

## P&HCC Names Distinguished Alumni

The Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation honored twelve P&HCC graduates as distinguished alumni at the awards dinner on Friday, June 10, 2022 at Chatmoss Country Club.

Each year, P&HCC recognizes alumni who have brought distinction to themselves through academic achievement, career success and community involvement. Alumni who have graduated with a degree or certificate or have taken a minimum of twenty-four credit hours from P&HCC and have demonstrated success within their field of expertise and have provided significant service in local, state, or national organizations are eligible for nomination.

This year's award recipients are: Jennifer Ashworth, Ann Blankenship, RN, Crystal Booth, Mark Gilbert, Daniel Hennis, Sr., Gary Hollandsworth, Robert Lovell, Melissa Martin, Dr. Melissa Smith, Kristy Walker, Jason Wood and Shonna Woods.

**Ashworth** graduated from P&HCC in 1991 with her associate in business management. She was awarded the credential and professional title of Master Circuit Court Clerk in 2019 and is a member of Virginia Court Clerk's Association and the Supreme Court of Virginia Circuit Court Forms Committee. She currently serves as the Clerk of Circuit Court in Henry County.

**Blankenship** graduated from P&HCC in 1986 with her associate in nursing. She continued her education at Virginia Tech and University of Virginia at Wise to obtain her teaching license. She is now a Career and Technical Education Teacher and HOSA Advisor at Bassett High School in Henry County. Blankenship has received numerous faculty excellence awards and has been recognized by former students as their most influential teacher.

**Booth** graduated in 1996 with her associate in science. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Science in biology from Old Dominion University and a Master of Science in microbiology at North Carolina State University. She currently serves as the Senior Technical Director and Microbiologist at PSC Biotech. In addition, Booth has been a guest lecturer at for multiple organizations and industry events and is an award-winning technical writer.

**Gilbert** graduated in 1996 with his associate in administration of justice. He is now the Lieutenant at Carilion Eastern District Police and Security. Gilbert also holds multiple law enforcement certifications and received the Martinsville Police Department Exchange Club Officer of the Year, Instructor of the Year at the Piedmont Criminal Justice Academy, and Instructor of the year for the Virginia Community Policing Institute.

**Hennis** graduated in 1973 with his associate in business management. He was a former Security Officer with G4S Security Solutions, Inc. and is now retired. He is a life member of the Virginia Jaycees and a Senator in the Jaycees International organization. Hennis was also the original Oktoberfest Chairman.

**Hollandsworth** graduated in 1970 with his certificate in general studies. He was a former Industrial Manager at Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation and a former Minister at Rocky Mount Christian Church and is now retired. In addition, Hollandsworth has been a regular contributor the Franklin News Post and has been a writer for the World Evangelist & Power for Today.

**Lovell** completed credits in 1979 in general studies. He currently serves as a Social Studies Teacher and Varsity Girls Basketball Coach at Turner Ashby High School in Rockingham County. Lovell has received the Daughters of the American Revolution U.S. History Teachers of the Year award and is the all-time leader in coaching wins in any sport at Turner Ashby High School. He was also one of only eight nominees for the National Coach of the Year Award given by the National Association of High School Athletics in 2010.

**Martin** completed credits in 1989 in elementary education. She retired this year as a Preschool Teacher at Axton Elementary School in Henry County. Martin was selected as the Axton Elementary Teach of the Year in 2016 and was the first teacher selected by Henry County Public Schools to teach preschool aged children.

**Smith** graduated in 1994 with her associate in nursing. She continued her education at Old Dominion University earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, a Master of Science in Nursing, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice. Smith became the first Hospitalist Nurse Practitioner at Franklin Memorial as well as implemented the inpatient hospice and palliative care program. She is now a Nurse Practitioner at Carilion Family and Internal Medicine.

**Walker** graduated in 1993 with her associate in general studies. She currently serves as the Academic Applications Specialist, IT, at William & Mary where she developed new faculty orientations for eLearning services and technology applications. Walker also serves as the System Administrator and support for Blackboard, web conferencing (ZOOM) and the lecture capture system (Panopto) as well as supporting the teaching and learning environment.

**Wood** graduated in 1998 with his associate in science and associate in general studies. He continued his education as Ferrum College where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education and sports medicine with a minor in biology. He earned his Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Jones International University. Wood has served in a variety of roles within education from Teacher, Coach, Athletic Director, Principal to Director of Operations and is now the Division Superintendent at Patrick County Public Schools.

**Woods** graduated in 2000 with her associate in administration of justice. After continuing her education at Averett University earning a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies, she went on to earn her Master of Education in Administration and Supervision from Liberty University. Woods was the Rich Acres Elementary Teacher of the Year and second runner up for Henry County Public Schools Teacher of the Year in 2013. She is now the Coordinator of Assessment and English Learners at Henry County Public Schools.

For more information about the Patrick & Henry Community College Distinguished Alumni Awards program, please contact the P&HCC Foundation at 276-656-0250.

*Attached photo L to R – Shonna Woods, Crystal Booth, Mitzi Martin, Ann Blankenship, Kristy Walker and Jennifer Ashworth*

*Back row – Rob Lovell, Dan Hennis, Sr. Jason Wood, Gary Hollandsworth, Mark Gilbert*

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