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PRESS RELEASE

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Surry County Schools and Surry Community College Announce Animal Science Pathway to Certification

Dobson, NC - Surry County Schools (SCS) and Surry Community College (SCC) have partnered again to provide high-quality educational options for students. Surry Community College launched an Applied Animal Science certificate program for Fall 2019. The certificate program consists of six classes, three offered in the fall and three offered in the spring. All courses are being taught on the college's Dobson campus.

Surry County School System high school juniors and seniors can take advantage of the certificate program, tuition-free through Career and College Promise, which allows students to be dually enrolled in high school while also taking college classes. Moreover, SCS and SCC are also working on partnering with North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T) to provide a 1+3 diploma program. This would entail a SCC diploma plus an additional three years at NC A&T for a Bachelor of Animal Science.

The addition of a new lead applied animal science instructor at Surry Community College, Mr. James Quick has garnered excitement. Instructor Quick is a graduate of NC A&T and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at North Carolina State University (NC State), where he obtained a Master in Animal Science in May 2019. Instructor Quick looks forward to the task of building the program from the ground up, thereby helping it to grow and evolve. Mr. Quick stated, "My vision for the program at Surry Community College is for it to be as great as the animal science programs I was in." Instructor Quick also brings a background of research experience to SCC.

Quick conducted one of the largest gilt studies in the world.¹ "Gilts' are female pigs who have not given birth yet. My study involved using them to try to improve piglet birth rates. My study results indicate that bump feeding isn't

¹ Kellner, C. (2019). Quick start: Young alum James Quick builds animal science program. *NC State University College of*

necessary anymore.” Bump feeding is a common practice of giving gilts extra feed toward the end of gestation. Research like Quick’s will hopefully enable farmers to prevent piglet deaths.

Students in the Surry County School System are elated about this new opportunity at Surry Community College. Surry County Schools has been on the cutting edge of integrating animal science into agricultural programs for many years and opened animal science labs at all traditional high schools during the 2018-2019 school year. East Surry and Surry Central High School students study poultry science because of a partnership with Wayne Farms, while North Surry High School students have begun livestock science studies with the recent arrival of livestock at their agricultural barn that opened last spring through a partnership with Farm Bureau of Surry.

Dr. Travis L. Reeves, Superintendent of Surry County Schools stated, “Agriculture is the number one industry in Surry County and North Carolina. Because of the commitment of the Surry County Board of Education and the Surry Community College Trustees, we are successfully affording students opportunities to learn about a thriving industry. We are grateful for the continued partnership with Surry Community College, and look forward to fostering our budding relationship with NC A&T.” Surry County Schools is a next-generation school district providing students with opportunities for flexible scheduling, college courses, Career and Technical Education (CTE) credentials, and experiential work experience. “The addition of the Applied Animal Science certificate program Surry Community College is offering provides another pathway for our students to learn skills that will transfer to the world of work, and help them understand they can be gainfully employed locally in Surry County, and make a good living to take care of their families. Programs and partnerships like this are a win-win for students, families, and the economy.”

At Surry Community College, Applied Animal Science Technology is offered as an 18-credit hour certificate that “teaches students how to select, breed, care for, process, and market livestock and small animals. In 2017, Surry and Yadkin counties ranked in the top 10 counties for farm cash receipts for the production of cattle, eggs, and dairy, according to the United States Department of Agriculture Statistics Services.”²

Three Applied Animal Science Technology classes will be offered in spring 2020 without any pre-requisites required. The classes are ANS 120 Beef Production; ANS 130 Poultry Production; and ANS 150 Animal Health Management. The Applied Animal Science Technology classes are open to the general public, as well as high school juniors and seniors. Spring registration at Surry Community College will take place Nov. 4 through Dec. 20 for new students. Classes will begin Jan. 6, 2020.

“We are excited about our partnership with Surry County Schools in developing the Applied Animal Science Technology program at Surry Community College. We created this program as a response to Surry County Schools, whose students were surveyed and indicated that this program was wanted by the students, many of which were from families that farm. We look forward to seeing this program grow, and we will eventually add live animal labs to our Dobson campus. We are currently offering Animal Science as a certificate program, and it will soon be implemented as a diploma program for students who would like further study. Students will be able to transfer to NC A&T to earn a bachelor’s degree or decide to enter the workforce upon graduation,” stated Dr. David Shockley, President of Surry Community College.

Agriculture and Life Sciences News, September 25, 2019. Retrieved from https://cals.ncsu.edu/news/quick-start-young-alum-james-quick-builds-animal-science-program/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_content=cals&utm_campaign=socialhub

² Pharr, J.S. (2019). College introduces animal science certificate program. Press Release. *Surry Community College*, May 20, 2019.

For more information about the animal science program in Surry County Schools, contact Neil Atkins at (336) 353-9901 or atkinsn@surry.k12.nc.us or visit the Surry County Schools website at www.surry.k12.nc.us or any of the school websites to schedule a tour. High school students should contact their guidance counselors with class registration questions. For questions and information about the Applied Animal Science certificate program, contact Jeff Jones at (336) 386-3391 or jonesjr@surry.edu. Questions about college application, class registration, and financial aid should be directed to Student Services at (336) 386-3264 or studentservices@surry.edu.

Students pictured feeding are:

- Cloey Brannock (left) and Isabella Lindsay (right), both sophomores at North Surry High School taking Animal Science I.
- Emma Davis, who is currently dually-enrolled at Surry Central High School and Surry Community College. Emma is enrolled in Animal Feeds and Nutrition and Animal Science at Surry Community College.
- Joe Hernandez, a senior at Surry Central High School who is currently dually-enrolled at Surry Central High School and Surry Community College. Joe is enrolled in Animal Science and Intro to Animal Care at Surry Community College.
- Keaston Kyle, a sophomore at North Surry High School and Mr. Michael Culler, Agriscience Teacher, demonstrate how to properly tube feed a calf as Surry Community College students and Instructor Quick look on.

NSHS Animal Science I students pictured front row left to right: Madison McCraw, Cloey Brannock, Macie Jones, and Dillan Lambert

NSHS Animal Science I students pictured second row left to right: Nicholas Grey, Hannah Moxley, Katelyn Gammons, Isabella Lindsay and Trista Berrier

NSHS Animal Science I students pictured third row left to right: Jeremy Swanson, Landon McMillian, Mr. Michael Culler (Agriscience Teacher), and Tyler Grant

NSHS Animal Science I students pictured back row left to right: Jay Shinault, Colten Sechrist, Chase Wright, Christian Brindle, Matthew Holder, and Marcus Church

SCC Animal Science Students pictured front row left to right: Katelyn Crabb, Grace Bowman, Ariana Rangel, Gracie Brindle, Areli Jimenez, and Emma Davis

SCC Animal Science Students pictured back row left to right: Jesus Avellaneda, Zariah Thompson, Lauren Reynolds, Jordan Martin, Joe Hernandez, Kenley Wells, Robert Louque, Georgia Shinalt, and Mr. James Quick (Lead Instructor)

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