Friendsgiving Brings Food, Fellowship and Gratitude to WCCS Demopolis Campus



Students and staff share a meal during Friendsgiving at the Demopolis Campus.

DEMOPOLIS, Ala. - A shared meal brought students and staff together at Wallace Community College Selma's Demopolis Campus for Friendsgiving, a gathering focused on gratitude, fellowship, and connections beyond the classroom.

Students described the event as great and gave the food a "10 out of 10." The gathering offered an opportunity to enjoy a meal, spend time with classmates, and connect with campus staff in a relaxed setting.

Blaine Hathcock, Demopolis campus director, said the event served two purposes: thanking students for choosing Wallace and giving everyone time to fellowship away from the demands of coursework.

"Basically, what we wanted to do is actually, I think, accomplish a couple different things," Hathcock said. "Number one, show our thanks to our students that we presently have within our programs, but also give them the time to fellowship together."

For Hathcock, that time together is an important part of building relationships with students. Friendsgiving created space for conversations outside the classroom, welding shop and HVAC lab, allowing students and staff to get to know one another better.











A time to gather: campus fellowship and table decorations reflect the season of gratitude.

"It's just a really good time and a relaxed time where we can spend time with our students," he said. "They can spend time with each other, and it's just kind of, not talking about school, just fellowshipping together."

The season's focus on thankfulness also gave Hathcock an opportunity to reflect on the people who make the campus community special. He expressed appreciation for students who chose to pursue their education at the Demopolis Campus and for the employees who support them each day.











Friendsgiving featured a shared meal that students rated a "10 out of 10."

"But personally, I'm thankful for the people that I have the opportunity to work with every day," Hathcock said. "They do a great job."

He credited the staff's care for students and commitment to their success as central to the campus's work.

"They have a great heart for students and a great heart for sharing and doing what's best for students, and I think that's at the forefront of what we always try to do," he said.











Students and staff connect while sharing a meal at the Demopolis Campus.

That commitment extends beyond instruction. Hathcock said gatherings such as Friendsgiving help reinforce a sense of belonging and remind students that they are valued as individuals.

"Well, again, I think students want to know that you care about them, and they want a place where they feel like they're important and where they feel like they matter, and they're not just a number," he said. "They're more than that."

Through a shared meal and time together, Friendsgiving gave the Demopolis Campus community an opportunity to celebrate its students, strengthen relationships, and share in the spirit of the season.





Friendsgiving brought the campus community together beyond the classroom.