

The Magazine for
Carroll Community College Academic Programs

spark

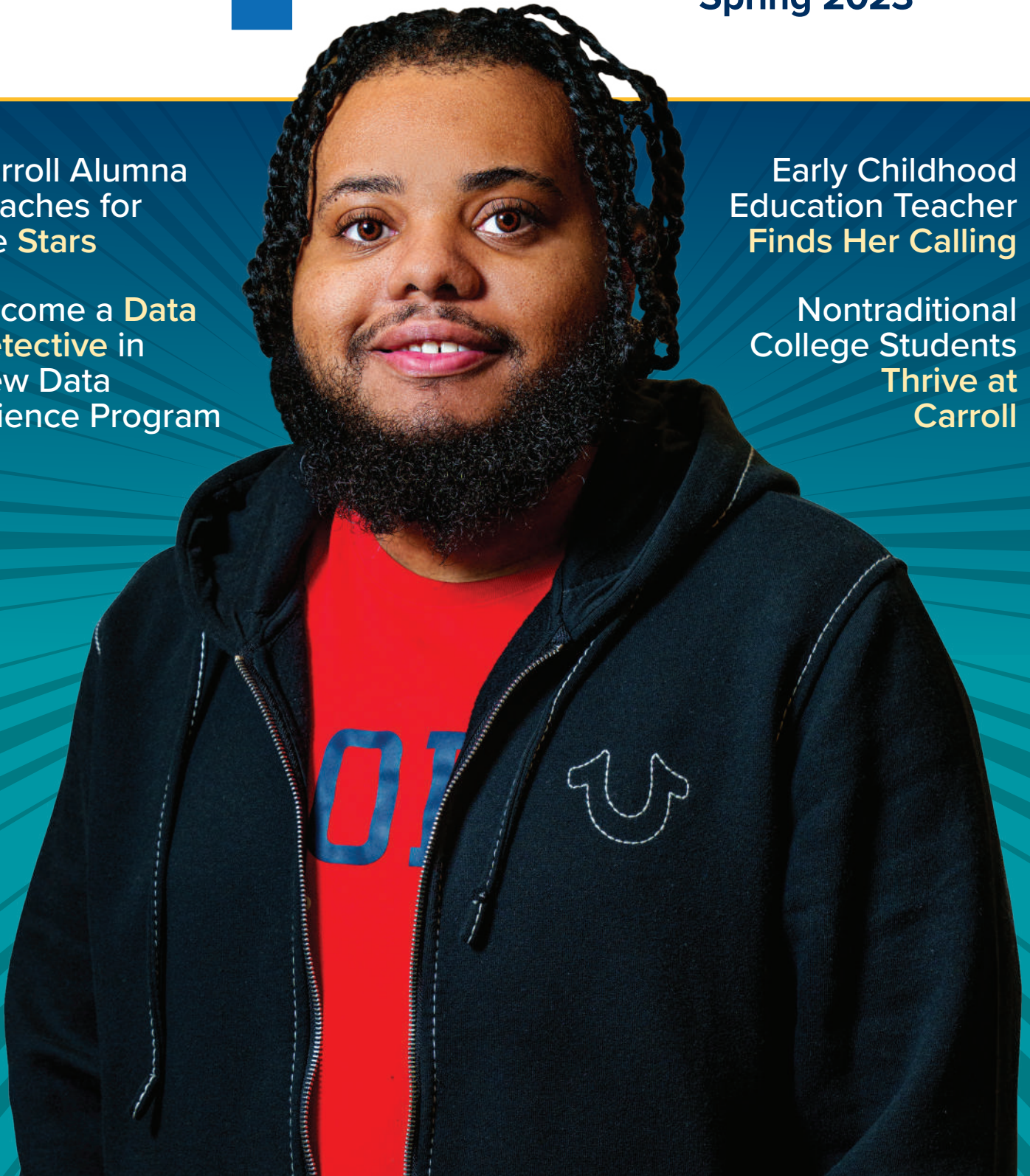
Spring 2023

Carroll Alumna
Reaches for
the **Stars**

Become a **Data
Detective** in
New Data
Science Program

Early Childhood
Education Teacher
Finds Her Calling

Nontraditional
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Entertain Your Brain! Check out our games on page 15!



CELEBRATING

30
YEARS

SPARK

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Since 1993, Carroll has successfully prepared more than **155,000** students for higher ed degrees and in-demand careers; encouraged the lifelong learning of our county's citizens, from littlest learners to active seniors; and presented engaging art and entertainment activities for the entire community. It's no wonder Carroll has been ranked the **#1 community college in Maryland** time and again!



Carroll Alumna Reaches for the Stars

Throughout her life, Amanda Greene has had starry-eyed dreams—so much so that she now works for NASA Goddard in Greenbelt, Maryland, lending her expertise to such amazing projects as the James Webb Space Telescope, a major scientific endeavor designed to look beyond the horizons of distant worlds and answer tantalizing mysteries about the origins of our universe.

"I absolutely loved my time at Carroll Community College. I was very scared that I was not going to be able to balance being a single mother while working and going to school full time. But Carroll provided a place where I felt encouraged and seen."

Top: Carroll students in Chemistry class
Bottom: First image from the Webb telescope



Amanda laid a solid foundation for her future career by starting her college career at Carroll Community College.

A 2013 graduate of Carroll's Education program with a focus on STEM, Amanda presently manages the analytical lab for contamination control at Goddard Space Flight Center. "I am technically considered a Level 4 Contamination Control Engineer," she said. "I'm a contamination control chemical analyst under the ETIS III contract at NASA Goddard. I work for both the project side and the facility side of our Integration and Technology Complex."

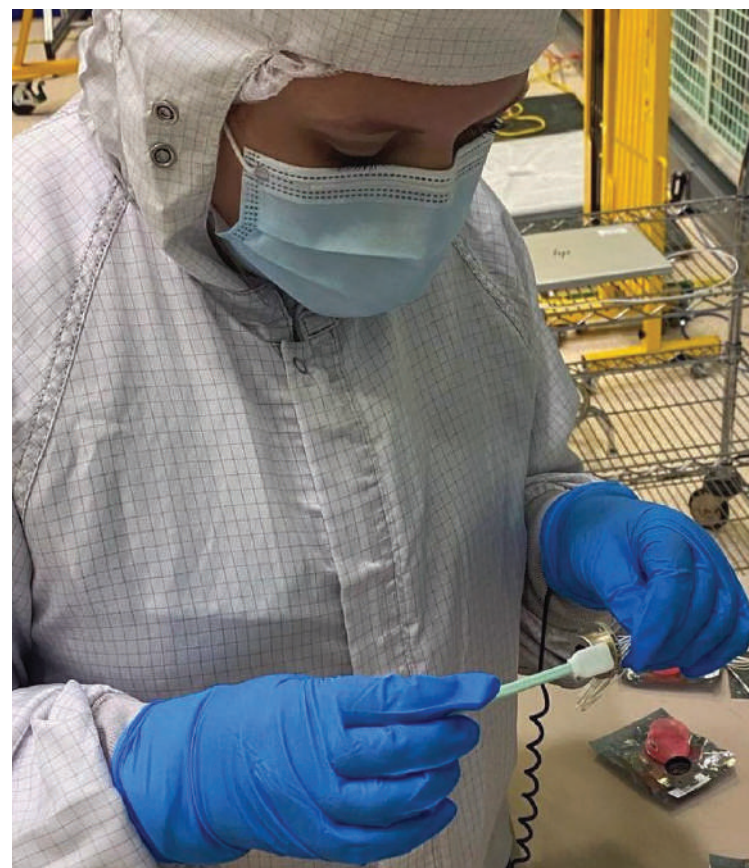
Blasting Off at Carroll

Amanda initially chose Carroll as the launchpad for her higher education path because it offered small class sizes and a wide range of class times.

"At the time, I was a young, single mother and the idea of going to a large university seemed very overwhelming to me," she said. "I absolutely loved my time at Carroll Community College. I was very scared that I was not going to be able to balance being a single mother while working and going to school full time. But Carroll provided a place where I felt encouraged and seen."

During her two years at Carroll, Amanda gained confidence in herself and in her ability to take on challenging coursework. She was also involved in the STEM Club and enjoyed volunteering at the STEM summer program where she shared her passion for science with the youth.

Amanda Greene running tests in a NASA laboratory



After graduating from Carroll, she transferred to Towson University where she changed her major from Education to Chemistry. There she earned two Bachelors of Science, one in Chemistry and the other in Forensic Chemistry.

Pursuing a Stellar Career

After a few years of working as a teacher, a colleague brought to Amanda's attention the job opportunity with NASA. She applied and, after a lengthy interview process that included meetings with several different directors and managers on the ETIS III contract, she landed the job. Since then, Amanda has been promoted twice, now overseeing the same lab in which she had been an entry-level engineer.

"I provide certified cleanliness levels for space hardware," Amanda said is one of her primary duties. She also tests and vets out new materials that will be entering the cleanrooms so that they do not pose a contamination threat.

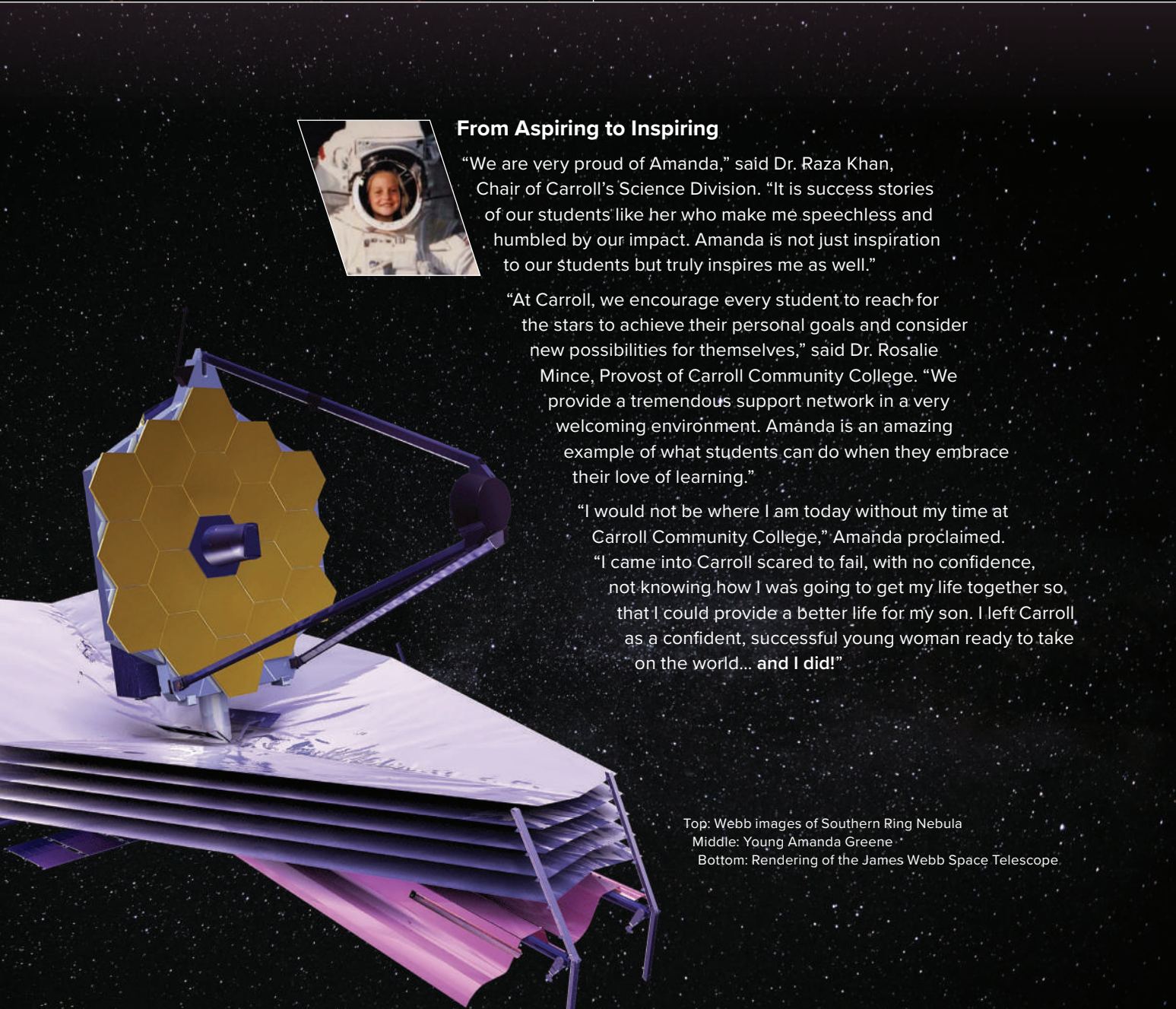
Important Role in Webb Launch

"Even though I came in at the tail end of the James Webb Space Telescope campaign, I still played an important role in getting the telescope into space," Amanda said. She tested and certified all purge lines, including relief valves, threaded lines, PFA lines, check lines and various mass flow meters, in order to ensure that the Webb would stay contamination-free during launch. (The telescope was launched Dec. 25, 2021.)



"It's a process that I have founded at NASA," Amanda said. "This testing did not exist before. We are still in the process of developing this system but hope to have the new lab up and running in the next year or so."

Her lab also stayed in communication with the team in French Guiana where the Webb was launched to address any last-minute contamination concerns. "I remember that the Ariane 5 rocket had stickers on the side that the launch team was unsure of the chemical composition and whether those would pose a risk to the telescope," Amanda recalled. "We were sent samples overnight, assessed them, and reported our findings to their team. We had a lot of these rush analyses to complete."



From Aspiring to Inspiring



"We are very proud of Amanda," said Dr. Raza Khan, Chair of Carroll's Science Division. "It is success stories of our students like her who make me speechless and humbled by our impact. Amanda is not just inspiration to our students but truly inspires me as well."

"At Carroll, we encourage every student to reach for the stars to achieve their personal goals and consider new possibilities for themselves," said Dr. Rosalie Mince, Provost of Carroll Community College. "We provide a tremendous support network in a very welcoming environment. Amanda is an amazing example of what students can do when they embrace their love of learning."

"I would not be where I am today without my time at Carroll Community College," Amanda proclaimed. "I came into Carroll scared to fail, with no confidence, not knowing how I was going to get my life together so, that I could provide a better life for my son. I left Carroll as a confident, successful young woman ready to take on the world... and I did!"

Top: Webb images of Southern Ring Nebula
Middle: Young Amanda Greene
Bottom: Rendering of the James Webb Space Telescope

It's Never Too Late

NONTRADITIONAL COLLEGE STUDENTS THRIVE AT CARROLL

Most people picture college students as being young, fresh out of high school, like those seen in the majority of movies and TV shows. But did you know that approximately 20% of Carroll Community College's student body are over age 25?

There are many reasons why these older, nontraditional college students decide to enroll at college:

- ▶ They want to change or advance their career.
- ▶ They took time off for other personal pursuits, such as serving in the military or raising children, and are now ready to pursue higher education.
- ▶ They weren't sure if college was right for them, but later feel it is a goal worth achieving to better themselves and their families.

The affordability, flexibility and convenience of attending a local community college compared to a four-year institution is a major attraction for older students, many of whom are also working fulltime jobs or taking care of their family.



"Having the flexibility to do most of the program online was amazing for my school/life balance," said **Alyssa Leachman**, who had started Carroll's Associate to Bachelor's Nursing program when she was a single mom to twin three-year-old girls as well as a new homeowner. "I really appreciated the faculty support and the fact that I was able to stay on track to degree completion as quickly as possible."

Challenges for Nontraditional College Students

Many nontraditional students encounter certain challenges in college that their traditional counterparts may not:

- ▶ Adjusting to academic life after spending an extended period of time working and/or supporting their family.
- ▶ Being older than the average student in their classes, which might feel awkward.
- ▶ Having a limited support system at their home and/or place of work.
- ▶ Having enough time to attend classes, do homework and fulfill other course requirements while working and/or supporting their family.
- ▶ Learning how to use modern learning technologies.

“Being older than most who decide to start taking college classes was a bit daunting,” said **Joseph Papi**, a U.S. Army veteran who went on to pursue a Nursing degree at Carroll. “I wasn’t sure how I would fit in, but I have felt very welcomed by all of the staff and my classmates.”

“I won’t graduate with my Nursing degree until I am 40,” Papi continued, “so it is never too late to make a change in your life to make yourself better.”

Benefits for Nontraditional College Students

Community colleges like Carroll provide numerous resources and support that a nontraditional student can take advantage of:

- ▶ Flexible class options (in-person, online, evenings, Saturdays)
- ▶ Personalized, 1-on-1 advising
- ▶ Financial aid and scholarships, including the New Start Scholarship
- ▶ Partnerships with 4-year institutions for seamless transfer
- ▶ Career coaching and professional development
- ▶ On-campus Childcare Center and Fitness Center

“I chose Carroll initially to retake science core classes from my undergrad in order to improve my chances of entering a post graduate education program,” recounted **Mary Harshman**, a graduate of Carroll’s Physical Therapy Assistant program who went on to earn her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from PCOM Georgia. “Not only did Carroll make college very affordable for retaking classes, but their Physical Therapist Assistant program also gave me the skills I needed to start my career and ultimately gave me the confidence to continue my education further.”



June Leppo, working as an Academic Administrative Associate for the Nursing program at Carroll, decided at age 53 to enroll in the College’s Business Management A.A.S. program. “After I met with my advisor,” she said, “I felt like I had a plan that was achievable which really inspired me to start the process. There is so much support at Carroll and it feels good to learn something new, challenge myself and meet new people.”

Leppo was also one of the first to take advantage of Carroll’s recently introduced New Start Scholarship, aimed to help nontraditional college students. “The New Start Scholarship was the extra encouragement I needed to return to college,” she explained. “I knew that if there was a scholarship offered, Carroll is looking for people just like me to enrich their student body.”

Making Ageless Memories at Carroll

Nontraditional students at Carroll enjoy the same enriching experiences as its traditional students, getting more out of their time there beyond an Associate degree or career training.

“As a student, I like walking around campus and seeing students of all ages, races and backgrounds working together on a project or studying together,” June Leppo said. “I went to a class and met a wonderful person who is dually enrolled and will graduate high school this year. We collaborated on a small project together and it was really inspiring. I would not of had that opportunity if I didn’t return to college this year.”



Going to college can create special, lifelong memories no matter your age. 40-year-old Carroll graduate **Andrea Molina** previously spent eight years in the U.S. Army, then raised her two daughters and launched her own cleaning business before deciding to pursue a new career in 2016. That’s when she enrolled in Carroll’s Health Science program. “I attended Carroll’s graduation ceremony in Spring 2019 at the same time my oldest daughter graduated Winters Mill High School,” Andrea boasts. “It was EPIC!”

While it can be challenging for a nontraditional college student to return to the classroom (even if it’s online), the professional staff at Carroll Community College does all it can to help them choose the appropriate program and/or courses based on their interests and aspirations. Carroll sets them up for success in achieving their educational goals while having an engaging—even epic—college experience.

New Start Scholarship

If you are age 25 or older and new to Carroll or returning to us as a fulltime student after 2 years, your first class is **FREE!**

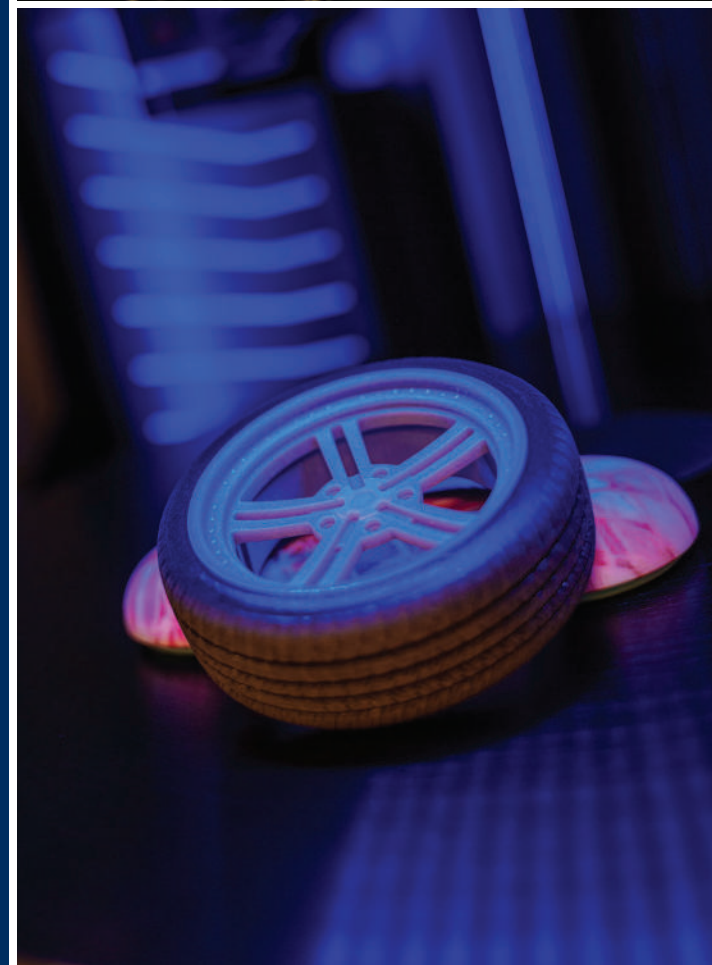
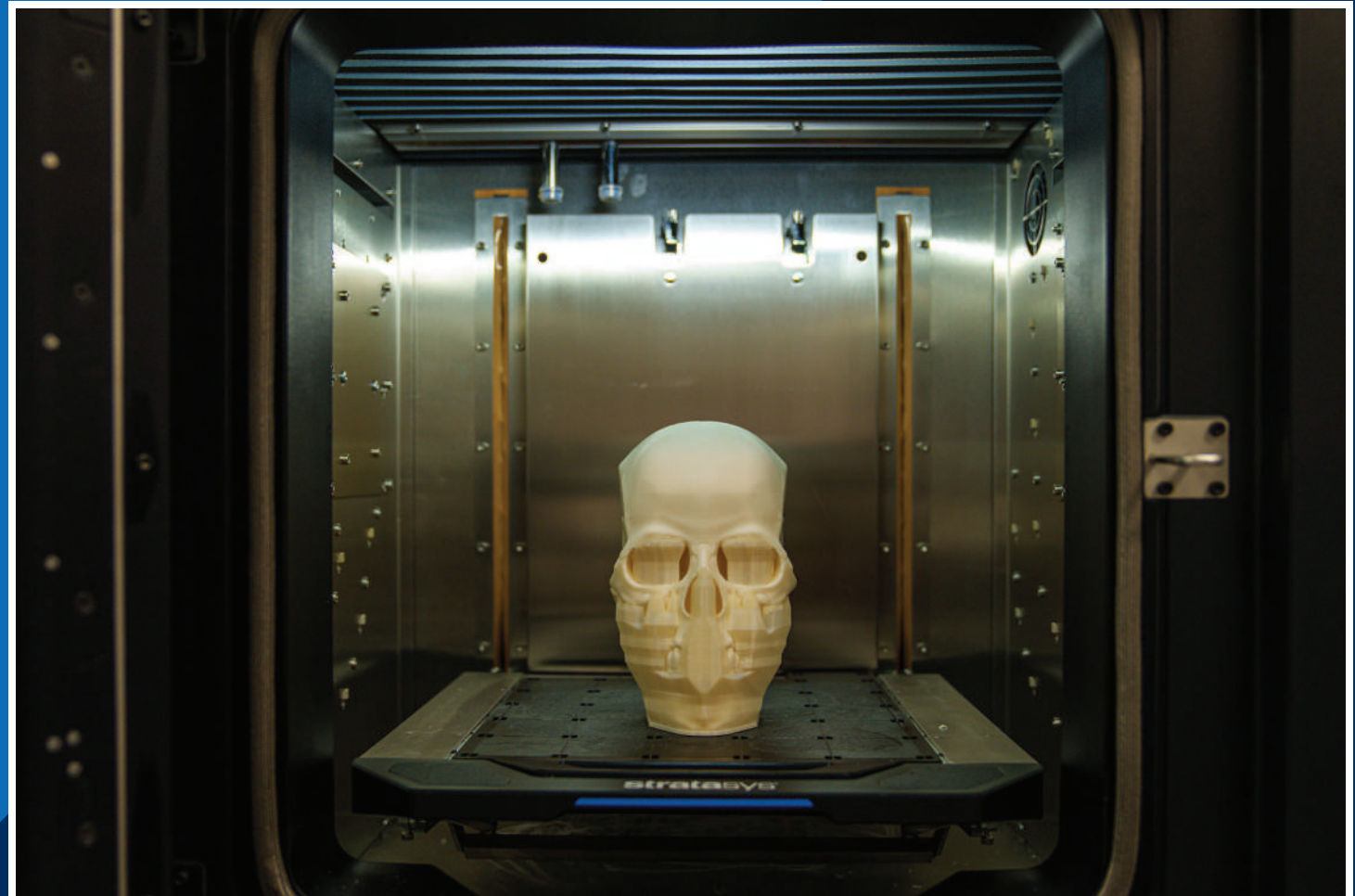
For more details, visit carrollcc.edu/scholarships.



Digital Design & Fabrication

Students in Carroll's Digital Design & Fabrication program receive hands-on training on modern digital modeling software and manufacturing processes. They learn how to use a wide range of 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC mills and 3D scanning equipment to produce physical objects, parts and products.

The images on these pages showcase just a few of the amazing designs created with state-of-the-art digital fabrication technology.



Become a Data Detective in New Data Science Program

Are you a person who likes to find patterns in things and/or figure out complex puzzles? Then a career in Data Science might be for you.



Robert Brown with Carroll students

Data Science is a professional domain of study that employs a variety of methods to understand the vast amounts of information a business has collected. In today's data-driven world, where organizations need to gather and use information to stay competitive, these specialized skills are in high demand.

For this reason, Carroll Community College has launched its new Data Science Associate degree program. "If students pursue a two-year degree with us, they will graduate job-ready to become a Data Analyst or Business Analyst," said Robert Brown, Division Chair of Business & Technology at Carroll.

In the program, students learn basic competencies of the Data Science field by taking courses on how to set up databases and spreadsheets, organize them effectively and analyze the data to find patterns.

"Folks gain a lot of practical skills where they'll be immediately employable or ready to go on to further study at a four-year institution," Brown said.

What do Data Analysts do?

Data Analysts, also called Business Analysts, look at an organization internally to improve its efficiency and/or externally to optimize its service to customers.

"For example, Amazon looks at how people are purchasing items," Brown explained. "They'll try to upsell you, saying 'People who have bought this item have also bought this item.' You're free to ignore it, but often it reminds you of something you need. Many times, people add that to their cart."

Retail companies like Amazon track buying patterns to predict what other items shoppers may want, such as ink and paper when they buy a printer. Data Scientists dig even deeper than this, using machine learning algorithms and mathematical/statistical models to identify patterns in a business that others would likely miss.

While proficiencies in math, science and computers help, Brown said that a surprising innate trait can make a person an excellent Data Science career candidate.

"In addition to being tech savvy, students who go into Data Science are detectives," Brown said. "They're curious by nature, and with data they can figure out things and derive their own way to solve a problem and to answer a question."

What's the future for Data Science graduates?

Brown called the employment outlook for Data Science graduates as "very, very strong. It's one of the top jobs today."

In fact, U.S. News and World Report recently listed Data Scientist as #6 on its list of 100 Best Jobs that "pay well, challenge us year after year, match our talents and skills, aren't too stressful, offer room to advance throughout our careers, and provide a satisfying work-life balance."

Another advantage of pursuing a career in Data Science is that one can work in a variety of industries and apply their skills and knowledge in many different ways. "The field is new enough that those with one title could perform tasks for jobs with another title," Brown said.

After completing Carroll's Associate of Arts program, students can continue their Data Science education with a Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degree, if desired. These steps can help them obtain even more employment opportunities in this emerging and exciting field.

Carroll's A.A. degree in Data Science can be earned 100% online.



Early Childhood Education Teacher Finds Her Calling at Carroll

We should all be fortunate enough to have a mentor teacher who changes our lives. Loretta Grieves, a 2010 graduate of Carroll Community College's Early Childhood Education (ECE) degree program, found such a mentor teacher in Carole Williamson, Associate Professor of Education at Carroll.



Loretta, a U.S. Navy veteran, was changing careers at the time she began the ECE program at Carroll. "My husband had recently died unexpectedly, causing me to go back to the workforce from my role as a stay-at-home

mother of five-year-old twins," Loretta explained. She started by working at a private daycare facility, which prompted her to add more professional credentials to her résumé in order to advance in her role as a children's caregiver. Having already earned a degree from Carroll in General Education ten years previously, she registered for two childcare credentialing classes there.

That's when she met Carole Williamson. "Carole saw an educator in me that I was completely unaware of," Loretta said. "She and the many other wonderful professors at Carroll changed my thinking, allowed me to discover my true calling, and find success in a very cloudy world I found myself living in."

"Loretta came into our program unsure of her career path," Williamson recalls. "She sat in the back of the classroom, but there was a spark in all of her comments and conversations. She connected immediately to the Child Development courses through her experiences with her own young children. As time went on, Loretta became more immersed in the idea of becoming a teacher."

Loretta then enrolled in Carroll's Early Childhood Education degree program and hasn't looked back.

Enriching Her Carroll Experience

While attending Carroll, Loretta also took advantage of the many special interest clubs and extracurricular events offered through the College or in which Carroll students participated. These included the ECE Club, where she served as president; the Random House Book Fair organized by the ECE Club each year; the Leadership Challenge; Advocacy Day in Annapolis; and presenting at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference in Washington DC.



Left to right: Early Childhood Education student Aaron Dean with two students from Carroll's Littlest Learners Child Development Program; Carole Williamson

“Extracurricular activities help you discover who you are, provide a place for you to meet others, and gather knowledge about your career,” Loretta said.

Another piece of essential advice she would give those pursuing a similar career path as hers is to forge relationships with others in your field. “They will serve you well now, and in the future. That includes fellow students, teachers, staff and mentors outside of Carroll.” Prof. Carole Williamson certainly exemplifies someone who has shepherded Loretta’s trajectory into the stable and rewarding career she has today.

Building Success Beyond Carroll

After earning her Associate degrees in Early Childhood Education at Carroll, Loretta completed her Bachelor’s in ECE at Stevenson University. After several years of substituting for Carroll County Public Schools, she decided to apply for full-time work in the county she knew and loved best. After interviewing with the Assistant Principal and team leader at Sandymount Elementary School in Finksburg, MD, they offered her a teaching position. She presently teaches second grade there.

Loretta hasn’t stopped developing her expertise as an early childhood educator. She’s also taken several courses online with Augustana University, Institute of Child Psychology, and currently is completing her Master’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies of Human Behavior with a certification in Thanatology at Hood College.

“But had I not met Carole Williamson, I would not be an educator today!” Loretta boasted. “I would not have continued my path to Stevenson University in education, I would not have met the people who agreed with her that I was good at this thing called teaching, and I would not have been brave enough to speak my story for the world to hear, starting with my Commencement speech in 2010.”

“Faculty and staff at Carroll meet students like Loretta every semester who have not figured out their life path,” Williamson said. “These students are unsure, hesitant, even resistant. Our job is to meet them where they are and show them that they are capable of being anything they want to be. Often, it is our belief in the students’ potential that allows them to believe in themselves.”

“Yes, Carroll Community College builds career paths, but it also does much more,” Loretta said. “It builds leaders. It builds advocates. It builds opportunities for the future.”

“Had I not walked through the doors of Carroll to complete just two classes, I would not be a recipient of an Outstanding Teacher Award from Carroll County Public Schools in 2022.”

Loretta Grieves
Teacher, Sandymount Elementary School

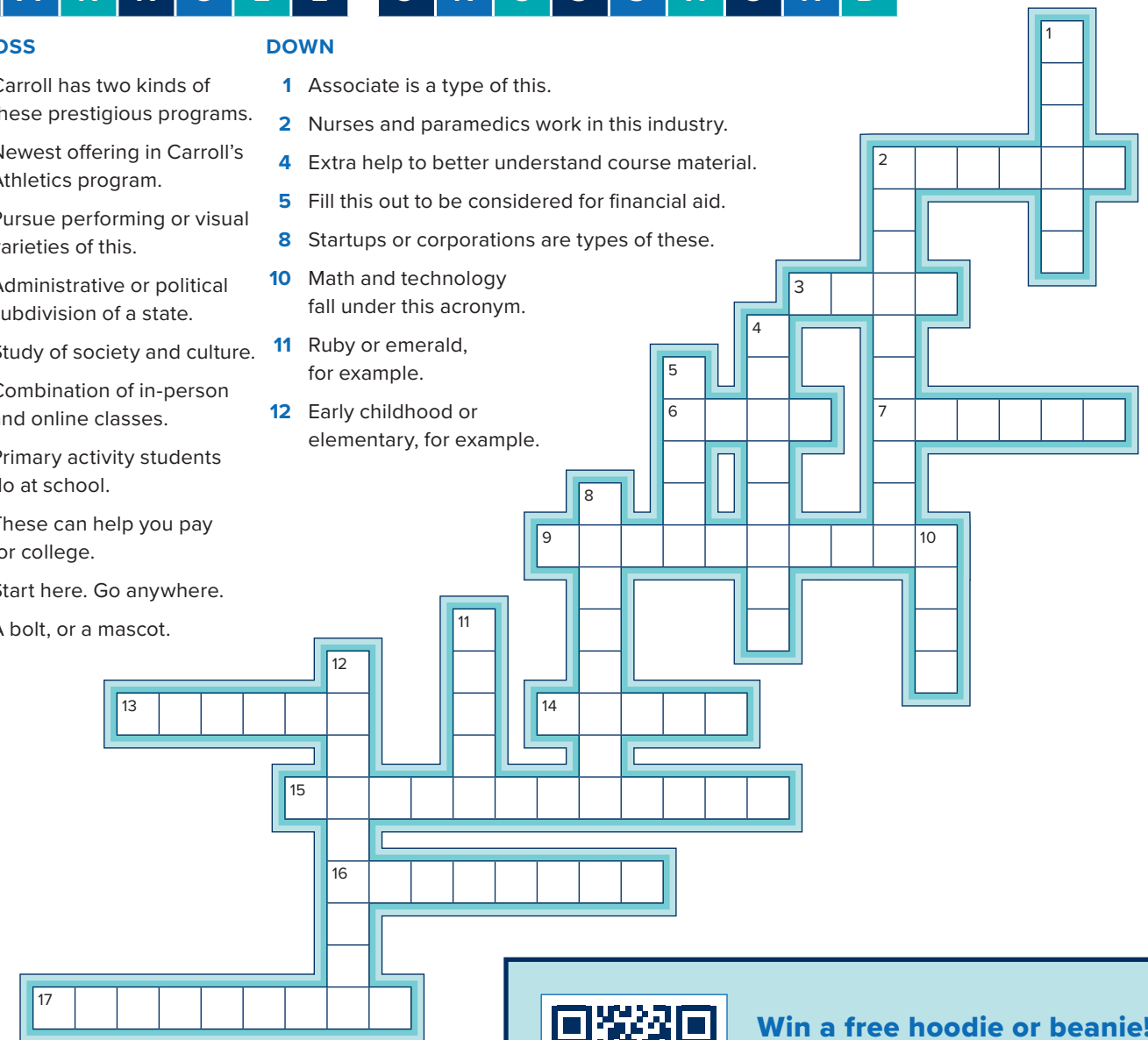
CARROLL CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 2 Carroll has two kinds of these prestigious programs.
- 3 Newest offering in Carroll’s Athletics program.
- 6 Pursue performing or visual varieties of this.
- 7 Administrative or political subdivision of a state.
- 9 Study of society and culture.
- 13 Combination of in-person and online classes.
- 14 Primary activity students do at school.
- 15 These can help you pay for college.
- 16 Start here. Go anywhere.
- 17 A bolt, or a mascot.

DOWN

- 1 Associate is a type of this.
- 2 Nurses and paramedics work in this industry.
- 4 Extra help to better understand course material.
- 5 Fill this out to be considered for financial aid.
- 8 Startups or corporations are types of these.
- 10 Math and technology fall under this acronym.
- 11 Ruby or emerald, for example.
- 12 Early childhood or elementary, for example.



Win a free hoodie or beanie!
Follow us on IG & DM a photo of the completed games. New winner drawn every month.

Word Jumble

Unscramble these jumbles, one letter per square, to form Carroll-related words. Then arrange the circled letters below to form the answer to the following:

DUBIGLIN



SODNASIMIS



ETIRIVDYS



SLEWSLEN



A spider’s favorite class in college is...



Areas of Study

Carroll offers more than **40 degree programs and transfer patterns** within a wide range of Areas of Study. When applying to Carroll, select an Area of Study that best suits your interest.

BUSINESS & FINANCE



- Accounting
- Business Administration/ Business Management
- Management Information Systems

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS



- Computer Graphics
- Digital Design and Fabrication
- Entertainment Technology
- Music
- Theatre
- Visual Arts

TEACHING & EDUCATION



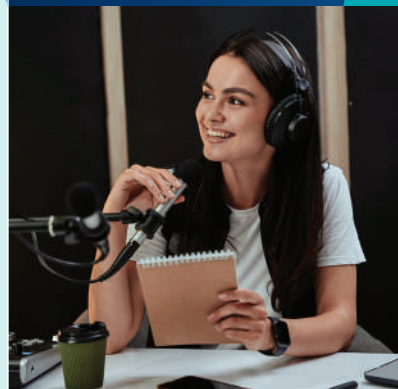
- Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education
- Elementary Education and Elementary Special Education
- Secondary Education
- Teacher Education

NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH



- Allied Health: Massage Therapy, Nuclear Medicine Technology and Respiratory Therapy
- National Registry Paramedic
- Nursing
- Physical Therapist Assistant

COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE



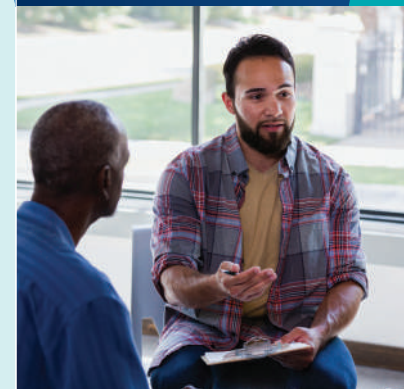
- Communication Studies and Journalism
- Creative Writing
- English Literature

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING



- Biology, Chemistry, Geology and Physics
- Computer Technology
- Data Science
- Engineering
- Public Health and Exercise Science
- Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems

SOCIAL SCIENCES



- Criminal Justice
- Law Enforcement
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Sociology/ Anthropology

HOW TO BECOME A Carroll Student

Call **410-386-8430** or email **admissions@carrollcc.edu** with any questions or to schedule an appointment with an advisor.

1. Apply online at www.carrollcc.edu/ApplyNow. It's quick and easy, with no application fee.
2. Visit www.carrollcc.edu/PlacementTesting to help you figure out if you are ready to take college-level classes or if you need placement testing.
3. **Contact Admissions for an appointment** to meet with an advisor and register for classes. Students who have completed college-level courses should bring an unofficial transcript with them.
4. **Pay tuition.** You have several options to help you pay for college. For more information, speak with a staff member in our Financial Aid Office.

5. **Preview your classes online** one week before classes begin and make any schedule adjustments before attending.
6. **Go to New Student Orientation** and discover what opportunities Carroll has to help you be a successful college student. Because there is a lot of technology you'll need to use, it is important to attend orientation so you feel comfortable on your first day. Buy your books before classes begin.

Start Here. Finish There. Earn your Associate degree at Carroll and guarantee your admission to any public 4-year Maryland university to complete your Bachelor's degree.

"Carroll Community College has changed my life for the better. I am getting the education I need in order to keep taking care of my family. It has also shown me that I can do more than I realize."

—Morgan Barton,
Carroll Early Childhood Education student

Let's
Connect!



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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Summer Term 2023

Term begins	Tuesday, May 30
Juneteenth Holiday (College closed).....	Monday, June 19
Independence Day Holiday (College closed).....	Tuesday, July 4
Term ends	Friday, August 4

Fall Term 2023

Term begins	Monday, August 28
Labor Day Holiday (College closed).....	Saturday – Monday, September 2 – 4
Classes end for Thanksgiving Recess.....	11 p.m., Tuesday, November 21
Thanksgiving Holiday (College closed).....	Wednesday – Sunday, November 22 – 26
Classes Resume.....	Monday, November 27
Final exam week	Saturday – Friday, December 9 – 15
Term ends	Friday, December 15
Winter recess (College closed).....	Tuesday – Monday, December 19 – January 1