

Eighth straight year of record enrollment recorded at LRU

With the 2016-17 academic year underway at Lenoir-Rhyne University, a record 560 new undergraduate students have been welcomed to the Hickory campus.

It's the eighth year in a row that LRU has produced record breaking enrollment figures, with a 15 percent increase in first year applicants from the 2015-16 academic year. The total number of undergraduates are comprised of 460 first-year students, 82 percent of which will live on campus, and 100 transfer students. A total of 49 international students were also welcomed to LRU for the new academic year, representing a total of 20 different countries. Three of the 49 are exchange students, with the remainder enrolled as degree seeking students.

"The enrollment growth we have experienced over the past several years has been remarkable," said Nathanael Summer, Director of Undergraduate Admission at LRU. "The institution has been able to successfully navigate a changing higher education landscape while maintaining the quality of our education."

Summer credits enrollment growth to attractive initiatives that are pro-

vided for prospective students, such as the Bridges to Dreams program, which allows students to begin work towards a graduate degree while still completing undergraduate coursework. "The large majority of undergraduate students applying to Lenoir-Rhyne have aspirations of achieving a graduate degree," he said. "Our Bridges to Dreams Program, through dual enrollment, ultimately saves participating students time and money."

As enrollment continues to grow at LRU, so does the campus, with a total

Enrollment in graduate programs is also at an all-time high, up 13 percent from last year. Over 800 graduate students will take part in programs on the Hickory, Asheville, and Columbia, SC campuses. Of the 800, 465 of those graduates are participating in programs on LRU's main campus in Hickory.

There are now 26 graduate programs offered at LRU between the three campuses, with University Leadership, an online program, being the most recent addition. A Master of Science in Physician



of six construction projects happening in the past 12 months. "We are excited to have had many building projects this summer," said Rachel Nichols, Vice President for Enrollment Management. "They include the George Hall addition to our Science facility, a renovation to the cafeteria, a renovation to the auditorium, and the purchase and renovation to the Hickory House apartments, which are now a part of our suite of student housing." Currently one of the University's biggest projects is the 35,000 square foot addition of the Alex and Lee George Hall to Minges Science Complex, a \$26-million-dollar project expected to be complete in the fall of 2017.

Assistant Studies and Master of Science in Exercise Science, also an online program, were added in 2016. "This growth can be attributed to many factors, including progressive planning and adaptation to current trends," said Mary Ann Gosnell, Director of Graduate Recruiting. "We also continue to foster relationships with the community through our LR Partners program, which offers discounts on graduate programs to employees of businesses, school systems, non-profit organizations, and other institutions." Graduate courses are available evenings and weekends or on-line to cater to working professionals seeking to further their education.



ATTENDS RCW EVENT — Above, Alexander Soil & Water Conservation District Environmental Education Coordinator Pamela Bowman (left) presents a plaque to ACHS rising senior Joshua Benfield. The senior attended the June 2016 Resource Conservation Workshop on the NCSU campus.

This year's Resource Conservation Workshop students are recognized

The Alexander Soil and Water Conservation District was able to sponsor two ACHS students to attend the 2016 Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) held June 26th – July 1st on the campus of N.C. State University.

The annual workshop provides qualified high school students a week of college classroom and field experience in natural resource management. A variety of environmental studies are covered, such as soil science, fish & wildlife management, forestry & forest management,

Hospice and Home Care's upcoming events listed

Hospice and Home Care of Alexander County extends their gratitude to the citizens of Alexander County for their support of the first annual mum sale. Carmen's Greenhouse provided the beautiful eight-inch pots of 14 different varieties of mums at a discount. She brought ten of each type and several varieties were sold out within the first hour. Altogether, local citizens purchased approximately 120 mums, netting around \$400 to benefit the patients of Hospice and Home Care of Alexander County.

Upcoming events for Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County include:

Saturday, September 17, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Bethlehem Day

Saturday, September 24, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Hiddenite Festival

Friday, October 7, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. - Sr. Center Health Fair (Call the Senior Center for more information on this event).

Saturday, October 8, 12 Noon - 4:30 p.m. - T h i r d Creek Baptist Family Day

Saturday, October 15, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Apple Festival

Thursday, October 20, 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. - Caregiver Reception-ETBC (RSVP)

Early November - Annual Light of Love Campaign

Month of November - Entire month - Hospice month-Adopt a Patient Campaign.

Serving residents of Alexander and surrounding counties in North Carolina since 1985, Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. specializes in easing the physical, emotional and spiritual discomforts that each patient and their family face as the end of life nears. Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. is committed to helping both patients and their families live life to its fullest with optimal comfort and support. For more information, contact the office at 828-632-5026 or visit www.hospiceand-homecarealexander.org.

and soil & water conservation best management practices.

Rising seniors Ethan Sprinkle (son of Scott and Laura Sprinkle of Taylorsville) and Joshua Benfield (son of Bob and Shelly Benfield of Bethlehem) represented Alexander County at the 2016 RCW event.

Ethan and Joshua are active members of ACHS FFA. At the end of the week, an academic competition was held, with a chance for students to win college scholarship funds and/or cash awards. With 92 students in attendance from across the state, Ethan Sprinkle was one of eight students nominated for a possible \$500 Grady Lane Scholarship.

Both students stated that the RCW experience was beneficial in their exploration of possible future environmental sector careers.

Ethan and Joshua are pictured receiving honorary plaques from Alexander

SWCD Environmental Education Coordinator Pamela Bowman.

Future RCW candidates can contact Pamela Bowman at 828-632-0638, ptbowman@alexandercountync.gov. Applications will be accepted through May 2017.

THANK YOU

We would like to publicly recognize the businesses that helped sponsor the Alexander County Library Bethlehem Branch 2016 Summer Reading Program this summer. They were very generous in their donations for prize drawings. We want to say thank you very much for all you do. This gave each adult and child who participated a chance to win or receive something. We had a lot of kids and adults that participated this summer. We just want to also thank all the adults and children who participated. The reading totals were very high. Without them this program would not have been possible.

Here is a list of participating businesses:

Businesses from Bethlehem Community

Bethlehem Greenhouse Mexico Viejo
Crossroads Restaurant & Grill White Tire Center
Boliek's Tire Service

Businesses from Hickory

McDonald's Hickory Smokehouse BBQ
Windy City Grill Atlanta Bread Company
Chili's O'Charley's
Sport Clips Haircuts Outdoor Supply Company
Mountain View Mini Golf Hickory Dickory Dock
Chick-fil-A Little Caesars
Carmike Cinemas Subway
Hickory Home & Garden Center Arby's

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