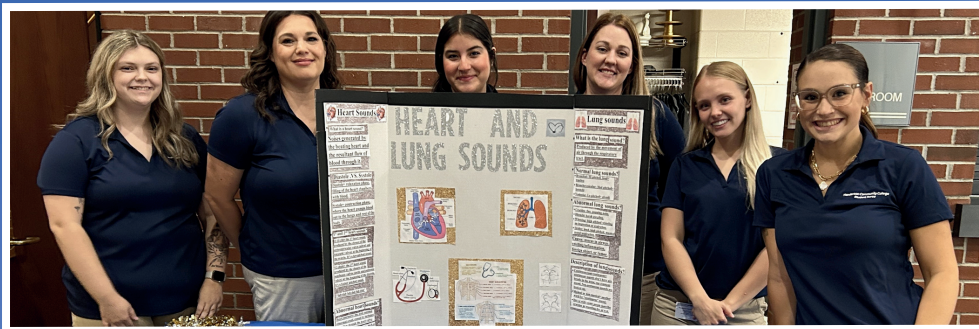


2025 Community Impact Report



President's Message



Jason D. Warren, PhD
President/CEO

Recently, I experienced a moment of pride while reading the CCCSE National Report (October 2025) entitled "Essential Conditions for Community College Student Success: Maximizing Student Engagement by Fostering a Culture of Caring." The report highlights how a strong culture of caring is one of the most critical determinants of student success—and immediately, I thought about HCC and the work we live every day.

If you take a walk around campus, you'll be greeted by our long-standing motto: Small enough to care. Big enough to serve. A culture of care is truly part of HCC's identity. It is who we are and who we have been for decades.

Banners across campus celebrate HCC's national recognition as an "Opportunity College" in 2025—earned by just 60 community colleges nationwide through Carnegie Classifications. I am incredibly proud of our faculty and staff whose dedication to student success drives retention, persistence, and credential completion every day.

I am also grateful for the many stakeholders who support the HCC Care Center and the Student Emergency Fund. These initiatives help students facing food insecurity and basic needs challenges. We know many students are just one flat tire or unexpected expense away from dropping out. The generosity of our donors gives employees the resources to keep students enrolled and moving forward.

Student success is not an individual effort; it takes shared commitment and collaboration. We will continue to listen, adapt, and respond—together—in a way that keeps us proud of the work happening at HCC.

With our appreciation,

Jason



www.henderson.kctcs.edu



2660 South Green Street
Henderson, KY 42420



270.827.1867



To receive our community newsletter via email, contact hendersonccinfo@gmail.com

HCC
at a
Glance

1960
HCC Welcomes its
First Students

2,102
Total Enrollment
as of 10/31/25

66
Full-Time Staff
& Faculty

14+
Degrees Offered

75+
Certificates Offered

HCC Board of Directors

Dorsey Ridley - Chair
Holli Blanford* - Vice Chair
Jennifer Andrews - Secretary
Danielle Anguish
Velvet Dowdy

Katie Duncan* - Faculty Representative
Laura Ivy - Staff Representative
Keegan O'Daniel
Kamryn Raley - Student Representative

*HCC Alumni

The College Foundation, Inc. partners with individual and corporate donors to provide much-needed resources to HCC and its students.

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Board of Directors*

- Jinger Carter* - Chair
- Charles E. Johnson - Vice Chair
- Cooper Lilly - Secretary/Treasurer
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- Becky Carroll
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- Eric Gardner
- Brian Hawkes
- Tamika Johnson*
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- Susie Watkins*
- Linda White

*HCC Alumni



Jinger Carter
Director of Human Resources,
Henderson County Schools

“Henderson Community College changes lives and strengthens our community – and I’ve observed it time and again with multiple people and projects. Whether it is a current high school student getting a jump start on exposure to college curriculum and schedules, a recent graduate utilizing the community scholarship programs or the nontraditional students deciding on a career change, the community college is an excellent choice.

The HCC Foundation Board works to ensure every student has access to resources and support systems they need to succeed via the Care Center, Scholarship Program, Workforce Development and Student Emergency Fund.

Further, the Foundation works to solicit donations for classroom renovations and student engagement programs. I’m honored to serve on the Foundation Board and support students who are persevering to achieve their goals.

”

In 2025, **917** students received
517 scholarships totaling
\$769,670

Hoffman Legacy Society Donor Wall Unveiled

In March 2025, Henderson Community College (HCC) honored the generosity of its donors with a reception celebrating Joan Hoffman and other members of the Hoffman Legacy Society.

The Society recognizes individuals who have made planned gifts to support HCC and its students for generations to come.

"I would like to personally thank all of our donors for supporting HCC's mission," said HCC President & CEO Jason Warren. "Private dollars provide the margin of excellence and tools needed for student success. You are truly making a difference and changing lives for the better."



Joan Hoffman and Dr. Jason Warren celebrate the new Hoffman Legacy Society Donor Wall.

Hoffman, a 1962 graduate of HCC's first graduating class, was recognized with the HCC Board of Directors Alumni Award in 1982. She has served on the College Foundation, Inc. Board, including as president in 2015, and played a key role in establishing the Rotary Colonels2College program, which provides scholarships for local students to attend HCC in perpetuity.

Invest in HCC & Our Students



Donate online using our secure portal:

<https://henderson.kctcs.edu/alumni/giving.aspx>



Make your check payable to HCC or the College Foundation, Inc. and send to:

Jennifer Preston
Office of Advancement
2660 South Green St.
Henderson, KY 42420

Designate Your Gift



Classroom Renovation Project



Scholarship Program



Greatest Need



CARE Center



Preston Arts Center



Workforce Development



Student Emergency Fund



Student Engagement



Carnegie classifies Henderson Community College as ‘Higher Access, Higher Earnings’ Opportunity College

Henderson Community College’s focus on opening its doors widely to students and equipping them for higher wages and workforce success has gained national recognition.

The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education has named HCC as an Opportunity College for “Higher Access, Higher Earnings,” one of only 60 community colleges in the nation.

“We are thrilled to receive this national distinction because it affirms what we see every day -- students walking through our doors with big goals and limited means and walking out prepared for jobs that change their lives and their families’ futures,” said HCC President Jason Warren.

In the 2023-24 academic year, 27% of HCC students were the first in their families to go to college, and 41% of students received Pell Grants. Nearly 70% of credentials were awarded in the higher-wage, targeted industry sectors.

Affordability and access are core missions. HCC students pay less than half the average of the state’s public universities.

The Opportunity Colleges and Universities designation is part of a newly developed Student Access and Earnings Classification published by the Carnegie Foundation and the American Council on Education.

This new classification examines the extent to which institutions foster opportunities for student success by measuring whether institutions are enrolling students reflective of the communities they serve and how the earnings of those students compare to peers in their area.



John Spurlock: A Life Rebuilt, Semester by Semester

John Spurlock, an honorably discharged Marine, took a few classes at Henderson Community College (HCC) when he returned to civilian life, but he wasn't fully ready to commit to his education at that time. Then, in May of 2023, everything changed. John refocused his priorities, reenrolled at HCC, and hasn't slowed down since. Now, after five consecutive semesters of steady progress, he is well on his way to earning an Associate in Arts degree.

"I see myself going to school for the rest of my life, in some form or fashion," John said. He's exploring career pathways that will allow him to support and uplift others — possibly as a counselor or peer support specialist — and he is confident that HCC faculty will help him reach that goal. "I've never had so many people who genuinely want to help me," he added. "It's not for numbers or stats. They truly want to see you do your best and reach your potential."



His progress is powered by a strong circle of support, including HCC's Career Services Coordinator **Angie Watson**, whom John describes as "an angel" for going above and beyond to ensure students have what they need to move forward.



Alongside his studies, John works part-time in maintenance at the Henderson County Public Library. Executive Director **Shannon Sandefur**, an HCC alumna, is thrilled to have John as part of her team. "Angie Watson reached out to us about considering a student for a part-time position, and we were immediately taken with John during his interview," she explained. "His enthusiasm and positive attitude are truly contagious, and he shows up every day with a smile and a genuine willingness to work hard."

"John greets everyone he encounters and is always quick to offer help to both staff and patrons, which has made a real difference in our daily workflow and atmosphere. I recently told him he is a breath of fresh air, and we are so grateful Angie connected us with him. We sincerely hope he stays with us for a long time."

He is a proud father of four grown sons and lives just across the street from his 87-year-old father, which allows him to help with daily needs as they arise. John also enjoys spending time in the woods and out on the water. Fishing is one of his favorite ways to relax — and he still gets his dad out in the boat whenever he can. "We have a grand old time," he says.

Recently, he welcomed his sister into his home — giving them the chance to rebuild the bond they didn't have growing up.

John is quick to say that none of this would be possible without his faith. His transformation is built on steady courage: showing up, taking responsibility, working hard, and believing that tomorrow can be better than yesterday. For John, success is built in moments, semesters, small decisions, and consistent steps forward.

John's story is a reminder that it is never too late to start again — and it is never too late to become who you were meant to be. Keep going. Keep building. Keep choosing the next right step. Someone else's hope may start because you did.

Dr. Laura Winstead Named Postsecondary Educator of the Year

Dr. Laura Winstead, Agriculture Program Coordinator, was named the 2025 Henderson Chamber of Commerce’s Postsecondary Educator of the Year!

Dr. Winstead has been at HCC for 25 years and we’re thrilled to see her recognized for her accomplishments and leadership in Agriculture Education.

Pictured (L-R): Traci Tyler from award sponsor ATA, Dr. Laura Winstead, Clay Givens, Executive Director of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce.



HCC Receives Partner of the Year Award from Henderson County Schools



HCC was named Henderson County School’s 2025 Partner of the Year for its continued collaboration and support of Henderson County Schools through initiatives such as:

- The Rotary Colonels to College Program
- The Early College Academy Program
- Donations to the Backpack Program for our Family Resource Centers
- College tours for our students
- And the HCC FAME program, preparing students for future workforce success

Pictured (L-R): Dr. Bob Lawson, Dr. Jason Warren, Dr. Mike Knecht, Michelle Dixon, Dr. Chad Phillips and Crissy Sandefur



Save the Date for Giving Day 2026

This 24-hour fundraising effort provides an opportunity for the entire community to come together to support our students. Our 2025 Giving Day raised over \$5,721! Let’s come together and double that number in 2026. The success of HCC depends on your generosity!

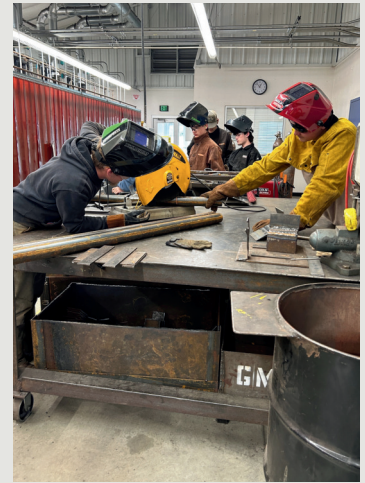
Mark your calendar for the third annual Giving Day on **April 22, 2026!**

From the Welding Lab to the Soccer Field!

Our HCC Welding Technology students put their skills to work — and made a difference in our community!

Students from both the morning and evening welding classes teamed up to design and build brand-new soccer goals for the Webster County Youth Soccer League — completely free of charge!

Using GMAW (MIG) in 5G and 6G positions, they practiced precision welding and fabrication while giving back to their community in a meaningful way.



2025 FRESHMAN CLASS *Quick Facts*

Top 5 Majors



**HEALTH
SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY**



**ASSOCIATE IN
SCIENCE**



**ASSOCIATE IN
ARTS**



**BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION**



**INDUSTRIAL
MAINTENANCE
TECHNOLOGY**

220

**First Time
Freshmen**



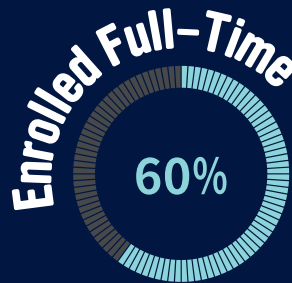
Taking a
collective of
938
classes



9
**Kentucky Counties
Represented**



21
Average Age



41%
take classes
in-person

Take classes online

59%



4
**Indiana Counties
Represented**

Adult Learners



17%

HCC Launches New Electrical Technology Program & Receives \$421,000 Grant from the Delta Regional Authority

Henderson Community College (HCC) will offer a new Electrical Technology program beginning in the Spring 2026 semester. This two-year program will allow graduates to join the workforce as an industrial or residential electrician immediately.

Soon after the program was announced, it got a significant boost with a \$421,000 grant from the Delta Regional Authority to purchase state-of-the-art learning equipment.

“After two years of research and listening to our local community partners, we are excited to launch the new Electrical Technology program,” said Dr. Mike Knecht, Chief Academic Affairs Officer. “This program will provide graduates with high-demand skills needed to enter the workforce in a field that has seen a 12.7% job growth in the past three years.”



The program will be led by Tony Meade, a master electrician with over 30 years of experience in the construction, industrial and energy sectors. He currently serves as course coordinator and instructor for the Electrical Technology program at Bluegrass Community and Technical College in Lexington, where he develops curriculum, teaches electrical courses and supports the next generation of skilled electricians. Meade is a licensed master electrician in Kentucky and holds an AAS from Bluegrass Community and Technical College and a diploma in industrial electricity from Mayo Technical College.

“I’m thrilled to see HCC launching an Electrical Technology Program,” said Zach Swift, owner of T-REX Electric in Henderson. “This is a huge step forward not only for the students who will gain valuable, hands-on skills, but also for local businesses like mine that rely on a well-trained workforce. There’s a growing demand for skilled electricians in our area, and this program will help fill that gap while keeping talent right here in our community. It’s a win-win – creating career opportunities for students and strengthening the backbone of our local economy.”

For more information about the new HCC Electrical Technology program, visit <https://bit.ly/4oOm67i>



*Introducing the
AAS degree in*

Electrical Technology

