PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vision Henderson County Celebrates 38 Graduates

Featured photo: Vision Henderson County 2025 graduating class poses on the Blue Ridge Community College Flat Rock Campus. (A high resolution image for media use is available here. Photo by Rich Keen, Marketing and Communications Dept.)

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. - Blue Ridge Community College and the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce are proud to celebrate the graduation of the 2024-2025 Vision Henderson County class. Vision is a premier annual leadership development program dedicated to cultivating informed, engaged, and community-driven leaders.

Each year as part of Vision, a group of local professionals embarks on a ten-month journey exploring the inner workings of the community. From a kickoff orientation and retreat in August to monthly classes through April and a graduation in May, participants engage in sessions focused on vital areas such as history, government, economic development, law enforcement, health care, manufacturing, education, and the environment. Through these hands-on experiences, individuals gain valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the region.

Shanda Bedoian, director of Corporate & Customized Training at Blue Ridge said, “Henderson County now has 38 new community leadership ambassadors – equipped with insight, inspired by our vibrant and resilient community – and they are ready to step in with their talents to help carry the torch forward.”

By connecting professionals across many disciplines, Vision Henderson County is a catalyst for civic engagement. The program aims to develop a leadership pool of informed and committed citizens, promote communication and collaboration across sectors, and provide exposure to diverse leadership styles. With hundreds of alumni who have gone on to serve in influential roles throughout the community, the program continues to be a driving force for progress, helping shape a stronger, more connected Henderson County for all.

List of graduates:
Landon Anders
Angela Bollo-Higgins
Aimee Bostwick
Michael Cano
Annette Carberry
Kat Carlton
Amy Cook
Dana Despradel
Allison Elliott
Lark Park Elliott
Karen Ensley
Jay Frazier
John Fuller
Amanda Gardiner
Ben S. Gibbs
Symantha Gragg
Heather Hay
Shaelagh S. Higgins
Jana Hosmer
Brian Howard
Annette Huetter
Jason J. Husk
Andrew Jarrett
Matthew Kemper
Nathan Killian
Mary Margaret Licisyn
Tiffany Lucey
Emily Martin
Ismael A. Martinez
Kris Merritt
Chris Parker
John Pendleton
Justin Reed
Laurian Richards

Charlsey Russell
Sylvia Schmidt
Jared Shelton
Kevin Webb

Learn more about Vision Henderson County at **www.blueridge.edu/vision**.

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About Blue Ridge Community College
*Blue Ridge Community College is a two-year, post-secondary institution that elevates the educational experience to prepare students for 21st-century success in the workplace or at four-year colleges and universities. Providing real-life, affordable, and accessible education, the College offers more than 200 degrees, diplomas, and certificates; more than 200 online courses; and fast-tracked job training. To learn more about Blue Ridge Community College, visit **blueridge.edu**.*

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