

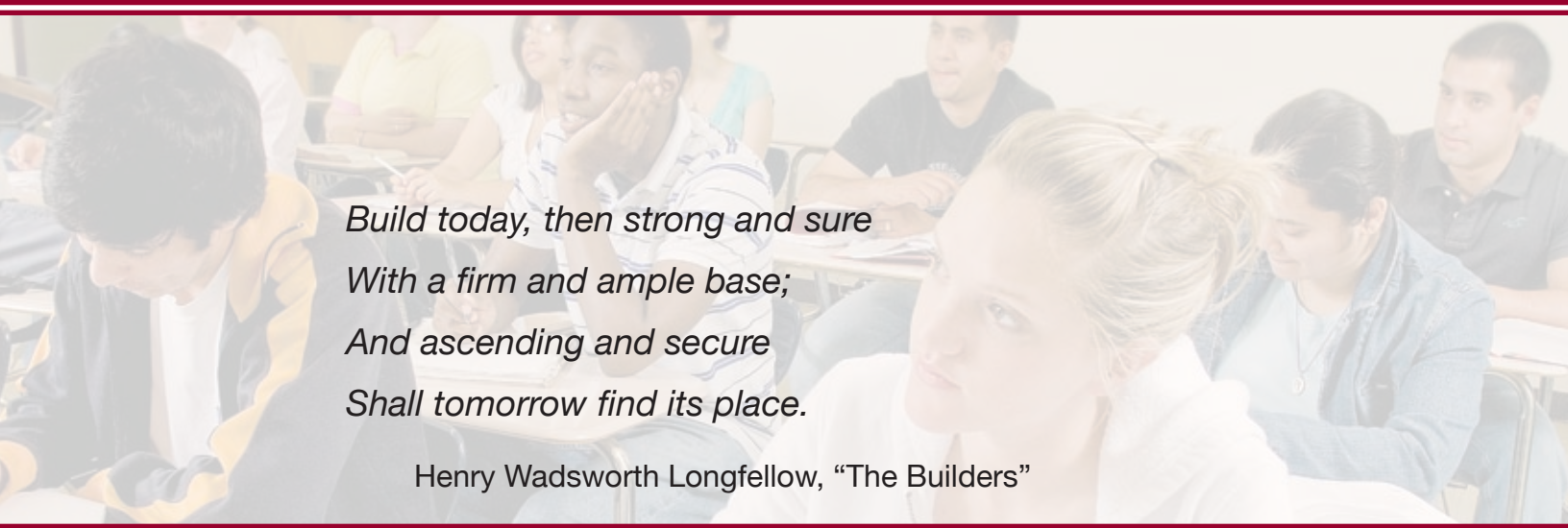
ANNUAL REPORT
2007-2008



BUILDING TOMORROW'S VIRGINIA



ANNUAL REPORT
2007-2008



*Build today, then strong and sure
With a firm and ample base;
And ascending and secure
Shall tomorrow find its place.*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "The Builders"

BUILDING TOMORROW'S VIRGINIA

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A message from the chancellor



Throughout the commonwealth, there is a growing need for the opportunities provided by Virginia's Community Colleges.

Once again, our colleges' enrollment figures are setting records. The same holds true when it comes to the number of Virginians and Virginia employers using our workforce development services. And the number of Virginia families benefitting from our dual enrollment programs and guaranteed transfer agreements—and saving a lot of money by doing so—is soaring.

We are proud of all of that. But we know that more must be done to build tomorrow's Virginia.

In the near term, we have to continue to make progress on those metrics. The economic realities of our time demand that our colleges offer affordable access to the higher education and career training that individuals need to compete and succeed. People are counting on us.

In the longer term, our colleges are creating the next VCCS strategic plan, which will aim to change the fundamentals that may be holding Virginia back today and almost certainly will tomorrow.

The percentage of Virginians seeking and earning postsecondary credentials hasn't changed in two decades. That figure is likely to drop further as Virginia's growing diversity, which we proudly embrace, means more of our friends and neighbors are coming from cultures that have traditionally lower levels of higher education participation. And despite the broad consensus that a high school diploma is no longer enough, thousands upon thousands of working-age Virginians are without even a GED, limiting their individual options for success and artificially shrinking the pool of talent that Virginia's employers depend on.

More must be done to reach those people and show them how to tap their full potential through

"For many Virginians, community colleges made the American dream tangible and gave them the tools they needed to elevate their lives—establishing a vibrant middle class in the process. Community colleges must now step up again to keep that dream alive."

postsecondary education, just like the people profiled throughout this annual report.

While our colleges cannot solve those challenges alone, they will be leaders in reaching solutions. For many Virginians, community colleges made the American dream tangible and gave them the tools they needed to elevate their lives—establishing a vibrant middle class in the process. Community colleges must now step up again to keep that dream alive.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn DuBois". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Glenn DuBois
Chancellor
Virginia's Community Colleges



P.S. The effort to reach those traditionally left behind when it comes to the opportunities of higher education is why I spent my summer vacation biking through 800 miles of Virginia.

Foster care youth go on to graduate from college at a paltry rate of only 3 percent. To serve them better, we created a program called *Great Expectations*, for which I set off on a promotional bike ride to raise awareness and resources. I am proud to report I finished the tour on schedule.

To learn more about the program and the promotional tour, visit www.GreatExpectations.vccs.edu.



Opportunities for *Building* a Better

Career certificate leads directly to opportunity

Mark Seidell

Completing a Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) from Virginia Western Community College is one success on a laundry list of accomplishments for former electrician Mark Seidell.

Tutoring refugees and immigrants, teaching religious education to 6th through 9th graders at his church and earning his associate's degree are among the others. He even participated in ABC-TV's Extreme Home Makeover, installing electricity and plumbing for a needy Virginia family.

the heels of surviving a rare and devastating cancer.

Diagnosed with meningioma, an aggressive, cancerous tumor on his spine, Seidell underwent complicated surgery to remove most of the tumor followed by radiation. Over the next three days, the disease took over the lower half of his body, turning him into a paraplegic. With permanent damage already done, he went into surgery again to have the remaining piece of tumor removed.

"I had faith in the people who

electrical work into design.

"It is satisfying to be able to continue to do what I love in a new and challenging way," he said.

The CRC provides a workplace skills certification that businesses can directly connect to productivity, quality, business processes, and profitability. Supported by the Virginia Workforce Council, Chamber of Commerce, AFL-CIO and the Virginia Manufacturers Association, the CRC is a useful economic development tool.

With his certificate completed, Seidell visited VWCC's Hall Associates Career and Employment Assistance Center to have his resume reviewed. A community college employee put him in touch with Whitescarver, Obenchain & Hurd, an engineering firm in the Norfolk area.

He was hired on the spot.

Happy to have rejoined the workforce, Seidell said he has no intention of slowing down anytime soon.

"For now, my goal is to become very good at my work and learn even more. To simply live life, serve, and enjoy the blessings I have. I'm sure as time goes on new opportunities will arise."

Life.

"I've found that you're never too old to learn. There is a lot of self satisfaction in knowing something today that you didn't know yesterday."

What makes Seidell's ambitious endeavor to complete the CRC even more astounding is that he accomplished it right on

were around me so I never worried too much or got upset. I went straight into rehabilitation so that I could move on with my life," said Seidell.

Immediately following rehabilitation, Seidell enrolled in AutoCAD courses at VWCC to transfer his lifelong love of

"There is a lot of satisfaction in knowing something today that you didn't know yesterday."

"Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama begins a two-day visit to Virginia this morning with...a town hall meeting at Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville...Obama wraps up his latest Virginia swing with visits tomorrow to John Tyler Community College in Chester."

– Richmond Times-Dispatch 8/20/08



Virginia's Community Colleges are center stage for national education debate

As one of the best systems in the nation, Virginia's Community Colleges remain at the heart of the national conversation that is occurring about affordable access to higher education.

A Virginia Community College student was front and center when President George W. Bush signed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (right).

The importance of the community college mission has been discussed extensively by both major party presidential candidates throughout the campaign.

That included fall visits by Senator Barack Obama to both Patrick Henry Community College and John Tyler Community College.

Like the year before, when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of England sought to meet students and faculty members from Virginia's Community Colleges, the attention of such prominent officials is a reminder of the opportunity that community colleges provide to countless families and employers across both our commonwealth and country.

Rubbing elbows with Washington's power brokers

Margie Clark

In September 2007, Lord Fairfax Community College student Margie Clark spoke at LFCC's Women's Luncheon and met legendary journalist Helen Thomas. One week later, she met President George W. Bush. Clark, a high school dropout and single parent, represented Virginia's Community Colleges at the signing of the College Cost Reduction

and Access Act in Washington, D.C.

"I cannot put this experience into words. It was very exciting," said Clark, a Fauquier County resident and recent graduate of LFCC. "Meeting the president and senators was an enlightening experience. The president told me that community colleges have not received the recognition they have needed but are finally getting

the recognition they deserve. The senators said that community colleges need the recognition, because some of the most important things in education are happening at community colleges."

Despite the added pressure of working and raising her son, Clark graduated in May with a perfect 4.0 grade point average.



"The president told me that community colleges have not received the recognition they have needed but are finally getting the recognition they deserve."



Students in Free Enterprise repeat as national champions

The Blue Ridge Community College SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise) team returned to Weyers Cave as repeat National Champions after participating in the SIFE USA National Exposition held in Chicago last May.

The event drew more than 140 competing teams—with more than 3,000 students presenting their work to more than 650 business executives serving as judges.

During this academic year, the BRCC SIFE team organized numerous projects benefitting the Shenandoah Valley community, but also continued their support for areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, and added a new global project, creating a mini-economic system on the island of La Guanove.



Left to right: John Downey, Genelle Smith, Thomas Morris, Loc Doa, Moriah Klages, Tina Stelling, Advisor Randy Lilly, Deborah Maqsood, Ellen Wade, Advisor Rebecca Evans, Natalie Almarode, Ryan Krysiak, Martin Rees, James Perkins, Alexis Green, and Dameron Cubbage.

"From the beginning of my life I had obstacles but I didn't let that stop me."

'Can't'— another four-letter word

KeiKei White

For KeiKei White, graduating cum laude from Thomas Nelson Community College was only her latest significant triumph. Throughout her 28 years she has lived with a rare form of cerebral palsy that rendered her wheelchair-bound.

But this TNCC graduate's vocabulary lacks the word "can't."

"From the beginning of my life I had obstacles, but I didn't let that stop me," said White, explaining that she suffered a severe lack of oxygen at birth and spent the first 16 days of life hospitalized.

Although accompanied by an aide in daily activities, White is fiercely independent, getting her assignments done using a head stick. She holds memberships in several civic groups and volunteers community wide. "My mom took the word 'can't' out of my vocabulary. The word was just like a curse word in our household," she said.

A lifetime of activity shows her can-do spirit. Among her honors and achievements is a GI Joe Real American Hero award, presented with the Medallion of Merit by former Virginia Senator Charles Robb. She also serves on the



Hampton Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities.

Having graduated from TNCC with a 3.3 grade point average, the Hampton resident is pursuing a bachelor's degree in human services at Old Dominion University.

She aspires to a future in social advocacy fueled by her personal experiences, coupled with a desire to be a liaison between the court system and children with disabilities.

Germanna's history drives storyteller's imagination.



History is English instructor's legacy

Rob Sherwood

Telling Germanna's story made Rob Sherwood part of its history.

For years, Rob Sherwood refused to allow Parkinson's disease to slow him down when it came to his dual passions of teaching at Germanna Community College and his almost evangelistic promotion of Germanna history.

But Sherwood is human. And Parkinson's disease is brutal.

So the former Hollywood screenwriter turned Germanna English instructor and history buff is retiring because of the

progression of the disease first diagnosed in 2005.

When Sherwood arrived at Germanna in 1992, his storyteller's imagination was captured when he heard about Fort Germanna, established in 1714, and "the Enchanted Castle," the historic mansion built by Virginia Gov. Alexander Spotswood.

His fascination grew as he launched the Germanna Historical Legacy Series in 2003, an archive of 60 DVDs of presentations and events he hopes will help those

who wish to celebrate Germanna's history in the future.

Sherwood, who'd rather discuss Germanna history than himself, said nine places bore the name Germanna, beginning in 1714: a fort, a plantation, a county seat, a community, a mill, a river ford and a ferry.

Today, he added, that list has grown to a memorial foundation of descendants of the two Germanna colonies, a road, an archaeological site, "and an important community college."

Guardisman earns college credit 6,000 miles away

Eric Hoffman

Eric Hoffman thought his days in the Middle East were over when he returned from a year of active duty with the Tennessee Army National Guard in 2006 and enrolled as a student at Virginia Highlands Community College.

He majored in biology because his time in the arid climate Iraq made him appreciate the lush plants and diverse animal species visible every day from his home in

Southwest Virginia.

Hoffman returned to Iraq when his unit was reactivated. Instead of putting his education on hold, though, he found a way to continue his studies some 6,000 miles from campus.

Through distance education courses, Hoffman earned six college credits while serving his country, completing a psychology course and an independent

study in biology that focused on amphibians and reptiles of the Middle East.

"Distance education gave me the chance to stay in school even when I couldn't be on campus," he said. "My advice to other distance learning students would be to stay motivated and keep in touch with your professors at all times. Your classroom environment can be your living room or wherever you choose."

Now back in the U.S., Hoffman plans to become a full-time student once again. His ultimate goal is to become a park interpreter.



"Distance education gave me the chance to stay in school even when I couldn't be on campus."

"I knew it would just change my life if I had a better job."



Perseverance pays off for single mom turned nurse

Cheri Onuegbu

Seeking a way to save for her three children's college education prompted Cheri Onuegbu, a single mother, to pursue a nursing degree from Piedmont Virginia Community College. "I knew it would just change my life if I had a better job," she said.

Onuegbu found it tough at first to juggle the time, energy and money for college classes along with work and family responsibilities. "I wanted to quit school many times. Sometimes I still don't know how I made it."

When she started classes at PVCC, Onuegbu was afraid she had forgotten how to succeed in the classroom. "I thought it was my age but I learned it was about developing a work ethic." She sought tutoring, used the library and even repeated classes to make it through.

When money was scarce and there was only enough food to feed her children, she went without meals and applied for financial aid and PVCC Educational Foundation scholarships to pay for her

classes. When she thought about dropping out of the program, she leaned on family and friends for support and encouragement.

Her perseverance paid off and last spring she was honored along with 68 other nursing graduates during a special pinning ceremony at PVCC.

Onuegbu is employed with The Digestive Health Center of Excellence at the University of Virginia Health System. She plans to pursue a master's degree in nursing.

Laid-off workers find new careers in nursing

Diane Perdue and Tammy Burks Mace

Diane Perdue and Tammy Burks Mace had decent jobs and earned fairly good paychecks until unemployment struck them both three years ago.

Perdue was a care giver at a home for adults and Mace worked at an automotive parts plant. The home closed, and soon after, the plant also shut down.

They were devastated, financially and emotionally. "I had recently remarried and carried all of our health insurance," recalls Mace. Perdue grieved for the residents she had been caring for.

Mace and Perdue, who are both 44, graduated from different high schools, but remembered each other from vocational school. Perdue earned an associate's degree in business from Dabney S. Lancaster Community College in 1984.

With assistance from the Dislocated Workers program, Perdue and Mace entered the DSLCC nursing program in 2006, and both graduated with associate's degrees in May. Perdue realized she wanted to be a nurse after

taking care of family members, and Mace was finally able to pursue a longtime dream.

They've both landed positions at nearby Allegheny Regional Hospital.

"It's not easy coming back to school as a non-traditional

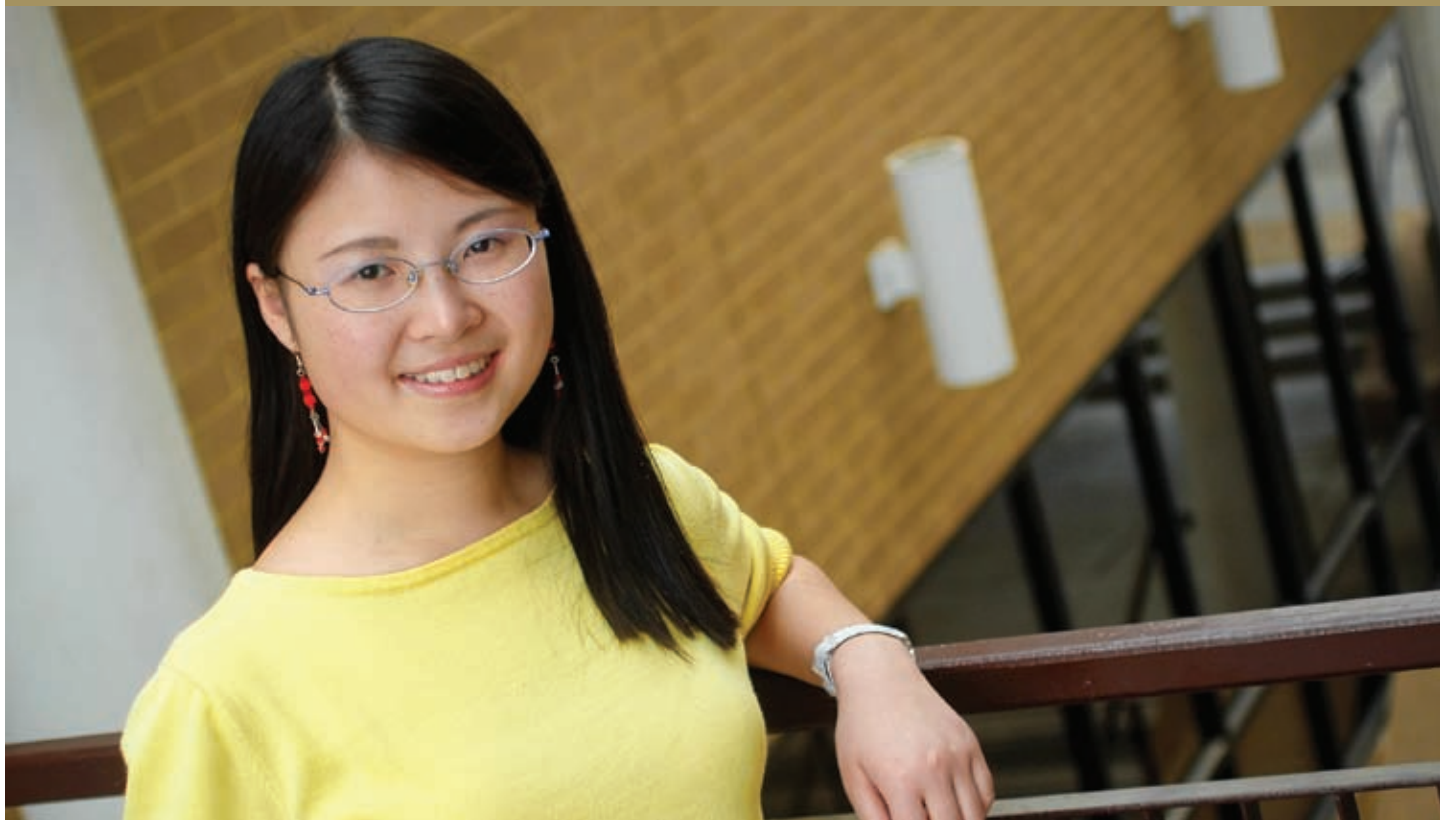
student," said Perdue. "It was a really tough curriculum. It's the hardest thing I've ever done, but it was a blessing," she added.

"It really turned my life upside down," said Mace. "I had an excellent education and I'm proud to be a DSLCC graduate."



"It was a really tough curriculum. It's the hardest thing I've ever done, but it was a blessing."

"I try to help anyone I can because I know how hard school can be."



NVCC eases immigrant's transition

Endy Yan

Northern Virginia Community College graduate Beihua "Endy" Yan was nervous before she began classes in 2006. Having just emigrated from China, she was worried about fitting in. Her fears quickly faded, however, as she found NVCC to be a friendly, nurturing environment that allowed her to thrive.

Yan quickly got involved by volunteering to tutor other students in the Manassas Campus Math Center and was soon hired as a student assistant. She also worked as a peer tutor and

student ambassador for the Counseling Center.

"I try to help anyone I can because I know how hard school can be," she said.

Her efforts were recognized in 2007 when she was singled out to receive the prestigious Glenn Fox Mathematics and Computer Science Scholarship, given by the Virginia Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges to one student at a Virginia community college who demonstrates potential for success.

This year she earned even

more accolades as a member of the 18th annual All-Virginia Academic Team.

When Yan graduated last May with a 3.95 grade point average, she also had acceptance letters from several four-year universities, including Pittsburgh, Tulane and Virginia Tech. She ultimately chose to attend the University of Virginia and believes her community college experience has prepared her to succeed.

"NOVA gave me this stage so I could stand high—and now I'm ready to stand even higher."

Researcher finds transfer numbers really add up

Amber Taylor

Amber Taylor never fails to study the numbers.

When she was weighing her options for college, she did her research and learned that starting at a community college would save her close to \$30,000. More research showed that her chosen career path—appropriately, scientific research—would ultimately require a doctorate.

So, Taylor earned her arts and sciences for transfer degree at John Tyler Community College in May 2008 and entered the bioinformatics program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Bioinformatics merges computer science, information technology and biology into a single discipline uniquely positioned to unlock the secrets of genetic molecular biology.

"Bioinformatics combines a lot of my interests," said Taylor, "but I am going to minor in environmental studies too. So many diseases today are tied not just to genetics, but environment. The more courses you take, the more you can see the connections."

But, not even a discipline as diverse as science can fully capture

Taylor's attention. In her final year at John Tyler, Taylor served as president of three clubs: the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the Art Club, and the Elements of Life Chemistry Club.

"The faculty at Tyler pushed me, and I can't wait to see what's next," says Taylor. "If the faculty at VCU are anything like the faculty at John Tyler, I know it will be great."



"The faculty at Tyler pushed me, and I can't wait to see what's next. If the faculty at VCU are anything like the faculty at John Tyler, I know it will be great."

"It was pretty amazing. I entered my final class project and won first place in a city art show—that really got me thinking of photography as a option."



Fine arts requirement leads to award-winning career

Rich Facun

Rich-Joseph Facun says he was a "young punk and teen father" when he first attended Tidewater Community College. But, feeling responsibility to support his child, he left college to work. At age 26 he rose to a respected employer's bait that he'd never finish college, and returned to TCC—this time with determination and focus.

While pursuing philosophy and religious studies, he took photography to satisfy a fine arts requirement.

"It was pretty amazing. I

entered my final class project and won first place in a city art show—that really got me thinking of photography as an option," said Facun.

Inspired by more classes and a workshop called "Truth with a Camera," Facun transferred to Ohio University, where he earned his bachelor's degree and held internships throughout the United States. He landed his first newspaper job in 2001.

A great believer in "doing it all," Rich has balanced his career

with being a sponsored skateboarder as well as father, husband and freelance photographer working on a book called *Rollin' Revival*.

His photography for *The Virginian-Pilot* recently earned him first place in the prestigious Pictures of the Year International competition, second place in the National Press Photographers Association's Best of Photojournalism competition, and six awards from the Virginia News Photographers Association.

TCC graduate earns a hard day's night

Angela DeBarry-Bailey

Angela DeBarry-Bailey is working the nightshift—and she couldn't be happier.

A new program at Tidewater Community College gave her the chance to pair her interest in clinical medicine with knowledge she gained from some nursing classes.

TCC's polysomnography certificate program, nicknamed "sleep," prepares technicians to work in the growing field of sleep-evidenced illness such as sleep apnea, restless legs syndrome, insomnia, narcolepsy and post-traumatic stress.

"I've always been interested in the clinical side of medicine, and 'sleep' is a perfect fit," said DeBarry-Bailey. She found the field intriguing a few years ago when she worked as a receptionist at a sleep lab in Missouri. But at that time, sleep therapy required a full RT degree, something she couldn't take on with a Navy husband and a growing family.

"It's a big responsibility," she explained. "What we do is monitor many areas in a night—from oxygen levels to heart to brain to basic patient care."

She also handles records and

paperwork, delivers data to doctors, and starts off by evaluating each patient's mental state.

DeBarry-Bailey said the

highlight for her is having personal time with patients.

"It gives me a high that they're comfortable relying on me."



"It's a big responsibility. What we do is monitor many areas in a night—from oxygen levels to heart to brain to basic patient care."

Blue Ridge's brogue

Karl Murphy

Karl Murphy knew working in Ireland's version of Wal Mart wasn't allowing him to live up to his potential. That desire for something bigger brought him to America, and then to Blue Ridge Community College.

"It's amazing," says the 25-year-old Dublin native. "I'm very fortunate." Murphy eventually wants to transfer to either UVA or JMU and believes his community

college education will prepare him well for that. "The teachers are very passionate. They make me want to be in class. They make the material come alive. I love their style of teaching. This is such a good place."

During the summer, Murphy works as an adventure counselor facilitating team-building activities. Spending so much time in Virginia's wilderness, he said, has

made him fall in love with it.

Currently, he is pursuing an associate's degree in the transfer program at Blue Ridge, and is enrolled in the college's Leadership Learning Community.

Murphy is aiming for a career as "a life coach or success coach."

That's a career that he said will involve "working with people to help them develop to their full potential."



"The teachers are very passionate. They make me want to be in class. They make the material come alive. I love their style of teaching. This is such a good place."

"If you go to a small college like DCC, you have everything you need. In a large university, you are just one more."

Brazilian native engineering his future in Danville

Charles Terrell

Charles Terrell's long trek from Brazil to Danville Community College was a comedy of errors. Language barriers, missed airplanes and bureaucratic red tape led the 18-year-old engineering student to miss the first two weeks of classes. But he caught up and finished his first year with a 3.55 grade point average.

Terrell, whose native language is Portuguese, comes from a city of 110,000 people—much larger than Danville. He studied high school and college-level English in Brazil, but his command of the language has grown dramatically while living here.

"Most Brazilians can read English, but they may not speak it well," he said.

Terrell said the differences between the U.S and Brazil in language, culture and education are stark.

"I find that the teachers and professors here at DCC teach because they love it, and they treat you like an adult. In Brazil, in the large classes, they (the professors) are there (it seems) just because of



the money," he said. "If you go to a small college like DCC you have everything you need. In a large university, you are just one more."

After graduating from DCC, Terrell plans to transfer to a four-year university and continue his engineering studies.

Raising awareness across cultures

Gabriela Toletti

A “foreign” culture needs to get under your skin—felt through the land you walk and the people you meet, and planted into your sense of language, says Uruguayan

native Gabriela Toletti, professor and foreign languages coordinator at Tidewater Community College.

Toletti resonates with her love of language and culture. At TCC



“Community college students are perfect for this comprehensive study abroad.”

since 2003, she has helped expand study-abroad options, most recently with a pilot dual-class program to Uruguay planned for next spring. The pilot, a Learning Community experience, will include immersion in Uruguayan culture, history and language. An avid study-abroad proponent, she has also led trips to Argentina, Costa Rica, Spain and Uruguay.

“Community college students are perfect for this comprehensive study abroad,” said Toletti, who earned multiple degrees from institutions in both Uruguay and the U.S. “Our students value using their time in another country to cover coursework while also relating to the people and culture.”

Toletti, who has dual citizenship in the U.S. and Uruguay, notes her native country’s—and her own—mixed-European heritage. “Knowing and valuing my mixed roots of Portuguese, Swiss, Italian and Spanish feeds my passionate love of teaching across cultures.”

Active in the TCC community, Gabriela won recognition from TCC’s student honors society and chaired the 2007 Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.

BRCC student working to be Haiti’s Hope

Patrick Eugene

Patrick Eugene is working hard to give back to his college and the community it serves. But it is giving back to his native country that really motivates him. So it’s no surprise the Blue Ridge Community College student is part of a group that is working to elevate the education level of Haiti.

Eugene says that widespread lack of education in Haiti is the root of many of the country’s problems. “We need well-educated people over there to help the country go further,” he explains. Patrick is an active member of “Haiti’s Hope,” a non-profit organization whose mission is to help educate the children of Haiti.

“We have been helping a lot of children going to school in Haiti. We now need more support, and partnerships to fund the education of those kids.” While in the U.S., Eugene looks for opportunities to educate others about Haiti, its challenges and the work of “Haiti’s Hope.”

Eugene is also serving people locally through his participation in several BRCC student



organizations, including the Spectrum Multi-Cultural Club, SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise), SGA, and Student Ambassadors.

After completing his associate’s degree, Eugene plans to

transfer to either George Mason University or Eastern Mennonite University to study computer science, then return to Haiti to continue work with Haiti’s Hope.

“We need well-educated people over there to help the country go further.”

"We made our schedules together. And I knew when I had to miss class they would keep me caught up."—Shea Shuler



MECC yields degrees and friendship for three women

Shea Shuler, Tina Willis and Brenda Banks (left to right)

One might think that managing a household with six children would keep Tina Willis from going back to school.

But at age 32, she realized, "I did not want to get stuck in a dead-end job, and I want my girls to understand how to prepare to take care of themselves."

Willis overcame her fears of inadequacy after dropping out of college at age 17, and graduated with an associate's degree in business management and accounting. But she found much more than an education at Mountain Empire Community College. She found friendship and mutual support from fellow students Brenda Banks and Shea Shuler.

Their professor and advisor

Gary Bumgarner calls them "the three amigos." Most likely, he said, none of them would have graduated without the help of the others.

Brenda Banks returned to college after determining she could no longer handle the physical demands of being a nurse. She refused to listen to critics who said she was too old to go back to school.

"I wanted to show my grandson that I could get more education and not have to wallow in my sorrows," she said.

Shea Shuler's drawback to college was her two young daughters. "I wanted them to know Mommy could do this and be a role model for them." But

she adds, "I was petrified. Brenda saved me the first day of class when she said, 'Come on in and sit down.' She was my lifesaver."

Completing their degrees in two years is evidence of the support these women gave to each other. Less than one in five of their fellow students complete their degrees within two years due to the demands of work, family and college.

"We made our schedules together," said Shuler. "And I knew when I had to miss class they would keep me caught up."

As all three seek ways to put their new degrees to work for them, their future is sure to include each other.

94-year-old lawyer attends GCC to remain competitive

Claire Ducker

Ninety-four-year-old Claire O. Ducker, Sr. wanted to start telecommuting from his Orange County home to his Washington-area law firm.

But to do that, he had to learn Windows Vista. So last fall he signed up for a computer course at Germanna Community College, where he cheerfully sat in a classroom with 19- and 20-year-olds.

Other students in the Information Technology Essentials class didn't realize how old Ducker was, said his instructor, Karey Sayre.

"He's pretty spry for his age."

"I thought he was in his 60s!" said a 21-year-old classmate.

While Ducker says he appreciates lifelong learning, he took the class because he needed to stay competitive in his career.

"The reason I took the class is because one has to be knowledgeable in computers, or, of course, one is so old-fashioned, you're in another century," Ducker said. "I had heretofore only used them as a printing press to write legal briefs and so forth."

His computer use became more involved, in part because courts now require that e-mail be used for just about every filing.

"You don't have to be a lawyer, or even work in a white collar job, to benefit from computer research," Ducker said. "Now you can stay home and go to the library via computer—and do it in a fraction of the time."

"It's almost like learning how to read and write now."



"You don't have to be a lawyer, or even work in a white collar job, to benefit from computer research."

DCC student finds opportunity made in America

Shawn Crews

Little did Shawn Crews know that enrolling in a program would take him half-way across the globe, but that's exactly what happened to the former security

guard and Danville Community College student.

Crews and the rest of his manufacturing technician class were hired immediately at the end

of their 10-week program. Their new employer, Swedish furniture manufacturer Ikea, flew Crews and about two dozen other employees to Poland for six weeks of further training. It was Crews' first transatlantic flight.

"It was a chance of a lifetime—that's the only way to describe it," the 32-year old Crews said smiling. He's now working on Swedwood's paper foil line. Ikea, with more than a dozen plants located throughout Europe, recently chose Danville as the site for its first North American manufacturing plant. The potential workforce was a key factor in the decision to locate here.

The DCC Manufacturing Technician Career Studies program, developed by the college's Workforce Services office, was rigorous, but Crews said through it he learned various aspects of manufacturing and business ethics. The program supplemented that preparation with live interviews with prospective employers.

"I got an opportunity to do some things I had never done before and this has helped me a lot," Crews said. "I am grateful to DCC for the experience."



"I got an opportunity to do some things I had never done before and this has helped me a lot. I am grateful to DCC for the experience."

2007-08 Unduplicated Headcount and Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment

| College | Unduplicated Headcount | Full-Time Equivalent |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Blue Ridge | 5,765 | 2,623 |
| Central Virginia | 7,095 | 2,466 |
| Dabney S. Lancaster | 1,955 | 768 |
| Danville | 6,491 | 2,508 |
| Eastern Shore | 1,215 | 542 |
| Germanna | 8,184 | 3,368 |
| J. Sargeant Reynolds | 18,685 | 6,883 |
| John Tyler | 11,575 | 4,484 |
| Lord Fairfax | 7,669 | 3,076 |
| Mountain Empire | 4,312 | 1,918 |
| New River | 7,240 | 2,851 |
| Northern Virginia | 64,454 | 27,725 |
| Patrick Henry | 4,203 | 1,844 |
| Paul D. Camp | 2,318 | 869 |
| Piedmont Virginia | 6,598 | 2,456 |
| Rappahannock | 4,439 | 1,598 |
| Southside Virginia | 7,980 | 3,188 |
| Southwest Virginia | 5,807 | 2,324 |
| Thomas Nelson | 13,932 | 5,540 |
| Tidewater | 38,701 | 17,190 |
| Virginia Highlands | 3,532 | 1,572 |
| Virginia Western | 12,788 | 4,303 |
| Wytheville | 4,357 | 1,793 |
| VCCS Total | 249,295 | 101,889 |



Sixteen high school students graduated with an associate degree from Patrick Henry Community College and transferred to a four-year college or university at virtually the same time they earned their high school diploma, thanks to the Accelerated College Education program. ACE, the latest in transitional partnerships with area high schools in the college's service region, is unique to PHCC within the Virginia Community College System.

Academically gifted students in their junior and senior years at high school can dually enroll and take classes to earn the General Studies degree for transfer. Every one of the 16 graduates were accepted to the university of first choice.

JTCC graduate blasting through stereotype

Jennifer Carter

Jennifer Carter is not the kind of girl who is afraid to get her hands dirty.

“People are sometimes

surprised at what I do, but I love it,” she said.

Five days a week, Carter clocks in at Plan B Design and Fabrication



“People are sometimes surprised at what I do, but I love it.”

in Richmond, flips on the classic rock, pulls out her welding equipment, and gets to work creating complex equipment used in the area’s top manufacturing plants.

Carter measures her designs, rolls metal, and when she’s ready, lights her welding torches and, as sparks fly, joins metal with heat.

It’s a job that requires expert knowledge of the fundamentals of arc and gas welding, as well as materials, product design, and shop safety—all of which Carter mastered through the welding program at John Tyler Community College.

Carter is one of five graduates featured this year in a “Success Defined” campaign at John Tyler Community College.

The college’s certificate in welding is designed to prepare students for work as apprentice welders and is less than two years in length. A shorter career studies certificate program in welding is also available.

State Board for Community Colleges



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Danville



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Jeffery K. Mitchell
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R. Michael Mohler
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The 15-member State Board for Community Colleges is appointed by the Governor to govern the Virginia Community College System. Danny Hunley, of Newport News, joined the board in July 2008, replacing former member C. Michael Petters. Robert W. Shinn of Richmond succeeded Mark R. Graham as chair of the State Board for 2008-09. Gary C. Hancock of Pulaski is vice chair.

REVENUES

OPERATING REVENUES

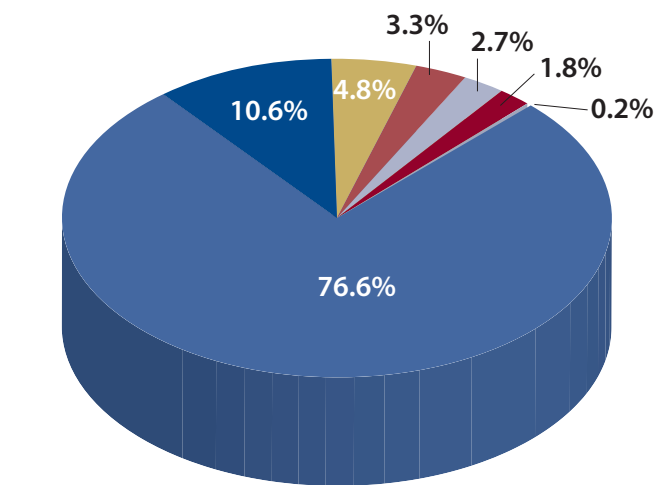
| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Tuition and fees | \$234,977,492 |
| Federal grants and contracts | \$32,623,213 |
| State and local grants | \$5,671,565 |
| Nongovernmental grants | \$8,185,566 |
| Sales/services of education departments | \$476,083 |
| Auxiliary enterprises | \$14,619,354 |
| Other operating revenues | \$10,064,705 |
| TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES | \$306,617,978 |

NONOPERATING REVENUES

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| State appropriations | \$418,389,172 |
| Local appropriations | \$2,015,960 |
| Non-exchange gifts | \$98,508,257 |
| Investment income | \$6,806,812 |
| NET NONOPERATING REVENUES | \$525,720,201 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Capital appropriations - state and local | 74,943,443 |
| Capital gifts and grants | 8,971,270 |

TOTAL REVENUES 916,252,892



- Tuition and fees
- Federal grants and contracts
- Auxiliary enterprises
- Other operating revenues
- Nongovernmental grants
- State and local grants
- Sales/services of education departments

Prepared on accrual basis of accounting in accordance with GASB Statement Number 35. Includes all fund groups. Does not include the VCCS foundations.

EXPENSES

OPERATING EXPENSES

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Instruction | \$391,328,596 |
| Public service | \$5,192,762 |
| Academic support | \$73,461,709 |
| Student services | \$60,891,648 |
| Institutional support | \$156,406,530 |
| Operation and maintenance | \$81,475,854 |
| Scholarships and fellowships | \$62,812,384 |
| Auxiliary enterprises | \$12,262,336 |
| Other expenses | \$521,407 |
| TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES | \$844,353,226 |

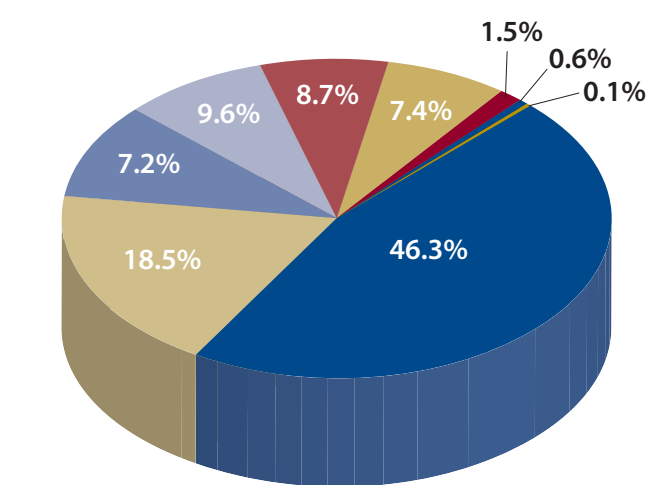
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES \$844,353,226

NONOPERATING EXPENSES

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Interest on capital asset related debt | \$2,426,830 |
| Other nonoperating expenses | \$90,589 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$846,870,645 |

TOTAL EXPENSES \$846,870,645

Increase in VCCS Net Assets \$69,382,247



- Instruction
- Institutional support
- Operation and maintenance
- Academic support
- Scholarships and fellowships
- Student services
- Public service
- Auxiliary enterprises
- Other expenses

Community College Presidents



Dr. James R. Perkins
Blue Ridge
Post Office Box 80
Weyers Cave, Virginia 24486

Dr. Darrel W. Staat
Central Virginia
3506 Wards Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

Dr. Richard R. Teaff
Dabney S. Lancaster
Post Office Box 1000
Clifton Forge, Virginia 24422-1000

Dr. B. Carlyle Ramsey
Danville
1008 S. Main Street
Danville, Virginia 24541

Dr. Cheryl Thompson-Stacy
Eastern Shore
29300 Lankford Highway
Melfa, Virginia 23410

Dr. David A. Sam
Germanna
Locust Grove Campus
2130 Germanna Highway
Locust Grove, Virginia 22508
Fredericksburg Area Campus
10000 Germanna Point Drive
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22408

Dr. Gary L. Rhodes
J. Sargeant Reynolds
Downtown Campus
P. O. Box 85622
Richmond, Virginia 23285-5622
Parham Road Campus
P. O. Box 85622
Richmond, Virginia 23285-5622
Western Campus
P. O. Box 85622
Richmond, Virginia 23285-5622

Dr. Marshall W. Smith
John Tyler
Chester Campus
13101 Jefferson Davis Highway
Chester, Virginia 23831
Midlothian Campus
800 Charter Colony Parkway
Midlothian, Virginia 23114-4383

Dr. John S. Capps, Interim
Lord Fairfax
Middletown Campus
173 Skirmisher Lane
Middletown, Virginia 22645
Fauquier Campus
6480 College Street
Warrenton, Virginia 20187-8820

Dr. Terrance E. Suarez
Mountain Empire
3441 Mountain Empire Road
Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219

Dr. Jack M. Lewis
New River
P. O. Box 1127
Dublin, Virginia 24084

Dr. Robert G. Templin, Jr.
Northern Virginia
Alexandria Campus
3001 N. Beauregard Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22311
Annandale Campus
8333 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, Virginia 22003

Dr. Elizabeth H. Crowther
Rappahannock
Glenns Campus
12745 College Drive
Glenns, Virginia 23149
Warsaw Campus
52 Campus Drive
Warsaw, Virginia 22572
Loudoun Campus
1000 Harry Flood Byrd Highway
Sterling, Virginia 20164-8699
Manassas Campus
6901 Sudley Road
Manassas, Virginia 20109
Medical Education Campus
6699 Springfield Center Drive
Springfield, Virginia 22150
Woodbridge Campus
15200 Neabsco Mills Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22191

Dr. Max F. Wingett
Patrick Henry
Post Office Box 5311
Martinsville, Virginia 24115

Dr. Douglas W. Boyce
Paul D. Camp
Franklin Campus
Post Office Box 737
Franklin, Virginia 23851
Oliver Kermit Hobbs Campus
Post Office Box 500
Suffolk, Virginia 23439

Dr. Frank Friedman
Piedmont Virginia
501 College Drive
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902-7589

Dr. Elizabeth H. Crowther
Rappahannock
Glenns Campus
12745 College Drive
Glenns, Virginia 23149
Warsaw Campus
52 Campus Drive
Warsaw, Virginia 22572

Dr. John J. Cavan
Southside Virginia
Christanna Campus
109 Campus Drive
Alberta, Virginia 23821
John H. Daniel Campus
200 Daniel Road
Keysville, Virginia 23947

Dr. J. Mark Estep
Southwest Virginia
Post Office Box SVCC
Richlands, Virginia 24641

Dr. Charles A. Taylor
Thomas Nelson
Hampton Campus
Post Office Box 9407
Hampton, Virginia 23670
Historic Triangle Campus
161-C John Jefferson Square
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Dr. Glenn DuBois (left) with
Dr. Charlie White at White's
inauguration as president of
Wytheville Community College.

Dr. Deborah M. DiCroce
Tidewater
Chesapeake Campus
1428 Cedar Road
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320
Thomas W. Moss, Jr. Norfolk
Campus
300 Granby Street
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

Dr. John J. Cavan
Southside Virginia
Christanna Campus
109 Campus Drive
Alberta, Virginia 23821
John H. Daniel Campus
200 Daniel Road
Keysville, Virginia 23947

Dr. F. David Wilkin
Virginia Highlands
Post Office Box 828
Abingdon, Virginia 24212-0828

Dr. Robert H. Sandel
Virginia Western
Post Office Box 14007
Roanoke, Virginia 24038-4007

Dr. Charlie White
Wytheville
1000 East Main Street
Wytheville, Virginia 24382



Opportunities for *Building* a Better

Virginia's Community Colleges provide the foundation on which the current and future workforce can succeed. Through a diversity of programs and services, colleges help businesses meet their goals and individuals improve their skills. Last year, more than 234,000 people benefited from our programs, a 23 percent increase over the previous year's total.

For the incumbent worker, Virginia's Community Colleges meet businesses' training objectives by enhancing the skills of employees. Such efforts result in increased productivity, higher earnings, and company growth. Last year, over 160,000 individuals completed workforce courses, many of which were specifically customized to meet a business need. A recent economic study showed that these

courses contribute to a nearly 9 to 1 ratio of benefit to cost.

Community college programs also help employees gain portable credentials. The Career Readiness Certificate certifies employability skills in the areas of applied mathematics, locating information and reading for information. The program is endorsed by leading business organizations, including the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and the Virginia Manufacturers Association.

Virginia's Community Colleges prepare the emerging workforce by providing students with greater access to career options. These career pathway programs and services feature academic, technical and employment assessments and facilitate student progression through higher educational levels.

at Rappahannock Community College. With strong support from local school divisions, Career Coaches helped over 40,000 students in 140 high schools explore career and educational opportunities.

Businesses looking to locate or expand in Virginia increasingly are turning toward our workforce programs and services. Some need fast, flexible and customized training programs. Others want the assurance of a qualified workforce for long-term growth. We are excited to be partners with many of the businesses that have announced plans to establish or expand operations in Virginia over the past year.

With pride in our accomplishment of serving students and businesses, we know that finding

Career.

Left: Stefan Brooks is an expert on building. With an associate's degree in architectural engineering technology from John Tyler Community College, two career certificates and a bachelor's degree in engineering technology, he now works as a licensed professional engineer. For Brooks, building a better career began at a community college.

Middle College and Career Coaches continue to realize impressive rates of success. Developed to help young adults earn a high school credential and continue their education, Middle College enrolled over 800 students last year and added a sixth location

innovative ways to help businesses and employees obtain the skills and knowledge they need to succeed remains critical. Ever looking forward, we continue to seek opportunities to help Virginians build a better career.

"The experience has really drawn our family closer together."



Family learns and grows together

Pam and Kim Moreno

On a class trip to the Kluge Vineyard, Kim Moreno vividly remembers Gabriel Rause, who has been called the father of viticulture in Virginia, showing him the correct pruning technique.

That is the kind of hands-on, real world experience found in Piedmont Virginia Community College's viticulture program.

Originally from California's wine country, Kim and his wife Pam moved to Virginia in the late 1990s. After Kim retired from the federal courts in Harrisonburg, the Morenos moved to Madison County to embrace a lifelong goal

of planting a vineyard and starting a winery with Kim's brother.

They learned early on in the development phase that they needed help with the vineyard layout, planting and initial pruning, as well as an understanding of local growing requirements and technical know-how.

Moreno, who learned of the PVCC program through the local media, said "the PVCC program will expose you to the realities of the vineyard and winery operations." Beyond that, the Morenos enjoyed the camaraderie of students, faculty and the many

wine industry experts who invited students to their facilities.

"The experience has really drawn our family closer together," said Pam Moreno, who enjoys the feeling they are serving as "good stewards of the earth's natural resources."

The Morenos plan to continue growing quality fruit, making excellent wines and successfully marketing their product under their label of Neala Estate Vineyard as they contribute to the exponential growth of Virginia's wine industry.

Partnerships for working professionals

Karen Mays

Karen Mays is one of many Genworth employees taking advantage of customized training opportunities to expand her knowledge and improve productivity—thanks to a special partnership her company has with Virginia's Community Colleges.

Through the Community College Workforce Alliance, businesses such as Genworth Financial, based in Richmond, are able to provide customized training to their employees. CCWA, a partnership between J. Sargeant Reynolds and John Tyler Community Colleges, provides non-credit training, customized instruction,

consulting, skills assessment and educational programs.

Mays, a graduate of Reynolds, said it's important for industry and education to recognize their intrinsic connection.

"The content, level of professionalism and quality of instruction have been most appealing," Mays said. "They cater to working professionals—that is something I truly appreciate."

Since the start of their partnership in 2004, Genworth and CCWA have launched a co-branded Web site that allows Genworth employees across the world to sign up for community college courses. It also

allows administrators to review curriculum and instructors to interact with students.

"Community colleges provide flexible, responsive and quality curriculum to businesses across the nation, but we are more than a vendor of services, we are partners with industry," said Cara Dillard, assistant vice president for contract training for CCWA.

"The success of this partnership speaks volumes about the influence community colleges have in business and industry. My hope is that it will serve as a gateway to more partnership opportunities in the future," she said.



"They cater to working professionals—that is something I truly appreciate."

"When I went to sign up for my college classes, I wasn't afraid or intimidated. I belong in college."



Confidence in the classroom

Andrea Thaxton

"You must say, 'This year, I'm not going to be where I was last year,'" said Andrea Thaxton.

Heeding her own words, the Southside Virginia Community College student is proud of how far she's come, thanks to the Middle College program.

Thaxton enrolled in Middle College at Southside Virginia Community College in May 2007,

feeling intimidated and nervous.

She had dropped out of high school just two credits shy of graduating to take care of her child. She soon realized that opportunities were limited without an education, so she and her husband explored the options at a local community college.

"I was afraid of how people would look at me. At 24, I was the

oldest in class, but my instructor was patient and had faith in me. I had heard 'no' a lot. In class, it was so great to hear 'yes' again and again. You have to hear 'yes' many times for it to sink in."

Offered at five community colleges, Middle College allows individuals lacking a high school diploma to pursue a high school credential, community college education and workforce certification in a college environment.

Thaxton earned her high school credential in July 2007—after only two months of preparation classes. Through the Middle College program at SsVCC she soon found a job opportunity at the Virginia Tech Halifax Initiative, working with Dr. Michael Moore at Riverstone Industrial Park. Now, she's back at Southside pursuing a college degree.

"Andrea's dedication and determination to continue improving her future is inspiring. She brings a strong work ethic and a positive attitude to the office every day," Moore said.

"I couldn't have gotten my job without a high school credential," said Thaxton. "Earning great scores made me feel proud and confident. When I went to sign up for my college classes, I wasn't afraid or intimidated. I belong in college."

Learning—the sky's the limit

Nicole Justis

"When you find something you really enjoy doing, you learn to love learning," said Nicole Justis, valedictorian of Eastern Shore Community College.

The road to success was turbulent at times, Justis said.

Originally from Montreal, Canada, she was apprehensive about her ability to understand English on a college level. And having graduated from high school almost 20 years earlier, the wife and mother of three wasn't sure she could keep up with classmates half her age.

"I knew that I needed to do something to better myself but I was worried about stretching myself too thin and I lacked confidence in my abilities," she said.

Night classes and flexible instructors allowed her to find success at her own pace. She excelled in the electronics program, and transferred her love of learning to a new job at BaySys Technologies, where she works as an avionics installation technician.

Institutes of Excellence funding supports programs like Justis's that prepare employees

for high-demand, high-wage occupations. Each year, more than \$500,000 is awarded to community colleges to develop programs, courses or delivery methods to meet local workforce development needs.

Justis is grateful for the electronics program and credits her education at ESCC for landing her a job that lets her "fly."

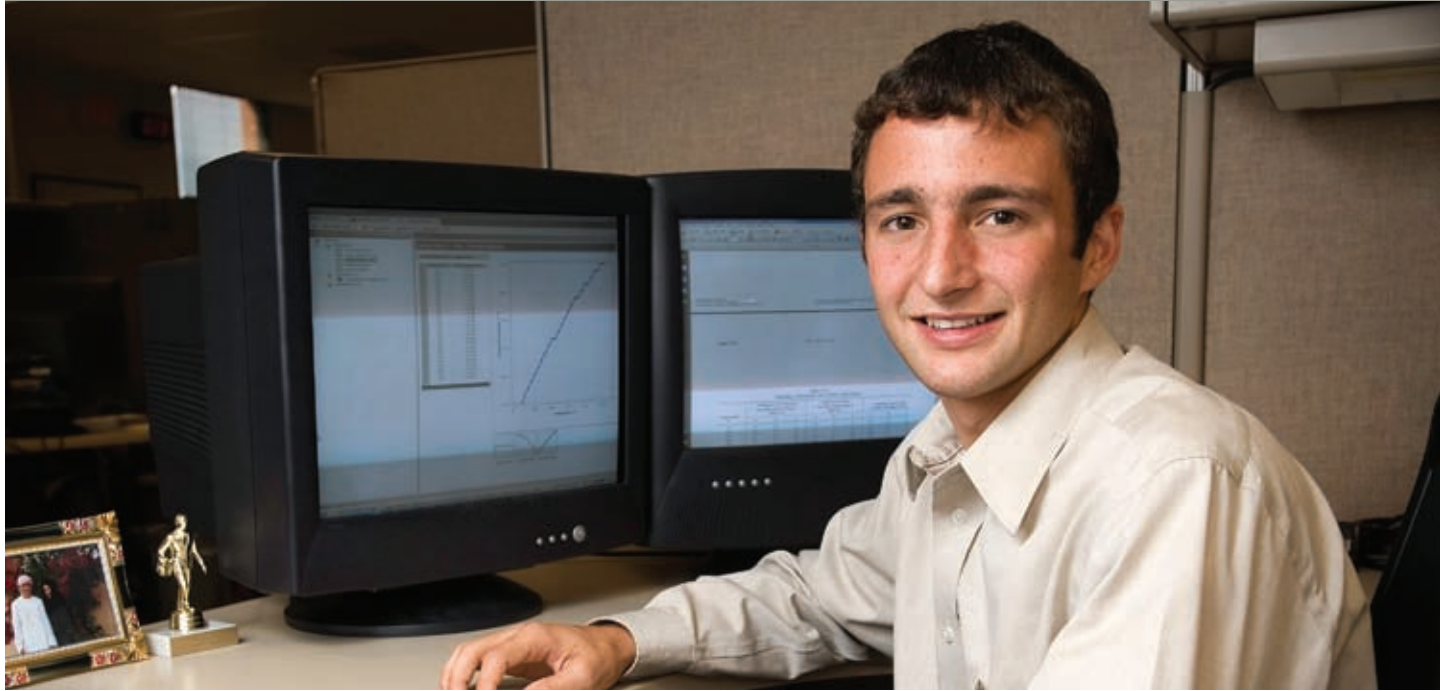
"Every day I work on airplanes that have been stripped to their bare bones and I help add in the pieces that make it a whole. My coursework in electronics really prepared me for this type of job, but there is always more to learn."

The sky's the limit.



"Every day I work on airplanes that have been stripped to their bare bones and I help add in the pieces that make it a whole. My coursework in electronics really prepared me for this type of job, but there is always more to learn."

"We're all given abilities and opportunities in this life and it is up to us to take advantage of them. You don't have to leave home to do something meaningful."



Uncovering new opportunities at home

Greg Troyer

For Greg Troyer, home is where the heart is. Growing up and working in the rural community of Gladys, he never had any intention of leaving.

Troyer worked on a dairy farm and wood-working shop while in high school. Completing high school a year early, he went into the construction business.

Unsure of his career goals, he began taking courses at Central Virginia Community College, conveniently located near his home and work. He found himself drawn to the engineering program.

"There are a lot of opportunities for engineering in the Lynchburg-area. Knowing that I

wanted to live and work in this area, when I saw the demand for engineers I thought it was a good fit for me," he said.

He applied for a competitive engineering sponsorship program provided through a partnership between CVCC, University of Virginia and AREVA NP, a global nuclear company with an important presence in Central Virginia. Accepted into the program as a freshman, AREVA will pay for Troyer's education and will provide him with summer internships and other employment possibilities.

AREVA employs about 1,700 people in Lynchburg and sponsors about 45 aspiring engineers. Stan

Shoun, vice president for workforce development and continuing education at CVCC, says that one goal of the program is to keep local talent for local companies.

Troyer will pursue a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Virginia while remaining on the CVCC campus. He said that he is thankful to CVCC and AREVA for the ability to attend college and pursue a challenging career in the hometown he loves.

"We're all given abilities and opportunities in this life and it is up to us to take advantage of them. You don't have to leave home to do something meaningful."

Taking a step in the right direction

Elizabeth Palmer

Elizabeth Palmer wasn't always sure that college was the right path for her.

After graduating from high school, she was hired as a machine operator at Specialty Blades Incorporated, a blade cutting and manufacturing company in the Shenandoah Valley. She saw no reason to pursue college until she was approached by managers at her company – who encouraged her to sharpen her skills by enrolling in a few courses at Blue Ridge Community College.

"I didn't think I would be able to work and go to school at the same time but everyone at Specialty Blades was flexible and supportive," Palmer said.

Her instructor, Jim Leech, tries to show students that by understanding not only technical skills, but also how a manufacturing business operates, they can set higher career goals than they ever thought possible.

That's exactly what Palmer plans to do. Following her studies at BRCC, she hopes to transfer to a four-year institution, while exploring opportunities for growth.

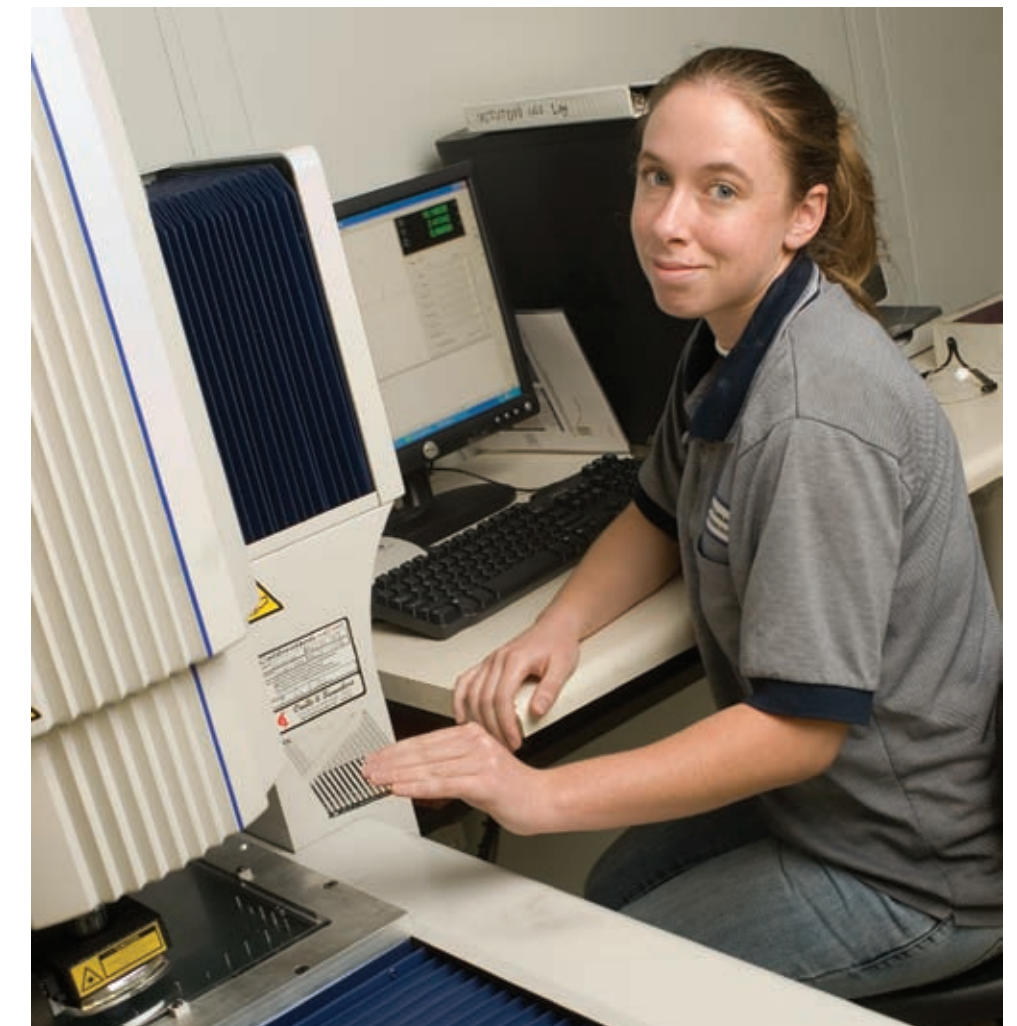
A new Department of Labor grant awarded to Blue Ridge's manufacturing program allows

other students to have experiences like hers. The \$1.9 million grant will be used to benefit students, faculty and local industry.

According to grant director Lester Smith, among the goals of the grant are providing scholarships for manufacturing students, creating a Regional Manufacturing Center, adding a full-time faculty member and providing assistance

to local manufacturers for training. The grant will also provide funding for youth outreach activities to build a pipeline of students from elementary, middle and high school for the manufacturing career pathway.

With her sights set on management one day, Palmer said "community college was the right step on my career path."



"Community college was the right step on my career path."

"With the additional stress that senior year can bring, don't make it any harder by not knowing what you need to fill out for college. Career coaches are here to help you."



Jump starting an education

Hannah Spicer

Like most high school seniors, Hannah Spicer was excited about the idea of attending college. Unfortunately, she wasn't sure exactly how to get there.

"It hit me that I had no idea what I was supposed to turn in or fill out for college. I was completely out of the loop," she said.

She turned to a Wytheville Community College career coach working at her high school

for help. Community college employees housed in local high schools, career coaches offer unique benefits to students that traditional guidance counseling may not, such as direct access to college programs and services, postsecondary faculty and business and industry.

"I enjoy this opportunity so much because my focus is strictly on students. I don't have the

administrative responsibilities that guidance counselors do so I have the flexibility and freedom to work with students," said Anita Aymer, who has been a career coach since the program started in 2005.

Spicer, who comes from a large family, needed guidance on her options—financial aid and college applications.

"My mom is a widow with four children and my oldest brother is handicapped. We all live at home and she works full time, so she didn't really have the time to assist me with all of my college stuff. Ms. Aymer gave me the jump start that I needed by assisting me with my FAFSA forms, financial aid and by helping me remember deadlines," said Spicer.

With Aymer's help, Spicer learned about the Wythe-Bland scholarship, which provides two years of tuition at Wytheville Community College to qualified graduates of Wythe and Bland County high schools.

Now a new student at WCC, Spicer is grateful for the guidance she received and advises other high school seniors to take advantage of this resource.

"With the additional stress that senior year can bring, don't make it any harder by not knowing what you need to fill out for college. Career coaches are here to help you," she said.

Elevating standards for excellence

Carlene Alix

"I absolutely love my job. Every day I get to care for people, spend time with them and advocate for them. It is absolutely the best job in the world," said Carlene Alix, a clinical technician in the post surgical unit at Inova Loudoun Hospital in Leesburg.

With a passion for her patients and a dedication to providing quality care, it's no surprise Carlene was chosen by Inova to complete the clinical technician program at Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education Campus. These apprenticeship-related instruction classes provides apprentices with training related to their trade.

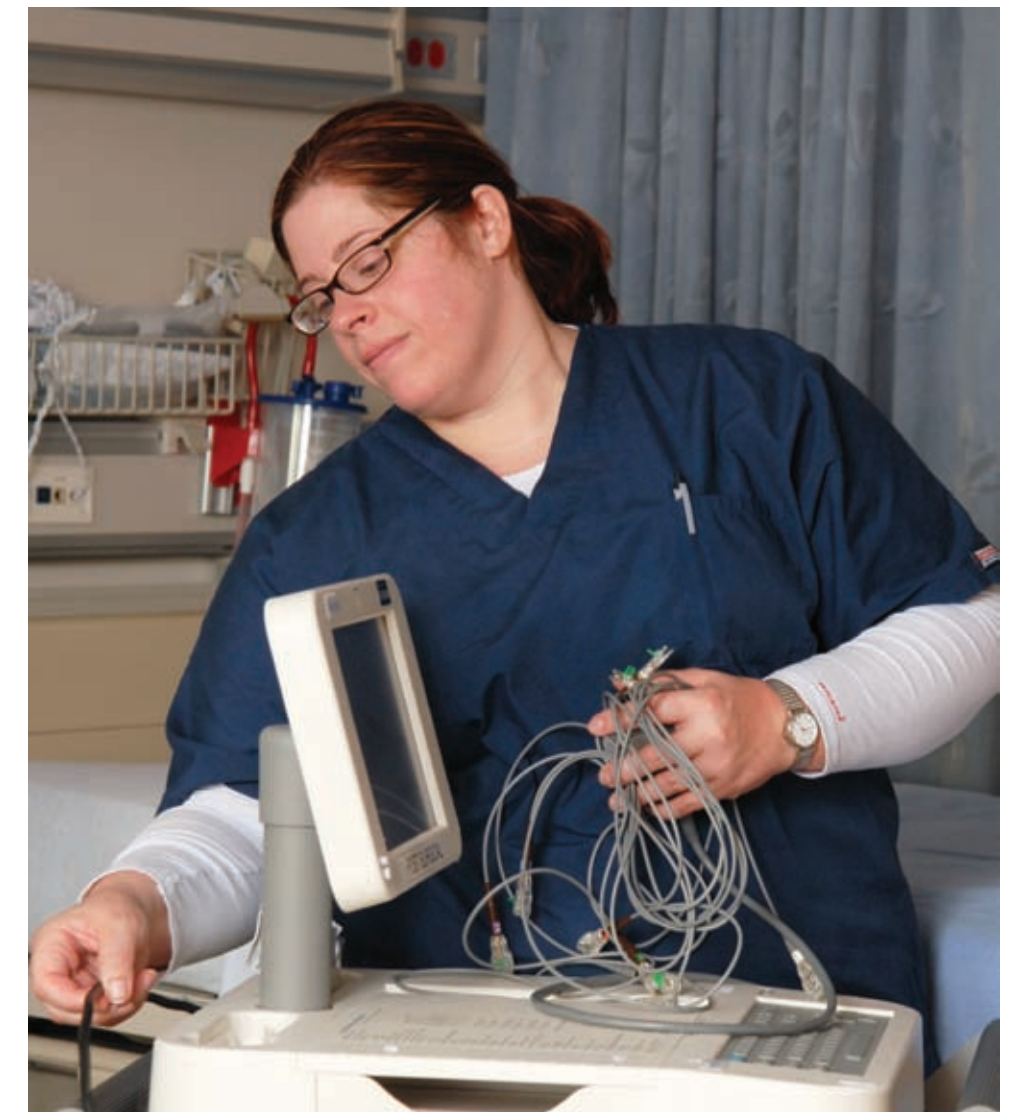
Alix was a certified nursing assistant for eight years before enrolling in the clinical technician program. She gladly takes advantage of all the opportunities provided to her through NVCC's programs, including completion of the WorkKeys assessment to evaluate job skills.

"The goals of WorkKeys are to reduce turnover, have fewer employee errors and allow us to hire highly-skilled, happier and better employees," said Patti DeiTos, lead

education coordinator at the Inova Learning Network.

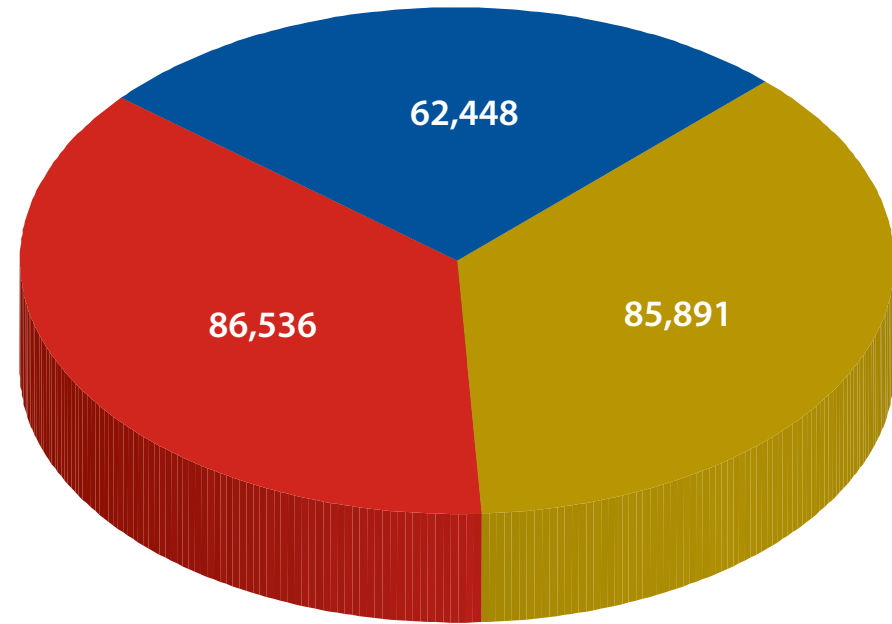
"WorkKeys allows for a higher standard at the hospital," Alix said. "It's a good challenge for the hospital and I think we need challenge."

Already looking to the future, Alix said she is ready for more challenges of her own. She plans to continue courses at NVCC to complete the clinical technician II program and eventually become a registered nurse.



"WorkKeys allows for a higher standard at the hospital. It's a good challenge for the hospital and I think we need challenge."

Individuals served through workforce development services and programs



| Area | Participants | State/Federal Funding | State and Federal Cost per Participant |
|---|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| Training the Incumbent Workforce | | | |
| Open Enrollment Courses | 81,624 | \$2,038,775 | \$24.98 |
| Career Readiness Certificate | 4,267 | \$0 | \$0.00 |
| Serving Employers | | | |
| Customized Training | 79,250 | \$2,038,775 | \$25.73 |
| Apprenticeship Related Instruction | 7,286 | \$1,044,500 | \$143.36 |
| Preparing the Emerging Workforce | | | |
| Career Coaches | 41,742 | \$463,699 | \$11.11 |
| Middle College | 717 | \$805,000 | \$1,122.73 |
| Tech Prep | 19,989 | \$2,349,598 | \$117.54 |
| Totals | 234,875 | \$8,740,347 | \$37.21 |

Workforce Development Service Regions

SOUTHWEST REGION

- ME Mountain Empire
- NR New River
- SwV Southwest Virginia
- VH Virginia Highlands
- W Wytheville

WEST CENTRAL REGION

- VW Virginia Western
- DSL Dabney S. Lancaster
- BR Blue Ridge
- CV Central Virginia
- PV Piedmont Virginia

NORTHERN REGION

- LF Lord Fairfax
- G Germanna
- NV Northern Virginia

CENTRAL REGION

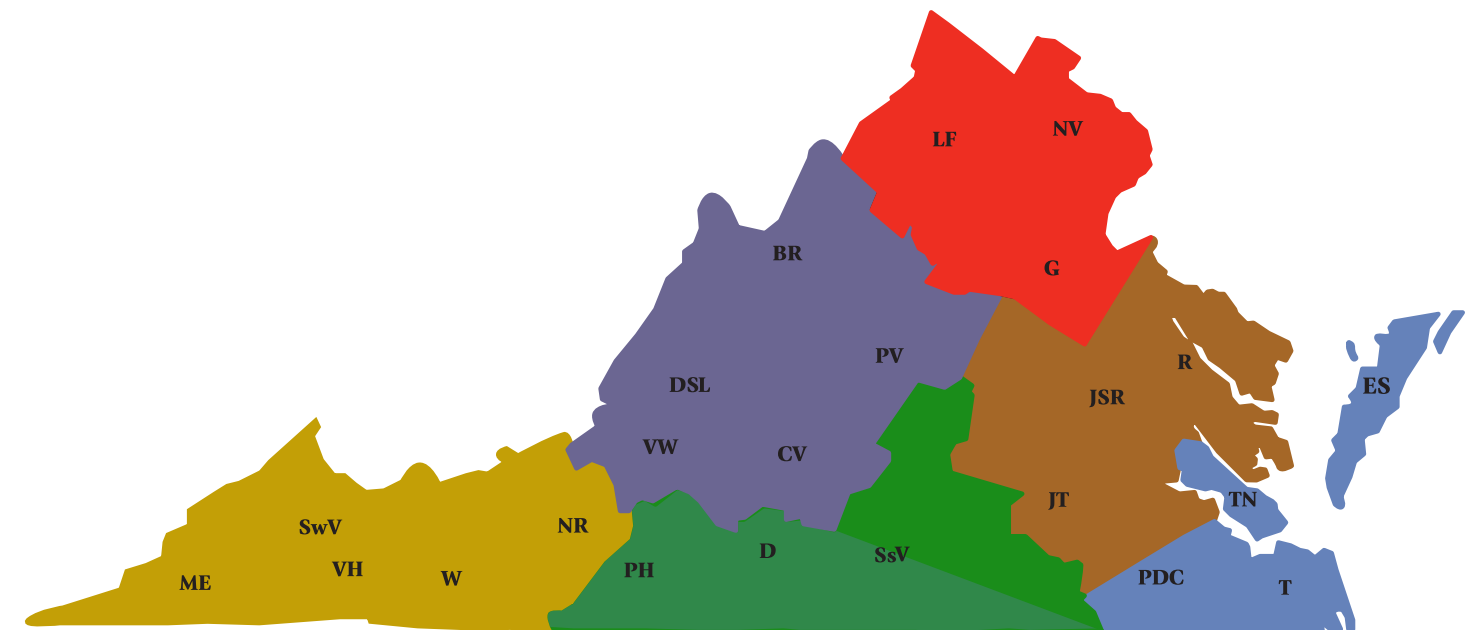
- JT John Tyler
- JSR J. Sargeant Reynolds
- R Rappahannock

HAMPTON ROADS REGION

- PDC Paul D. Camp
- T Tidewater
- TN Thomas Nelson
- ES Eastern Shore

SOUTHSIDE REGION

- D Danville
- SsV Southside
- PH Patrick Henry





Foundations of *Building* a Better

Life-changing events and activities marked a banner year for the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE) and the foundations of each of Virginia's 23 community colleges, which share a dedication to removing financial barriers for those seeking a better future through a college education.

Through the unprecedented involvement of leaders like First Lady Anne Holton, to the incredible philanthropy of donors like Barbara and Mark Fried, to the enduring efforts of Chancellor Glenn DuBois and his bicycle, opportunities were created for individuals to build a better future for themselves.

These efforts occurred across the commonwealth

at each of Virginia's Community Colleges.

The collective holdings, as of June 30, 2008, stood at \$150.6 million. Whether it was securing major gifts to facilitate new buildings, creating innovative and community-focused scholarship programs, completing successful campaigns that enhance not only the college's reach but also its reputation, every Virginia community college played a critical role in this success. It's no wonder that together, the foundations of Virginia's Community Colleges easily met the *Dateline 2009* goal to double their collective holdings to \$150 million—a year early.

Finding a way forward from foster care

Derrick Cash

Social service officials took Derrick Cash away from his mother when he was 10 years old. Since then he has lived in at least six different group homes, including a juvenile detention center, where he was involved in daily fist fights "just to survive."

"I had no family. I never had supervision," Cash said.

Cash is in a different place

had earned no formal education beyond the eighth grade. He was reading at only a seventh grade level. His mathematics and science test scores were no higher. After four months of intense work with Middle College instructors, he doubled his test scores and passed the GED exam.

He describes graduating last May as "the greatest experience



Future.

now, earning a college degree at Southside Virginia Community College. Completing his program would place him in a small minority: less than 3 percent of foster children ever earn a college degree. "Foster kids don't have perspective," said Cash. "We don't think about the future."

Before Cash enrolled in the SsVCC Middle College program, he

ever," said Cash. "School is becoming addictive."

Cash is now working simultaneously on earning a workforce certificate in heavy equipment and an associate's degree in human services.

"I thought I only had street smarts. Now, I know I have book smarts," Cash said. "I used to think of my education as one of the least

important things in my life but after enrolling in SsVCC my education has become one of the most important things of my life."

Being a community college student will also give Cash the chance to live out a lifelong dream of playing on a school basketball team. Having never attended a typical high school, he never before had the opportunity.

"I used to think of my education as one of the least important things in my life but after enrolling in SsVCC my education has become one of the most important things of my life."

"Community colleges are so well poised to help at-risk young people transition to adulthood so many different ways. Drawing attention to these young people and their situation and the need to help them is a good thing." —Anne Holton on Great Expectations

Great Expectations for a new initiative

At the inaugural *Great Expectations* education forum, hundreds of people from across Virginia heard firsthand from young men and women about the challenges and opportunities they have faced growing up in foster care.

The forum's guest speaker was Andrew Bridge, child advocate and author of best-selling memoir *Hope's Boy*, who shared his personal experiences of growing up in foster care and some statistics that demonstrate the dire circumstances of people who grow up lacking permanent family connections.

Bridge said he fought the uncertainty of foster care by clinging to the affirmation he got by doing well



in school and the love of his mother, whom he was separated from at age 7.

Bridge's remarks were followed by a forum of six Virginia foster youth moderated by Virginia First Lady Anne Holton, a former juvenile court judge and longtime advocate of at-risk youth.



Author Andrew Bridge and First Lady of Virginia Anne Holton pose with the panel of foster care youth at the first Education Forum for *Great Expectations*. The students, left to right—Clinton Boyer, Derrick Cash, Keandra Vaughan, Stephanie Lewis, Terrance Horton and Javon Curtis.

Chancellor DuBois bicycles 800 miles for foster care youth

A summer vacation typically focuses on rest and relaxation, but that wasn't the case for Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges. Instead, he spent two weeks bicycling 800 miles to raise awareness of and money for *Great Expectations*.

DuBois' trip stretched from Winchester to south of Wytheville, then east through Hampton Roads, visiting seven community colleges, many of which are participating in *Great Expectations*.

There is a special place in DuBois' heart for foster youth, dating back to when he was a social worker.

"Young people seek permanence, and that is one thing foster kids don't have," he said.

Great Expectations began as a partnership with "For Keeps," Virginia First Lady Anne Holton's initiative to support families. The Virginia Community College System took Holton's initiative a step further by helping Virginia's 8,000 foster care youth pursue and complete a college program.

To learn more about the colleges participating in this year's pilot program and to see their progress, visit www.GreatExpectations.vccs.edu.



Pearls for *Great Expectations*

The Virginia Foundation for Community College Education partnered with Tiffany & Co. to host a celebratory reception for the launch of *Great Expectations*. The reception took place at the private home of Laura and Mark Merhige. This initial fundraiser generated over \$250,000.

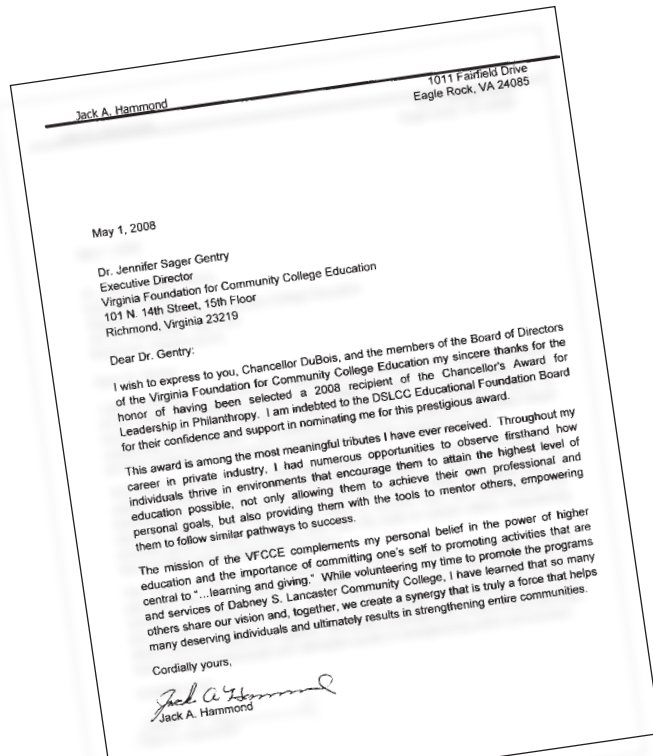


"Young people seek permanence, and that is one thing foster kids don't have."

—Glenn Dubois

Philanthropist sees opportunities in every minute of the day

Jack Hammond



Jack Hammond is spending each day looking for ways to leave the world a better place. All 1,440 minutes of each day.

This spring, the “world” paused to take note. Hammond, 70, was honored with the 2008 Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy, representing Dabney S. Lancaster Community College, an award he said was one of the “most meaningful tributes I have ever received.”



“There are so many interesting and challenging things in the world, you just want to try to be involved and contribute,” Hammond said. But opportunities, he said, often appear as challenges. “They don’t always come in nice neat ribboned packages.”

Growing up on a farm in Ohio, he had the first of many opportunities when he landed at Ohio State University in the chemical engineering department. Only 18 of the 70 who started out with him graduated from the rigorous program—and he was one of them. He came to Virginia to work with WestVaco, and stayed 25 years, managing the Covington plant for 10 of those years.

The retired WestVaco executive has been president of the Dabney foundation board, president of the local Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the investment committee for the Allegany Foundation.

Together with his wife, Mitzi, he established an international development grant in memory of his parents so that faculty members could travel overseas and bring their experience back into the classroom to broaden perspectives.

Supporting community colleges, he said, “is an opportunity to make a contribution to the community through the support and encouragement of young people — and that’s where our future is.”

The 2008 Recipients of the Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy and the 2008-09 Commonwealth Legacy Scholars

“We honor these men and women, not simply for the dollars they donate or the hours they give to our community colleges, but for the standard of leadership they set—examples that motivate and challenge us all to do more to ensure that opportunity is there for the taking by those who will write the next chapter of Virginia’s story.”

—Glenn DuBois on philanthropy leaders

Blue Ridge Community College
Carl A. Rosberg of Waynesboro
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar
Steven E. Craun

Central Virginia Community College
Thomas A. Christopher of Lynchburg
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar
Bryce Harrison Budge

Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Jack A. Hammond of Eagle Rock
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar
Meredith Tolley

Danville Community College
Landon R. Wyatt, Jr. of Danville
Commonwealth Legacy Scholars
Brittany Atkins
Melissa Inman

Eastern Shore Community College
George N. McMath of Onley
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar
Alisa Jones

Germanna Community College
Hugh Cosner of Fredericksburg
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar
Andrew Moberley

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Ivor & Maureen Massey of Richmond
Commonwealth Legacy Scholars
Laura Briere
Ashlyn Landrum

John Tyler Community College
David O. Ledbetter of Richmond
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar
Devon D. Cyrille

Lord Fairfax Community College
Beverley B. Shoemaker of Stephens City
Commonwealth Legacy Scholars
Johanna Hribal
Jessica Winters

Mountain Empire Community College
Bill Miller of Abingdon
Commonwealth Legacy Scholars
Jordan S. Begley
Paige Begley

New River Community College
Gilmer, Sadler, Ingram, Sutherland, & Hutton Law Firm of Pulaski
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar
Stacy Nicole Gibbs

Northern Virginia Community College
Lee Gurel of Alexandria
Commonwealth Legacy Scholars
Nataly Avalos
Katharine Fox
Saddam Hossain

Patrick Henry Community College
Irving M. Groves, Jr. of Martinsville
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar
Adam J. Good

Paul D. Camp Community College
Frances Hobbs of Suffolk
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar
Kelsey Birkhead

Piedmont Virginia Community College
Grace H. Carpenter of Charlottesville
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar
Daniella Benton

Rappahannock Community College
Martin & Barbara Bowling of Kilmarnock
Commonwealth Legacy Scholars
Daniel B. Walker
Zachariah Krauss

Southside Virginia Community College
Gene Thomas of Lawrenceville
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Danielle McMillen

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Nudged back to nursing

Terry Oakes

Terry Oakes was delivering building materials when he got a call from a truck passing the other direction. The driver told him he thought he had just seen an accident happen in Oakes' lane.

"Where?" Oakes asked. "Right about where you are now," was the response.

After spotting a Jeep on its roof down a ravine, Oakes did what he had been trained to do: He climbed down to the vehicle, assessed the situation, and called for help.

It wasn't the first time. He had been finding himself in emergency situations regularly—at family reunions, on the highway, or with

his sons. But it had been 10 years since he served on a rescue team.

"What's going on? Why all of a sudden am I finding myself trying to help people out in emergencies?" he asked himself.

He began to think about getting back into the field—and extending his training to become a nurse. Then, in January 2008, he lost his job with American Standard Homes, due to economy-related downsizing. With unemployment benefits running out and family medical expenses mounting, going back to school just didn't seem to be a reality.

But Oakes visited the Patrick Henry Community College

website—and applied for every scholarship he felt qualified for.

He was awarded the newly established Gerald L. Baliles Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship, for students that demonstrate potential for public service, and is enrolled in Health Sciences classes in preparation for the nursing program. He hopes to become a flight nurse on a helicopter or to work in cardiac care.

With his background as a former EMT, he already knows he can handle the demands of the nursing profession.

"I want to be able to make a difference in someone's life and help anyone I can," he said. "I feel that this is my calling. I need to get back to the medical field because this is where I need to be."



Foundation Scholarships

Since 2006, the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE) has awarded more than \$350,000 in scholarships and seeks to provide financial assistance to every deserving Virginian who dreams of attaining a higher education. With awards ranging from \$500 to \$5000, the scholarship program continues to grow and help students across the state enroll in community college and pursue academic and career success. Scholarships offered through the VFCCE include:

Commonwealth Legacy Scholarships

The Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship Program was inaugurated in 2006 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Virginia's Community Colleges. These merit-based scholarships are designed to be enduring legacies that will make the community college experience available to generations of

deserving students. Thirty new scholarship recipients were honored in October 2008.

The Honorable Gerald L. Baliles Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

Two scholarships are awarded each year to recognize Governor Gerald Baliles' many contributions to the improvement of education for all Virginians. Over \$100,000 was donated to this endowment by numerous colleagues, friends, and leaders in business and government. The inaugural recipients of this scholarship are Terry Oakes and Vicky Thomas, both nursing students at Patrick Henry Community College.

Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association Scholarship

The Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, committed to educating a qualified nursing workforce, partnered with the VFCCE to award a scholarship every two years to students at a Virginia community college. The scholarship provides financial assistance to students admitted to a

nursing program who have demonstrated ability and commitment to enter the practice of nursing. Angela Starnes, the first recipient of this scholarship, graduated from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in 2008.

Curtis & Patricia Dougans Scholarship

The Curtis & Patricia Dougans Scholarship was established in memory of the late Curtis Dougans, a Page County resident, to provide financial assistance to a student who plans to attend Lord Fairfax Community College's Luray-Page County Center.

Kathy Camper Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

The Kathy Camper Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship provides financial assistance to students in information technology or childhood education fields. The scholarship honors a long-time information technology staff member with Virginia's Community Colleges.

To apply for a scholarship or to contribute to a scholarship fund, please visit www.myfuture.vccs.edu/foundation.

The Barbara & Mark Fried Great Expectations Scholarship

Announced in the spring of 2008, this special endowment was created exclusively for foster care youth in honor of two strong supporters of Virginia's Community Colleges, former VFCCE Board Member Mark Fried and his wife, Barbara. Two scholarships will be awarded for the 2009-10 academic year.

Alfred & Dottie Whitt Scholarship

The Alfred & Dottie Whitt Scholarship was also created to assist foster youth with access to higher education. This annual scholarship awards one deserving student with two years tuition at any of Virginia's Community Colleges.

The Jonathan Alje Toxopeus Scholarship

The Jonathan Alje Toxopeus Scholarship is an annual two-year tuition scholarship awarded to a John Handley High School graduate attending Lord Fairfax Community College. The 2008 recipient is Jade Sloan.

Investing for the long haul

Mike Smith

America needs an additional 20,000 truck drivers and it is hard to find good people certified in HVAC maintenance. Instead of being frustrated by these and other workforce shortages, Michael A.

Smith, co-owner of Valley Proteins, Inc. is working for a solution.

Through a generous endowment gift, Valley Proteins is working through the Virginia Foundation for Community



"Supporting community colleges gives back in so many ways directly to the area in which people work and live, which improves quality of life in these areas."

College Education to enhance workforce development and training programs across Virginia. Smith said that his investment in community colleges will benefit both his company and the community it serves.

"Supporting community colleges gives back in so many ways directly to the area in which people work and live, which improves quality of life in these areas," Smith said.

The award begins January 2009 and is a competitive grant. The annual earnings from the Valley Proteins Endowment Fund will be matched with VCCS funds to award \$10,000 each year to one of the colleges located in a region where the company has business: Blue Ridge, Southside, John Tyler and Paul D. Camp. The funds are designated for workforce development programs.

"I believe very strongly that these schools help promote better employees and strengthen our state's financial ability, allowing us to use technology to improve competitiveness. Since we use many people that can and do benefit from these schools I want to stay in touch with the program to help assure it remains strong," Smith said.

"Community colleges are the answer. They are a great opportunity for young people."



Community college opportunity is a family affair

Hugh Cosner

Hugh Cosner of Spotsylvania has been working since he left school in the 10th grade.

A successful businessman and real estate developer for 53 years, Cosner believes in the power of education.

And when his children and grandchildren sought educational opportunities, they turned to Virginia's Community Colleges.

"Community colleges are the answer," said Cosner. "They are a great opportunity for young people."

"My son is a graduate of Germanna's LPN program and works at Mary Washington; my granddaughter went to Virginia Highlands Community College and will transfer to the University of Mary Washington," he said.

A philanthropist who has given to Germanna Community College and has a library named after him, Cosner was selected for the Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy last spring. He said he gives "because I'm concerned about people like myself who did not get a good education."

"We see the impact they have on local communities and we're proud to contribute to that."



Planning for a better future

Jean and Stephen Eitelman

The Eitelmans are strong believers in Virginia's Community Colleges. "We see the impact they have on local communities," said Stephen Eitelman. "And we're proud to contribute to that."

That's why a planned giving program was perfect for Eitelman and his wife, Jean.

"We had two goals in mind: to invest in the community college system and to receive an income"

from our investments, said Eitelman. "The charitable gift annuity program is a perfect instrument for our needs. As long as we are alive, we receive an income that is partially tax-free as a result of return of principal. Upon our deaths, the remainder of the initial investment becomes part of the scholarship fund."

Thanks to their generous gift annuity, the Jean and Stephen

Eitelman Scholarship Endowment was established with the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to students attending one of Virginia's Community Colleges.

"That's an opportunity to attend college to someone who may not get the chance otherwise," said Jean Eitelman.

For more information about a gift annuity, please contact Dr. Jennifer Sager Gentry, Executive Director, VFCCE
101 N. 14th Street, 15th floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219, (804) 819-4962.

Access. Opportunity. Achievement.

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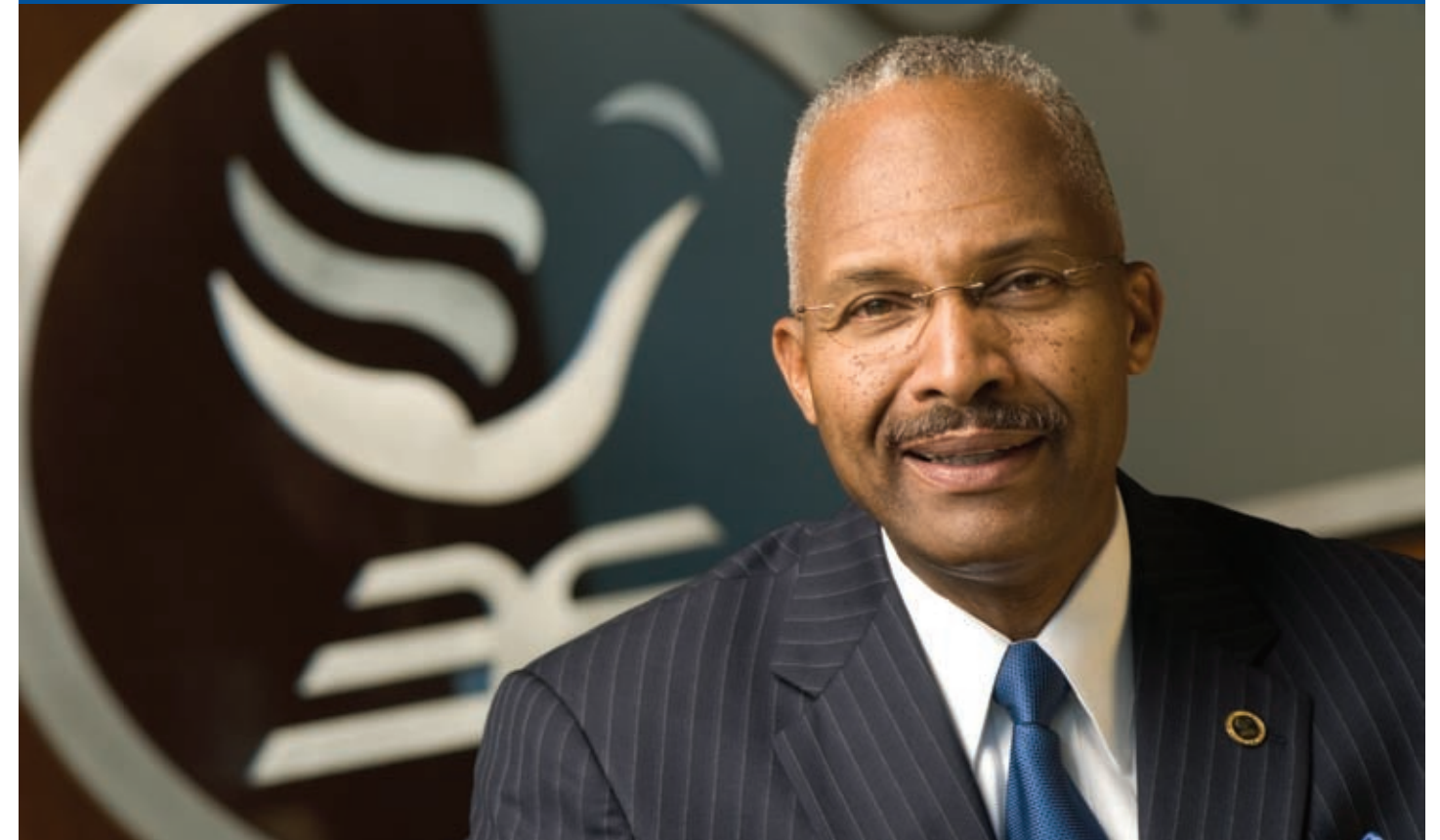
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"Virginia's Community Colleges have played a vital role in ensuring a timely, well-trained, diversified workforce."



Why education comes first

Julien Patterson

Julien Patterson was born an only child in a family full of teachers. While education was at the core of his rearing, it didn't come easy or cheap for him. "By necessity I worked a full-time job, plus an occasional part-time job, while attending college full time," he said.

As the founder of OMNIPLEX World Services Corporation, a 2006 pick for the Top 15 "Best Places to Work" in Greater Washington, D.C., Patterson understands the return on investment in Virginia's

Community Colleges.


"It is clear to me that one of the primary reasons why Virginia has been recognized for the third consecutive year as the 'best state in the nation to do business' is because of our uncompromising commitment to education at all levels," he said.

"In particular, Virginia's Community Colleges have played a vital role in ensuring a timely, well-trained, diversified workforce for new companies coming to Virginia, as well as those who

continue to expand in Virginia."

Patterson has served on various boards and committees including the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Public Safety Foundation and the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Neck. He recently joined the board of directors of the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education with a vested interest.

"The high quality of our community colleges, and the exceptionally capable and task-focused men and women that they produce, will be the market differentiator in the decade to come."



The Virginia Foundation
 FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION
 2007-2008

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