



MEDIA ADVISORY

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EXPANDING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL STUDENTS THROUGH SUMMER LEARNING

Winterville, NC, July 11, 2024: Horizons of Pitt County has teamed up with Pitt Community College (PCC) to offer summer learning opportunities to local youths.

A member of Horizons National, Horizons of Pitt County supports the academic achievement and healthy youth development of selected Pitt County Schools elementary and middle school students. This summer, the program is utilizing PCC facilities to offer participants five weeks of enriching activities focused on learning, building confidence, and fostering joy.

Research shows that students who lack enriching summer activities can lose up to two months of their reading and math skills. In contrast, Horizons students consistently gain 6-10 weeks of skills in these subjects over each summer session. Year after year, more than 70% of Horizons students return to participate, and nationally, 97% of Horizons high school students graduate on-time, highlighting the program's impact.

Horizons' approach emphasizes hands-on, project-based learning that cultivates a passion for education. This approach integrates science, art, reading, math, field trips, swimming, and other enrichment experiences. In cooperation with PCC, Horizons of Pitt County aims to prepare students to go from crayons to college.

Horizons of Pitt County Board Chair, Dr. Virginia Hardy, states, "The Horizons program is thrilled to celebrate its 10th summer in Pitt County providing a customized curriculum and enrichment to nurture the development of our Scholars. None of this would be achievable without the generous support from our community and corporate partners."

About Horizons of Pitt County: Horizons of Pitt County is affiliated with Horizons National, which supports a network of out-of-school academic, enrichment, and social-emotional learning programs serving children and families in underserved

communities. Horizons of Pitt County, formerly known as Horizons at The Oakwood School, was founded in 2014 and was the first Horizons National affiliate in North Carolina. For more information, email: executivedirector@horizonsofpittco.org.

About Horizons National: Horizons National is based in Westport, CT and for more than 25 years has advanced educational equity by building long-term partnerships with students, families, communities, and schools to create experiences outside the school that inspire the joy of learning. These programs operate on the campuses of independent schools, charter schools, colleges, and universities across the country, serving students from Pre-K through high school with a project-based curriculum and fostering long-term learning communities. To learn more, visit www.horizonsnational.org.

About Pitt Community College: Chartered and designated by the North Carolina State Board of Education in 1961, Pitt Community College has emerged as one of North Carolina's largest community colleges over the past six decades. Today, PCC serves more than 17,000 credit and non-credit students annually. It awards associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates in more than 70 programs of study and provides adult basic education and literacy training, English language acquisition courses, customized training for business and industry, workforce development classes, small business assistance and personal enrichment courses. Combined, the college offers more than 280 credentials through its curriculum and continuing education programming. www.pittcc.edu