***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**NCTC OFFERS AAS IN HORTICULTURE**

NCTC Regents recently approved an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree in Horticulture, to begin in the Fall 2018 semester.

“Horticulture is the science and art of growing garden plants for the economic, aesthetic, and nutritional well-being of society,” said NCTC Horticulture Professor Ashley Hartman. “It is not only a multi-billion dollar industry that offers increasing job opportunities for students seeking careers in the area, but it also offers countless opportunities for hobbyists.

The Horticulture AAS can be completed through a mix of face-to-face, hybrid, and online classes. The program is designed to take two years, or 64 weeks, to complete.

Upon completion of the Horticulture AAS, graduates will be able to identify, propagate, and cultivate horticultural crops, apply the principles and elements of design to create landscape and floral designs, analyze and adjust soil conditions to maximize production of horticultural crops, grow horticultural crops in protected environments, and identify garden pests and recommend control measures.

With this degree, students will find employment opportunities in fruit & vegetable production management, landscape design, greenhouse, nursery, and garden center management, plant propagation, community garden coordination, floral design, sales and marketing management and many other fields.

“We want our Horticulture students to be matched with careers that are not only fulfilling but that ultimately suit their natural gifts and acquired skills,” said Hartman. “We are glad to visit with future and current students to counsel them on career options and at the end of the curriculum we aid our students with job searches.”

For more information on the Horticulture AAS, visit nctc.edu or contact Ashley Hartman at (940) 668-7731 ext. 4488.

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PHOTO CUTLINE: NCTC Horticulture Professor Ashley Hartman (left) gives instruction to her students.

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