Region 3 teacher of the year.

"It is important to realize the arts foster creativity, problem solving, and critical and evaluative skills, crucial to the

development of the total child," Kratzer said.

Blalock and Kratzer were both nominated by the parents and students of their respective schools and were selected for making a significant difference in their school or community.



A honeycomb has walls that are only 1/80-inch thick, but can support 30 times their own weight.