

*Celebrating*

**DR. MARY  
RITTLING's**  
*legacy  
& vision*

DCCC PRESIDENT 2003 - 2018

**DCCC**  
THE COLLEGE OF  
DAVIDSON AND DAVIE COUNTIES





*“Mary Rittling is a leader like I’ve never seen before. DCCC has soared to incredible heights under her leadership, and I know I speak for the entire Board of Trustees when I say we will miss her tremendously. But her legacy won’t fade... She’s taught everyone connected to DCCC how to think, dream, and pursue opportunities in new ways, and DCCC will forever benefit.”*

**KEN WHITE**

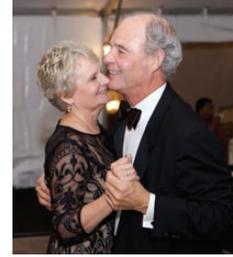
*Chair  
DCCC Board of Trustees*

2003 - 2018

# *The Rittling Years*

## **PRESIDENT OF DCCC FOR 15 YEARS,**

Dr. Mary E. Rittling announced her retirement in 2018. Along with the remarkable growth the college has experienced during this time, Rittling's contributions have ranged from program expansion and campus growth to a variety of national accomplishments and accolades. Her signature focus on students, as well as her support for faculty and community, will continue to make an impact on education and the economy in Davidson and Davie counties for years to come. The following reflections highlight her leadership priorities and the defining moments of her service.





# Students First

**“WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED** *and was spending a lot of time talking to people and getting to know the community, I would often ask high school students who had made other college choices why they weren’t coming to DCCC. They would tell me that DCCC wasn’t a real college and the reason was because we didn’t have athletics. So, we brought back athletics but also prioritized other things, such as student clubs and campus activities. Combined with our student-centered enrollment process and success-focused classrooms, we have created for DCCC students the holistic college experience that they seek.”*

**MARY RITTLING**



▲ With a focus on student success, DCCC ensures student-centered academic experiences led by dedicated faculty.



▲ With Rittling’s support for restarting athletics at DCCC, students voted Stormy the Cat as mascot of the women’s volleyball and men’s basketball teams.



▲ Rittling regularly reminds faculty and staff that students should be at the center of everything they do.

- ▼ Known for her rapport with students, Rittling joins SGA officers for a student forum in the Storm Cellar.



*“Our students are what get me out of bed every day.”*



▲ The enrollment bus makes DCCC more accessible to the community and prospective students.



▲ Student Government Association officers dedicated a tree to Rittling in honor of her retirement.

▲ DCCC will premiere men's and women's golf teams in 2019.





# Economic Development

**“I STARTED AT DCCC IN AUGUST 2003,** and on that day, Lexington Home Brands announced that it would be closing Plant 1. Not only did this add hundreds of layoffs to the thousands that had already happened in furniture and other traditional manufacturing fields, but this was a blow emotionally for the citizens in this area. I knew on that day that DCCC had a critical role to play, not only in helping people recover from that particular layoff, but in leading the transition into a new economy for the communities we serve.”

**MARY RITTLING**



▲ DCCC's partnership with wood-products company EGGER exemplifies the way that community colleges seek to work with local industries. Here, DCCC representatives visit EGGER headquarters in Austria in 2018 to prepare for a new apprenticeship program.



▲ The 2004 announcement that Belgium-based Unilin would locate a laminate flooring facility in Thomasville came thanks in part to Rittling's plan to help the company educate workers. Following a trip by faculty to Belgium to understand the company's processes and philosophies, DCCC developed a world-class automation lab to prepare workers for careers at Unilin and other advanced manufacturing facilities.



▲ The Uptown Lexington, Thomasville, and Davie education centers opened between 2004 and 2008 to help dislocated workers and others access classes easily.



▲ DCCC's successful advanced manufacturing program - building on the area's traditional manufacturing background while preparing workers for the new economy - attracted the attention of Vice President Joe Biden, Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden, and Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, who visited the campus in 2012. A U.S. Dept. of Labor grant and multiple foundation grants have built DCCC's advanced manufacturing program over the years.



▲ Rittling encourages innovative thinking with such initiatives as the mobile manufacturing lab, which debuted in 2013 and travels to area businesses for training purposes. A mobile driving simulator for truck driver and first responder training was introduced in 2010, while a medical simulation lab was DCCC's first mobile lab in 2008.

*“Community is the most important word in our name.”*



▲ With funding support from individuals, foundations, and state legislators, DCCC is starting new health sciences programs at the former Davie County Hospital through a partnership with Davie County and Wake Forest Baptist Health.



▲ The opening of the Sarah and Edward Smith Health Sciences Center in 2018 moves DCCC's already-successful health sciences programs to a new level. Employment prospects in the health care industry are high in Davidson and Davie counties and throughout the region.



▲ DCCC is one of the few community colleges nationally to have a zoo and aquarium science program. Graduates go on to work at a variety of places that require animal care.



# Partnerships

“**WE MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN** for our students and our communities, but we can't do it alone. Over the years, we have become better strategists at bringing people and groups together as partners. Our DCCC Foundation has grown thanks to generous donors, our campus has expanded physically, and we've developed many new initiatives. We have to take risks and think outside of our own world if we want to grow, keep pace with the quickly-changing world, and access the best resources for our students. I'm proud that our faculty, staff, and trustees are willing to embark on new experiences and also engage at the statewide and national levels in order to bring new opportunities and experiences home to DCCC.”

**MARY RITTLING**



▲ Rittling kept in close touch with state and federal elected officials to advocate for DCCC's students and strengthen the college for the future. Here, U.S. Rep. Howard Coble makes one of many visits to DCCC.



▲ Here, U.S. Sen. Richard Burr tours campus with Rittling and trustees in 2005 to discuss DCCC's role in transforming economic development in the area (left) and Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton learns about the new Link Campus in 2009 (right).

▼ A gift of 183 acres to The DCCC Foundation in 2009 led Rittling and leaders to begin conversations about physical expansion. The highway improvement project that is critical to these efforts is underway now through the N.C. Department of Transportation.



# DCCC

THE COLLEGE OF  
DAVIDSON AND DAVE COUNTIES

## VISION FOR LINK CAMPUS



- |                              |   |                                 |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. ARENA/COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS | 7. ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURE SCIENCES CENTER | 13. FUTURE CAMPUS BUILDINGS     |
| 2. BASEBALL STADIUM          | 8. WIND POWER GENERATOR                   | 14. SUSTAINABLE PINE PLANTATION |
| 3. SOFTBALL FIELD            | 9. RECREATION TRAILS                      | 15. GARDENS                     |
| 4. SOCCER FIELDS             | 10. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMPLEX         | 16. FUTURE PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS  |
| 5. PRACTICE FIELD            | 11. AMPHITHEATER                          | 17. DCCC CURRENT CAMPUS         |
| 6. TENNIS COMPLEX            | 12. ANIMAL SANCTUARY                      | 18. FUTURE MAIN ENTRANCE        |





▲ When DCCC trustees named the Conference Center for Rittling during the college's 50th Anniversary celebration in 2013, they noted that it was fitting to name a community facility for the person who always said "community" is the most important word in DCCC's name. The Mary E. Rittling Conference Center regularly plays host to college, community, regional, and statewide events.



▲ With limited funds coming through the state budget, Rittling has brought partners together to pool resources. Here, the Golden LEAF Foundation presents grant funds to support the Davie hospital project.



▲ Trustees and Foundation leaders joined Rittling to celebrate a federal grant in support of DCCC's first fully grant-funded building, the Transportation Technology Center.

# East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine



▲ East Carolina University chose DCCC as the location for one of its community service learning centers. The 2014 dental clinic opening was a groundbreaking moment for Davidson County as a four-year higher education institution established a presence in the county for the first time. Thanks to the partnership, DCCC will launch a dental assisting program in fall 2019.

# 15 Years of Growth



**2003**

Rittling becomes **president**.

**2005**

**Exchange program** established with Turkey and Scandinavia.

DCCC ranked among nation's **fastest growing** two-year colleges.

**Thomasville Education Center** opens.

**Federal Title III grant** overhauls technology on campus and improves student support.



**2007**

Rittling **restarts athletics** with support from Trustees and Foundation.

**Davie Early College** opens.

**2009**

**Conference Center** opens on Davidson Campus with support from a Davidson County bond and a federal appropriation.

DCCC Foundation receives gift of **183 acres** from Ed Hinkle and Talmadge Hinkle Silversides, called the Link Campus.

Rittling named **Outstanding Woman in Business** by Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce.

DCCC selected for special U.S. State Dept. study abroad program; **first international students** come from Egypt to study HVAC.

**2004**

DCCC celebrates **40th Anniversary**, names four buildings, and revitalizes Alumni Association.

**Uptown Lexington Education Center** opens.

DCCC awarded federal **Title III grant** for professional development, technology, and student support.

**Davidson Middle College** is first step toward establishment of Davidson Early College.

**2006**

DCCC applies for its first major **health care grant** from the U.S. Dept. of Labor that helps build DCCC into a top-tier provider of health care education.

DCCC partners in federal **WIRED workforce grant** to educate for high-wage, high-skill jobs in growing industries.

**2008**

**Davie Education Center** in Bermuda Run opens.

**Davie Campus renovations** include 11,000 sq. ft. of new/renovated space using appropriation from Davie Commissioners.



**2010**

**Transportation Technology Building**, DCCC's first fully grant-funded facility, opens.

**Mobile driving simulator** for first responder and truck driver training supported by a grant and state funds.

DCCC selected for national **Achieving the Dream** initiative.



## 2013

Naming of **Mary E. Rittling Conference Center** announced during 50th Anniversary year, which included a variety of campus and community events.

Rittling elected to **Board of American Association of Community Colleges**.

## 2011

DCCC Foundation receives **estate gift** from the late Christine Harris of Lexington, one of the largest in N.C. community college history.

**Green Home** purchased by DCCC Foundation to house international and other campus visitors.

## 2015

DCCC begins **applied sciences classes** at former Davie County Hospital, now named the Dr. Francis Slate Medical Training Center.

**Highway improvement project** funded and slated for construction, paving the way for future Link Campus development.

## 2017

DCCC named **national leader** by U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for success with Fulbright Scholar program.

DCCC Foundation **quadruples its assets** since Rittling's arrival.

Grant funds **Single Stop center** to assist students with non-academic needs. **New Enrollment Bus** increases access to DCCC's programs.

## 2012

Rittling named N.C. community college **President of the Year** and becomes head of statewide presidents' association.

DCCC selected for **Completion by Design** initiative and designated a **Leader College for Achieving the Dream**.

**Yadkin Valley Career Academy** opens as a new kind of early college to start students on career pathways with partners including DCCC.

## 2014

East Carolina University **dental clinic** opens.

DCCC **partners with UNCG** to help practicing nurses earn bachelor's degrees.

Completion of **three-year federal U.S. Dept. of Labor grant** that catapulted DCCC's advanced manufacturing program to the national stage.

## 2016

**First completion scholarship** awarded by DCCC Foundation to a graduating student.

**Storm Food Pantry** opens to assist students outside the classroom.

DCCC named a **Frontier Set college** by the Gates Foundation.

## 2018

Rittling announces her **retirement**.

Rittling presides over her final Commencement, receives **honorary degree** from Board of Trustees.

**Sarah & Edward Smith Health Sciences Center** opens on the Davidson Campus.



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# Global Perspective

**“HOW WILL OUR STUDENTS** – and our faculty and staff – learn about the world unless we provide them with important opportunities to learn, travel, and experience other cultures?”

**MARY RITTLING**



▲ Rittling was named a Fulbright Scholar in 2017. She traveled to India to learn about the country's educational system and shared her experiences upon her return home.



▲ Each year, visiting international scholars and students bring new perspectives to campus and offer local students a lens to view the larger world.



▲ A delegation from Turkey visited in 2007 and learned about the wide range of academic programs at DCCC, including health sciences.



▲ With Rittling's support of international education, DCCC welcomes visiting students and scholars from around the world. Most recently, international visitors came from Morocco, Ireland, Germany, and Tunisia.



▲ As part of the year-long celebration of DCCC's 50th anniversary, Rittling helped lead a community trip to Italy and Switzerland.



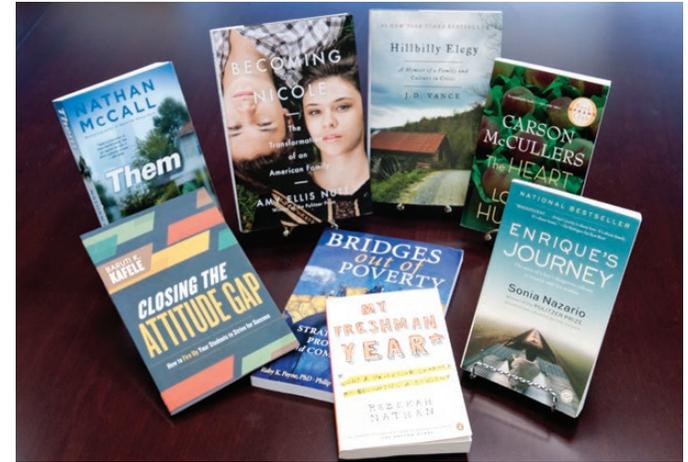
▲ Students from Egypt studied HVAC at DCCC in 2009-10, the first year of the college's participation in a special U.S. State Department exchange program.



# Learning and Diversity

**“IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY** as educators always to keep learning and increasing our level of understanding about our students and their diverse backgrounds. That’s why we’ve undertaken a variety of professional development at DCCC, from campus all-reads to participation in national organizations to our current equity initiative. And through these efforts we’ve really become more understanding of who our students are and how we might help them get where they need to be. Our new College Transition Center is a prime example of applying what we’ve learned in a way that has had a measurable impact on student success.”

**MARY RITTLING**



▲ Faculty and staff participate in all-read opportunities in order to increase their understanding of DCCC's diverse student population.



▲ The College Transition Center, an award-winning innovation at DCCC, has boosted student math and reading skills and is narrowing or eliminating achievement gaps.

*“If you’re not here for the students, you’re probably not in the right job.”*



▲ DCCC has participated in the national Achieving the Dream effort since 2010, Completion by Design since 2012, and Frontier Set since 2016. All are aimed at increasing access and success for underserved students.



▲ Scholars of Global Distinction, launched in 2013, sets DCCC apart as a statewide leader in international education while enhancing the college’s learning and diversity efforts. Students earn the honor by completing globally intensive courses, attending international passport events, and completing a study abroad or domestic intercultural experience.

# *Reflections from Students, Faculty and Staff*

*“ I have always been amazed by Mary’s energy. Her love for students and DCCC is infectious.*

*“ Mary initiated a, “Walk with the President,” to help get some of us started on exercising. It started at 7 a.m. and we would get a drink and yogurt after the walk. It was not as easy as I thought, but Mary stood by me while I walked even though all of the other walkers were ahead of me. I told her she could go ahead, but she stood by me the whole time. Thank you so much for staying with me, Mary!*

*“ It seems as if everyone at DCCC is committed to helping you be successful. I love it!*

*“ The changes that have occurred under her leadership have completely transformed the campus and the college’s reputation.*

*“ What I will miss the most about Mary is her talent at making people feel important, no matter their role.*

*“ I believe that her insistence on diversity has pushed this rural institution into more progressive openness.*

*“ DCCC has been my home away from home.*

“ She has been a great supporter of me and has allowed me to develop professionally in ways I never imagined.

“ Rosalynn Carter said, ‘A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go but ought to be.’ When I saw this quote, I immediately thought of Mary. She has taken us where we needed to be academically, professionally, and in many cases personally.

“ In nearly every faculty and staff gathering, she thanked us for our work and said how fortunate she was to work with us.

“ She has mad skills in all kinds of areas.

“ I don’t remember Mary ever using the word ‘sacred,’ yet she instilled in me (and others, I am sure) a sense that we were all participants in a work that was greater than ourselves, a work that had great purpose and meaning, a work that was sacred.

“ She kept pushing us forward but she never acted like what we were doing in the present was inadequate or wasn’t good enough.

“ Since graduating from DCCC in the fall of 2017, I have landed a great job at a local company here in Thomasville. With my degree in business administration, DCCC has equipped me to be able to perform and excel in the duties of my job. Going back to college was one of the best decisions of my life and I’m glad that I chose DCCC.

# *Continuing Her Legacy*

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*Honor Mary Rittling and support the future of DCCC  
with a gift to one of the priority areas below:*

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## ***Professional Development for Faculty and Staff***

In the pursuit of ongoing excellence in the classroom and in our programs and services, DCCC's exceptional faculty and staff benefit from lifelong learning that supports teaching innovation, digital and customized learning experiences, and high-quality support services outside the classroom.



## ***International Education***

DCCC's global vision is continually enhanced by visiting international students and scholars, the infusion of global studies into daily academics, and opportunities to travel abroad.



## ***Storm Athletics***

Our champion women's volleyball and men's basketball programs have created the winning Storm brand. Men's and women's golf will join the mix in 2019 and further increase the richness of life outside the classroom.



## ***Student Support***

With 75% of DCCC's students eligible for financial aid, the availability of need-based scholarship support is critical to ensuring that hard-working students can access the classes and programs needed for meaningful employment.

Gifts in honor of Mary Rittling and in celebration of her retirement may be made using the enclosed envelope or online at [dcccfoundation.org/giving](http://dcccfoundation.org/giving).



*“You can’t think it’s ever finished, no matter how much we’ve accomplished to this point. The student who was here 15 years ago is totally different from the student now. The world is constantly changing and we have to continually reinvent ourselves to stay relevant and offer our students and communities what they need to succeed.”*

**MARY RITTLING**



▲ The mural in the Mary E. Rittling Conference Center by Lexington artist Chip Holton is a portrayal of the history of DCCC. The foreground of the mural shows Rittling holding a Link Campus map and looking toward the future.

## *Thank You*

Gifts to the DCCC Foundation  
support our students and  
our community.

**DCCC**  
THE COLLEGE OF  
DAVIDSON AND DAVIE COUNTIES  
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