BCCC observes 40th anniversary

All faculty and staff members of Beaufort County Community College are invited to attend the 40th anniversary celebration of BCCC’s charter Friday, December 7 on the BCCC campus.

The Open House observance and concert will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with most activities taking place in the Multipurpose Room of Building 10.

An Opening Ceremony will kick off the day’s festivities at 10 a.m. and will include reflections on the college history from campus, local and state officials and alumni, the unveiling of portraits of past and present college presidents and a special announcement by the BCCC Foundation.

A reception with refreshments will be held at 11 a.m. followed by campus tours. A concert of blue grass and folk music will be presented by the Greenville Grass at noon.

Industrial and technical education was offered in Beaufort County in 1962 through an Industrial Education Center which became affiliated with Lenoir County Technical Institute in 1963 and Pitt Technical Institute in 1964. A stand-alone technical institute for Beaufort County was made possible by two actions in 1967—local voters approved a $500,000 bond issue by a vote of nearly three to one and then State Senator Ashley B. Futrell introduced legislation in the N.C. General Assembly establishing Beaufort County Technical Institute.

Local businessman A. Graham Elliott, chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Industrial Education Center, was named the first chairman of the new institute’s Board of Trustees and Charles Byrd was named the first president of BCTI.

In 1968, 39 graduates received their diplomas on August 23 at BCTI’s first graduation.

In 1969, a permanent site for BCTI was purchased and construction of the school’s campus on U.S. 264 about five miles east of Washington began. The first building was completed in 1971 and named for Elliott.

In 1979, BCTI’s name was changed to Beaufort County Community College when the school added the College Transfer Program to its curriculum.

The Open House is free of charge and is open to the public, however, to help with planning, please RSVP to Marcia Norwood at 940-6218 if you plan to attend.