



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 1, 2021**

HCC to open its Black History Month Activities on February 4th with its 14th Annual Stamp Dedication

WELDON, N.C. – Halifax Community College (HCC) will host its 14th Annual Stamp Dedication Ceremony in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Service to kick off its Black History Month festivities on February 4, 2021 at 10 a.m. The event will be held virtually, due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Students and the general public are invited to attend. They can register to attend the ceremony virtually at halifaxcc.edu. After completing the registration process, a link will be sent to their email address to attend the ceremony.

August Wilson (1945-2005) will be the 44th stamp dedicated in the Black Heritage series. He wrote the American Century Cycle, which included a series of 10 plays. One of his well-known Broadway plays is “Fences.” His plays were known for showing the African American storytelling traditions.

During the ceremony, HCC will feature an August Wilson specialist, Marcus D. Harvey, who will visit with HCC via Zoom as the keynote speaker. Mr. Harvey has taught and coached the works of August Wilson for 10 years in New York City. He currently serves as a faculty member at Montclair State University and New Jersey City University, where he teaches acting. He is also the head of the Acting Department and is an acting instructor for the Waterwell Drama Program at the Professional Performing Arts School in New York City. Mr. Harvey holds his MFA in Acting from Brooklyn College, MA in Dramatic Writing for Social Change from New York University, and dual undergraduate degrees in Dramatic Arts and Performance Studies from UNC-Chapel Hill. A native of Halifax, NC, he attended Halifax Community College before enrolling at UNC-Chapel Hill.

HCC is beginning a new series called, “Highlighting Native Residents of the Roanoke Valley.” The first program in the series will be on February 11, 2021, at 11 a.m. via Zoom. The featured native residents are Mr. Jamaal Barber and Dr. Jennifer Barber. The Barbers are natives of the Roanoke Valley and graduated from area high schools. Dr. Barber attended Halifax Community College before transferring to East Carolina University. They reside in Atlanta, Georgia, where he is a professional artist, and she is a high school teacher and college professor teaching chemistry. They will be discussing a range of topics, including growing up in Halifax County, attending HCC, life experiences, and their careers. The students and community can register to attend this program on the HCC website, halifaxcc.edu. After completing the registration process, a link will be sent to them to attend.

The Honorable G. K. Butterfield, Congressman of the 1st Congressional District, will be a guest lecturer on February 18, 2021, at 11 a.m. via Zoom. Congressman Butterfield serves in the

Democratic leadership as Senior Chief Deputy Whip and is a past Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (114th Congress). He sits on the influential Committee on Energy & Commerce, where he serves as the Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Health. In addition, he serves as a member of the Subcommittees of Communications and Technology and Energy. In the 117th Congress, Congressman Butterfield also sits on the Committee on House Administration, where he serves as a member of the Subcommittee on Elections. He will be sharing updates from Washington, D.C., with the students and other attendees.

HCC will be closing Black History month with our "Saluting Our Local African-American Heroes" celebration. It will take place on February 25, 2021, at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Registration is now open for nominations and will be closing on February 10, 2021. The nomination forms can be found at halifaxcc.edu.

The public can attend all events via Zoom by registering at halifaxcc.edu. After completing the registration process, a link will be sent to their email address.

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: If you have any questions regarding any of the Black History Month activities, please contact Kimberly Mack, Special Assistant to the President for Governmental, Community, and College Affairs, at 252-536-6399 or kmack@halifaxcc.edu.