



# **Childcare, Early Childhood Education, and Our State's Community Colleges**

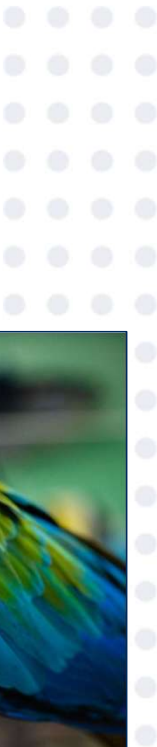
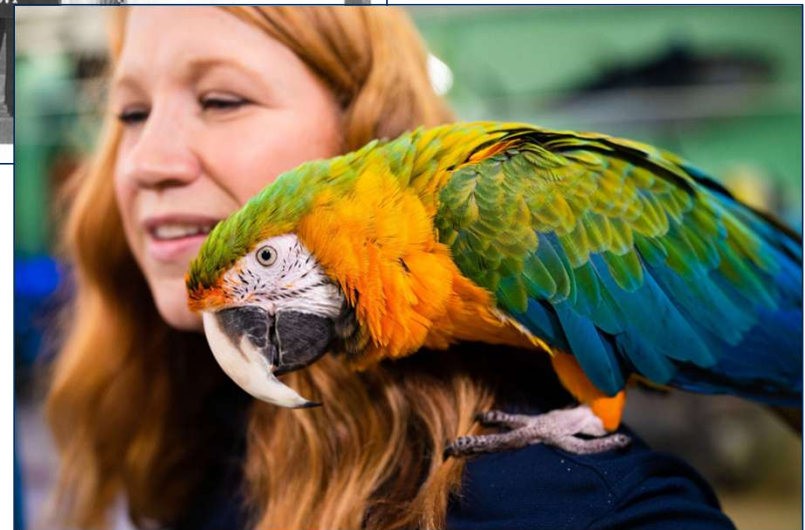
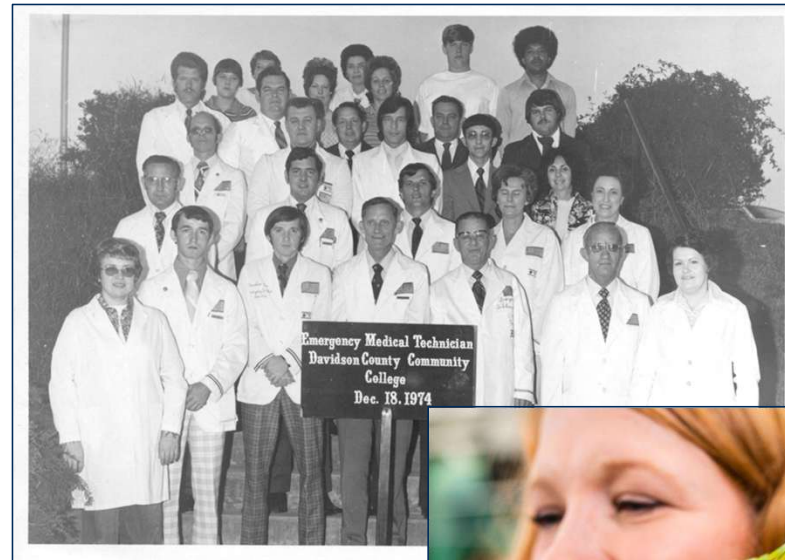
Jenny Varner, Davidson-Davie President  
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Since the early 1960s, our colleges have championed the twin priorities of educating students and serving the needs of our communities.



From the launch of our transfer program in 1968, to nursing in 1970, to criminal justice in the 1980s, to today when we are the only community college in the nation with a zoo and aquarium science program, Davidson-Davie has evolved to meet community and workforce needs.







## Our Child Development Center

- On the Davidson Campus since 1981
- Open to faculty, staff, students and the community
- 64 enrolled, 28% occupied by faculty, staff and students; new NC Pre-K class starting in the fall
- Full-time faculty and staff get a 20% discount; most students receive state childcare grant or other assistance
- Rates: \$800/month for infants, \$770/month for others
- Serves children from 2 months to 5 years of age
- 5-star rating



## Educational Components

### Early Childhood Education Program

- Various tracks leading to certificates, diploma, or degree
- Students utilize the Child Development Center for hands-on experience
- Enrollment currently around 100

### Childcare Academy

- 6-week intensive preparation to enter the workforce
- Tuition and materials provided through a grant
- Successful completion earns credit toward a credential





## **Community Colleges with Child Development Centers** (on campus, licensed and 5-star)

Cape Fear Community College

Davidson-Davie Community College

Forsyth Tech Community College

Halifax Community College

Haywood Community College

Johnston Community College

McDowell Community College

Nash Community College

Piedmont Community College

Sandhills Community College

Southeastern Community College

Vance-Granville Community College

Wayne Community College

*At least 4 other colleges have some type of childcare option available, such as drop-in care, while 22 programs have closed.*



## Challenges for Colleges

- Salaries and benefits for childcare employees
- Low wages that lead to high turnover
- Maintaining employee-child ratios as enrollment fluctuates
- Facilities (construction) costs
- Short-term nature of grants



## Opportunities for Support

- Flexibility to use existing state dollars for childcare operating costs
- Capital support for colleges without appropriate facilities or needing expansion
- Per-child, state-funded subsidy to colleges to close operational funding gaps
- Support for curriculum and personnel costs to maintain star rating
- Continued grant support for Childcare Academies
- Incentives for current childcare employees to further their education







**THE FUTURE IS HERE.**

[DavidsonDavie.edu](http://DavidsonDavie.edu)