

Bennett COLLEGE



OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS/ TITLE III
NOVEMBER 2025

PASSPORT FAIR HELPS BENNETT BELLES TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS GLOBAL EXPLORATION





The Center for Global Studies hosted its Annual Fall Passport Fair on October 8 in the Student Union. The event welcomed special guests from the Guilford County Register of Deeds, who assisted students in completing their passport applications. During the fair, 15 students successfully submitted their paperwork to receive their passports.

Students arrived prepared with their birth certificates, Social Security cards, Bennett IDs, and government-issued IDs, which Register of Deeds staff verified before processing the applications. Bennett was also honored to welcome Jeff L. Thigpen, the Guilford County Register of Deeds, who shared his support for global education and student mobility.

“Getting a passport is a critical first step to studying abroad and exploring! It’s our hope for all Bennett Belles to be true global citizens,” said Thigpen. The Center for Global Studies is exploring the possibility of hosting another Passport Fair in the spring, pending funding availability and student interest. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to stay tuned for updates on future opportunities to apply for their passports on campus.

For more information on the program, contact Ms. Sarah Akiwumi at sakiwumi@bennett.edu.

A NEW CHAPTER IN WELLNESS: BENNETT UNVEILS RESOURCE ROOM





On October 23, 2025, Bennett College marked an inspiring milestone in its commitment to student wellness with the unveiling of its new Wellness Resource Room, followed by a celebration of the one-year anniversary of the She Care Wellness Pods—two initiatives that continue to redefine what mental health support looks like on HBCU campuses. The event, hosted by the Bennett College Wellness Team, highlighted the college's growing culture of care, compassion, and holistic well-being.

The afternoon opened with warm remarks from Saarah Waleed, Chief Clinical Officer of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), and Debra Clark Jones, Bennett College's Executive Vice President and Chief Institutional Advancement Officer. Clark Jones shared her own Bennett story, reflecting on the college's long-standing tradition of nurturing both the academic and emotional growth of its students—a mission now strengthened by these new wellness-centered spaces.

Each Bennett Belle in attendance received a guided journal authored by Brianna Laren, designed to help students develop daily habits of reflection, grounding, and self-care. All guests, including students, faculty, staff, and community members, then toured the newly opened Wellness Resource Room, which features a cozy reading nook, relaxation tools, and a calming design aimed at promoting mental clarity and balance.

For more information on the program, contact Ms. Ryanne Peterson at ryanne.peterson@bennett.edu.

A NEW CHAPTER IN WELLNESS: BENNETT CELEBRATES SHE CARE PODS ANNIVERSARY





The attendees from the ribbon cutting joined a walk across campus to the She Care Wellness Pods, to commemorate a year of wellness, advocacy, and intentional rest. The theme of the day—self-advocacy and collective strength—reminded all present that wellness thrives when a community stands together.

The event's keynote speaker, Cydnia Young, LCSW, captivated the audience with humor, authenticity, and heart—eliciting laughter, finger snaps, and affirmations that she "ate." The celebration continued with immersive wellness experiences, including Equine Therapy led by Talia Scott and her gentle horse, Bam; a Movement and Nutrition session with Coach Candie; a soothing Sound Bath guided by Tiana Sherrod, LCMHC, CYT-500; and Art Therapy in the garden, offering guests a glimpse into the holistic approach that defines Bennett's wellness culture.

The day ended as it began—filled with connection, community, and an undeniable sense that this is just the beginning of something extraordinary. As Bennett continues to lead the charge for mental health advocacy across HBCU campuses, the Wellness Resource Room and She Care Wellness Pods stand as sanctuaries of healing and symbols of what's possible when wellness becomes a shared priority.

For more information on the program, contact Ms. Ryanne Peterson at ryanne.peterson@bennett.edu.

Title III and FUTURE Activities 2025-26

TITLE III ACTIVITIES	
ACTIVITY NAME	**ACTIVITY DIRECTOR**
Academic and Student Success	Ms. Tanya Doane
Employee Development	Dr. Sarah Wrenn & OSP
Healthy Whole Student “Welle Belle”	Mr. Jermaine Thomas
Improve Academic Facilities	Mr. Jermaine Thomas
Informational Technology	TBD
Institutional Effectiveness	Mr. Brian Auriti
Library Services	Ms. Joan Williams
New Academic Programs	TBD

FUTURE ACTIVITIES	
ACTIVITY NAME	**ACTIVITY DIRECTOR**
Enhancing Academic Facilities	Mr. Jermaine Thomas
Entrepreneurship	Dr. Janice Wise
Global Leaders & Sustainable Futures	Dr. Anne Hayes
Innovation in STEM	Dr. Alex Jordan
Journalism & Media Studies	Prof. Tom Lipscomb

The Office of Sponsored Programs/Title III TEAM

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