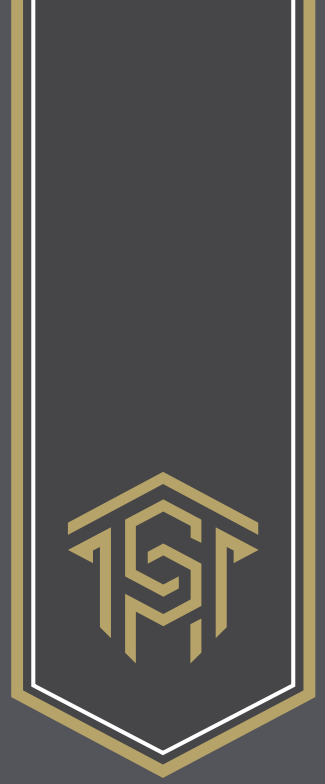




PRESIDENT'S REPORT

September 9, 2026



CENTRAL PIEDMONT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



CENTRAL PIEDMONT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

CENTRAL PIEDMONT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

As another academic year begins, our campuses are once again filled with the energy, optimism and determination that define Central Piedmont. Each fall, thousands of students entrust us with their aspirations, seeking education and opportunity as pathways to a brighter future. That trust is both a profound responsibility and an extraordinary privilege. Every day, we are reminded that our work extends far beyond classrooms and credentials. We are helping individuals transform their lives, strengthening Charlotte’s workforce and shaping the future of our community.

This commitment was on full display at Fall Forum, where we unveiled our new strategic plan, **Leading Boldly. Forward Thinking. Future Ready.** More than a roadmap, this plan is a call to action that challenges us to anticipate change, embrace innovation and expand opportunity for generations to come. The celebration at American Legion Memorial Stadium reflected the enthusiasm and momentum fueling our future, from the return of our beloved tiger mascot, Spark, to the passion and dedication demonstrated daily by our faculty and staff. Their commitment to student success inspires me and reinforces the promise of what we can achieve together.

That promise is already taking shape across the college. This fall, we launched new academic programs and strengthened existing pathways designed to meet the evolving needs of students and employers. During the summer, recently graduated high school students explored in-demand careers through a Careers Electric Summer Academy, while Central Piedmont students and Honeywell Scholars conducted research at UNC Charlotte, advancing both their knowledge and professional experience. These opportunities reflect our ongoing commitment to preparing students for meaningful careers and lifelong success.

Our partnerships continue to expand access and create new possibilities. We celebrated our 20th guaranteed admission agreement, welcoming UNC Asheville as the newest university partner, while healthcare students gained additional opportunities to pursue bachelor’s degrees through Appalachian State University. Apprenticeships with HSP US are connecting students to advanced manufacturing careers at the company’s first U.S.-based facility. At the same time, our Small Business Center continues to empower entrepreneurs, and we remain deeply engaged with the public safety professionals who serve and protect our communities.

Central Piedmont’s impact is strengthened by exceptional leadership and the support of those who believe in our mission. This year, Executive Vice President for Finance and Operations Jessica Boyce was recognized as a finalist for the Charlotte Business Journal CFO of the Year award, reflecting the caliber of leadership that helps drive our success. We are also pleased to welcome new members to our Board of Trustees, whose expertise and guidance will help shape the college’s future. Across our campuses, visible transformations continue as well, from significant infrastructure improvements and stewardship projects to the installation of new public art that enriches the student experience and celebrates the communities we serve.

As we move forward, our focus remains clear. We will continue to expand opportunity, strengthen partnerships and invest in innovation that prepares students for a rapidly changing world. Guided by **Leading Boldly. Forward Thinking. Future Ready.**, we are not simply responding to the future, we are helping create it.

Thank you for your continued partnership and belief in the life-changing power of Central Piedmont. Together, we are building stronger futures for our students, our region and generations to come.

With gratitude,
Kandi W. Deitemeyer, Ed.D.





EMPOWER

students to be workforce leaders



CENTRAL PIEDMONT HELPS **PROPEL STUDENTS INTO ELECTRICAL CAREERS**

This summer, 14 recent high school graduates participated in the new Careers Electric Summer Academy at Central Piedmont, an initiative designed to expand access to high-demand skilled trades careers while strengthening North Carolina’s workforce pipeline.

Funded by the Siemens Foundation and administered by the North Carolina Business Committee for Education, the program provided students with hands-on training, college coursework and exposure to apprenticeship opportunities in the electrical field. Central Piedmont was one of only 12 community colleges statewide selected to host a Summer Electrical Academy.

Through a partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, students completed college-level courses in Basic Construction Skills and Residential Wiring, earning college credit while developing technical proficiency. To help remove barriers to participation, the program covered tuition, books, fees, transportation, personal protective equipment and work boots. Students who successfully completed the academy also received a \$2,000 stipend.

The Careers Electric Summer Academy demonstrated the transformative impact of career-focused education. For some, the experience opened the door to new career possibilities and a clearer path toward a rewarding profession.

“The way the program teaches you to think as a tradesman, it really opened my eyes to the possibilities.”

— TEAGUE WILSON, *student*

“The way the program teaches you to think as a tradesman, as an electrician, it really opened my eyes to the possibilities of other career fields,” student Teague Wilson said. “I was always a person who worked with cars and worked with my hands, but I never thought of that as a career. This program has really given me the opportunity to pursue that.”



HSP US/TRENCH GROUP

NC BOOST CONTINUES TO AID STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH COACHING, ENGAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Now entering its second year, NC Boost, a North Carolina Community College System initiative, provides financial support and personalized coaching to help students stay on track, overcome challenges and reach their academic and career goals.

The reduction of financial stress helps students focus on learning and completing their programs. Participants receive a campus bookstore allowance and a monthly \$100 grant to assist with educational expenses. Students also receive one-on-one support

from a success coach who helps them stay on track academically and personally.

“It’s been very eye-opening, and I know I learned more about myself,” said Meaghan Robbins, one of the Central Piedmont participants in the pilot program. “It really makes you focus on yourself, what you want and where you want to go.”

By combining financial support with individualized coaching, NC Boost strengthens student outcomes and builds confidence as students prepare for future careers.



COLLEGE ANNOUNCES NEW CONTINUING ED OFFERINGS IN BIOWORK, VETERINARY ASSISTING AND COSMETOLOGY

Central Piedmont has launched several new short-term continuing education programs for the 2026-27 academic year, helping students develop a wide variety of highly sought-after skills.

New offerings include a BioWork certificate, which prepares students for entry-level careers in biotechnology, biomanufacturing and pharmaceutical manufacturing. The eight-week hybrid program combines online instruction with hands-on laboratory training. Meanwhile, a new 15-week Veterinary Assisting Technician program provides students with foundational knowledge and practical experience in animal care, diagnostics, laboratory procedures,

surgical support and client communication through a hybrid learning model and clinical externship.

At Harris Campus, Central Piedmont is expanding its health and beauty programming with new Barbering licensing, and both Esthetics and Manicuring & Pedicuring certificate programs. These offerings provide hands-on training and licensure preparation for careers in the beauty and wellness industry while helping address employer needs.

Each new program demonstrates Central Piedmont’s continued commitment to providing accessible, career-focused education.



“It’s been very eye-opening, and I know I learned more about myself.”

— MEAGHAN ROBBINS

HONEYWELL SCHOLARS SHOWCASE RESEARCH AT UNC CHARLOTTE

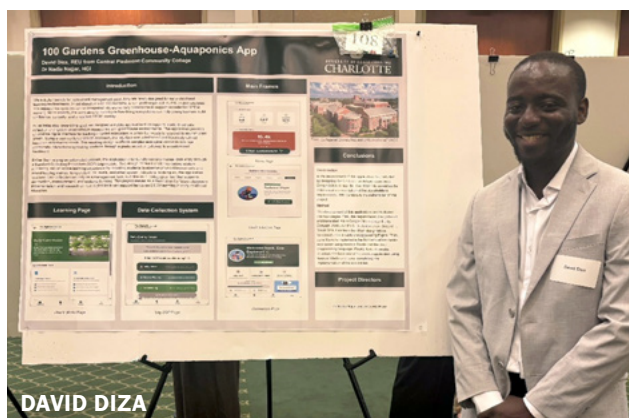
Central Piedmont students and Honeywell Scholars David Diza and Patience Ventura spent the summer participating in a Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program through UNC Charlotte’s College of Computing and Informatics.

REU gave students hands-on, academic research experience and provided them with opportunities to communicate effectively in front of diverse audiences. Participants developed scientific posters highlighting their research findings and showcased their work during UNC Charlotte’s Summer REU Symposium on Monday, July 20.

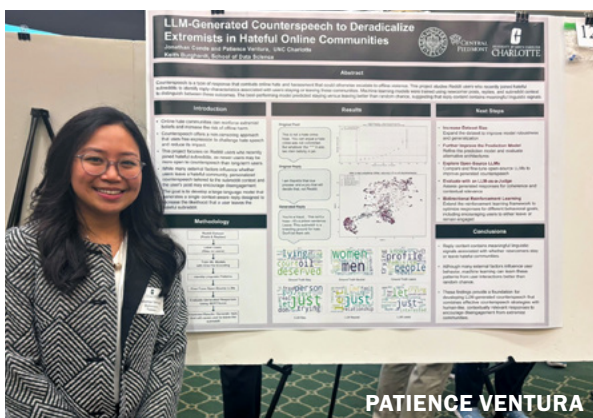
“This experience has helped me learn more about academic research, understand the process behind creating scientific posters and prepare for presenting research findings,” Diza said.

The experience helped participants build critical thinking, problem-solving and public-speaking skills while strengthening their academic and professional credentials.

Through the support of the Honeywell STEM Academy, Central Piedmont students are gaining valuable experience that will help them succeed in STEM careers and future academic pursuits.



DAVID DIZA



PATIENCE VENTURA

PEOPLE WITH

MYCHAL MOORE

Inspired by an uncle who worked as a police officer in Mecklenburg County for two decades, Officer Mychal Moore pursued a career dedicated to serving others. After more than five years as a detention officer with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office, Mychal enrolled in Central Piedmont's Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program to take the next step in his career.

He chose Central Piedmont's Merancas Campus for its convenience and strong reputation for preparing future law enforcement professionals. Through a combination of classroom learning and hands-on training led by experienced instructors, he built the expertise and confidence needed for a successful career in law enforcement.

Since completing the program, Mychal has served as a field training officer and as a recruiter for the Cornelius Police Department. Today, he is a school resource officer, where he works directly with middle school students.

"If you can touch one person's life and have a positive impact, I think that's the most rewarding thing you can do," Mychal said.



DAVID SVOBODA

More than a decade after building his first 3D printer at a Central Piedmont STEM summer camp, David Svoboda is transforming an early passion into a promising engineering career.

After graduating from high school in 2022, David spent a year working in an automotive shop before enrolling at Central Piedmont. Drawn to engineering's combination of hands-on problem-solving and technical theory, he found Central Piedmont's supportive learning environment helped him thrive.

"I think the biggest benefit of being here is the class size and closeness to instructors," David said.

Those connections led to a six-month research internship at ENSAM-ParisTech in France, one of the world's leading technical institutions. Facilitated by Dr. Hisham A. Abdel-Aal, chair of Central Piedmont's Mechanical Engineering Technology program, the experience allowed David to research 3D-printing applications, participate in European scientific conferences and gain hands-on industry experience.

Today, David serves as a teaching assistant in Central Piedmont's Fab Lab while preparing to continue his engineering studies after graduating in December 2026 — a journey that began by attending one simple summer camp.



A PURPOSE

DENINNE PRITCHETT

Dr. Deninne Pritchett's journey reveals the transformative power of education.

A Central Piedmont alumna, associate professor of psychology and founding faculty director of the Truist Honors Program, Deninne once struggled to find her path. After briefly enrolling at the college in 2000 and stepping away, she returned in 2007 determined to complete her education. Inspired by the support she received from faculty and staff, she earned her Associate in Arts degree before continuing her studies through the doctoral level.

Deninne is also now a Fulbright Specialist — an honor awarded to experts selected by the U.S. Department of State. She partnered with a university in Bolivia to modernize its psychology curriculum, helping align coursework with workforce needs and community engagement.

Whether locally or overseas, she works tirelessly to develop others.

"If we can convince students to believe or we can get students to recognize their own greatness, they can be anything that they want to be," Deninne said.



JOY RILEY

Jocelyn "Joy" Riley's educational journey is one of determination and flexibility. While working, raising a young daughter and pursuing her career, Joy earned both an associate degree from Central Piedmont and a bachelor's degree from Western Carolina University in spring 2026.

After serving as a flight attendant and later transitioning into banking and fraud-related work, Joy returned to higher education in 2022 to advance her professional goals. Central Piedmont's online course offerings allowed her to balance family, work and academic responsibilities while completing coursework that complemented her bachelor's program.

Now enrolled in Central Piedmont's Paralegal Technology program, Joy plans to pursue a career in criminal law. She credits the college's flexible learning environment, academic advising and financial aid support with helping her succeed.

As a Merancas Scholar and future member of the Alumni Leadership Council, Joy hopes to encourage other adult learners to pursue their educational aspirations while balancing the demands of work and family life.

"They have families; they're taking care of little ones while trying to log in to classes," Joy said. "I want to be part of something that encourages and inspires."





ACTIVATE

partnerships to deliver
exceptional programs and services

CENTRAL PIEDMONT PARTNERS WITH HSP US ON APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

HSP held the grand opening of its high-voltage transformer bushing plant in Charlotte in late July. At the company’s first U.S.-based manufacturing facility, a partnership with Central Piedmont brings apprentices to HSP US. The apprenticeship combines classroom instruction

with hands-on training and paid industry experience as students pursue advanced electrical manufacturing careers.

“Partnerships like this connect education directly to opportunity,” said Marcia Colson, associate vice president of workforce and business development at Central Piedmont. “Through our work with HSP US, students can earn while they learn, gain hands-on experience in advanced electrical manufacturing and build careers in one of the most important infrastructure sectors of the future. This apprenticeship program supports our students, strengthens our regional workforce and helps Charlotte prepare for the next generation of energy and manufacturing jobs.”

Central Piedmont is the educational partner of many apprenticeship programs. Apprenticeships provide paid, on-the-job training at one company and provide a continual pipeline of skilled talent.



HSP US/TRENCH GROUP

L to R: Nils von Dietman, CEO HSP US; Bridget Bartol, Executive Director NEMA; Marcia Colson, Associate Vice President Central Piedmont Community College; Alma Adams, Congresswoman from North Carolina’s 12th district; and Bahadir Basdere, President & CEO Trench Group

FIVE ALARM LEADERSHIP EVENT SHOWCASES COLLEGE’S COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Central Piedmont hosted “Five Alarm Leadership: Real Leadership with Real People” on Aug. 11 and 12 at Halton Theater, bringing public safety leaders to Central Campus for a professional development experience focused on leadership, team performance and organizational culture.

strategies for building high-performing teams and strengthening workplace culture. Participants learned how effective leadership can improve employee engagement, performance and service to communities.

Led by Fire Chiefs Rick Lasky and John Salka, who have more than a century of combined public safety experience, the event was designed to help current and aspiring leaders navigate the challenges of leading people in high-pressure environments. While rooted in the fire service, the training was relevant to professionals across public safety, including fire, EMS and law enforcement organizations. Approximately 300 individuals from North and South Carolina participated.

By hosting programs such as “Five Alarm Leadership,” Central Piedmont continues to support the community beyond the classroom and acts as a resource across critical public service sectors.

The program explored a variety of topics, including integrity, innovation, accountability, motivation and coaching while offering practical



FIVE ALARM LEADERSHIP

RICK LASKY AND JOHN SALKA

UNC ASHEVILLE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIP OPENS ANOTHER PATH TO A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

A new guaranteed admission partnership with UNC Asheville streamlines the transfer process for Central Piedmont students and creates a clear, confident pathway from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree.

The new Bulldog Promise Program guarantees admission for eligible students who complete an associate degree and fulfill program requirements.

Through the partnership, students can also begin building connections with UNC Asheville long before they transfer.

The partnership is designed to reduce uncertainty, make the transfer process more predictable and achievable, and simplify the transition for a wide range of students, including first-generation college students, adult learners and others pursuing a bachelor's degree.

"UNC Asheville is proud to partner with Central Piedmont Community College to make the path to a bachelor's degree as clear and attainable as possible," said Kimberly van Noort, chancellor of UNC Asheville. "The



Bulldog Promise Program reflects our shared commitment to student success — giving transfer students the personalized support they need well before they ever set foot on our campus. By building on the strong foundation students gain at Central Piedmont, this partnership helps them save both time and money on their way to a bachelor's degree, positioning them to land the job of their dreams upon graduation. We want every Central Piedmont student to know we are fully committed to their success from day one."

The agreement marks Central Piedmont's 20th guaranteed admission partnership and expands the college's growing network of transfer opportunities with four-year institutions. Central Piedmont currently maintains partnerships with more than 40 colleges and universities through statewide transfer agreements, guaranteed admission programs, honors agreements and other transfer opportunities.

ROYALUP SET TO EXPAND STUDENT ACCESS TO QUEENS UNIVERSITY OF CHARLOTTE

Central Piedmont students participating in the RoyalUp transfer program at Queens University of Charlotte will soon have new opportunities to engage with campus life before completing their associate degree and transferring.

Beginning in fall 2027, RoyalUp students may choose to live on the Queens campus in Myers Park. In addition, an optional RoyalUp Access Pass will provide expanded opportunities to connect with the university through attendance at athletic events, participation in campus traditions and invitations to select social activities.



"This early engagement creates a sense of belonging and familiarity," said Ojay Johnson, Central Piedmont's director of academic advising and transfer services.

The RoyalUp program offers Central Piedmont students a guaranteed admission pathway to Queens after completing their associate degree and meeting eligibility requirements. Students who transfer through the program also qualify for a minimum of \$10,000 annually in scholarship support through the Queens Commitment.

NEW TRANSFER AGREEMENT EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES FOR CENTRAL PIEDMONT HEALTH PROGRAM GRADUATES

Central Piedmont students who earn health-related Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees now have a clearer path to advancing their education and careers through a new statewide transfer agreement with Appalachian State University. The agreement creates a seamless pathway into App State’s Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences program.

The transfer agreement, in partnership with the

North Carolina Community College System, was created with flexibility in mind. Students can complete the degree online or in person, attend part-time or full-time, and finish in as little as two years. Participants can choose concentrations in healthcare management or public health while developing leadership, communication and critical-thinking skills valued by employers across the healthcare industry.

The transfer agreement offers rolling admission in the spring, summer and fall, requires a qualifying health-related A.A.S. degree, and has no waiting list or enrollment cap.

In addition to the new health sciences pathway, Central Piedmont students can take advantage of the Aspire Appalachian transfer program, which provides guaranteed admission to App State for eligible students who complete their associate degree and meet transfer requirements.



CENTRAL PIEDMONT ENTREPRENEUR COMPETES IN SBCN STARTUP SHOWDOWN

Julia Blazinic, part of the Central Piedmont Small Business Center, was chosen to advance in the inaugural Small Business Center Network (SBCN) Startup Showdown, an initiative launched by the North Carolina Community College System and led through the Small Business Centers at all 58 North Carolina Community Colleges.

Julia was one of just 17 entrepreneurs selected to advance from 316 applicants. Her concept, Campusent, is a student-only marketplace where college students buy and sell services and items within their campus community. Each entrepreneur worked closely with counselors preparing business ideas and planning for multiple review stages.

In early August, Julia presented her business pitch deck to four Business Trailblazers. Additionally, throughout the first two weeks of September, statewide public voting gives Julia and other participants the opportunity to add more points to their overall Business Trailblazer Score before the statewide awards in mid-September.

Julia is competing for a \$30,000 first-place prize in unrestricted startup funding, with \$20,000 going to second place and \$10,000 to third place. Each winner will also receive up to \$1,000 toward membership dues for their local Chamber of Commerce.

The program was organized by the North Carolina Small Business Network and was created to identify and support emerging entrepreneurs across the state through business coaching, pitch preparation and statewide collaboration. Julia’s achievement highlights the impact of Central Piedmont’s Small Business Center in supporting entrepreneurs and fostering economic development.





CULTIVATE

a culture where people excel and
engage in meaningful work

JESSICA BOYCE

NAMED CHARLOTTE BUSINESS JOURNAL CFO OF THE YEAR FINALIST

Central Piedmont Executive Vice President of Finance and Operations Jessica Boyce was selected as a finalist for the Charlotte Business Journal's 2026 CFO of the Year in the Education category, recognizing her leadership during a period of significant growth, strategic investment and strong financial stewardship.

Boyce has played a critical role in positioning Central Piedmont to meet the workforce needs of a rapidly growing region while overseeing a financial strategy that supports more than \$200 million in active capital projects across the college's six campuses. In the most recent fiscal year, she helped the college navigate state and federal funding uncertainty while supporting continued enrollment growth and securing resources that sustained operations and investments in students, employees and programs.

As executive vice president, Boyce oversees finance, operations, facilities, risk management, construction, safety and security, information technology and Central Piedmont Foundation financial oversight. For more than a decade, she has helped enhance the college's financial stability while enabling continued investment in programs, people and infrastructure. Her work helps expand opportunities and drive economic prosperity across Mecklenburg County and the Charlotte region.



STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS ACROSS THE COLLEGE

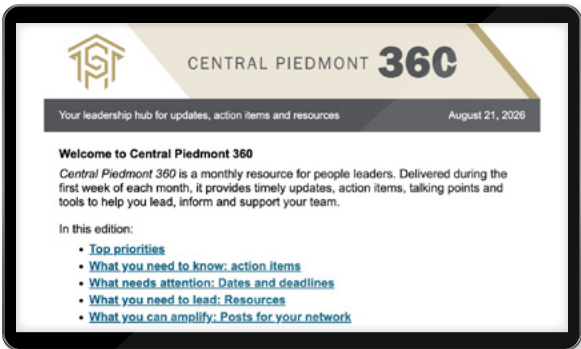
As part of its commitment to fostering organizational alignment and strengthening employee engagement, the Communications, Advancement and External Engagement (CAEE) division launched **Central Piedmont 360** in August. This strategic leadership communications initiative was developed to ensure people leaders have timely access to the information, resources

and context needed to effectively lead their teams and support institutional priorities.

Through a monthly communication, Central Piedmont 360 provides leaders with a comprehensive overview of key college updates, strategic initiatives, upcoming priorities, required actions and available resources. By consolidating critical information into a single, streamlined format, the initiative helps leaders navigate change, communicate with greater consistency and better connect employees to the college's mission and goals.

Beyond information sharing, Central Piedmont 360 serves as a platform for leadership development and organizational effectiveness. Leaders are provided with message frameworks, communication toolkits, templates and operational guidance that strengthen their ability to engage teams, reinforce priorities and support a culture of transparency and accountability.

The initiative reflects the college's ongoing investment in creating a more informed, connected and aligned workforce.





FALL FORUM 2026 RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES AND LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

On the morning of Aug. 12, employees from across Central Piedmont gathered for Fall Forum at American Legion Memorial Stadium to kick off the academic year with a celebration of colleagues and a look ahead.

Several faculty and staff members were recognized with awards for their contributions to the college and their commitment to students and the community.

This year's Fall Forum also placed emphasis on Central Piedmont's new three-year strategic plan, **Leading Boldly. Forward Thinking. Future Ready.** The plan features four strategic priorities, and college leaders explored each one, providing a framework for how employees can incorporate them into their daily work in support of the college's mission.





COLLEGE'S TIGER MASCOT RETURNS

The tiger mascot is a tradition dating back to the 1960s at Central Piedmont. Now, after years away, the tiger made its return during Fall Forum with a fresh look and a new name — Spark.

Chosen by students and employees, the name embodies the energy and spirit of the Central Piedmont community.

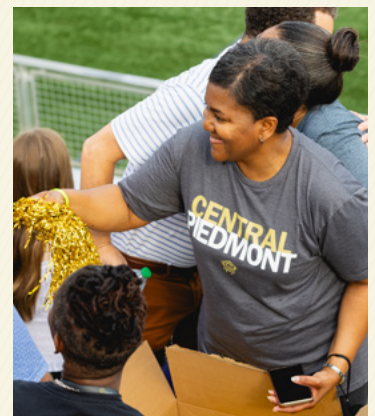
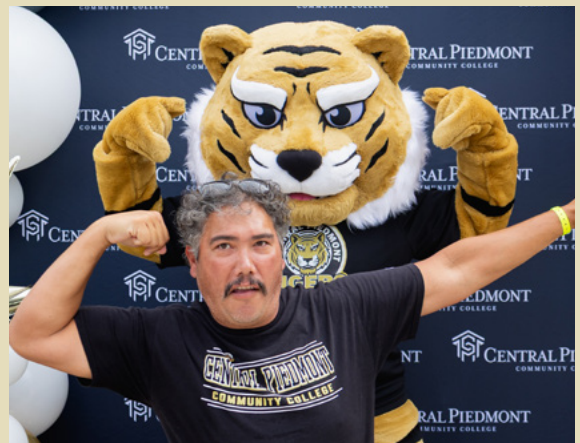
The Central Piedmont Tigers carry on a legacy while representing unity and pride as the college moves forward together.

CENTRAL PIEDMONT EMPLOYEES RECEIVE 6% PAY INCREASE

One of the biggest announcements of Fall Forum came early in the program when President Deitemeyer revealed that all full-time employees who were working at Central Piedmont on or before June 30, 2026, would receive a 6% bump in pay. The raise also includes part-time hourly employees and adjunct faculty. Additionally, full-time employees making \$65,000 or less are receiving a one-time bonus of \$1,750, while those making more than \$65,000 are receiving a bonus of \$1,000.

The salary adjustment includes the 3% raise for North Carolina state employees as outlined in the new state budget. The additional 3% is an investment in people by the college's leadership team with support from the Board of Trustees.

The pay increase serves as an acknowledgment of employees' dedication and efforts as Central Piedmont continues to grow, transform and expand its impact across Mecklenburg County and beyond.





EXEMPLIFY

future-focused, mission-anchored
stewardship



BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATES ANNOUNCED

Alison Summerville and Lucia Zapata Griffith have been reappointed to the Central Piedmont Board of Trustees, while Andrew Sprenger is the college's newest trustee.

Summerville was reappointed by the Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners to a four-year term. Zapata Griffith was reappointed by the North Carolina House of Representatives, also to a four-year term, and will continue serving as vice chair. Sprenger was appointed by the North Carolina Senate and succeeds former trustee Chris Paterson, whose service to the college concluded after four years on the Board.

Summerville, a partner for financial services with Nexus Search Partners, has been a strong advocate for aligning Central Piedmont's programs with regional workforce needs and strengthening connections between the college, employers and the community. She brings two decades of executive leadership experience in financial services to her role and serves on the Board's executive committee.

Zapata Griffith, a principal with METRO Landmarks, has wide-ranging knowledge in architecture, construction, real estate development and long-term stewardship of public assets. She possesses a deep commitment to community growth, economic mobility and workforce development through her regional leadership roles, including her service on the Metropolitan Public Transportation Authority (MPTA).

Sprenger serves as regional operations manager for SanStone Health & Rehabilitation and brings a background in healthcare operations, finance, business analytics, strategic planning and workforce management to his appointment. He has held positions in both the healthcare and financial services sectors, further broadening the Board's extensive areas of expertise.



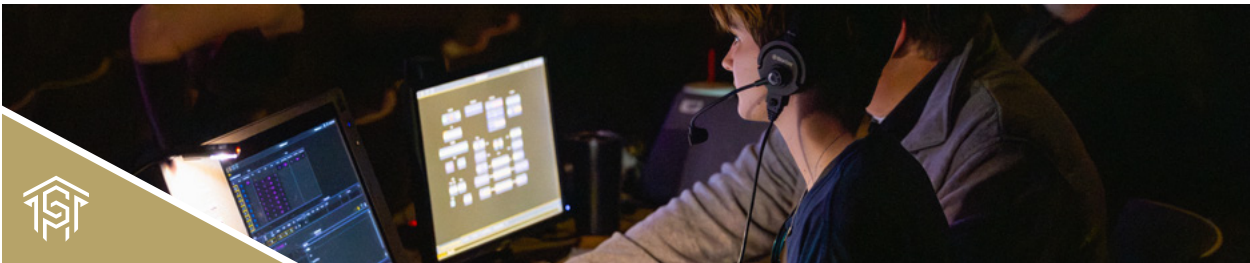
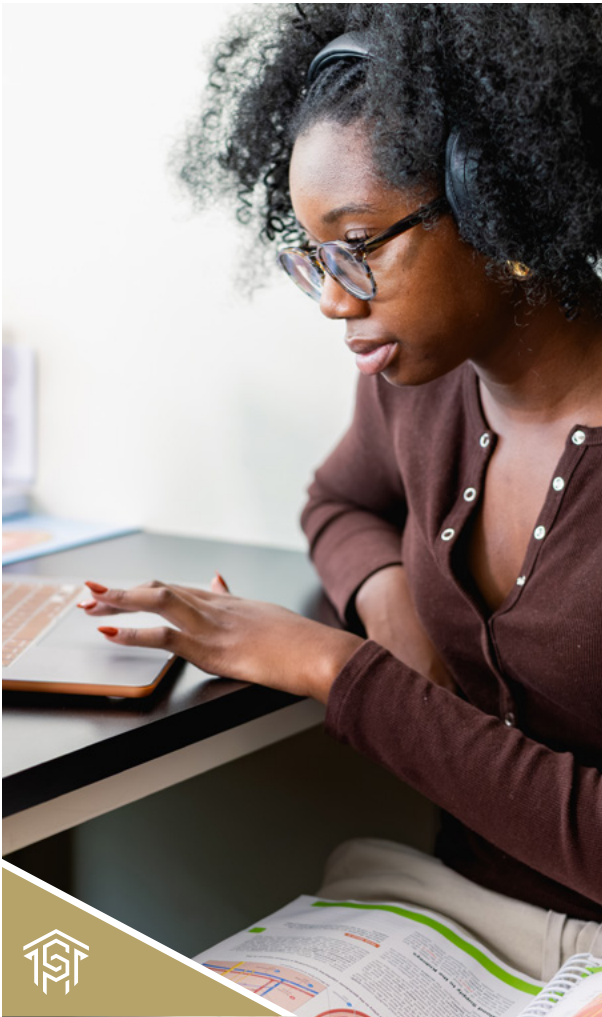
UPDATED AUTOMATED WAITLIST PROCESS HELPS STUDENTS ENROLL

In July, Central Piedmont implemented an updated, automated waitlist process designed to help students enroll in open class seats and streamline registration.

Students will continue to join a waitlist when a class section reaches capacity. However, the system now automatically checks for available seats every hour during the registration period and enrolls the next eligible student when an opening occurs. Students must meet all prerequisite and registration requirements to be considered for automatic enrollment.

Waitlists close one week before the start of each term or session. After waitlists close, no additional students are added automatically. The enhancement replaces a more manual process, reducing delays and allowing students to move into the seats they need more quickly.

By automating registration functions, the college can more efficiently connect students with available courses, support timely enrollment and enhance overall operational effectiveness.



NEW ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY OUTLINES EXPECTATIONS FOR TECHNOLOGY AND AI USE

Central Piedmont has adopted a new Acceptable Use Policy that consolidates five existing information technology policies into a single, comprehensive policy governing the use of college technology resources, institutional data and artificial intelligence (AI).

The updated policy modernizes the college’s technology governance by strengthening expectations around cybersecurity, data

privacy, accessibility, data governance and the responsible use of AI and generative AI tools. It also clarifies employee responsibilities for protecting college technology resources and institutional information.

This new policy helps ensure faculty and staff use technology effectively and safely as the college continually strives to innovate and improve efficiency.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE ‘GRANDDADDY OAK’ ON CENTRAL CAMPUS

On the week of Aug. 3, one of Central Piedmont’s most enduring and recognizable landmarks was removed after arborists determined the large willow oak on the Central Campus quad had deteriorated to the point it presented a safety risk. The “Granddaddy Oak” was estimated to be around 100 years old and the Central Piedmont Facilities team, along with arborists, TreesCharlotte and more had worked to preserve the tree through specialized treatments, annual health assessments, structural pruning and other protective measures.

The Granddaddy Oak predated Central Piedmont and lived through decades of change in Charlotte. According to TreesCharlotte’s TreasureTrees program, it was one of the largest known willow oaks in Mecklenburg County.

While the tree has reached the end of its lifecycle, its legacy will continue. Central Piedmont plans to plant a substantial replacement tree in the same location and is exploring a variety of ways to commemorate the historic oak through partnerships with local artists. In that way, the Granddaddy Oak’s character and significance to countless faculty, staff and students will live on.



ART, ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY SHOWCASED ACROSS FOUR CENTRAL PIEDMONT CAMPUSES

Central Piedmont continues to maximize campus spaces as centers for learning, engagement and cultural enrichment through a new series of exhibitions at Harris, Levine, Cato and Harper campuses. Free and open to the college community, these exhibitions connect students, employees and visitors with contemporary art and creative expression.

Amy Campbell: The Bridge to Wellness through Dec. 15 Levine Campus

This large-scale installation promotes mental health awareness as visitors walk through a bridge woven from community-contributed messages of hope.

AnnaBrooke Greene: Bare Bearings through Jan. 11, 2027 Cato Campus

Textile sculptures invite reflection on memory, care and gender through transformed domestic fabrics.

Omar Awadallah: Photography through Jan. 2027 Harris Campus

Charlotte-based artist presents seven photographic works exploring space, craftsmanship and storytelling.

William Philemon: Reframing through Feb. 12, 2027 Harper Campus

Charlotte architect and Central Piedmont instructor examines how people experience architecture through movement and everyday use.

Scott Eagle: Sculptures through Feb. 19, 2027 Harris Campus

East Carolina University professor presents sculptures that explore memory, mortality and human connection.



AMY CAMPBELL: THE BRIDGE TO WELLNESS



ANNABROOKE GREENE: BARE BEARINGS



OMAR AWADALLAH: PHOTOGRAPHY



WILLIAM PHILEMON: REFRAMING



SCOTT EAGLE: SCULPTURES

FOUNDATION BOARD PROFILE: JOHN SCOTT TROTTER

Charlotte native John Scott Trotter has a deep passion for education. His role on the Central Piedmont Foundation Board is a natural fit, as he has supported the college's fundraising efforts since the summer of 2025 in the city and region that shaped him.

"Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and more broadly, the state of North Carolina, have all been very generous to me, and I'm happy to get involved any way I can," he said.

John Scott attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and also earned his MBA there. Early in his career, he worked in real estate investment banking in New York City before returning to Charlotte. Back at home, he continued working in the real estate business, specializing in the apartment side both in investing and development.

For the last six years, he has been a partner at SilverCap Partners, leading residential investment efforts at the firm.

John Scott, who also serves on the boards of the Charlotte Country Day School and the Roof Above, found he wanted to continue to engage in the education space on a local college level. He spoke with some folks at Central Piedmont about joining the Foundation Board and saw it was a perfect and rewarding opportunity.

"Providing education, financial aid and assistance for people who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to participate is the thing that I find incredibly appealing about volunteer efforts," he said.

The variety of Central Piedmont's programming stands out to John Scott, with offerings and resources touching numerous industries that both train students and support the community, whether those individuals are entering the workforce or transferring to pursue a bachelor's degree.

"A community college with yearly enrollment of nearly 60,000 is an amazing reach for a local community college," he said.

One of John Scott's favorite aspects of serving on the Foundation Board is visiting Central Piedmont's six campuses. In that way, he can see firsthand how the college broadly impacts Mecklenburg County.

He and his wife, Katie, have three daughters, all of whom were raised in Charlotte. Additionally, the family recently welcomed a new dog, Gus.

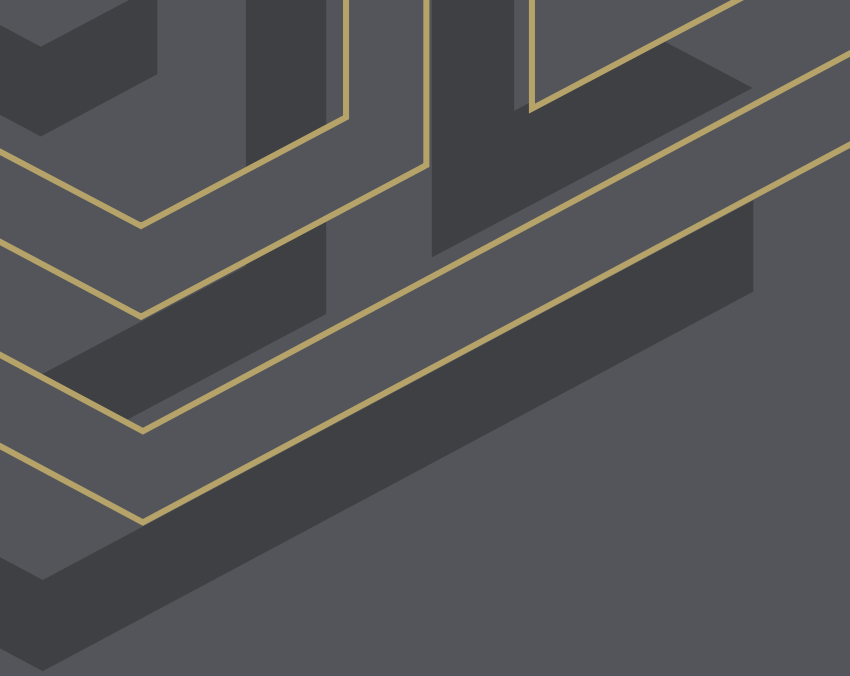
Having grown up in Charlotte and now being back in the area for 15 years, John Scott has seen the region change significantly from both a personal and professional standpoint. However, Central Piedmont has remained woven into the community's fabric.

"It's difficult to describe the reach and breadth the school has based on how diverse the offerings are and how they help the community from an economic development perspective," he said. "It's an unbelievable place."



*"I'm happy to get involved
any way I can."*

— JOHN SCOTT TROTTER,
Foundation Board member



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