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**RANKED #1***

BEST FOR VETS
2014
MILITARY TIMES
★ ★
COLLEGES

ecpi.edu/military
*Online and nontraditional.

**ECPI UNIVERSITY NAMED**
# Best College
# for Veterans
## BY MILITARY TIMES

BEST FOR VETS
2014
MILITARY
TIMES
★ ★
COLLEGES

The start of 2014 presents time to reflect on the past and look to the future. While resolutions may seem trivial – and short-lived – I would challenge everyone to use this time to set and redefine goals. First, think about the year that just ended. What worked, what didn't? Use those experiences to adjust your habits. For many of our students, graduation is just around the corner and keeping your discipline and focus will enable you to overcome obstacles and make the transition to the working world that much easier. Build upon those skills that will help your employability.

One thing to consider: take advantage of the many talents available here at ECPI University. Whether it's certifications, externships, tutoring, math and writing assistance centers, or careers services, each campus has dedicated faculty and staff who can have a tremendous impact on your success.

I encourage you to consider as many professional certifications as possible. These are highly-recommended by both faculty and employers who serve on Advisory Boards. ECPI University libraries offer study guides, testing centers, and discounts for students and alumni.

Always remember, your experience at ECPI is a group effort between you, the college and employers. Utilize all of the resources here. ECPI University is dedicated to Excellence, Commitment, Professionalism, and Innovation. Make the best of 2014.

Sincerely,
Mark Dreyfus

## MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

# Navy Veteran C.J. Heiden Feels the Need for Speed

Although C.J. Heiden really likes ECPI University, he is ready to leave! After spending 15 years as a naval electronics technician, this is the first time he's been without a regular job. "When I decided to go for my degree, I wanted a school with the right accreditations, and I wanted to finish as soon as possible," says C.J. "ECPI's accelerated scheduling was just what I was looking for. I also wanted a school that really understands veterans. Life outside the military is a real adjustment. There are so many vets here on staff and so many fellow students who've also served; it's really helped ease the transition."

C.J. is about to graduate with his Bachelor of Science in Computer and Information Systems with a concentration in Network Security. "I feel like I am really prepared," says C.J. "Throughout my classes, we didn't just talk about exchange servers; we actually created networks. There's nothing wrong with theory, but you really need to learn by doing so you can do the job once you're in the real world. I am very happy I came to ECPI University, but I am ready to start my career!"

## Hard Charging Soldier Makes the Most of His Online Education

When Thomas Windley began attending ECPI University in 2004, he had just gotten out of the Navy. Several months later, he decided he wanted back in, this time in the Army. Once he was back in uniform, he continued his studies and was appointed system administrator for his unit. Soon after, he earned his Associate of Science in Computer and Information Science.

In 2007, he earned another associate's degree in electrical engineering which led to being promoted over his peers. A year later, he deployed to Afghanistan but kept up his online studies.

He is now Staff Sergeant Thomas Windley, and has earned his Bachelor of Science in Computer and Information Science with a concentration in Network Security, as well as CompTIA A+, Network+, and Security + certifications.

"Earning my degree led to another promotion, which was due to the tools and benefits ECPI University provided in the areas of leadership, professionalism, and core curriculum content," says Staff Sergeant Windley. "Since my promotion, I have been tasked with training others in my unit – both below and above me in rank – to sit for certifications; thus far, those I have trained have a 100% pass record.

"I would highly recommend ECPI University to fellow service members. I believe it has the best customer service of any online school and I have attended several. Further, the curriculum is very precise and concentrated in the areas most needed to perform the job at maximum proficiency."

# ◄Focus on Faculty

**Name:** James O. Glaser DDS

**Title/Campus:** Dental Assisting Faculty Member, Richmond/Emerywood Campus

**Education:** BA from University of Virginia, DDS from VCU School of Dentistry

**Date of Hire:** August 2013

**What did you do prior to joining ECPI University?** Private Dental Practice

**Most Rewarding Experience:** Working with the Virginia Dental Association Mission of Mercy projects

**Greatest Accomplishment:** My family

**Favorite Book:** Stephen King's *Dark Tower Trilogy*

**Biggest Pet Peeve:** Drunken people

**Hobbies:** Flower gardens, reading, traveling, my dogs, cooking, playing cards, and Backgammon

**Favorite Food:** Lamb chops

**My Most Treasured Possession:** My dogs

**A Talent I Wish I Had:** Playing the piano

# ECPI University Named
# Best College for Vets
## by Military Times

After analyzing schools throughout the nation, Military Times has ranked ECPI University as the number one college for veterans. Editors evaluated each school using a variety of criteria, including statistics commonly used to track student success such as university culture, student support, academic quality, academic policies and financial aid – all factors veterans list as being integral to academic success. More than 600 schools throughout the nation responded to this year's survey, with ECPI University topping the rankings among online and nontraditional programs.

"We do everything possible to keep our veterans in school from the moment they start," says ECPI University Executive Director of Military Education Bob Larned. "Many of these vets have full-time jobs and/or families, so they are very busy. We are always looking for ways to help them work through challenges that may arise so they keep moving toward their goal of graduation."

## What Does it Mean to be Military Friendly?

The words "Military Friendly" have been used by so many and for so long that they've become almost cliché. To better understand their meaning, consider what ECPI University does to educate and honor its veteran students each and every day.

At its essence, "Military Friendly" represents a dedication and willingness to commit the necessary resources to help vets succeed. That begins with making education accessible…from the moment veterans arrive on campus until the day they enter the civilian workforce. Here are just some of the reasons why vets prefer ECPI University:
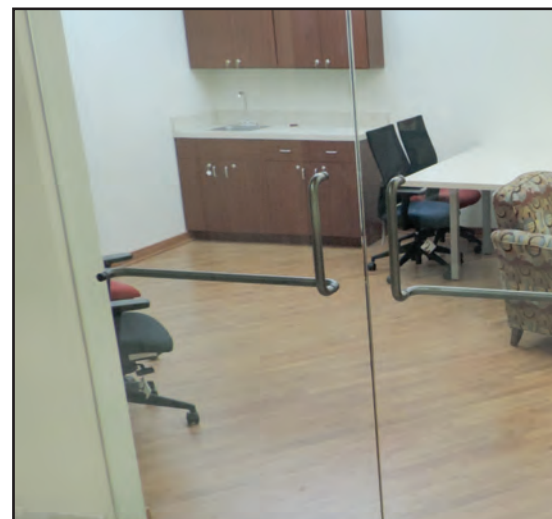
- **Flexible Scheduling** – attend school mornings, evenings, weekends or online
- **VA Approved and Yellow Ribbon Participant** – anyone with 100% eligibility for the GI Bill is on full scholarship
- **SOC Member School** – a military consortium of over 1900 schools that accept credits from one another
- **Career Services** – advisors who know how to translate military service into civilian skills
- **Year-Round Classes** – enables vets to complete education faster



Vet Success on Campus Counselor Maureen Gibson and ECPI University Director of Military Education Bob Larned.

## Why the VA Chose ECPI University to Join VetSuccess Program

This past fall, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs recognized ECPI University's commitment to veteran students by selecting the school to join the VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program, making it one of only 94 colleges and universities in the nation to be a part of this initiative. "VetSuccess on Campus is an innovative approach to help



Preparations are nearly complete for the new Veteran Center at the Virginia Beach campus.
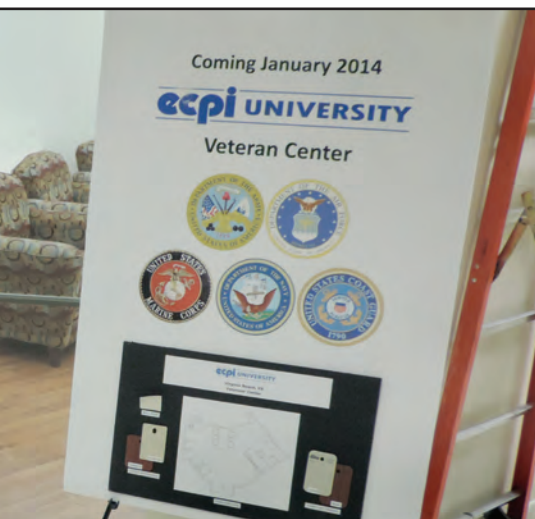


BEST FOR VETS
2014 MILITARY TIMES
COLLEGES

Veterans in the often difficult transition from military service to academic life," said Allison A. Hickey, VA Under Secretary for Benefits. "Placing experienced VA counselors directly on college campuses strengthens VA's partnership with institutions of higher learning and creates myriad opportunities to help Veterans succeed."

This expansion triples the number of on-campus VA vocational rehabilitation counselors available to help ease Veterans' transition to student life and assist them in achieving their educational and career goals through VA's Post-9/11 GI Bill and other education benefit programs. The counselors maintain close relationships with local VA Vet Centers and VA medical facilities, referring Veterans as needed for counseling or medical services and providing assistance enrolling in and applying for VA benefits.

ECPI University's new VOSC counselor, Maureen Gibson, is already on the job and will be working out of the Virginia Beach Campus' new Vet Center. "We are very excited about having Maureen on board," says Bob Larned. "She's a wealth of information and will no doubt be a tremendous asset to our military and veteran students. Being selected to host a campus counselor also speaks volumes about the way the VA views ECPI University and its commitment to serving service members, past and present."


Veteran faculty and students express their enthusiasm after being selected Best College for Vets by Military Times.


Coming January 2014
ecpi UNIVERSITY
Veteran Center

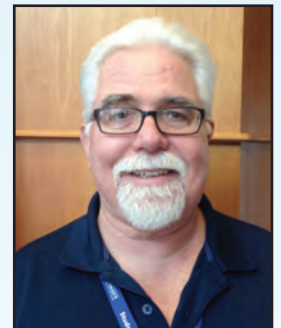## What Does "Military-Friendly" Mean to You?

### Faculty and Staff Weigh In



"Serving our veterans, active and reserve service members, and their families is an opportunity for all of us to improve the economic security of those who have protected us and our freedoms. We show these great Americans how to positively and productively face the challenges of transitioning into civilian employment through quality education. We have a moral obligation to provide them the same dedication and commitment they have shown through their sacrifice of service to our country."

**James R. Rund – Columbia Campus President and Commander, Naval Reserve**

"To me, military friendly means remembering what it was like for me to get my Associates of Applied Science and my Bachelors of Science degree while being a full time member of the U.S. Air Force, a father to four children, and a husband. That's why I do all that I can to make it work for my military brothers and sisters in arms."

**Tony Rufi – Newport News Campus Director of Academic Affairs and USAF CMSgt. (Retired)**





"Working with Veterans keeps me humble, because they are selfless and know the value of commitment and taking care of others – not because anyone is looking at them, but because they know it's the right thing to do. They are also great for providing perspective to younger students, and even mentoring skills. They know how to give back to the community – they've been doing it their entire careers!"

**Katherine Bryant – Culinary Arts Faculty Member and Lt. Col., U.S. Army (Retired)**

## Get WACed!

By Tracy Jewett, English Faculty

For many students, writing can be stressful. The thought of having to produce 8-10 pages on a topic they may or may not have previous knowledge on can be overwhelming. Even a seasoned writer will have trouble getting started on a paper from time to time. Entities such as the Writing Assistance Center, commonly known as the WAC, are in place to alleviate the anxieties students have regarding writing.

The WAC serves several purposes when it comes to student success. The most obvious is to tutor students in writing. A student can bring a paper, an outline, or even an idea to brainstorm to the WAC and receive tutoring from English teachers regardless of where a student is in the writing process. A twenty minute session can not only relieve some of a student's fears, but can also raise their grades.

Another reason the WAC is so important for students is it provides a place for students to make a personal connection to the university and take ownership of their education. Students have the opportunity to have the tutor, possibly their teacher, to themselves. When the outcome is good, whether the result is an A or just the fear is dissipated, the student/teacher relationship is solidified, thus enhancing student success.

## REACHING OUT

# ECPI University Donates 60 iPads to CHKD for Patient Use

ECPI University has donated 60 new iPads for patient use at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters (CHKD). They will be used for a variety of purposes, including:

- Engaging children while they are receiving treatments
- Occupying and calming children who are being transported to the hospital
- Helping non-verbal patients to express themselves
- Allowing students to continue their education while hospitalized

"These iPads add so much to the therapeutic process," says CHKD Speech Therapy Manager Angie Coggin. "We have a patient with a brain injury who knows exactly what he wants to say, but cannot say it. Using an iPad, he is able to communicate while he progresses."

## PATHS TO SUCCESS

# Charlotte Grad Launches IT Firm

Graham Smith, a 2011 graduate from the Charlotte campus, has launched an IT solutions service, Graham Smith Solutions. The company surveys, designs, and installs Wi-Fi networks and expands bandwidth on existing networks throughout the nation. Clients include AT&T, Eriksson, Penn State, Turner Field, and Sun Life Stadium, home of the Miami Dolphins.

# Concord Graduate Joins USAA as Software Developer and Engineer



Ask Tenell Berry about ECPI University's Career Services Department, and you'll likely see a big smile. She's living proof that working closely with an ECPI career advisor can really pay off. In Tenell's case, it nearly doubled her salary.

Since leaving the Army, Tenell had been working on her Bachelor of Science in Computer and Information Systems with a concentration in Network Security. As a working student, she had also been using her military IT background in her job with a communications company near the Charlotte/Concord campus. Without a bachelor's degree, however, her opportunities for growth were somewhat limited.

Long before she completed her studies, Tenell began working with Career Service Advisor Jerri Cook. "Jerri really guided me through the process and helped me take a strategic approach to my job search," says Tenell. "I'm now working for USAA, a Fortune 500 financial services company, as a Software Developer and Engineer III. It just goes to show that education can really open up a whole new world of opportunity."

# Greenville Grad Moving Up as Web Developer



Jackson Marketing Group (JMG), one of South Carolina's largest integrated agencies, has hired Josh Blaha as an interactive developer. A 2011 graduate of ECPI University's Greenville campus, he will be responsible for back-end development of websites and web-based applications. "Josh's expertise and 'can-do' demeanor make him a perfect fit for our expanding interactive department," says JMG Chief Marketing Officer David Jones.
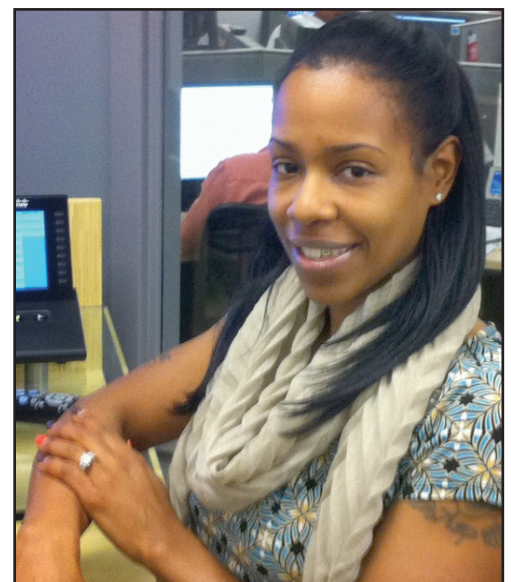
Prior to joining JMG, Mr. Blaha worked for Level One Core Leasing Solutions where he created online apps. "ECPI University helped me lay the groundwork so I could jump head-first into being a web developer," says Blaha. "As any programmer knows, things are always changing, so you really have to be committed to lifelong learning. I developed an appreciation for that at ECPI and it continues to serve me well."

# Innsbrook Grad Promoted to Team Leader



Dione Houston, a 2011 graduate of ECPI University's Richmond/Innsbrook campus, has been promoted to Service Desk Team Lead at SyCom, a provider of comprehensive IT solutions and services. Ms. Houston began working with the company as a technical analyst following graduation and this marks her second promotion in less than three years.

She says she owes a lot of her success to ECPI University and, specifically, Campus President Jacob Pope. "If Mr. Pope hadn't talked me into attending school, I wouldn't be where I am today!" says Dione. "I thank God for him and his entire team for the guidance I received throughout my time on campus. In fact, I am still enjoying the benefits of ECPI as I am preparing to get a second certification. As a graduate, I am grateful for the opportunity to take these exams at a greatly reduced cost!"

# Reaching Out: ECPI

## North Carolina



**Greensboro** – Students, faculty, and staff participated in the Salvation Army's annual Angel Tree campaign to bring Christmas to children in need.

**Greensboro** – More than 20 students, faculty, and staff – including three breast cancer survivors – walked in the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" 5K in High Point, raising $1,087.



**Raleigh** – Students, faculty, and staff came out to celebrate ECPI University's third year as a member of North Carolina's Adopt-a-Highway program. Every three months, they gather an enthusiastic team to clean up Pinecrest Road near campus.



ECPI Students Catherine Ferebee, Dora Ellison, Nicole Ray, Kathy Lamb, Dana Larapinto, Matthew Williams, and Michael Wilson

**Raleigh** – ECPI University was represented by Campus Director of Student Affairs Gloria Hicks and Campus Director of Academic Affairs Gordon Russell at the USO of North Carolina's 9th Annual Freedom Gala. Both of them work closely with the USO, Ms. Hicks coordinating military job fairs and Mr. Russell – who received a Distinguished Admiral's Coin – producing public service announcements.



## South Carolina

**Charleston** – Members from the Honor Society, Heroes of Health Science and Student Veterans of America gathered to clean up nearly two miles of road along Northside Drive as part of the Adopt-a-Highway program.
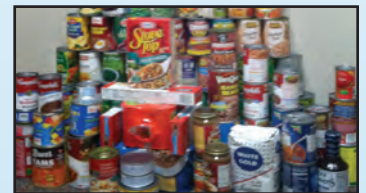




**Charleston** – The Honor Society held a food drive to benefit the Lowcountry Food Bank, collecting 279 pounds in food donations as well as $138 in cash.

**Charleston** – Campus Director of Academic Affairs Ron Neil, EET faculty member Getachew Abey, and CIS Program Director Jackqulin Green went to Joseph R. Pye Elementary School to teach STEM concepts to students in Africa via the internet as part of the school's participation in the Kenya Initiative.





**Greenville** – Students set up an Angel Tree in the lobby for children served by the Salvation Army. With the help of ECPI University employment partner Foundation Technologies, students, faculty, and staff collected more than 100 Christmas presents to be given to children in need.

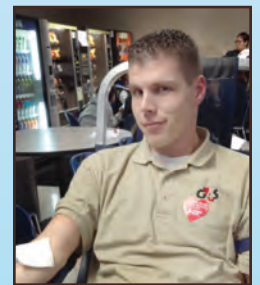**Greenville** – Students, faculty, and staff collected about 225 pounds of food for the food bank.



## Virginia



**Innsbrook** – Faculty and staff were joined by colleagues from the Richmond/Moorefield campus to volunteer at Junior Achievement's Finance Park, where middle and high school students study personal financial management in the classroom and apply their newly-acquired knowledge in a life-like business environment.



**Moorefield** – Nearly 30 students, faculty, and staff turned out for a campus blood drive.

Students Deziree Fields and Alan Kvasnicka

# in the Community



**Moorefield** – Donated dozens of used books to Chesterfield County Public Schools. The campus is a partner in the school district's "Crayon to Computers" program, regularly donating used textbooks and library materials for use by Chesterfield County school teachers.

ECPI Richmond/Moorefield Campus President Ron Tracey and Dr. Irving Driscoll of Chesterfield County Public Schools

**Moorefield** – Students, faculty, and staff collected and sent 83 holiday cards to be sent to service members overseas through the American Red Cross' Holiday Mail for Heroes campaign.



Health Information Management students Kristi Marshall, Michele Tuck, Mindy Parsons, and Maritza Rivera sent their fond wishes to the troops.

**Northern Virginia** – During the month of October, the Career Services Departments at all ECPI University campuses held fund raising activities for Breast Cancer Awareness month, raising a total of $3,807. Northern Virginia topped the list, bringing in $778. Great effort!



The Northern Virginia Team: Dr. Simina Vasilache, Philip Branche, Dedra Parrish, Mason Craig, Victoria Suarez, and Krystal Carretta



**Virginia Beach** – The campus held a blood drive with the American Red Cross, collecting 36 pints.



**Moorefield** – The Web Club held a series of fundraising events and used proceeds to purchase two new bicycles to donate to Toys for Tots.

**Virginia Beach** – Pink was the color of the day on October 23, as students, faculty, and staff continued their month-long effort to raise awareness and money for the American Cancer Society during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
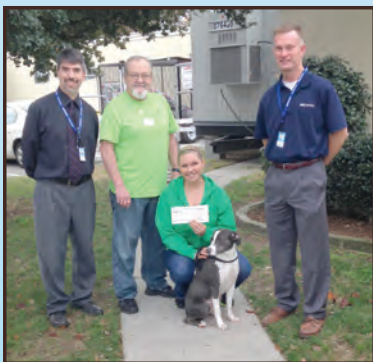


**Newport News** – The Business Club provided gifts for 60 children through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program.

Students Mamye Wilkerson-Branco and Bernard Price feeling the holiday spirit!





**Virginia Beach** – ECPI University Career Service Advisors volunteered for the Hampton Roads Job Fair, hosted by Congressman Scott Rigell (R-Va.), providing resume advice and interview coaching to the nearly 1,500 people in attendance.

Congressman Scott Rigell (R-Va.) and Virginia Beach Campus Director of Career Services Gina Cassidy



**Newport News** – Organizers raised nearly $1,000 at the 2nd Annual ECPI 8K to benefit the Peninsula SPCA.

CIS Faculty Member and Race Director Thomas Sullivan (left) and Newport News Campus President Dr. John Olson present a check to representatives from the Peninsula SPCA.

**Virginia Beach** – EET Teaching Assistant Ed Konowicz put on a robotics demonstration for students at Chesterfield Academy.

# Career Services Director Leads Charity Golf Tournament to Fight Cancer

When ECPI University's Regional Director of Career Services, Kent Scearce, learned that one of his best friends had cancer, he felt helpless. The least he could do is round up all his buddies for a day of golf to honor their friend – Michael Lovern – before he underwent surgery. Although Michael beat the disease initially, five years later it was back. But once again, Michael beat the odds and was out swinging a golf club just a few months later.

To commemorate Michael's second successful recovery (as well as the recovery of other friends and family members), Lovern's group of friends decided to transform their informal golf outings to a full-blown tournament with proceeds donated to LINC, a charity that



helps cancer victims cope with financial and legal issues. With the help of ECPI University and other generous sponsors, Scearce and his friends were able to raise more than $30,000 at this year's tournament, and more than $100,000 over the past five years. Well done, Kent!

## HANDS-ON LEARNING

**Greensboro** – Students received training at WESCO Distributors, learning about the newest Total Integration Automation (TIA Portal) PLCs on the market from a SIEMENS Specialist. Each was able to interact with the equipment and train in the installation, connection, operation, and basic ladder logic programming skills used in the current marketplace. They also learned how PLCs are used to interface with motors, motor drives, sensors, pneumatics, and hydraulics.





**Moorefield** – Criminal Justice students Courtney Strain and Louis Speed analyze blood samples.

**Moorefield** – About 40 criminal justice students from the Chesterfield County Technical Center came to the Richmond/Moorefield Campus to get some hands-on experience with "Faces"- a facial recognition software program used in law enforcement to help witnesses create a likeness of suspects. The students are dual enrolled at the Technical Center and ECPI University, earning college credits.



**Greensboro** – Health Science students practice pediatric CPR.

# Culinary Institute of Virginia Begins Construction of Greenhouse

## Soil-Less Environment to Create "Perfect" Atmosphere for Plants and Learning

It may be cold outside but in just a few short weeks ECPI University's College of Culinary Arts, Culinary Institute of Virginia, will have one spot on campus that will feel "just right" all year long. That's because construction is underway on the school's new greenhouse. Nearly 2000-square feet, it will soon yield a steady supply of fresh produce, including five types of lettuce, tomatoes, herbs, eggplant, and peppers.

While there are many universities with greenhouses, they are typically managed by agricultural departments. "It's unusual for culinary schools to manage their own hydroculture garden, but as hospitality educators, it is important to us that we expose our students to current trends in the industry, and this greenhouse certainly does that," says Food Service Management Program Director Layne Eggers.

Restaurateurs across the country are embracing the "Farm to Table" movement which advocates the use of

> *"Students will not just read about the benefits of sourcing local ingredients, they will get hands-on experience growing vegetables and herbs that will then be used in class."*
>
> – Andy Gladstein
> Campus Provost

locally-sourced food to reduce transit time, thereby reducing the use of fossil fuels and improving freshness. And when soil is eliminated, the benefits only increase.

That's right…no soil. The plants at the Culinary Institute of Virginia (CIV) will grow in nutrient-rich water. It's called hydroculture and it allows faculty and students to grow produce in a near-perfect environment.

There are also no pesticides and no worries about too much or too little rain, or whether it's too hot or too cold. The result: plants grow much faster and much larger. Take lettuce, for instance. The average plant takes up to eight weeks to grow. In a hydroculture greenhouse, it can take as little as four weeks. Eggers expects to harvest about 10,000 heads per year. As for tomatoes, it's expected that those plants should produce about two and a half tons per year.

"The Hydroculture Garden and Learning Center will enhance the education of CIV students in so many ways," says Campus Provost Andy Gladstein. "Students will not just read about the benefits of sourcing local ingredients, they will get hands-on experience growing vegetables and herbs that will then be used in class. In any restaurant, the quality of ingredients used is as important as the chef preparing them, and we hope to instill this in our students by making the best possible produce available to them on a daily basis."

# ECPI University Receives 10-Year Reaffirmation from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

ECPI University is pleased to announce that it has received reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) for a period of 10 years – the maximum time that can be granted. This reaffirmation – announced on December 10 at the SACSCOC Annual Business Meeting, held in Atlanta, GA – indicates that the University has met or exceeded SACSCOC's high standards for quality as a provider of higher education.

"We are proud of the efforts of the entire university community as this milestone shows our dedication to student success and institutional effectiveness," says ECPI University President Mark Dreyfus. "It validates what each and every faculty and staff member does each day."

Accreditation is a peer-review process

> *"We are proud of the efforts of the entire university community as this milestone shows our dedication to student success and institutional effectiveness. It validates what each and every faculty and staff member does each day."*
>
> – Mark Dreyfus
> ECPI University President

that includes both off-site and on-site reviews, during which SACSCOC committees evaluate the University's compliance with the organization's *Principles of Accreditation*. Among the

many aspects of this comprehensive review, the SACSCOC Committees examine the University's mission and core values and their appropriateness to higher education and the development and rigor of ECPI University's academic programs, consistent with good academic practices. The review, however, is not limited to academics; SACSCOC reviews the entire organization, including academic and support services, facilities, library resources, policies, and practices.

As part of the reaffirmation process, ECPI developed a Quality Enhancement Plan, designed to impact student learning. This ongoing initiative, Students Find Information and Resources to Succeed Today or **Students FIRST**, intends to strengthen students' information literacy skills as it relates to their understanding of their chosen profession.

# Starfish: A New Way for Students and Faculty to Stay in Touch

By Maryse Levy,
Vice President of Student Development

ECPI University recently acquired a new tool designed to help students communicate easier with faculty and staff; and to enable faculty and staff to communicate easier with students. The tool, "Starfish," uses technology that most are familiar with and applies it to helping with student-faculty interactions.

Through Starfish, students can make appointments online with faculty, staff, and administrators who have activated the online scheduling feature. Students are also able to view a personalized e-directory that lists resources they may need while in school, providing contact information, hours of operation, and overviews of the services provided. And students can use Starfish to adjust their communication channels from email to Facebook Messenger, or text – giving students greater control of where their communications come to.

Since implementing Starfish, we

have seen a dramatic increase in communications from faculty to their students. Most communications from faculty to students are positive messages related to course performance, often personalized to the student or to a specific accomplishment in the course. "Group" messages tend to be specifics related to the course – faculty are using Starfish to point students to a resource to add clarity to a concept covered in class, or to give students more information about upcoming assignments or to remind them about test content. Some messages sent by faculty are directed to students who are underperforming and are designed to help point them to University resources, including tutoring, study skills coaching, and advising opportunities that could help them improve their course performance.

Noteworthy Starfish statistics include:

- 3,443 ECPI students have created their "Starfish" profiles
- 498 appointments were scheduled with ECPI faculty/staff

- 13,645 messages were sent to ECPI students by faculty/staff

If you haven't yet visited Starfish, go to your Moodle page, click on "Go to Starfish." There is no new "url," username, or password to remember. Starfish is just simply a button within Moodle. Once you have successfully logged in, you will be greeted by name and provide a brief overview of the functionality. When seeing the system for the first time, most students are impressed with how intuitive and easy it is. Each campus has a Starfish Champion who can answer questions and assist users. Also, all faculty and staff have been trained on Starfish, so feel free to ask them for help!

# ECPI University Now Offering Mechanical Engineering Technology Degree
### New Program Developed in Response to Demand for Skilled Professionals

ECPI University is now offering a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering Technology at its Virginia Beach campus. Like every program offered at ECPI, it was developed in consultation with University employment partners, as well as the manufacturing industry as a whole.

"Forbes Magazine recently named Hampton Roads as the 7th ranked region in the United States for manufacturing growth," says ECPI University Virginia Beach Campus President Kevin Paveglio. "With the assistance of our curriculum advisory board – comprised of employers in the manufacturing sector – we have designed a program to meet the demand. This should be a win for everyone, including graduates who enter rewarding careers and the Commonwealth of Virginia which becomes more economically competitive."

Curriculum focuses on core areas such as:

- Mechanical design and analysis
- Material science and manufacturing processes
- Thermal-fluid-energy sciences
- Computer aided engineering graphics and analysis
- Electro-mechanical devices
- Instrumentation and controls

Upon completion, graduates can pursue employment in various public and private industries, including mechanical product design and fabrication, advanced manufacturing, power generation, plant management, and systems control.

# Online ⟶ On-the-Job

## How One Graduate Fulfilled a Long-Deferred Dream and Set an Example for her Son

If you've ever questioned whether persistence pays, look no further than Keisha Swinson. Her journey began on August 19, 1997. That's when her son, Jaray, was born. It was also the day she was to begin college. "I was grateful to have my blessing from God but I really thought it was over for my dream of being a college graduate," says Keisha.

A couple years later, Keisha decided she would try juggling school with motherhood and a fulltime job. She wanted to be a nurse. It was manageable, but once she realized nursing was not her true calling, she left school. She tried studying business, but after job changes sent her from Greensboro to Fayetteville to Durham, the starts and stops at community colleges became burdensome and frustrating.

Years passed, and one day she decided to consider online options. "I had been working with computers for a long time and always had been an electronic geek so I decided to look for degree programs in computer and information systems, says Keisha. "I ran across ECPI University and sent a request for more information."

*"I can now look at my son, who is turning sixteen this year, and say your mother is a college graduate and you can do the same."*

Keisha Swinson,
ECPI University Graduate

That's when she first met ECPI University Admissions Advisor Brooke Hartert. "She was just so encouraging, says Keisha. "Brooke helped walk me in the door (virtually) and has continued to help guide me throughout my college life, always boosting my confidence when I needed it. Then, there was my student finance advisor, Misty Clark. "She really helped me sort out all the financial aid issues so I could concentrate on school. Without these two ladies, I'm not sure I would have made it."

Well, Keisha did make it. She has a Bachelor of Science in Computer and Information Science with a concentration in Network Security and has just accepted a position with CISCO as a Network Consulting Engineer. "I can now look at my son, who is turning sixteen this year, and say your mother is a college graduate and you can do the same," says Keisha. "I did not allow life's obstacles to stop my dream. God had another plan for me and placed Brooke and Misty in my life. It all began with that first conversation to help me get to this point!"

**Charlotte** – The Career Services Department's bi-annual career fair drew 19 employers and more than 100 students. Participants included Brooksource, the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, and F.B.I.



**Raleigh** – Career Services held a campus career fair which drew nearly 20 employers and 150 students.



**Greenville** – Career Services hosted an Employer Meet and Greet, allowing students to gain valuable information through a panel discussion and meet industry professionals one-on-one.



**Richmond/Moorefield** – As part of Constitution Day, the campus held a voter registration drive where students also added their names to a scroll featuring the U.S. Constitution.



**Virginia Beach** – Representatives from Texas Instruments toured campus as part of a budding partnership the company is seeking to develop a pipeline of qualified graduates to fill positions at the Fortune 500 company.



**Newport News** – The Software Development Club held its 2nd Annual Conference, open to all students, faculty, and employment partners. Topics at this year's conference included wireless sensor networks, health profiler mobile application development, and Arrive Alive safety mobile application development.

# Comprehensive and Diverse Business Resources Added to the Online Library

By Rebecca Tabakin, Library Director

**ABI/INFORM – Comprehensive Resources for Today's Business Researcher**



ABI/INFORM and Business Book Summaries (BBS) are new additions to the growing collection of business resources secured on the University Libraries website at http://ecpi.ent.sirsi.net. Business databases are located on the Library website in the Research Menu - All Databases by Subject - Business & Companies. Access is available 24/7 to the ECPI community on-campus and by remote access.

ProQuest ABI/INFORM announced recently that it has become "the world's most comprehensive and diverse business database available." Journal content was doubled in the past three years. Listening to feedback from business researchers also prompted the publishers to add more content such as e-books to the mix. The content is also divided into ABI/INFORM Complete, Global, Trade & Industry and Dateline sub-collections for more effective search results.

EBSCO's Business Book Summaries (BBS) database provides concise yet comprehensive summaries of the best business books. Students that have used Cliff Notes will have a comfort level with the BBS format. Each title comes with a comprehensive overview of key concepts and details on key features in the book.

The estimated reading time for the book and quick links to the purchase of the original work are also provided along with related suggested reading.

For more information about any of the Library's resources, contact Library Director Rebecca Tabakin at rtabakin@ecpi.edu or use the convenient 'Ask a Librarian' form on the Library website at http://ecpi.ent.sirsi.net.

# Virginia Board of Education Adds Manufacturing Certification to Approved Credential List
## ECPI University to Provide Training at Participating High Schools

The Virginia Board of Education has approved the Manufacturing Skills Institute's (MSI) Manufacturing Technician Level 1 (MT1) Certification for inclusion on the *Board of Education Approved Industry Certifications, Occupational Competency Assessments, and Licensure List*. Virginia's new High School Standard Diploma requires students to obtain an industry-recognized occupational credential in order to graduate.

As the exclusive training partner of the MSI and the Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA), ECPI University will lead the instruction at participating schools. The MT1 Certification program was developed by the VMA to meet the growing employment demands and bridge the accelerating skills gap within Virginia's manufacturing sector.

The MT1 Certification will demonstrate to employers that an individual has an understanding of modern manufacturing and has mastered an array of technical skills, including:

- Math and Measurement
- Statistical Process Controls
- Spatial Reasoning
- Mechanics, Fluid Power, and Thermodynamics
- Electricity and Chemistry
- Manufacturing Processes and Controls
- Quality and Lean Manufacturing

Individuals obtaining the MT1 Certification may apply for advanced standing credit in selected degree programs at ECPI University to receive up to six (6) college credits. ECPI advanced standing credit may be used to establish transfer credits to other accredited two-year and four-year colleges and universities.

"ECPI University is excited to be a part of this effort to help drive the development and training of industry-certified workers within Virginia," says ECPI Virginia Beach Campus President Kevin Paveglio. "This academic initiative is going to lead to a 'real-world' outcome that will improve expansion for manufacturing. Providing employment-relevant education is what ECPI University has been doing for nearly half a century, so this is a natural fit for us."

# Manufacturing Institute Names ECPI University to M-List

The Manufacturing Institute has added ECPI University to its M-List which recognizes universities, community and technical colleges, and secondary schools that are teaching manufacturing students to industry standards.

Specifically, these schools offer students the opportunity to earn NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certifications as a standard part of their manufacturing education programs.

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If you have story ideas, email econnect@ecpi.edu. Be sure to take high-resolution photographs of your events to include in newsletter. You can also recommend someone to be featured by emailing the name and a brief description of why he or she should be featured to the same address. For these stories and more, visit **ecpi.edu/econnect.**

For more information about ECPI University program fields call **800.986.1200**.

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