Show Me the Students – and the Money $$$!

• Nationwide drop in Basic Skills enrollment starting January 2014 with GED test change & increased testing fees

• Inspired us to explore options in our community that could help refer students to our program and help with retention and completion, including testing fees

• We knew there was a continuing need for our services, but we needed to get the word out to more adults in need of our program
2015-2017

• Added **Hi-SET official testing** for a second High School Equivalency option

• Received **grant funding** in the amount of $217,200 ($94,700 in 2015-2016 and $122,500 in 2016-2017)

• Launched an internal effort focused on attendance and retention – **EFL gain and attendance certificates**

• Became the **fastest growing community college adult literacy program in the state** – up 13% in 2015 over 2014!
ACR FTE & Graduates

• 2014  285.44 FTE  87 graduates

• 2015  322 FTE (up 13%)  136 graduates (up 56%)

• 2016  205 FTE to date (up 4%)  147 graduates (to date)
Leading in Adult Literacy

ALAMANCE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Leader in literacy learning

ACC leads state as others show decline

By Isaac Groves
Times-News

Alamance Community College had the highest enrollment growth in literacy and GED classes among North Carolina’s 58 community colleges last year after a national decline.

“Students are learning that if they have never been in a classroom, they are much more likely to graduate if they have an education,” said Claire Ricci, director of the N.C. Community College System. A report from the N.C. Community College System showed ACC’s enrollment from 285 students in academic and career readiness classes in 2013-2014 to 331 in 2014-2015.

The college is teaching ESL classes at Blessed Sacrament School and high school equivalency classes at Burlington Housing Authority’s Granville Village and May Memorial and the Mebane Public Library. Ricci said, as
Academic & Career Readiness

• **ABLE- Adult Basic Literacy Education**
  Students with intellectual and developmental disabilities

• **ABE - Adult Basic Education**
  Basic literacy and foundational skills

• **ESL - English as a Second Language**
  Beginning to Advanced levels

• **HSE - High School Equivalency**
  GED, Hi-SET, AHS - Adult High School

• **College Transitions**
  Placement Test Prep, Bridge to College Success, Career College

• **Basic Skills Plus**
  College credit + HSE tuition-free
Our Students

• Academic & Career Readiness serves approximately **2,000 adult students** each year.

• **90%** of our students are **Alamance County residents** between ages 19 – 65.

• **33%** are enrolled in **English as a Second Language**.

• **Only 23%** score at the **9th – 12th grade reading levels** on intake assessments.

• Most have the **goal** of earning a **high school equivalency** and qualifying for better jobs.
Alamance County Community Assessment 2015

• 17% of adults in Alamance County (population 155,000) lack a high school diploma.

  • These adults have a 10% unemployment rate.

  • Their median annual earnings are $17,931.

  • The median annual earnings of adults with a high school diploma are $26,386 – a **47% increase**!
Working with Strategic Partner Agencies
United Way Worldwide

• United Way advances the common good by creating opportunities for all. Their focus is on education, income, and health—the building blocks for a good quality of life and a strong community.

• Education is a cornerstone for success in school, work and life. It also benefits the whole community: high school graduates have higher earning potential, contribute more to their local economies, are more engaged in their communities, and are more likely to raise kids who also graduate on time. (www.unitedway.org)
Partnership with United Way of Alamance County

- Several ACR staff participate in Community Council, a monthly gathering of local nonprofits and other partners.

- In 2014-2015, after GED test fees increased significantly, ACC received $9,000 in funding to support GED test fee scholarships, transportation and distress funds, and our annual Student Resource Fair.

- 2015-2016, ACC received $15,000 in funding to support GED and HiSET test fee scholarships, transportation and distress funds, teacher training, and our annual Resource Fair.
Our 2016-2017 United Way Grant

$38,000

• GED and HiSET testing **scholarship vouchers**
• **Assistance** with student transportation needs, instructional supplies, distress funds (including Basic Skills Plus students)
• Annual **Student Resource Fair** expenses – food, supplies
• **Instructor Training** – able to send part-time instructors to ABSPD
• Part-time **Adult Literacy Resource Specialist** previously funded by our EZ Literacy and Lifelong Learning grant in partnership with the Alamance County Public Libraries.
Dear United Way of Alamance County,

"I would like to thank you for the scholarship that enabled me to get my GED. I am so grateful to get this opportunity. Not only will I now continue my education so I can get a career that will allow me to take better care of my family, but also I am able to show my kids how important an education is and that it is NEVER too late to better yourself. I can't begin to express how this makes me feel. So, again thank you so much for the opportunity you have given not only me but my family."

Sincerely,

Heather Jones
2016 Resource Fair
27 agencies attended
Partnership with Alamance County Public Libraries

- ABE/HSE classes at 3 local branches; $50,000 one time EZ Literacy & Lifelong Learning Grant from State Library of NC 2015-2016 (http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ld/grants/lsta/2016-2017Grants.htm)
- Adult Literacy Resource Specialist onsite to recruit, advise, teach and support students
Facebook & social media

A HUGE congratulations to Sherry Jones who completed her final GED test this week and graduated from Alamance Community College through the GED Program at May Memorial Library! Sherry has worked very hard with the help of Beth Snow (Instructor) to get this awesome achievement. We applaud Sherry and wish her all the best in the world!
Impact Alamance

• $9,000 grant to fund ABLE Healthy & Active Living Program
• Purchased Wiis and Wii Fit games for classrooms
• Cooking stations with convection ovens
• Students created a Coffee Cart “business” project that is sustainable to be able to purchase consumable ingredients for cooking lessons
• Classes produced a cookbook of student-written healthy recipes
• Students’ math TABE scores increased 44%
Self-Supporting Class at Detention Center
Local WIOA Partners

• ACR is convening meetings each semester to share new programming opportunities, hear updates from partners, and brainstorm ways to collaborate.
Partnership with local churches

- Davis Street United Methodist
- Blessed Sacrament Church & School
- Offering off campus ESL locations with childcare options for students
New/future partnerships

• Elon University – LINCS Service Learning site and Elon Village Project ($75,000 5 year grant to offer ESL classes with childcare)
• Salvation Army & other local food banks – recruiting for all ACR programs
• Front Street United Methodist Church – possible new ESL class
• Advertising in local kiosks
• Earn & Learn program with Adecco Temporary Agency
• IEL/CE grant to create ESL pathway in Digital Literacy
• ALL (Alamance Literacy Links) with other literacy providers
• Churches, libraries, higher education, United Way branches and other partner organizations exist in almost every community – leverage those resources to better reach and serve students!
Making a Difference

• Support from United Way and other local community partners over the past three program years helped us become the fastest growing community college adult literacy program in the state.

• Our partners are helping remove the financial, logistical, and other barriers that our adult students face in their efforts to improve their literacy skills and their lives!
Thank you!

Claire Ricci  
Director of Academic and Career Readiness  
claire.ricci@alamancecc.edu

Jennifer Mock  
Program Coordinator – ABE, HSE  
Jennifer.mock@alamancecc.edu

Rachel Hussey  
Retention & Transition Coordinator  
Rachel.hussey@alamancecc.edu

Heidi Norwick  
President  
United Way of Alamance County  
hnorwick@uwalamance.org

April Durr  
Director of Community Impact  
United Way of Alamance County  
adurr@uwalamance.org