

CAPE FEAR
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



20
25

CAREER ACADEMY PROGRESS REPORT

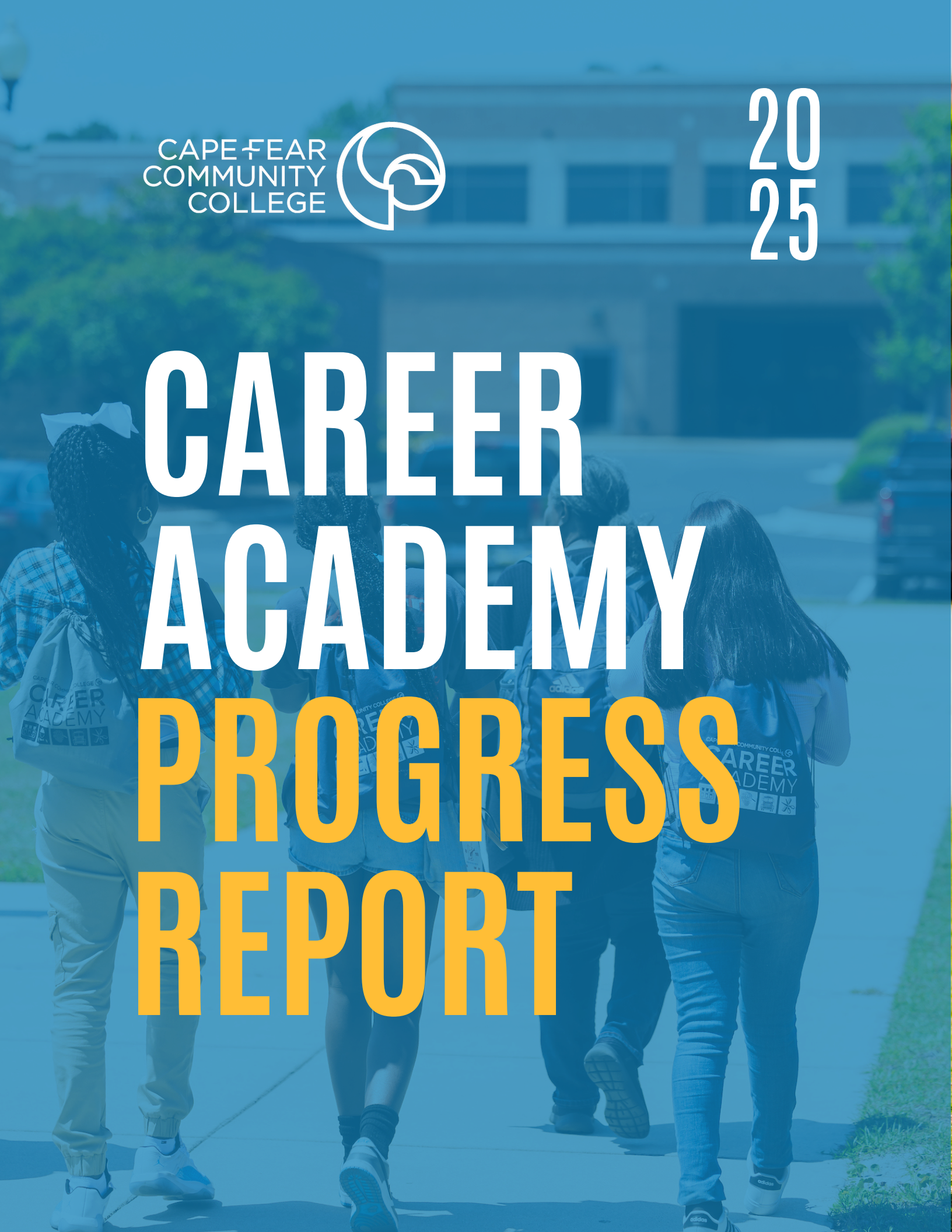


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Section 1: Results of the Pilot Program

Career Academy Summer Camps Overview

The Career Academy summer camps, conducted under the pilot program, have provided an impactful introduction to career pathways and life on a college campus, targeting at-risk students from New Hanover and Pender counties. Through the camps, students are exposed to a range of hands-on learning experiences across multiple career fields. The goal of the Career Academies Program is to create familiarity and a positive experience within a postsecondary educational environment. The pilot program continues to expand in scope, with an increase in program offerings and student participation, directly supporting the target demographic.

2022 Career Academy Camps

- **Programs Represented:** 31
- **Presentations:** 7 , covering topics such as study skills, career personality traits, Wilmington Early College, SEA-Tech High, Pender Early College, and CFCC student clubs & organizations
- **Total Students Served:** 225

Hands-On Instructions Provided by Programs in:

- 3D Printing
- Aviation
- Barbering
- Carpentry
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Computer Technician
- Cosmetology
- Cyber Crime
- Dental Assisting
- Dental Hygiene
- Diesel Technology
- Electrical
- Electrical Lineworker
- Engines
- Entrepreneurship
- Film and Video Production
- Youth Financial Literacy (SECU)
- First Responder
- Graphic Design
- Nail Tech
- Nuclear Technology
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Pharmacy Tech
- Phlebotomy
- Theatre Technician
- Truck Driver Training
- Information Technology
- Welding

2023 Career Academy Camps

- **Programs Represented:** 38
- **Presentations:** 12 , covering topics such as college athletics, youth financial literacy (SECU), CCP, TRiO Upward Bound, and Pender Early College High School
- **Total Students Served:** 240

Hands-On Instructions Provided by Programs in:

- Architecture Technology
- Aviation
- Baking and Pastry
- Barbering
- Chemical Technology
- Collision Repair
- Community Spanish Interpreter
- Costume Design
- Criminal Justice
- Dental Assisting
- Dental Hygiene
- Diesel Technology
- Early Childhood Education
- Electrical
- Electrical Lineworker
- Entrepreneurship
- Film and Video Production
- First Responders
- Graphic Design
- Information Technology
- Interior Design
- Law Enforcement
- Machining Applications
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electronic Music
- Nail Tech
- Nail Tech
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Paralegal Technology
- Plumbing
- Real Estate
- Theatre Technician
- Truck Driver Training
- Veterinary Medical Technology
- Welding
- Woodworking
- Youth Financial Literacy (SECU)



2024 Career Academy Camps

- **Programs Represented:** 39
- **Presentations:** 13 , covering topics such as general CFCC information, CFNC, career personality traits, SEA-Tech, Pender Early College High School, and TRIO Upward Bound
- **Strategic Expansion:** This year's camp expanded partnerships to include schools with many students demonstrating need, aligning with the mission to support at-risk students. New Hanover County schools like Holly Shelter Middle (49% of students receiving Free/Reduced Lunch - with key feeder school of Rachel Freeman Academy where 94.6% of students are on free and reduced lunch), and Pender County Schools of Burgaw Middle (74.7% classified as meeting the poverty rate by either receiving free and reduced lunch, Medicaid, EBT, etc.), and Cape Fear Middle (54.07%).
- **Total Students Served:** 360

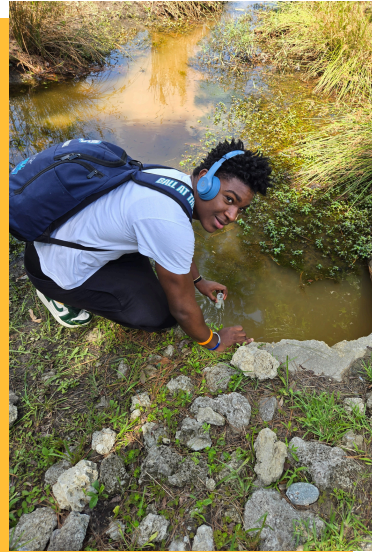


Hands-On Instructions Provided by Programs in:

- Architectural Technology
- Aviation
- Baking & Pastry
- Barbering
- Biology
- Chemical Technology
- Dental Assisting
- Dental Hygiene
- Early Childhood Education
- Electrical
- Electrical Lineworker
- Electronic Music
- Engineering
- English
- Entrepreneurship
- Film & Video Production
- Fine Arts
- Fire & Rescue
- Forensics/CSI
- Graphic Design
- Information Technology
- Interior Design
- Landscaping
- Law Enforcement
- Machining
- Marine Technology
- Nail Tech
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Paralegal Technology
- Plumbing
- Real Estate
- Sewing
- Software Development
- Sports Medicine
- Theatre
- Truck Driver Training
- Welding
- Woodworking

2025 Career Academy Camps

- **Programs Represented:** 39
- **Presentations:** 12, covering topics such as general CFCC information, CFNC, career personality traits, financial literacy, dual enrollment opportunities, & TRIO Upward Bound
- **Strategic Expansion:** This year's camp continued to expand partnerships to include schools with many students demonstrating need, aligning with the mission to support at-risk students. New Hanover County schools like Myrtle Grove Middle School (56% of students receiving Free/Reduced Lunch).
- **Total Students Served:** 357



Hands-On Instructions Provided by Programs in:

- Architectural Technology
- Aviation
- Baking & Pastry
- Business Models
- CAD/ 3D Printing
- Careers in Tourism
- Carpentry
- CPR First-Aid
- Creative Careers
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Early Childhood Education
- Electrical
- Electrical Lineworker
- Electronic Music
- Entrepreneurship
- Every Day Psychology
- Film & Video Production
- Fire & Rescue
- Graphic Design
- Interior Design
- IT Business Technologies
- Law Enforcement
- Machining
- Mock Trial
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Photography
- Plumbing
- Principles of Flight
- Printmaker
- Science of Water Sampling
- Sewing
- Small Engine Mechanic
- Software Development
- Theatre
- Truck Driver Training
- Toy Innovation
- Webpage Coding
- Welding

Section II: Placement of Career Liaisons in Schools to Support At-Risk Students

In compliance with the legislative directive, Cape Fear Community College (CFCC) hired career liaisons for time-limited positions to support at-risk students in select middle schools within New Hanover County Schools and Pender County Schools. These career liaisons were placed in schools where students would benefit most from exposure to career and technical education opportunities, enhancing their readiness for future academic and career pathways.

Career Liaisons Deployment 2025

- **New Hanover County:** One career liaison was placed full-time at Williston Middle School, which has an enrollment of 681 students, 73.4% of whom are on free and reduced Lunch. This liaison also travelled to serve students at Myrtle Grove Middle School (645 students and 56% receive free and reduced lunch) and Holly Shelter (858 students with 48% receiving free and reduced lunch).
- **Pender County:** One career liaison was stationed at West Pender Middle School, which has 182 students and 87.43% of the population classified as meeting the poverty rate by either receiving free and reduced lunch, Medicaid, EBT, etc. Similarly, this liaison traveled and served students at Cape Fear Middle School (462 students with 54% receiving free and reduced lunch) and Burgaw Middle School (257 students and 74% receiving free & reduced lunch)

Liaisons' Role and Impact

The liaisons work year-round, offering support services such as academic tutoring, career counseling, mentoring, and financial aid/scholarship information. Their focus is on dual-enrollment opportunities for students as they transition into high school. Below is a brief overview of the programming provided at each school during the 2022-2025 academic years.



2022-2023 Academic Year

WILLISTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

- **Liaison-led classroom presentations:** Liaisons presented to 70 classrooms with an average of 23 students in attendance per session. They covered topics such as career academy information sessions, marine careers, and targeted tutoring of student athletes.
- **Guest presentations:** 73 hands-on presentations led by local professionals, organizations, and CFCC faculty/staff. Topics covered include:
 - Nursing
 - Interior Design
 - Social Work
 - Occupational Therapy Assistant
 - Website Development
 - Engineering
 - Dental Hygiene
 - Chemical Technology
 - Marine Technology
 - Culinary
 - Carpentry
 - Radiography
 - Sustainable Technology
 - Study Skills
 - Spanish Community Interpreter
 - Manufacturing
 - Career Planning
 - Goal Setting
 - Resume Building
 - Interviewing Skills
- **Field Trips:** 5 field trips were held, including:
 - CFCC Manufacturing Day Expo
 - CFCC 8th Grade Campus Tour
 - Film & Video Production Program Tour
 - Veterinary Technician Program Visit
 - Marine Careers Day

WEST PENDER MIDDLE SCHOOL

- **Liaison-led classroom presentations:** Career Liaisons hosted 25 presentations with an average attendance of 22 students. Topics covered career exploration tools such as major clarity and creative writing workshops.
- **Guest presentations:** 41 hands-on guest presentations featuring local professionals, organizations, and CFCC faculty/staff from a variety of disciplines covering topics such as:
 - Electronic Music
 - Manufacturing & Machining
 - Occupational Therapy Assistant
 - Website Development
 - Chemical Technology
 - Veterinary Medical Technology
 - Interior Design
 - Dental Hygiene
 - Pharmacy Tech
 - Medical Lab Tech
 - Career Planning
 - Goal setting
- **Field Trips:** 6 field trips were held, including:
 - CFCC Manufacturing Day Expo
 - CFCC Downtown Campus Tour
 - CFCC E.A.S.E. Day STEM Experience
 - CFCC Roadshow

2023-2024 Academic Year

WILLISTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

- **Liaison-led classroom presentations:** Career Liaisons held 184 classroom sessions with an average of 22 students per session. Sessions focused on career interest inventories, study skills, and high school planning through Xello workshops.
- **Guest Presentations:** 28 hands-on presentations from local professionals, organizations, and CFCC faculty/staff in subjects such as:
 - CFCC Wilson Center
 - Culinary Arts
 - Nursing
 - Veterinary Medical Technology
 - Marine Biology
 - Arts Industry Entertainment
- **Field Trips:** 4 field trips were held, including:
 - CFCC Manufacturing Day Expo
 - City of Wilmington Trip
 - NC Aquarium Trip
 - Be Pro Be Proud Event

WEST PENDER MIDDLE SCHOOL

- **Liaison-led classroom presentations:** Career Liaisons held 59 sessions with an average class size of 22 students. Topics covered include STEM activities, 4-year high school planning, and the creation of Garden Club - a career-educational club.
- **Guest Presentations:** 21 presentations from local professionals, organizations, and CFCC faculty/staff in covering areas such as:
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Coding/Software Engineering
 - Music
 - Computer Integrated Machining
 - CFCC Wilson Center
 - Interviewing Skills
 - Arts Entertainment Industry
 - TRIO Upward Bound
 - Nursing
- **Field Trips:** 14 field trips were held
 - Mojotone Manufacturing Tour
 - CFCC Manufacturing Day Expo
 - Pender County Career Fair
 - Broadway for a Better World Grant Field Trips at CFCC's Wilson Center
 - CFCC Downtown Campus Tour
 - CFCC North Campus Tour
 - Corning Inc. Industry Tour
 - Cameron Art Museum
 - CFCC Landscaping & Horticulture Tour



2024-2025 Academic Year

New Hanover County

- **Liaison-led classroom presentations:** Career Liaisons held 129 classroom sessions with an average of 25 students per session. Sessions focused on career interest inventories, study skills, and high school planning through Xello workshops.
- **Guest Presentations:** 26 hands-on presentations from local professionals, organizations, and CFCC faculty/staff in subjects such as:
 - Computer Integrated Machining
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Intro to Psychology
 - Nuclear Technology
 - Pharmacy Tech
 - Spanish Interpreting
 - Theater
- **Field Trips:** 3 field trips were held, including:
 - Williston Middle School - Cape Fear Community College's Wilson Center
 - Holly Shelter Middle School - Pet Grooming Program
 - Myrtle Grove Middle School - Pet Grooming Program

Pender County

- **Liaison-led classroom presentations:** Career Liaisons held 45 sessions with an average class size of 20 students. Topics covered include career exploration & pathways, 4-year high school planning, and teamwork and collaboration
- **Guest Presentations:** 22 presentations from local professionals, organizations, and CFCC faculty/staff in covering areas such as:
 - Biology
 - Graphic Design
 - Music
 - Nuclear Technology
 - Nursing
 - Spanish Interpreting
 - TRIO Upward Bound
 - Visual Arts
- **Field Trips:** 5 field trips were held
 - Broadway for a Better World Grant Field Trips at CFCC's Wilson Center
 - Greenfield Lake
 - Cameron Art Museum



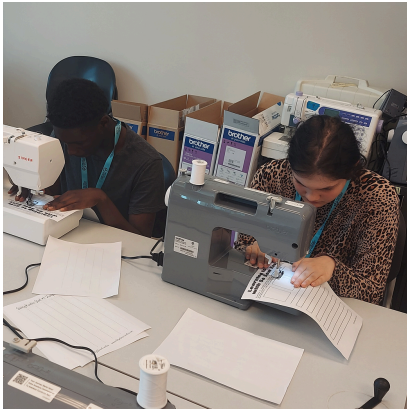
Section III: Number of Students who Enrolled in a Career & College Promise Program following Completion of Career Academies

Cape Fear Community College (CFCC) offers students the opportunity to apply to the Career and College Promise (CCP) program in the spring of their sophomore year of high school, with enrollment beginning in the fall of their junior year. This allows students at a traditional high school to be eligible for dual enrollment as both juniors and seniors. Since the first Career Academy camp in 2022, CFCC has made a concerted effort to track and support students through this pathway, ensuring that those who have participated in the Career Academy Program are aware of and prepared for CCP opportunities.

Tracking Career & College Promise Enrollment 2022 - 2025

Each Career Academy provides students and parents with information sessions about what Career and College Promise options are available to them. These options include taking CCP courses through their traditional high school or enrolling in an Early College or Cooperative Innovation High School (CIHS).

- **Total Number of Students enrolled in Career and College Promise:** We are pleased to report that of the students served through Career Academy, 55 students have already enrolled in the Career and College Promise program either through their traditional high school or through a Cooperative Innovative High School. We anticipate this number continuing to increase as young cohorts reach either the age of eligibility for CIHS participation or the 11th or 12th grade year, where Career and College Promise provides broader access.
- **Transfers:** In tracking our transfers, 22 students had transferred out of the district. Therefore, we were unable to obtain the CCP matriculation data for those students.



New High School Liaison Position

To continue best serving our students, we hired a high school liaison who started with the program in June of 2025, prior to that year's summer academy.

This role will serve local high schools in New Hanover and Pender County that house many of our career academy students:

- New Hanover High School - 47% of students served by the Career Academy
- Pender High School - 51% of students served by the Career Academy
- Heide Trask - 35% of students served by the Career Academy

This liaison will go to high schools weekly to maintain a connection with students, improve communication with families, continue connecting students to career opportunities, and inform students of dual enrollment opportunities. Overall, this position enhances student engagement, supports achievement, and promotes a more responsive educational environment

In tracking our Career Academy students, we identified instances where students met the age of eligibility; however, their GPA did not meet the required threshold for the program. We see this position as integral in helping Career Academy attendees maintain academic excellence throughout the entirety of high school to ensure they are College and career-ready through dual enrollment



Section IV: Educational Partner Commitment & Testimonials

Continuing Partnerships

During our 2025 Career Academy, select students were able to participate in a Manufacturing week and learned more about entrepreneurship. At the end of the week, students were able to present their own ideas to various individuals from the industry. Two female students won first place for their Glow and Go idea, a all-in-one, hair styler. These students were invited to present their project at a local Manufacturing Partnership Meeting to roughly 40 guests.



Principle Testimonials

“Many students in Pender are impacted (207 is a lot) and have opportunities outside of traditional school to explore careers and get on the CFCC campus. It also keeps them engaged and productive during the summer. Getting on campus helps normalize CFCC as a viable option for our students.

Mr. Bobby Simmons, Principle Cape Fear Middle School

Principle Testimonials Continued

“

The Career Academy summer programming gave our Burgaw Middle School students a meaningful glimpse into future possibilities. By engaging in hands-on career experiences and spending time on a college campus, our students not only explored new interests but also began to see themselves as capable of thriving in postsecondary education. This program has been especially impactful for our at-risk learner, helping them build confidence, curiosity, and a vision for their future

Mr. Brian Allen, Principle Burgaw Middle School

“

The Career Academy Initiative has created many real-world opportunities for our middle school students. It generates interest and pushes students to determine goals, and they can also visit local businesses and organizations to see the possibilities. This supports our day-to-day classroom objectives and helps create an aspirational culture within our school.

Jeff Swanson, Assistant Principal of Williston Middle School

“

The CFCC Career Academy has opened doors for our students at West Pender, giving them hands-on, engaging opportunities to explore future careers in a safe and supportive environment. Many of us never had this level of exposure growing up, and it's exciting to see our students building confidence and discovering new possibilities for their futures.

Paige Garza, Principle of West Pender Middle School

“

The initiative, including both the school-year activities and the summer camp, has significantly impacted our students at Williston Middle School. It has opened their eyes to new career pathways, fostering curiosity and ambition while providing practical, hands-on learning experiences. These opportunities have enhanced their academic understanding and inspired them to envision their futures more clearly. The summer camp, in particular, was invaluable in helping students make real-world connections to what they learn in school, building both confidence and engagement. We truly appreciate the continued support and investment in our students' futures through the CFCC Career Academy Initiative.

Michael Mitchell, Middle School Career Development Coordinator, NCHS

Consistency is a recipe for success

In just two weeks, the Career Academy proves that showing up each day with focus and determination can lead to real transformation. Whether it's building professional skills, exploring new career paths, or gaining confidence, it's the daily commitment that makes the difference. Don't just take our word for it—hear what our students have to say about how this experience changed their perspective and future goals.

What Makes Career Academy Special

“
It is helpful because it helps you narrow down what you would like to do in life. I thought I had a career in mind but I got exposed to different career options and I realized that is not something I want to do. Now I am interested in forensics.

Sage Everett

“
The Career Academy has definitely helped me in a positive way. It helped me build more confidence in myself and showed me that I'm capable of achieving bigger goals. It also gave me a clearer idea of what I want to do in high school and beyond, and it motivated me to stay focused on my future. Yet, it was not just about learning skills, it was about having a community that pushed me to grow!

Jarmaine Richardson

Over four years, our career academies have been able to serve a total of 810 students. Specifically, we have been able to serve 420 students from New Hanover and 390 students from Pender County. While we have served 810 unique students, several students have such a positive experience that they return annually to participate in the Career Academy. During our 2025 Career Academy, we highlighted students that completed 3 years worth of career academies. Here is what these students had to say about the **impact** of this program on their lives.

How has the Career Academy impacted you in a positive way?

“
The Career Academy has had a positive impact on me by introducing me to a variety of career paths and equipping me with resources that will guide me as I work towards my future career. It has opened my eyes to new opportunities and provided invaluable tools for my professional growth

Mackenzie Cuba

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