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COLLEGESchool of
Education

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NEWSLETTER



Dr. Creamer Visits NC Teacher Cadets

Dr. Creamer, alongside Eddy, visited Edgecombe County Early College High School and Forbush High School to meet with NC Teacher Cadets. During these visits, students explored pathways into education, discussed literacy and teaching strategies, and gained insight into the teaching profession. These experiences reinforce the School of Education's commitment to connecting with future educators and inspiring the next generation of teachers.

Intros Visit China Grove Middle School

Students in the Introduction to Teaching course spent a morning at China Grove Middle School observing classrooms and learning from experienced educators. Real students, real classrooms, and real inspiration gave our future teachers firsthand experience of middle school instruction and classroom dynamics.



Katie Bogle: AI in Education

This month, Katie Bogle delivered an engaging talk on artificial intelligence in education for our students and faculty. Participants explored how AI tools can differentiate instruction for AIG, ML, and EC students, as well as support literacy in elementary classrooms. Attendees were reminded that AI is a tool to enhance instruction and must always be reviewed and edited carefully to ensure accuracy and effectiveness.



Guest Speaker: Jinda Haynes

We were thrilled to host Jinda Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Davie County Schools, in our Introduction to Teaching course. Dr. Haynes offered students an inside look at school system structures, governance, funding decisions, and the crucial role educators play in shaping classroom learning. Our students left with a deeper understanding of how schools operate beyond the classroom.

Oakley Elementary Holiday Fair Initiative

Continuing our commitment to community engagement, the School of Education partnered with Oakley Elementary School to support its annual Holiday Fair, providing gifts and resources to students in need. This year, the effort was expanded in collaboration with the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance, encouraging the Catawba community to continue helping the Buncombe community rebuild. The event embodies the spirit of service and community partnership central to our school.

Day of Giving Gratitude

The Goodman School of Education extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported us during Catawba College's Day of Giving. Your generosity helps us prepare future teachers to make an immediate and lasting impact in classrooms and communities near and far.

We were especially touched to hear from one donor who shared, "Catawba made a great impact in my life and career." Messages like this remind us that your good goes far—so our good goes far.

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SNCAE Joins in the Fun at Big Baer

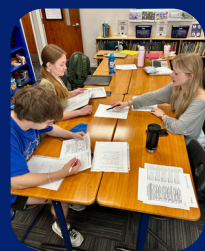
The School of Education's SNCAE chapter participated in Catawba College's 12th Annual Big Baer Halloween Carnival, a long-standing campus tradition that brings together students, faculty, staff, and families for a night of festive fun and community spirit.

This year's theme was superheroes, and our future educators fully embraced it—decorating their table, donning their best hero gear, and handing out candy to young trick-or-treaters as they paraded through Hedrick Hall. Mr. Fleming and Dr. Creamer joined in to help distribute candy and celebrate the evening alongside families from across campus.

Big Baer not only provides a fun and memorable experience for Catawba families but also supports a meaningful cause, raising funds for The Cure Starts Now Foundation through the Odin Baer Dougherty Tribute Fund.



Putting Assessment into Practice



In the Special Education Methods course, students recently took a hands-on approach to learning by practicing the delivery of assessments with their peers. This activity allowed them to apply theory to practice—collecting and interpreting data to inform individualized instruction. By engaging in these simulations, future educators strengthened their understanding of how assessments can guide meaningful, data-driven teaching that supports every learner's unique needs.

SNCAE – First Meeting & Meet the Officers



The Student North Carolina Association of Educators (SNCAE) held its first meeting of the academic year, introducing new officers and outlining goals for the year. The event provided students the opportunity to get involved, network with peers, and plan initiatives that will strengthen leadership, service, and advocacy within the teaching profession.



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Homecoming 2025

The Goodman School of Education was delighted to welcome alumni back to campus during Homecoming weekend at Alumni Alley! Faculty, alumni, and students reconnected and celebrated all things Catawba Education, with visitors stopping by to meet Dr. Vestal, our new CEECE Director, and catch up with Dr. Creamer.



It was wonderful to see so many of our current students showing their Catawba pride—from the Spirit Team to the Football Team and Marching Band. The School of Education selfie frame was a hit, capturing plenty of smiles and memories throughout the day.



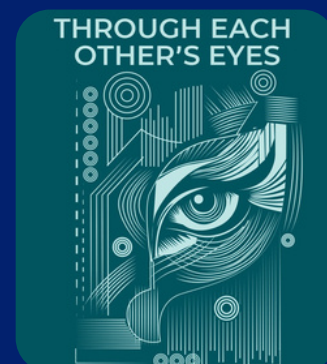
Once a Catawba educator, always a Catawba educator!



Music Education Students Shine in Performance

This month, the School of Education celebrated the talents of our Wind Ensemble, whose concert showcased the skill and dedication of our music education students. Families and community members enjoyed a dynamic program highlighting both musical excellence and the growth of our students as performers and future educators.

In addition, our Catawba marching band students delivered powerful halftime shows, "Pink Ribbon Heroes!", at Shuford Stadium. The performance featured music of motivation in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, uniting art, advocacy, and school spirit.



Alumni Updates

Beginning Teacher of the Year



Shaelyn Rowan '24, a recent graduate, was recognized as Beginning Teacher of the Year at West Rowan Elementary School. Shaelyn's dedication and innovation as a new teacher exemplify the impact our graduates make in local schools.

Master's Presentation



Paige Carter '23 returned to present her Master's project, *The Body Unsettled: Illicit Acts and Settler Colonial Progression in the Eighteenth-Century North Carolina Interior*, at the Rowan County Museum History Club. Paige's former history professors, Dr. Martin and Dr. Hayes, attended to celebrate her scholarship and accomplishments.

Solar Learning



Fifth graders at Prospect Elementary, led by Brynn Purcell '25, turned recycled pizza boxes into working solar ovens during a hands-on sustainability project. Purcell guided students as they explored how sunlight can be converted into usable energy—testing their designs, problem-solving, and even cooking s'mores along the way.

Have news to share? We'd love to hear from you!

Send your updates to Mr. Fleming at rfleming@catawba.edu so we can celebrate your accomplishments in our next newsletter.



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An Interview with Emma Patterson '25



Tell us about your current teaching position.

First Grade at China Grove Elementary School.

What has surprised you most about your first year in the classroom?

Every school is different and I don't feel that there is ever truly a way to feel prepared in this manner. It was a shock going from internship to student teaching and then my career. Rules and expectations change for students and for teachers. The baseline of rules stay mostly the same, but there will always be something that may shock you!

How did your experiences in the Goodman School of Education help you feel ready for this role?

I feel that every teaching course at Catawba helped prepare me for my career in some way. China Grove Elementary School is an A+ school; meaning we are an arts integration school. With that being said Prof. Moore's class on arts integration helped me feel prepared for the role I have taken on, in that class we gained insight on how we could integrate arts into our classroom. Our time doing readers theatre for the elementary students was a field experience that I really enjoyed and hope to be able to try with my students. I would also say that my time spent in Dr. Creamer's class has ultimately made me feel the most prepared. While taking the class there were times of struggle and times when I worried about teaching students literacy. Over time working through the class, gaining experience through our internship and mock edTPA I slowly became more confident. I am happy to say that I now love teaching literacy, not a day goes by where I don't use something that I learned in her class. I am truly thankful for every teacher that I had at Catawba and for my experience in the Education department.

What has been the most rewarding moment so far as a new teacher?

As cliché as it may sound, watching the students grow has been the most rewarding thus far in my teaching experience. One particular student comes to mind. We have been working hard together all year to improve their reading skills. Throughout this time I have seen a little bit of growth each and every day. One day when this student was in a reading group with me they began to read the whole story we were working on. I was so proud of this student and encouraged them for doing such a good job. This student then began to cry, at first I was confused so I asked the student what was wrong. The student told me that they weren't sad tears, they were happy tears because they were so proud of themselves. This moment was so sweet to share with this student. Seeing growth is fantastic but helping the student gain confidence in themselves is a completely different feeling.

What challenges have you faced, and how have you worked through them?

My main challenge this year has been staying organized. As a teacher you are always doing something, moving around somewhere and running the classroom. With all of those things at play I have had a hard time keeping up with certain papers, dates and supplies. To try and improve that I have set a goal for myself to organize my classroom for at least 10 mins everyday after school. I have also found that there are some tasks that I was able to give to a student to help keep the classroom organized. That way all materials are accessible to me and the students.

What advice would you give to current education students preparing to student teach or begin their careers?

The advice that I would like to share with the current education students is: edTPA isn't this big monster that everyone speaks of. Now don't get me wrong, edTPA is challenging and important, but it's also a time for reflection and growth. There were times where I became extremely overwhelmed at the task at hand, just be sure to break the work into chunks, submit your work to Catawba early and always go back and check the work that you have done. Be sure to take the time to truly enjoy your student teaching and ask lots and lots of questions.