

## **Terrific Trio: Three HCHS Students Graduate College and High School at the same time.**

Shanice Chamblee, Brittany Lassiter, and Kiara Harris have done something many people only dream about. This spring they finished high school and college at the same time. Thanks to a program known as Huskins, these high school seniors were able to take college classes along with their required high school classes. In fact, through the Huskins Program their college courses were free.

Kiara Harris is from Murfreesboro. She thought it would be interesting to complete the nail tech program while also completing high school. Now that she is graduated she is moving to Raleigh to work as a manicurist in a popular day spa. "She stands to make up to \$100,000 per year, working four days a week 9 to 5," said Sonya Chamblee, Roanoke-Chowan Community College Program Coordinator for Cosmetology, Nail Technology, and Barbering. "And that's with full benefits and a 401K plan."

Brittany Lassiter is from Como. She originally planned on going to Pitt Community College in Greenville when she decided to try Huskins courses. She, too, completed the nail tech program while finishing her high school career. Her plans are to stay at R-CCC and go on to earn certification as a cosmetologist. "The nail tech program requires 300 hours of class work," explains Chamblee. "Since she is staying to enter the cosmetology program she will take with her 150 of those hours to apply toward her cosmetology work." Cosmetology is a program requiring 1,500 clock hours. But she'll be able to support herself by working part time as a nail tech while in school.

Shanice Chamblee (no relation to Sonya Chamblee) had plans to graduate from high school and move to Virginia, where she would work in the Norfolk ship yards. Then she found out about the Huskins Program. After earning her nail tech certificate without paying for her tuition (a \$1,200 value), her career goals have changed.

These three young ladies are not the only students benefiting from the Huskins Program. Tara Miller started the cosmetology program while finishing her high school in 2002. By the time she graduated from Hertford County High, she had finished one semester of college. She went on to finish her cosmetology certification in 2004. This May she graduated with a degree in business.

R-CCC offers a variety of Huskins courses each semester. They are specifically designed to offer high school students college classes. Anything from Psychology, to Welding, to Art Appreciation is available through the Huskins Program. And students who can't find what they need in that program can take college classes through Concurrent Enrollment. These are college classes offered to college students in which high school students are given permission by their principal to enroll. Again, the tuition is free. "It's possible for a recent high school graduate to enter college as a sophomore or even a junior through the Huskins and Concurrent Enrollment programs," explains R-CCC president Dr. Ralph Soney. All Shanice Chamblee, Brittany Lassiter, and Kiara Harris know is that they are not even 20 yet and they already have a very marketable skill.

"We are getting lots of calls about fall classes from interested high school students," says Sheryll Riddick, R-CCC Nail Tech instructor. "We should have a really good class of students this fall." Sheryll, who started teaching for the college in 2006, knows about classes at R-CCC. She is a graduate herself. "I finished my business degree in 1984 and worked in Norfolk for a temp agency, doing anything from receptionist to data entry work. It was really interesting." She then decided to try something different and enrolled in the R-CCC nail tech program. "I graduated in 2002," she says. "Business and nails go hand in hand. You have to have a good business sense to run a nail salon."

Anyone interested in the cosmetology or nail tech programs at R-CCC are encouraged to call 862-1200 and ask for Student Services. High school students interested in Huskins or Concurrent Enrollment classes should call 862-1200 and ask for Gloria Fairless.