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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### MCC Employee's Photo Featured in NCCCS Art Exhibit



King stands beside her photograph, *Hawaii Palm Trees*, during the NCCCS's art exhibit opening at the Caswell Building in Raleigh, NC.

**WILLIAMSTON** – A travel photograph taken by Martin Community College (MCC) employee Lucretia King was among the many forms of art celebrated on Tuesday, March 25 during a reception for the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS)'s eleventh art exhibit in Raleigh, NC at the Caswell Building.

Hosted by retiring North Carolina Community College System President Martin Lancaster, this reception marked the exhibit's opening and the release of a book on the history of the Visiting Artist Program, a collaborative art project between community colleges and the Arts Council that lasted from 1971 to 1995. Many of the exhibit's artists, including King, were on hand to meet each other and to see where their work is displayed.

"I'm so thankful my entry was selected," said King, a Williamston native and MCC's marketing and public relations director.

For the first time, all 58 community colleges are represented among the 143 pieces of art displayed at 200 West Jones Street, NCCCS headquarters. Those works, many of which are for sale, include exquisite quilts, prints, pottery, photography, paintings, drawings, iron sculptures, baskets, stained glass and mixed media.

Though a number of colleges and artists have multiple pieces on display, King is honored that her photograph, *Hawaii Palm Trees*, was chosen to represent MCC in this year's exhibit.

"I've always enjoyed taking pictures since high school," said King. "But this is the first time I've had one in any kind of exhibit. Seeing it on display just motivates me to get more serious about my hobby again."

Using a basic, 35mm film camera, King took the photograph while on vacation in Hawaii four years ago. She says much of her photography is of the scenery and people she encounters while traveling, especially overseas. Over the years, King has developed a sizeable collection of images from her experiences in South Korea, Singapore, El Salvador, and New Zealand. This December, she looks to add Australia to the list.

Travel photography involves the documentation of an area's landscape, people, cultures, customs and history. The images often express a feeling of time and place, portraying a land, its people, or culture in its natural state. The best examples of professional travel photography can be found in *National Geographic* magazine.

Since 1998, original art has been on display in the Caswell Building as part of the *Community College Art Exhibit*. Lancaster, a former chair of the North Carolina Arts Council, created the exhibit after he assumed leadership of the NCCCS in 1997. He wanted to give artists at the colleges a chance to display and sell their creations and at the same time make the Caswell Building a more inviting place to work and visit.

Lancaster says he hopes the tradition will continue after he leaves the System. If those who work in and visit the Caswell have any say, the exhibit will be a permanent fixture.

"I was amazed by the artistic talent spread across our state's community colleges," said King. "From students to staff, this exhibit shows it all and is definitely worth the effort to see."

The art exhibition, housed on the six floors of the Caswell Building, runs from early spring through December each year. The Caswell Building is a working office building, so anyone wishing to see the artwork should call Chancy Kapp at 919-807-6962 or Peggy Beach at 919-807-6964 to arrange a tour. The Caswell Building is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed on North Carolina state holidays and weekends.

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