



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 24, 2021**

RAMP East becomes an official pre-apprenticeship program

WELDON, N.C. – On June 22, 2021, Halifax Community College celebrated the Regional Advanced Manufacturing Pipeline for Eastern (RAMP East) North Carolina on becoming an OFFICIALLY recognized pre-apprenticeship program within the North Carolina Community College System. Those completing the program will receive a Certificate of Completion in the occupation as an Industrial Maintenance Technician. The 96-hour course curriculum was formally recognized at Halifax Community College by ApprenticeshipNC on February 24, 2021. The RAMP East Advanced Manufacturing Institute began at Halifax Community College in August of 2019 as a partnership to include the NC Department of Commerce, local Economic Development Commission, Workforce Development, 8 Community Colleges, local K-12 Institutions, and local business/industry organizations. This program was created to provide new and existing industries within the RAMP East region a sustainable output of trained and ready candidates for new and existing jobs within the advanced manufacturing industry sector. The program is locally supported by Weldon Steel, Southern Corrosion Engineered Tank Care, Air Boss of America, Reser’s Fine Foods, PCB Piezotronics of North Carolina, Inc., Enviva, Meherrin River Forest Products, Kennametal and Westrock. These supporting businesses have agreed to interview candidates who successfully complete the program for consideration of employment with their companies. The pre-apprenticeship program is designed to prepare individuals for entry into and succeed in a registered apprenticeship. The college also celebrates its very first APPROVED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM with Westrock and is eager to work with the other companies to secure an approved apprenticeship program with them.

RAMP East has had six (6) cohorts with approximately 35 students to successfully complete the program since it began in 2019 at Halifax Community College. All students completing the 96-hour course curriculum moving forward will receive an Industrial Maintenance Technician Pre-Apprenticeship Certification. Those students who completed the program prior to February of 2021 will receive retroactive credit for completion but must contact Rhonda High, Customized Training Director and RAMP East Coordinator, by sending an email to customizedtraining@halifaxcc.edu. Registration is now OPEN for Cohort 7, which is slated to begin on August 17, 2021.

Pictured below are students who completed Cohort 5 in December and Cohort 6 in May. Also pictured are recipients from prior cohorts who have completed the required documents for receipt of the Industrial Maintenance Technician Certificate.



Top Row: Dr. Jeffery Fields (HCC VP of Academic Affairs), Jonathan Joyner (Cohort 5), Joseph Powell (Cohort 6), Calvin Barber (Cohort 2), Victor Marrow for Veronica Marrow (Cohort 4), Brandon Joyner (Cohort 5), Dr. Michael Elam (HCC President/CEO), Tony McKnight (Apprenticeship Consultant).

Bottom Row: Rhonda High (Customized Training Director/RAMP East Coordinator), LaKecia Savage (Cohort 5), Lindsay Austin (Cohort 5), Ralston Thomas-Jones (Cohort 6), Todd Hardy (Cohort 2), Thomas Mims (Cohort 5), Emil Chapman (Cohort 5).

Not pictured: Jerry Zollicoffer (Cohort 5), Glenn Gibson (Cohort 6) Makeba Gibson (Cohort 6), Allison Medlin (Cohort 6), Jerome Seabreeze (Cohort 1), Norma Hedgepeth (Cohort 4).

Halifax Community College's Mission

Halifax Community College strives to meet the diverse needs of our community by providing high-quality, accessible and affordable education and services for a rapidly changing and globally competitive marketplace.

Media Contact: For more information, please contact Rhonda L. High, Customized Training Director / RAMP East Coordinator; NC Clean Energy Pre-Apprenticeship Program Administrator at 252-538-4339 or rhigh@halifaxcc.edu.