



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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From left to right: HCC Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene Instructor, Dorcas Eason, RDH, BS; Alexis Hewlin, student & aspiring dental hygienist; Talia Brock, student; Tiffany Scott, student & aspiring dental hygienist; Erica Ivey, student; and Dr. Patrena B. Elliott, HCC President/CEO.

Halifax Community College Celebrates Graduates of Dental Assisting I Certification Program

WELDON, NORTH CAROLINA – Halifax Community College (HCC) proudly recognized four students during a Dental Assisting I Completion Ceremony held on June 4, 2026, celebrating the successful completion of a 16-week certification course offered through the College's Workforce Development Department.

Graduates of the program:

- Alexis Hewlin, aspiring Dental Hygienist
- Talia Brock
- Tiffany Scott, aspiring Dental Hygienist
- Erica Ivey





The Dental Assisting I program prepares students with the foundational knowledge and clinical skills needed to enter one of healthcare's most in-demand professions. A Dental Assistant I is an entry-level clinical support professional who assists in delivering patient care and supports the efficient operation of the dental clinic. Responsibilities include preparing treatment rooms, maintaining infection control standards, ensuring patient comfort, providing chairside assistance during dental procedures, and exposing dental radiographs. This position serves as a bridge between clinical patient care and routine administrative functions while developing foundational skills in dental assisting.

By earning their Dental Assisting I certification, these graduates are now qualified to help fill critical workforce needs in dental offices and clinics throughout the region and beyond. After accumulating two years, or approximately 3,000 hours, of employment in a dental practice, Dental Assisting I professionals may advance to Dental Assisting II status, allowing them to perform additional expanded duties and responsibilities.

"This program is a great example of how Halifax Community College is responding to workforce demands while creating opportunities for individuals to enter rewarding careers in healthcare," said Delmus Willis, Director of Workforce Development and Continuing Education at Halifax Community College. "These graduates have demonstrated commitment, perseverance, and a desire to serve others. We are proud of their accomplishments and excited to see the impact they will make in the dental profession."

HCC's short-term training programs are designed to provide fast, career-focused pathways that help individuals gain in-demand skills and enter the workforce quickly. Led by the Workforce & Economic Development Department, these programs are developed in collaboration with local employers to address regional workforce needs and strengthen economic growth across the community.

Through industry-recognized credentials, customized training, and continuing education opportunities, the department supports job advancement and creates accessible pathways to new careers for students and community members alike.

For more information about the Dental Assisting program or other Workforce Development opportunities at Halifax Community College, contact Workforce Development at (252) 536-6377 or wed@halifaxcc.edu.

Halifax Community College's Mission

Halifax Community College strives to meet the diverse needs of our community by providing high-quality, accessible and affordable education and services for a rapidly changing and globally competitive marketplace.

Media Contact: If you have any questions, please contact Vanessa Council at 252-536-7214 or e-mail vcouncil512@halifaxcc.edu.

