



In the late 1950s, North Carolina's economy shifted from agriculture to industrial. Business and educational leaders in the Catawba Valley quickly recognized the need for a new kind of education. Many people did not desire a four-year education, but still needed more than a high school diploma.

In 1960, the Catawba County Industrial Education Center opened and enrolled 77 students, all men. Some of the initial programs offered included knitting machine fixing, furniture upholstery and automotive mechanics.

More than four decades later, Catawba Valley Community College now serves as an educational and workforce development engine that drives the rapidly changing and diverse high-tech economies of Catawba and Alexander counties.

Two more campuses have been added in Taylorsville and in Newton, and a wide variety of high-tech programs have been added. CVCC is also developing a Center for Emerging Manufacturing Solutions (CEMS), along with a 28,000 sq. ft. regional Simulated Hospital. Degrees, diplomas and certificate options are available in a wide range of college-credit programs, from Internet technologies and graphic arts to health-care and cyber crime. More than 17,000 students attend annually. Many of those students enroll in short-term occupational certifications and personal enrichment courses in the Corporate & Continuing Education Division.

CVCC's open-door policy ensures that all citizens have the opportunity to improve their life through education. Recent high school graduates as well as working adults and career changers have access to quality, affordable learning options at CVCC.

Thanks to an articulation agreement between the North Carolina Community College System and the University of North Carolina System, the first two years of a four-year bachelor's degree can be completed at any North Carolina Community College and transferred to a UNC school without any loss of credit. CVCC also partners with the Hickory Metro Higher Education Center (HMHEC) and the N. C. Engineering Technology Center along these same lines.

New industries looking at Catawba or Alexander County are assured that the college will assist with special workforce training needs. From industrial maintenance to satisfying the demand for highly skilled health-care workers, CVCC keeps pace with our ever-changing economy.