

**REPORT OF
LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY**

**Development of a Plan to Integrate
the Functions of the Longwood
Institute for Teaching Through
Technology and Innovative Practices
in the Halifax/South Boston
Continuing Education Center**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 32

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
2004**

LONGWOOD
UNIVERSITY

201 High Street
Farmville, Virginia 23909
tel: 434.395.2001
fax: 434.395.2821
trs: 711

September 29, 2004

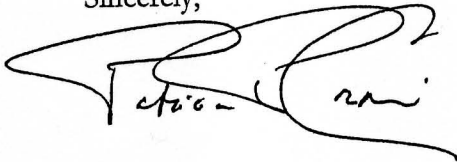
The Honorable John Chichester, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Vince Callahan, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
General Assembly Building
Capitol Square
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Senator Chichester and Delegate Callahan:

Enclosed is the report required in Chapter 4 for the development of a plan to integrate the functions of the Longwood Institute for Teaching Through Technology and Innovative Practices [now called the Longwood University National Institute for Technology, Policy and Research] in the Halifax/South Boston Continuing Education Center [now called the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center]. The Appropriations language calls for the report to be submitted to the Chairman of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by October 1, 2004.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Patricia P. Cormier
President

Enclosure

Office of the President



LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

Response to 2004 Virginia Acts of Assembly, Special Session I, Chapter 4, Approved June 25, 2004, Item 190, A.1-A.3.

Longwood University National Institute for Technology, Policy and Research (formerly known as the Longwood Institute for Teaching Through Technology and Innovative Practices)

BACKGROUND:

The Institute for Teaching Through Technology and Innovative Practices was approved by the General Assembly during the 2000 General Assembly session and received \$269,163 in general funds and two FTE positions. The Institute was to work with K-12 education. The service area of the Institute included Halifax County, the City of Danville, and Pittsylvania County.

In the 2002 General Assembly, the defined service area for the Institute was deleted from the Appropriations language. Due to budget restraints, the Commonwealth of Virginia has reduced the funding for the Institute from \$269,163 to \$216,313 per year in the 2004-06 budget.

The Institute works with K-12 school divisions and other entities in 22 counties in Southside Virginia to assist in identifying emerging technologies and their applicability in education and other areas. The Institute works to help improve SOL scores, particularly in math and science; to identify best practices; and, to research technology for classroom use. The Institutes' programs allow school systems (including at-risk students) to take advantage of the latest educational technologies -- such as automated telescopes, virtual reality, digital equipment and assistive technologies. Additionally, the Institute has used technology to provide literacy training. The Director of the Institute is working with faculty in the College of Education and Human Services to make them aware of the new technologies being used in today's K-12 classroom.

Since its inception, the Institute has generated more than \$5 million in grant money from local, state, and federal sources. The Institute provides:

- Research and development of new educational learning models with a focus on student achievement.
- Outreach and training for area public schools.
- Distance education and telecommunications research for area public schools.
- Evaluation services to area schools desiring to know the impact of their programs and services on student achievement.
- Analysis of emerging technologies for education.

Currently, the Institute is researching and developing broadband content and applications with NASA, Discovery Communications, and several other content developers.

Chapter 4, 2004 Special Session:

Chapter 4, requires that the Institute's functions be integrated into the Halifax/South Boston Continuing Education Center (now known as the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center) by July 1, 2005, and that a plan be developed to integrate the Institute into the Center and report the plan to the Chairman of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by October 1, 2004.

Physical Location:

Depending upon the number of grants, the Institute has between 10 and 15 employees and/or consultants working for it at any given time. There are only two full-time employees funded through the general fund appropriation. Currently, the Institute employees 10 people (8 through grant funds). It is currently leases space in the Bank American Building in downtown South Boston with space on the first and second floor and parking available in the adjacent lot. The Institute occupies approximately 2,200 square feet, which is approximately 1,000 square feet less than what is needed. A T-1 line is used to meet the technological needs of the Institute in its research and development work.

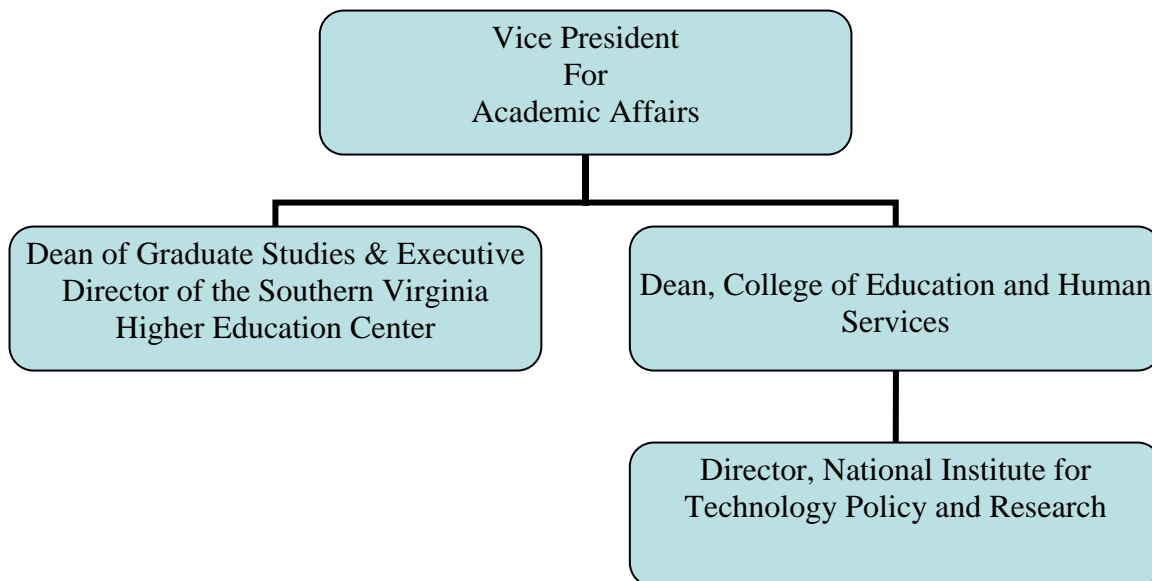
The Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHED) is located in a renovated tobacco warehouse. The facility is owned and was renovated by the Halifax Education Foundation (HEF). The HEF raised taxes for a referendum bond obligation and raised private funds to renovate the facility for the SVHED. Longwood University, Southside Virginia Community College, and Danville Community College all have office space in the Center. The remainder of the space is used by other public and private colleges and universities offering courses at the Center as classroom, class lab, or library space. All renovated space at the Center is being used to deliver educational programs.

The warehouse building does still have unrenovated space; however, there are no funds available either through the HEF or Longwood University to renovate sufficient space for the Institute.

Delegate Hogan, sponsor of the amended legislation, has not indicated a preference for the physical location of the Institute.

Organizational Structure:

Both the Institute and the Higher Education Center are academic units falling under the auspices of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Director of the Institute reports directly to the Dean of the College of Education and Human Services. The Director of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center reports to the Dean of Graduate and Continuing Studies.



This organizational structure provides oversight for both entities under the Vice President for Academic Affairs and ensures adequate coordination of both units.

Conclusion:

The Longwood University National Institute for Technology, Policy and Research (formerly known as the Institute for Teaching Through Technology and Innovative Practices) should remain in its current location, under its current structure, and continue to provide services in Southside Virginia and beyond because:

1. The research and development work being conducted by the Institute needs specially dedicated space and a T-1 line, with complete network autonomy and needs to be outside Longwood's firewall for research and development purposes. These are available in current location, but not in SVHED. There are not funds budgeted for these expenditures.
2. There is insufficient renovated space in the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center to accommodate the needs of the Institute. In addition to the costs to renovate space and add a T-1 line at the SVHED, there would be additional costs associated with moving all of the office furnishings and computer equipment and furniture from the current location to the SVHEC. There are no funds budgeted for any of these expenditures.
3. The existing organizational structure provides oversight for both entities under the Vice President for Academic Affairs and ensures adequate coordination of both units.