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**Bladen Community College's Ms. Lewis Named Faculty Member of the Year Finalist**

Dublin, NC — January 13, 2025 — Bladen Community College is proud to announce that Ms. Audrey Lewis, a dedicated instructor in the Cosmetology program, has received the 2024 Excellence in Teaching Award at the college level and is now a finalist in the prestigious statewide competition. Ms. Lewis was selected through a rigorous peer nomination process, which recognizes faculty members who demonstrate exceptional teaching, leadership, and commitment to student success.

Ms. Lewis, who has served as Vice President of the Faculty Senate during the 2023-2024 academic year and will continue in this role for 2024-2025, is an integral part of the college's mission to provide high-quality, student-centered education. Her contributions to both the classroom and the broader college community exemplify the values of excellence, innovation, and service.

Innovative Teaching and Digital Integration

A key aspect of Ms. Lewis's teaching philosophy is her ability to integrate modern technology with traditional cosmetology practices. Recognizing the importance of digital literacy in today's professional landscape, she equips students not only with the technical skills needed to excel in cosmetology but also with the tools to successfully promote themselves and their businesses in the digital age. By incorporating mobile technologies, such as QR codes for live polls and interactive quizzes, Ms. Lewis transforms lectures into engaging, hands-on learning experiences. This dynamic approach prepares her students for long-term success in an increasingly digital workforce.

Leadership in SKILLS USA and Student Advocacy

Ms. Lewis has also demonstrated outstanding leadership as the co-chair coordinator for SKILLS USA at Bladen Community College, a role she will continue for the 2024-2025 academic year. Through her tireless efforts, Ms. Lewis has not only inspired students to participate in the nationally recognized program but has also brought cutting-edge industry knowledge and practices back to the classroom, ensuring that students are always at the forefront of new trends and technologies. Her commitment to fostering leadership, teamwork, and professional excellence has had a lasting impact on her students.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Lewis makes time to meet with students on weekends and outside of regular class hours to help them prepare for state licensing exams. She is also deeply involved in

mentoring other instructors, assisting with course setup in Moodle, developing assessments, and integrating new tools to enhance the learning experience.

A Commitment to Student Success

Ms. Lewis is deeply invested in the personal and professional growth of her students. Her unwavering support extends far beyond graduation, as she continues to serve as a valuable resource for alumni. Whether it's offering career advice, business mentorship, or professional networking opportunities, Ms. Lewis remains a key figure in the success of her students long after they leave Bladen Community College.

“We are thrilled that Ms. Lewis has been recognized as a finalist for Faculty Member of the Year at the state level,” said Dr. Amanda Lee, President of Bladen Community College. “Her passion for teaching, her innovative approach to education, and her deep commitment to her students’ success make her a deserving recipient of this recognition. She represents the very best of Bladen Community College.”

As Ms. Lewis moves forward as a finalist for the statewide recognition, her dedication to advancing the field of cosmetology education and her commitment to preparing students for both professional success and personal growth continue to set her apart as a leader and role model within the Bladen Community College family.

For more information about Bladen Community College and the Cosmetology program, please visit www.bladenc.edu

About Bladen Community College

Bladen Community College, located in Dublin, NC, is dedicated to providing high-quality, accessible education that prepares students for career success and lifelong learning. Through a combination of academic programs, workforce development initiatives, and community partnerships, Bladen Community College serves as a vital resource for students and the broader community.

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