

# City of Winston-Salem College Advisory Board



2024 Spring Newsletter

## WHO WE ARE 23-24 CAB MEMBERS

### Forsyth Technical Community College

Nathan Hoang (Vice-Chair), Justine Velasquez (Secretary), Jeremiah Washington

### Salem College

Alison Ketchie & Abigail Hawkins

### Wake Forest University

Reeva Cordice (Chair)

### Winston-Salem State University

Jacob Taylor, Jordan Moore



## College Advisory Board Chair

by Reeva Cordice, Wake Forest University

Our Chair has ensured that she remains devoted and committed to helping those in need throughout the Winston-Salem community. She's been involved in planning and executing various events centering on minorities within the community, and leads with a genuine interest to serve and provide access to resources for those in need. Reeva Cordice took responsibility for leading the MSM Valentines Day Service Project with students in the Wake Forest School of Business MSM program. She coordinated outreach, item drop off, item collection and pur-



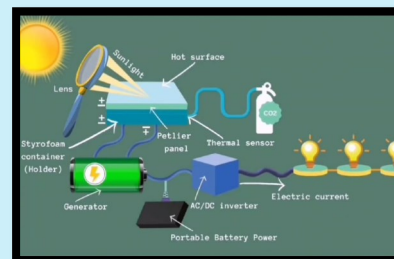
chase, and item donation to various centers. The goal of the service project was to provide the Bethesda Center with hygienic items for individuals who live in the center and unable to purchase items for themselves. The Bethesda Center was very thankful for the donations, and she plans to continue providing the necessary resources to those in need within the center. She has also led two financial literacy workshops with foster youth in Forsyth County. She was able to lead workshops through programming and connections established by Wake Forest University School of Business Sustainability Department. The sessions focused on saving and investing, and financial decisions in regard to the college process. She actively volunteers in Title I High Schools in Winston-Salem, engaging with young women to educate them on the importance of emotional intelligence and expanding their emotional vocabulary. And last, she has volunteered with the organization "A Bed and a Book" in Winston-Salem that provide beds to families in the county/city who are unable to purchase their own furniture. She worked alongside her peers at Wake Forest, and individuals from corporate companies to build out beds for children.



## Creating Change Through Cross-Cultural Collaboration

by Jeremiah Washington, FTCC

Members of the Global Scholars of Distinction at Forsyth Technical Community College, College Advisory Board members Jeremiah Washington, Nathan Hoang, and Justine Velasquez have recently participated in IREX's Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge: an 8-week virtual exchange program where college stu-



dents from the United States and the Middle East work together to create a sustainable product or service that can be implemented in each team's local community. HeatWaves was the team name chosen for the cohort, and the product that we developed was Heat Charger, which utilizes thermal energy to produce renewable energy that powers household appliances in Jordan and the United States. This product lowers the power bill of our clientele, decreases environmental pollution, and supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Affordable and Clean Energy (Goal 7), Sustainable Cities and Communities (Goal 11), and Climate Action (Goal 13). CAB members have developed intimate connections with their communities and team members in Jordan throughout the product's development. Prototype Developer, Nathan Hoang, helped create a promotional video for consumers that explained the function and benefits of the product, which was featured on a Google Forms survey he also produced. The survey was then used to collect consumer data on Heat Charger's effectiveness and areas of development. Co-Manager, Jeremiah Washington, facilitated virtual meetings, delegated tasks, and finalized the business plan concept by collaborating with Jordan and United States team members throughout the eight weeks. Business Concept Coordinator, Justine Velasquez, asked engaging questions during meetings and demonstrated cross-cultural collaboration. If the product reaches IREX's virtual business expo and the top three, the prototype will become a reality. CAB members will ensure that Heat Charger is promoted and shared to make certain that residents in our local community have an affordable, accessible, and innovative new way to foster sustainability in Winston-Salem and beyond.

## **“Understanding Money” at Forsyth Technical Community College**

by Nathan Hoang & Justine Velasquez, Forsyth Technical Community College

On March 19th, Forsyth Technical Community College hosted a financial literacy event, sponsored by the WSFCS district and the State Employees' Credit Union for students to gain a deeper understanding of how to manage their money. At the Rhodes Conference Center in the Robert L. Strickland Building, various stations were set up in preparation for the event. Each student who participated was given a real-world scenario to mirror the challenges faced by individuals in the community and those potentially faced by the students themselves in the future. At each station, students had the opportunity to purchase various necessities or items. For example, Nathan Hoang and Justine Velasquez were faced with random unexpected bills that occurred in real life, such as medical emergencies, to prepare us for saving for unexpected life occurrences. Due to a limited income/budget for most students, they had to prioritize their needs over wants. Students still took into consideration what they valued (i.e., their wants), which allowed students to estimate what it would cost for entertainment, for example, giving students a rough estimate on how much they should save to be able to afford certain activities such as eating out and going on vacations. As participating members, we realized that it was still manageable to save for the things we wanted if we prioritized what was necessary. Arguably, the most important station was the help station. This taught students they never have to be alone and it is important to reach out for assistance when times are uncertain. They also considered the future families and spouses that some people may have, including child expenses and extra car payments for each extra person that was added to the family. Overall, this rewarding experience gave us valuable insight into the reality of living as an adult.



**Winston-Salem**

### City Council

Mayor Allen Joines; Denise D. Adams, Mayor Pro Tempore, North Ward; Kevin Mundy, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; John C. Larson, South Ward; Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward; Barbara H. Burke, Northeast Ward; Annette Scippio, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: W. Patrick Pate

### Human Relations/Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Department CAB Staff Advisors

Ronnie Christian, Ed.D., M.S., Human Relations/Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Department Interim Director  
Tabatha Mitchell-Bessant, Human Relations/Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Department Administrative Assistant  
Erika Simon, Human Relations Outreach Analyst