

Chris Joiner

From: Tony Holland
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2012 8:17 AM
To: Faculty
Subject: FW: An associate's degree

To all,

Marcia Burkett shared the following announcement she puts on Bb to emphasize the importance of obtaining a degree or certificate before leaving Wallace, as well as the deadline announcement for graduation application. Most of her comments relate to an associate's degree, but don't forget to include language related to certificate (Career Technical) completions also. Ms. Burkett gave me permission to send this out if it would assist you in coming up with your own Bb and classroom announcement. We talk to students about completing their objective (degree, certificate, etc), but we must also remember **our** objective....to produce graduates and completers. The key is to keep students motivated by creating opportunities for small successes that lead to confidence in completing larger objectives.

These completion statistics are becoming increasingly important to our continued funding as a college, which affects each and every employee at Wallace, and the chances of success for our students once they leave this institution. As always, our message is more effective when reproduced by 100% of our faculty. Please include some type of announcement on Bb related to completing degree &/or certificate requirements before leaving Wallace. Feel free to personalize this in your own words, using any relevant examples that may help convey the message, or use the one below. Once you have posted the announcement, or if you already have one, please [email your Division Director](#) to confirm your completion. (DDs email your Coordinator once **all** your faculty have completed the posting.)

Thank each of you for all you do to in helping make Wallace College a "***leading community college, nationally recognized for excellence and innovation in education and student success***"!! (excerpt from WCC vision statement)

I cannot encourage you enough to complete an associate's degree! Please consider these points:

- 1) More and more often, job postings *require an associate's degree*, especially in education (such as Head Start teachers, teacher's aide positions, and jobs in the community college system in clerical and technical areas), civil service (city, county, and state), medicine, and business. (Years ago, these *very same jobs* often required only a high school diploma or GED.)
- 2) An associate's degree proves that you *can complete* what you start! This is valuable knowledge to a potential employer.
- 3) An associate's degree also allows you to pick up where you left off when you later decide to add more advanced training/degrees. (And I can almost guarantee, since degrees are like peanuts, you *will want* another, and another, and another! And in the modern-day job market, you likely *will need* them also.)
- 4) Getting an associate's degree can even greatly enhance your chances of getting a *transfer scholarship* to a four-year institution. Most universities and colleges offer scholarships designated specifically for transfer students. Your earning an associate's degree shows the transfer institution your level of seriousness and dedication and gives the impression

you will also complete its program as well. This degree completion is important to each school and is part of how it measures its own success as well as yours.

5) Lastly, get an associate's degree for *yourself*! Then after you have completed several semesters of college, when you're asked your highest degree, you can answer proudly and confidently, "An associate's degree!" But with no associate's degree, you will probably just sigh and mumble sadly, "a high school diploma" or "some college." (Even though these last two replies will not accurately represent your educational background, these are the answers you will have to write on job applications and say to people.) And though you may think you won't need an associate's degree because *your plan* is to eventually to get a bachelor's degree or higher, remember that as the writer Robert Burns said, "The best laid plans of mice and men oft go awry"—or in other words, *life happens and plans often get changed*. So I advise, go the smart, safe route and get your associate's degree. (I learned this lesson firsthand, and I certainly don't want it to happen to you.)

The deadline to apply for **Spring Semester 2013** graduation is **October 12, 2012**. A link for the graduation application is available through your Wallace email account. Even if you don't want to participate in the graduation ceremony, you still must complete an application for graduation.

I wish for each of you terrific, well-paying jobs and great careers that will bring you happiness and a sense of fulfillment. Please take that first step in your college career toward this by getting your WCC Associate's Degree!