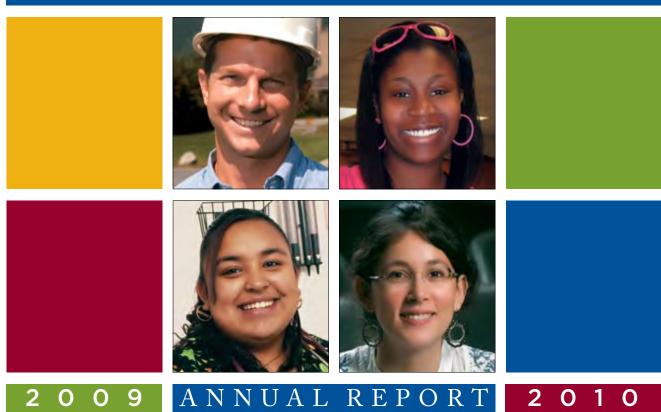
VIRGINIA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES





VIRGINIA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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2 O O 9 ANNUAL REPORT

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A Message from the Chancellor



ef or et he d ec ade is o ver two out of every three jobs available in Virginia will require more than a high school education, according to a Georgetown University study. A high school diploma is no longer the finish line.

That sentiment has been driving Virginia's Community Colleges for years and it is catching on throughout our commonwealth and country.

The work of our community colleges over this past year has been inspired by two major decisions of our State Board for Community Colleges.

The first was to update and simplify the mission statement of our organization.

"We give everyone the opportunity to learn and develop the right skills so lives and communities are strengthened." It is a succinct statement that speaks to the breadth of what our community colleges do every day.

The second decision the board made that set our path for the near future was to formally accept our next strategic plan, *Achieve 2015*.

Achieve 2015 was developed over 14 months. We began by reaching out to the communities we serve through a series of town hall meetings across the state. Instead of seeking a plan about our community colleges, we sought a plan that positioned our colleges to be catalysts for the success of their larger communities.

The ideas generated in those sessions were reviewed, debated and refined by a panel of some



of the best and brightest minds Virginia's 23 community colleges have to offer.

The result was an elegant, brief and ambitious plan of five measurable goals in the areas of college access, affordability, student success, workforce and resources. We humbly believe that Virginia's success depends on our ability to pursue and achieve those goals.

Through the pages of this annual report, we will share with you the goals of *Achieve 2015*, the metrics that will reveal our progress and profiles of some of the men and women we are serving along the way.

As we all work to shake off the effects of the recession, a record number of families are using Virginia's Community Colleges as their personal recovery plan, finding the skills and knowledge they need to compete and succeed. *Achieve 2015* is positioning Virginia's Community Colleges to efficiently help as many of them as possible.

After all, we know, as they know, that the day when a postsecondary credential is required to earn a good-paying job is coming quickly...if it isn't already here.

Sincerely,

Glenn DuBois

Iknn UBG







Achieve 2015, the new six-year strategic plan for Virginia's Community Colleges, is focused on enhancing the impact of our institutions. While our work to make a difference is typically focused in communities throughout Virginia, it does not end there.

Highlights from this past year include Governor Bob McDonnell formally opening the newest Tidewater Community College campus in Portsmouth, a campus expected to serve dramatically more people throughout the region.

Students from Blue Ridge Community College, America. who have been working for years to elevate

standards of living and economic development in Haitian villages, were in the nation during its horrific and deadly earthquake.

Mountain Empire Community College is at the forefront of improving coal miner safety, a topic that is earning extensive attention after a fatal episode in nearby West Virginia.

And, President Barack Obama chose Northern Virginia Community College as the backdrop for signing legislation to increase the amount of federal financial aid available to students across America.





ACCESS

423,000 +50,000 150,000 +25,000 125,000 373,000

YEAR

11 2 3 4 5

ACHIEVE 2015 GOAL: ACCESS

Increase the number of individuals who are educated and trained by Virginia's Community Colleges by 50,000 to a total of 423,000, with emphasis on increasing the number from underserved populations by at least 25,000 individuals.

Virginia's ability to cultivate its own talent will determine its overall success. Opportunity in the 21st century will be created by and attracted to the best-educated communities anywhere in the world.

The percentage of Virginians pursuing and completing a college education is below the national average and has remained stagnant for decades.

During that time, the commonwealth has bolstered

its workforce through immigration, attracting college-educated people from other places. This strategy is becoming increasingly competitive and unsustainable as its popularity spreads. More must be done to attract and serve individuals in Virginia who come from families with little or no higher education experience.

Anika Callender

Community college becomes a world of opportunity



"I know my potential, and I refuse to be a mediocre person in any aspect of my life."

native of Trinidad and Tobago, Anika Callender came to the United States in 2007 at age 18 in search of a college education. Citing the "great education system and colossal career prospects the United States has to offer," she settled in Rappahannock Community College's service area with family members.

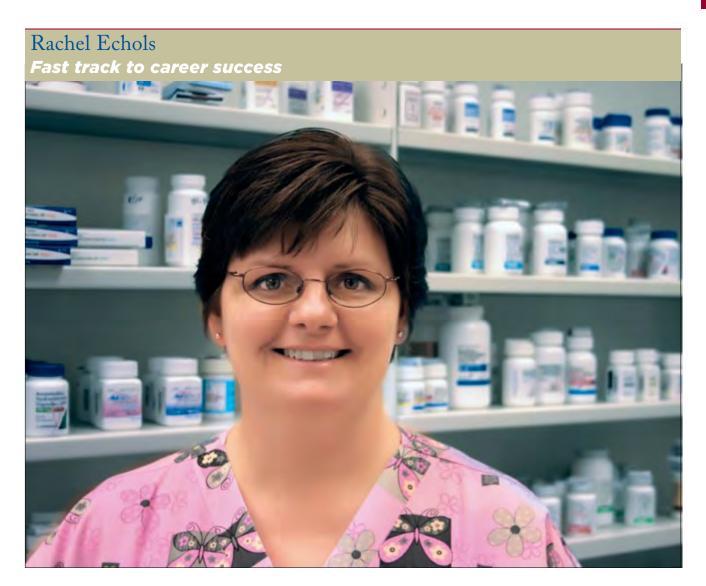
"Going to college is not an option for me," Callender said.
"It's the only choice I have. I know my potential, and I refuse to be a mediocre person in any aspect of my life."

Far from mediocre, Callender qualified for Phi Theta Kappa, represented her college at the VCCS Student Leadership Conference in November 2009, and was nominated to the 2010 All-Virginia Academic Team. She has since received an associate's degree as well as a one-year certificate in general education, graduating magna cum laude in May 2010.

Callender calls RCC "a true community," where "everybody was willing to help." The financial aid available "blew my mind, because no such thing exists in my country." A flexible class schedule allowed her to continue working to support herself while she learned.

Her RCC credits will gain her junior status at Hollins University in Roanoke, where she will work toward a degree in public relations and a career in public service.





"The information I needed to learn was challenging."

hen Rachel Echols' husband lost his job in early 2009, the stay-at-home mother of 14 years began researching careers that she could train for as quickly and inexpensively as possible. She found that pharmacy employees were in demand and that Blue Ridge Community College offered a Pharmacy Technician Certification preparation course.

Pharmacology was a completely foreign subject for Echols, who had taken two years of college and worked as an office manager before having children. "The information I needed to learn was challenging," explained Echols. But BRCC Pharmacy Prep Course

instructor and pharmacist at the Grottoes Pharmacy Bill Wilkes gave Echols the extra help she needed to succeed.

Shortly after completing the non-credit preparation course at BRCC, Echols took the Virginia State Pharmacy Technician Exam, missing only one question. Six weeks later, she had a job at the Grottoes Pharmacy. Her former instructor gave her a glowing recommendation. "I told the owners frankly that she was the best student I had ever had and would strongly recommend her for employment."

With the state exam under her belt, Echols began the BRCC preparation course for the National Pharmacy Technician Exam.

Even the blizzard of February 2010 couldn't stop her, as she traveled to Roanoke on a snowy Friday to take the national exam. Not only did she overcome the storm, but she took command of the exam as well, missing only three questions and scoring 98 percent. "When she showed me her exam results, I was astounded," explained Wilkes. "I have never had a student do that well."

Ready and excited for her next challenge, Echols began taking credit courses at BRCC to complete her general education requirements so that she can eventually enter pharmacy school.

IAFFORDABILITY

87,000 36,000

<50%

51,000

YEAR 1 2 3 4 5

ACHIEVE 2015 GOAL: AFFORDABILITY

Maintain tuition and fees at less than half of the comparable cost of attending Virginia's public four-year institutions, and increase the number of students who receive financial assistance and scholarships by 36,000.

Virginia's Community Colleges are dedicated to the idea that everyone deserves the opportunity to learn and to grow.

We are continuing the commitment begun during our previous strategic plan, *Dateline 2009*, to remain a viable and attractive option for people to pursue their dreams of going to college, no matter whether they seek a workforce certification, an associate's degree or the first half of their work toward a bachelor's degree.

Further, we strive to become more aggressive in helping students pursue financial resources, including grants and scholarships, which can help students reduce the financial burden of their college pursuit.

Nathanael Welch

On the way to a career in bio-engineering

hanks to a unique scholarship program,

Nathanael Welch is on his way to a career in
bio-engineering.

The Wythe-Bland Community Foundation and Wytheville Community College partner to offer qualified high school graduates in Wythe and Bland counties two years of free tuition and fees.

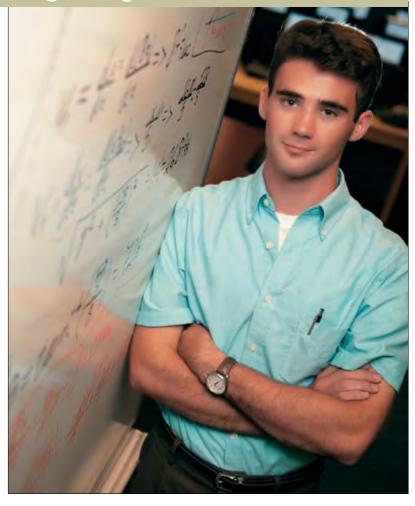
Nathanael Welch of Rural Retreat is one recipient of the scholarship. With a double major in science and an emphasis in engineering, Welch plans to transfer to the University of Virginia or Virginia Tech to pursue a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

Graduate school will follow, Welch expects, and he plans to focus on bio-engineering, a field which he describes as "designing machines for medicine."

He said his experience at WCC has been excellent. "I love the teachers. They are very resourceful."

At WCC, Welch was a member of the Collegian student newspaper staff and the Academic and Cultural Enrichment Club.

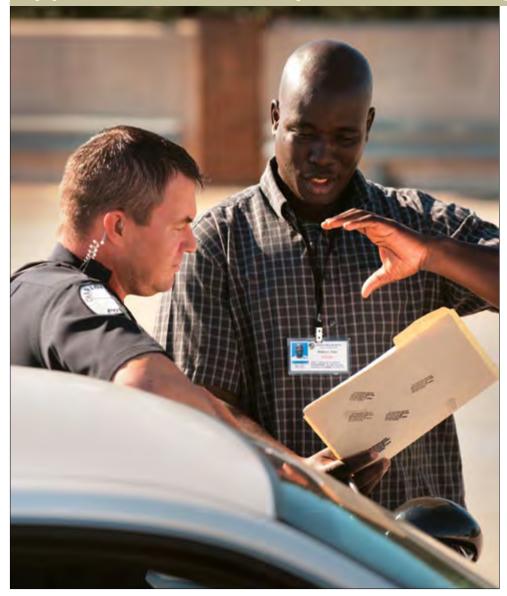
Students who receive the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation Scholarship must enroll in a program that is at least one year in length and complete 40 hours of community service.





Modou Gaye

Top police science student is a positive force for change



"I always knew I could do more for myself and my family."

ntil a few years ago, Modou Gaye lived in his home country of Gambia, Africa, where he graduated from high school, worked as a police officer for 13 years, served as a United Nations peacekeeper and was appointed to provide personal protection to the president of a small country in Southeast Asia.

When he arrived in the United States in 2002, he soon realized his extensive experience wasn't enough to get him a job in law enforcement.

"I was heartbroken," said Modou. "I finally found work with landscape and construction companies, but I always knew I could do more for myself and my family."

That's when he decided to attend Piedmont Virginia Community College.

"Modou is one of the most dedicated, conscientious students

I have ever had in my more than 20 years of teaching," said Brian Flick, associate professor of police science at PVCC. "He always assists other students with a gracious attitude and patient understanding."

Recognized as the top police science student at this spring's academic and leadership awards convocation, Modou was also honored for his leadership as president of PVCC's horticulture and environmental club. A member of Phi Theta Kappa, he also works as an intern with Charlottesville City Police.

Modou is pursuing a degree in police science as he awaits approval of his permanent U.S. residency. But, he also plans to return to Gambia some day – and use his education to be a positive force for change.

STUDENT SUCCESS

22,135	75%
47,350	50%
12,647	
31,574	
YEAR	1 2 3 4 5

ACHIEVE 2015 GOAL: STUDENT SUCCESS

Increase the number of students graduating, transferring or completing a workforce credential by 50 percent, including increasing the success of students from under-served populations by 75 percent.

Virginia's Community Colleges are considered national leaders in addressing the challenges of community college student success.

The work of the VCCS to enhance the visibility and accountability of this priority over the last decade is a central focus of the *Achieve 2015* plan. Experience shows us that the traditional narrow measure of graduation rates for first-time, full-time, programplaced students fails to articulate the broader

community college mission.

Through aggressive tactics like reforming how developmental education is delivered to unique partnerships that place VCCS Career Coaches in roughly half of Virginia's high schools, Virginia's Community Colleges are placing a premium on ensuring that more people are equipped to succeed in their college pursuit.

Bob Miller

Nursing program offers ways to "give back"

ob Miller believes in giving back.

And, for 22 years he gave back to his community as a paramedic. Today, he's still helping people, but now he's doing so as a nurse.

Becoming a nurse has been a longtime dream of Miller's, so when he started searching for the institution that would give him the education he required, Miller says he quickly recognized the benefits of John Tyler Community College's nursing program.

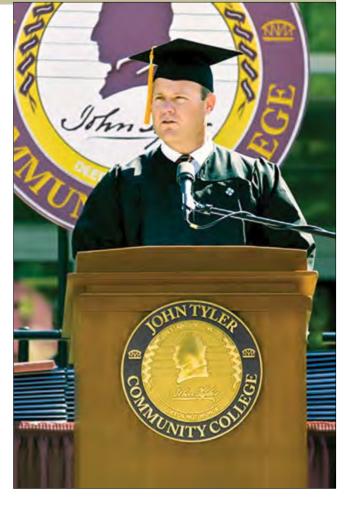
"This is a quality education for a great price," said Miller. He praised the program for its hands-on learning approach, saying that it gives students a true sense of what it will be like to be a nurse.

Just before graduation, Miller was hired by CJW Medical Center. He is excited by what the future holds for him, but he said he won't forget what got him to this point – the knowledge, encouragement and dedication of the college's nursing faculty, as well as the support of his own family.

"John Tyler has been both rewarding and challenging," he said.

"And, it's been fun too!" For those considering careers in nursing,

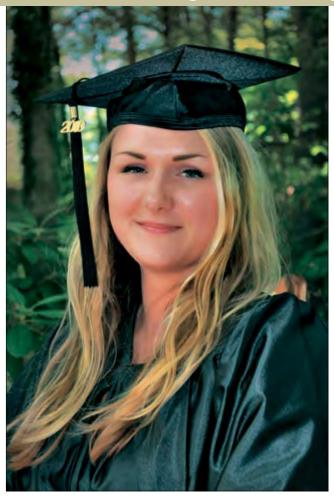
Miller offered some advice. "Make sure you have time for nursing
school. There is a lot of information to learn in a short two years. It
has been all-consuming of my time, but it is well worth it."





Jessica Vincent

A better career and a better life through Middle College



"Doors are opening for me."

essica Vincent says she was fed up with school and walked out when she was in the seventh grade. Although only 13, she launched out on her own trying to escape mounting family pressures and a sense that "nobody cared." Today, the 23-year old single mother of two has renewed confidence in her abilities and says she is on the first rung of the ladder to success.

"I just didn't have the support at the time, or someone to encourage me," she says. Vincent survived by working odd jobs and waitressing. She lived in New York City for a while but returned to the Danville area. "I didn't finish school or have a high school credential but I thought I could get by."

She later enrolled in a Danville Community College cosmetology class, but while she received a certificate, she could not get a license because she didn't have her General Equivalency Diploma.

"I knew I needed it, but quite honestly, I was just scared – scared I would fail, so I kept putting it off," she explains.

Finally, in May 2010 she took the first step by enrolling in DCC's Middle College program. Middle College allows individuals without a high school degree to increase their income and employability by simultaneously pursuing a high school credential, community college education and a workforce certification in a college

environment. "By the second day of class I knew I would be okay. I took the pre-test and did really well."

Three weeks later, Vincent had her diploma in hand. She quickly moved to the next step and enrolled in a seven-week nurse aide program and graduated over the summer with one of the highest scores in the class. Vincent now plans to pursue a practical nursing degree.

"This was something I knew I had to do to make a better life for myself and my family," Vincent says. "I'm taking it slowly – one step at a time. Doors are opening for me."

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YEAR

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ACHIEVE 2015 GOAL: WORKFORCE

Double the number of employer provided trainings and services to 10,000, with a particular focus on high-demand occupational fields.

Throughout the past decade, Virginia's Community Colleges have been the linchpin to securing many of the biggest economic development announcements

The ability of our community colleges to create and administer customized training programs is a benefit to potentially every employer in Virginia and an essential ingredient in the efforts to attract opportunities to the commonwealth.

Some 97 percent of employers who have used this resource at their community college say they would do it again, according to a recent survey. As Virginia companies emerge from the recession, community colleges stand ready to help them ensure their employees are on the industry's cutting edge.

Harold Collins

across the state.

The independence of online training

arold Collins likes the independence of online training.
Recently, he completed a new, advanced first aid course through Mountain Empire Community College, building class time around his schedule. "I will always opt for online," he said.

MECC's Center for Workforce Development began offering the 'hybrid' course in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) in February 2010. Since then, 24 students have completed the online course and 18 have successfully completed the certification exam.

The first blended learning certification course to be offered by the two organizations, the class includes 16 hours online and one inclass session to get hands-on experience with first aid techniques.

For Collins, who is employed as a utility operator with Alpha Natural Resources, the flexibility of the online training fit with his evening shift schedule during which he has the versatility to operate different equipment for surface mining – loaders, dozers, haulers and graders.

Collins re-joined the coal mining industry in March 2010 after 14 years as a small business owner moving homes. He had sold his business, and with a slight grin explained, "I got bored. I'm used to working full time." With 19 years of coal mining experience, it was



a natural move. About his new employer, Collins said, "Alpha: They don't come any better."

Completion of the course prepares Collins to take the DMME certification exam to be an Advanced First Aid Provider, one of the requirements to be certified as a surface mine foreman.

Virginia's Community Colleges continue to introduce new programs and expand existing services to meet the needs of the emerging, incumbent and dislocated workforce. For a comprehensive look at all workforce services provided through the VCCS, please visit www.vccs.edu/workforce.



Chris Bayne

Community college partnerships bring long-term success

"Having additional staff trained to this level of certification is invaluable to our operations."



oanoke Cement has found longterm success in its partnership with Virginia Western Community College. The company, a subsidiary of Titan America in Daleville, has worked with the college for years to provide customized training for its workforce.

Roanoke Cement approached the college about providing a complete career studies certificate program in electrical wiring onsite at its facility. In order to meet industry requirements to have journeymen electricians on staff during all shifts, the company saw the certificate program as the perfect answer to help employees meet the state's Department of Professional & Occupational Regulation formal training requirements.

Chris Bayne, the company's coordinator for the program, said, "Roanoke Cement was pleased to find a program that we were able to cater around the needs of our employees who were juggling time between rotating shift work and family obligations. The commitment of the VWCC staff was critical to the success of the program. Having additional staff trained to this level of certification is invaluable to our operations at Roanoke Cement."

VWCC began the program with an assessment of participant math skills and recommended a customized math class related to electricity in order to prepare employees for the actual wiring courses. Classes were set up to accommodate Roanoke Cement's operation schedule,

stopping during company shut downs.

Roanoke Cement facilitated the program by providing an on-site course coordinator and classroom space, as well as equipment and materials needed for successful classes. They provided the employees the time to participate in classes and helped keep employee motivation up with a promise of increased salaries for those who successfully completed the program.

After less than a year, graduates of the program are on their way to obtaining their DPOR Journeyman Electrician's certification. The coordinated partnership between Roanoke Cement and VWCC has paved the way for even more employees to receive the professional development they need for a better career.

Dick Rose Pursuing a career and personal interest



ick Rose has been interested in trucks his entire life, and as a volunteer fireman for more than 35 years, even gets to drive them. But, when he lost his job at the International Paper Mill in Franklin, Virginia, Rose finally got the opportunity to go back to school and train for a job as a truck driver.

"There's a big difference between fire engines and the trucks with trailers we are learning on at Southside. I thought it might be an easy course for me, but it's been a challenge."

After losing his job in Franklin, Rose worked through the Workforce One Stop in Emporia to locate new opportunities. He researched courses at various community colleges and found a good fit at Southside Virginia Community College's Truck Driver Training School.

The six-week, intensive training course prepares students for employment and arms them with a license. Rose, who has taught volunteer firefighters before, is impressed by the level of training he's received.

"The instructors can 'do' and teach," he says. "Their training and testing is in-depth and they critique our work so we can improve."

While Rose has been able to use this course to fulfill a personal passion of his, he recognizes that others are desperate for employment and acknowledges that this course is a great way to put people back to work quickly.

"There are recruiters looking for qualified students already. So, with good records and solid performance, this is a great industry to be in."





Crystal Mullins Education and training opens doors



rystal Mullins never imagined she would be pursuing a career in the construction trades profession, a male dominated field. But at 23, a lifechanging event rerouted her career path. Mullins was attending a university and working on a degree in music when she discovered she had melanoma. At the end of the successful three-month program of intensive treatment at Duke University Medical Center, she was declared cancer-free and returned home to recover.

Back at home, she began working as a market researcher but was laid off due to foreign competition. She qualified for the Trade Adjustment Act (TRA) and began pursuing her new career path through Southwest Virginia Community College's Construction Academy.

"The people at Southwest have made me feel that I am important."

The Construction Academy at SWCC is funded in part by a \$1.8 million grant awarded under the President's Community-Based Job Training Grants. The academy offers career studies certificates in six skilled-craft trades including carpentry, electricity, heating, ventilation and airconditioning (HVAC), masonry, plumbing and welding.

"It is such a blessing to be able to go back to college. So many doors are open to me because of the training I've received at Southwest."

Crystal will complete an associate of applied science degree in electrical/ electronics with a specialization in industrial maintenance in the fall and plans to continue her studies at SWCC in the construction trades. She will complete a certificate in welding and a career studies certificate in the spring of 2011.

"The people at Southwest have made me feel that I am important," said Mullins. "So many individuals at the college have helped me through the processes of applying, enrolling and coursework, that they have truly helped me to become successful. I strive to make good grades and to be a positive role model for young girls who might want to go into a construction trades profession."

Abbey Meacham

Queen of hearts has emergency medical services in her blood





bbey Meacham's firefighter helmet has the number "6" and "Lynchburg Fire & EMS" on the front. There is a card tucked into the band on the side. It is the queen of hearts, given to her by her father, who calls his brave and beautiful daughter "Queen of Hearts."

Born in the Bedford area, she began volunteering with the Brookville Volunteer Fire Department after graduating from high school. She enrolled in Central Virginia Community College in 2005 and completed her emergency medical services training as a member of the second class to go through the program.

Meacham then cross-trained for fire science and paramedic specializations. Half her time at work is spent on the ambulance; half is spent on the fire truck. In addition, she now has her EMT instructor certificate. A CPR instructor and an Advanced Life Support coordinator, she is qualified to teach students at CVCC through the paramedic level.

From the station to the classroom, Meacham finds there is never a dull moment. As secretary of the local chapter of the International Association of Fire Fighters, she received a call in 2009 requesting that she join first lady Michelle Obama in the U.S. Capitol for President Obama's first address to a morning session of Congress. The president of the association had recommended her as a perfect representative for the event.

Always ready for a challenge, the recent CVCC graduate and instructor continues to seek adventure, including hunting in the Kruger National Park in South Africa and spending time in a great white shark cage.



Jennifer DesJardins Turning internships into employment



ennifer DesJardins was working in a security job when she was laid off. Through the Department of Social Services, she quickly found she was eligible to participate in an adult internship program at Patrick Henry Community College.

The adult internship program is part of the TARE (Training, Assessment, Retention and Employment) grant project between Danville and Patrick Henry community colleges, Pittsylvania County Community Action, and regional departments of social services. Students participate in a job readiness class and are matched with an employer for a nine-week internship experience, giving them a chance to get their "foot in the door" at businesses that once seemed out of reach. All TARE students are also given the opportunity

"I learned a lot about myself... what I'm good at and where I need to improve."

to earn a Career Readiness Certificate, a portable credential that confirms to employers that an applicant possesses basic workplace skills.

While completing her internship at the Golden Living Center, a nursing home and rehabilitative center, DesJardins discovered a passion for nursing and decided she'd like to pursue her CNA to eventually work

in massage and rehabilitative therapy. The experience taught her a lot, she said.

"The program was very informative and prepared me for a new job. I enjoyed it and learned a lot about myself ... what I'm good at and where I need to improve."

The adult internship program also benefits local businesses, allowing them to "try out" potential new hires at little or no cost. Since October 2009, 14 employers and 33 TARE students have participated in the program.

"I've already recommended this program to my babysitter," DesJardins said. "It was a great experience."

RESOURCES

\$550 million

ACHIEVE 2015 GOAL: RESOURCES

Raise at least \$550 million in gifts and grants to support the mission of Virginia's Community Colleges.

\$0



n a a a s

As more people become aware of the opportunities and value their community college creates for their community, they are increasingly willing to partner with the colleges and to bring resources to the table that will enhance the college's impact.

That was the case over the past six years as Virginia's Community Colleges doubled the collective holdings of their foundations and awarded millions of dollars in scholarships. Unpredictable

state budget fluctuations are forcing our colleges to expand their base of resources and seek more and deeper relationships that deliver winning results for those who can seize the opportunities our colleges provide to elevate their lives, their families and their community.

Karima Ben Ayed Chasing the American Dream



"I feel like I'm part of the American dream, where my dreams are coming true."

riginally from Tunisia, Karima Ben Ayed came to the United States from Germany in 2008 with the idea of fulfilling her dream of obtaining a college education. She enrolled at Northern Virginia Community College as an international student, where she excelled academically – graduating in December 2009 with associate's degrees in business administration and general studies.

In spring 2010, Ben Ayed hit an academic milestone by receiving one of 40 national

scholarships from the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Foundation. This prestigious undergraduate transfer scholarship provides up to \$30,000 a year toward tuition, living expenses and required fees for the final two-to-three years needed to achieve a bachelor's degree.

Very involved in the life of the college, Ben Ayed served as president of the International Club and Phi Theta Kappa, and co-founded the Student Alliance of Women's Interest. In addition, she was selected to be

a member of the 2010 All-Virginia Academic Team.

"I would like to thank my professors and the college for giving me this opportunity," she said. "I feel privileged to have been a part of such a great support system at NOVA. I feel like I'm part of the American dream, where my dreams are coming true."

Ben Ayed will attend Brown University this fall to pursue degrees in business and education, with an international approach.



Sharon Cruz

Project Horizons gives promising students a boost



haron Cruz's face beamed with pride as she joined her fellow nursing classmates in reciting the words of the Florence Nightingale pledge to "practice her profession faithfully" at the pinning ceremony for Eastern Shore Community College's Practical Nursing Program.

Her parents applauded as she reached her goal of becoming the first person in her family to finish college.

Her roots with ESCC went back to the seventh grade, when she began participating in ESCC's Project Horizons program for local middle and high school students.

Supported by the Eastern Shore Community College Foundation, Project Horizons does not pursue "top" students but instead focuses on promising at-risk students nominated by sixth-grade teachers and guidance counselors. The nominations are based on academic potential as well as economic, social and academic needs. For six years – through high school – the students receive recognition, attention, rewards, increased cultural and social opportunities and tutoring.

Sharon Cruz took advantage of the opportunities offered by the program and graduated from Nandua High School in 2008. She finished her LPN program at ESCC in August 2009 with an overall GPA of 3.83.

During the clinical portion of her training, she impressed college faculty and patients alike with her hard work and caring attitude, earning a job offer before she even finished her nursing education.

2010-11 Commonwealth Legacy Scholars and Philanthropy Leaders

Congratulations to the 2010-11 Commonwealth Legacy Scholars, who represent Virginia's 23 community colleges and the statewide foundation, the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education. Each Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship bears the name of the recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. Those generous benefactors were honored in April 2010. The scholarships provide access to higher education for exceptional young men and women who would otherwise not have had a chance to attend college.

Blue Ridge Community College

Philanthropy Leader: R.H. and Lorraine Strickler Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Kyle VanLear

Central Virginia Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Robert Leveque Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Justin High

Dabney S. Lancaster Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Horton Beirne

Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Matthew Ethan Dale Smith

Danville Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Roy Gignac

Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Ashleigh N. Scolpini

Eastern Shore Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Nick Covatta

Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Christy McNeal

Germanna Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Mary Washington Healthcare Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Paige Riley

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Patrick W. Farrell

Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Brandi Vaughan

John Tyler Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Bryce D. Jewett, Jr.

Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Elizabeth Reed Tsiptsis

Lord Fairfax Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Byron A. Brill, D.D.S. Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Tanner Sine;

Brittany Clatterbuck

Mountain Empire Community College

Philanthropy Leader: George E. Hunnicutt, Jr. Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Miranda Beth Jessee

New River Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Greg and Fran Rooker Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Zane Parker Yopp

Northern Virginia Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Gary E. Thompson Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Antonio Larios

Patrick Henry Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Ivey Stone and Family Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Brittany Stone

Paul D. Camp Community College

Philanthropy Leader: R. Scott Carr

Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Zachary Gurganus

Piedmont Virginia Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Jim and Cynthia Stultz Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Chelsey Blevins

Rappahannock Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Richard and Janet Steelman Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Jaylee Strawman

Southside Virginia Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Joyce I. French

Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Normand "Rudy" Adams

Southwest Virginia Community College

Philanthropy Leader: William G. Jackson

Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Katheleen "Katie" Light

Thomas Nelson Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Riverside Health System Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Angel Santiago

Tidewater Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Harry Bramhall Gilbert Charitable Trust Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Samantha Theverapperuma

Virginia Highlands Community College

Philanthropy Leader: The Washington County Moose Family

Center

Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Kalyn Renee King

Virginia Western Community College

Philanthropy Leader: The City of Salem Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: I Chieh Lin

Wytheville Community College

Philanthropy Leader: Counts Drug Inc.

Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Samantha Magyar

Virginia Foundation for Community College Education

Philanthropy Leader: Alan and Margaret Toxopeus Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Trey LaFollette



Jade Sloan

Winner of the Jonathan Alje Toxopeus Scholarship



"My dad was a strong believer in education. He would be proud."

o one would dare call Jade Sloan lazy.
As a Jonathan Alje
Toxopeus Scholar, she works 35 hours per week for the United States Army Corps of Engineers in its Student Career Experience Program; coaches varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders at her former high school; and is working to complete an associate's degree in business at Lord Fairfax Community College.

Receiving the scholarship in 2008 gave Sloan a new perspective on life, a chance to "get away from the neighborhood of crime that I grew up in."

"My dad, who died when I was young, was a strong believer in education," said Sloan. "He would be proud. I'm so grateful for the scholarship."

Winchester residents Dr.
Margaret and Mr. Alan Toxopeus
established the scholarship with
the VFCCE in 2007, and Jade is
the second recipient.

By attending LFCC, Jade has been able to stay close to home and her four siblings. She hopes to transfer to the University of Central Florida and make that her home away from home.

She'd like to become a contract specialist with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Morgan Bruno

Society looks at you a little differently

organ Bruno always expected to go to college. But when she was thrust into the foster care system a month before her 16th birthday, after practically raising herself and her younger siblings, suddenly her future wasn't as clear.

As an older foster youth, she went through several foster homes between the ages of 16 and 18. A good student in high school, she still graduated with an advanced high school diploma.

But somehow, the expectations of foster youth were just not as high.

"Society looks at you a little differently," she said. Her foster parents – and social workers – didn't seem to expect her to succeed and go to college.

The *Great Expectations* program at New River Community College helped Morgan turn that "expectation" around.

Enrolled in the very first program at the college, she attended noncredit classes and received her Career Readiness Certificate. She kept in close contact with Lois Davis, the *Great Expectations* coach at New River, who "just kept providing more opportunities."

Now, at 19, she is on track to receive her associate's degree next summer. A successful participant in the Independent Living Program for foster youth, she is employed at New River as a *Great Expectations* mentor for new students coming into the program.

"Great Expectations helped me so much in terms of getting prepared for life," Bruno said.

For all those who thought that as a foster youth she might not have a future – she says, "I am going to be successful, and I am going to live a happy and full life. I am going to have an excellent future."



Great Expectations: Fostering Powerful Change



The *Great Expectations* Resource Center website, at GreatExpectations.vccs.edu, was launched in late 2009 to provide a one-stop information source for Virginia's foster youth – and the adults that serve them. Since then, the site has been visited 5,000 times, with 17,500 pages viewed. A blog for *Great Expectations* coaches is one of the most popular areas of the site, and students and coaches interact on social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter.



Carter Machinery in Roanoke

Corporate supporters foster youth through Great Expectations



reat Expectations supporters come in all sizes and shapes, from individuals to foundations to corporations.

Among this year's new supporters is Carter Machinery Company Inc. of Salem, a heavy and industrial equipment company with locations across Virginia and West Virginia.

Carter Machinery is the authorized Caterpillar dealer serving Virginia and southern West Virginia. Since 1951, Carter Machinery has had a hand in the success of many construction, mining, logging and industrial operations throughout its territory. With more than 20 locations, it's one of the leading Caterpillar dealers in the United States.

Carter



We Rely On Donor, Foundation Support

Two major organizations supporting efforts of the VFCCE include the Tobacco Indemnification Commission and the Ford Foundation.

In addition to supporting individual community colleges throughout the tobacco region,

the Tobacco Indemnification Commission also provided \$300,000 to expand the *Great Expectations* program to four colleges.

The Ford Foundation awarded \$300,000 in fall 2009 to a multi-agency taskforce, including the

Virginia Community College System, to support the Governor's Strategic Plan for Career Pathways System Development.

The VFCCE administers both of these grants, earmarked for workforce development and *Great Expectations* projects.

Virginia Education Wizard Scholarship

"Being a good example to my young daughters, getting their help with my school work and having them share in my success are wonderful things."



Greg Foley, a retired Fairfax County firefighter who was injured while responding to the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon, was one of three winners of the Virginia Education Wizard Scholarship Contest in fall 2009. With the scholarship award, Foley is entering his second year of study at Germanna Community College with the intention of eventually earning a doctorate in psychology. Foley, along with his daughters Josie and Bridgit, was awarded the check by Chancellor Glenn DuBois

and Delegates Ed Scott and Bobby Orrock at the 2009 VCCS Legislative Reception. "Being able to continue with my education is not just important for myself," Foley, the single father of two, said. "Being a good example to my young daughters, getting their 'help' with my school work and having them share in my success are wonderful things."

P. Martin Sharpless, Jr.

Setting aside a legacy to support access

"You don't have to attend a community college to understand how important these colleges are to Virginia."



he key role that community colleges play in the state's education network is appreciated by P. Martin Sharpless, Jr.

A member of the board of directors for the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education, he is a vice president with Gilbane, a family-owned construction company with offices in Arlington and Richmond, Virginia.

"You don't have to attend a community college to understand how important these colleges are to Virginia. They provide college degrees for some, and needed skills – and second chances – for others. VFCCE, in turn, helps each of the local colleges as they bring opportunity to families all over Virginia."

Sharpless has included a bequest to the VFCCE in his will as a way to support a mission he believes in strongly. "My own family commitments limit what I can do for VFCCE right now. Giving in my will sets aside a legacy for a cause I am proud to be associated with. It is important to give back. I want to make sure that I'm supporting an organization that is making a difference."

Through the generosity of foresighted friends like Martin, the VFCCE will be able to expand its mission of providing access to education for all Virginians.

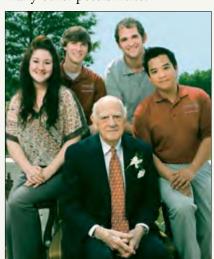
Dana Hamel Legacy Society Creates Endowment for Opportunity

Founded in 2009, the Dana Hamel Legacy Society honors those who have made a planned gift to he Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE).

Named after the founding chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges, the Dana Hamel Legacy Society includes alumni and friends who have acted upon their belief in these colleges' mission by creating a legacy of their resources.

A bequest in a will or other planned gift, invested in VFCCE's endowment, can provide recurring income to help Virginia's Community Colleges further access to education throughout the commonwealth.

There are many ways to make a planned gift. In addition to a bequest, they include a revocable trust, designation of the balance of a retirement account, a charitable lead trust, gifts of life insurance policies or real estate, as well as many other possibilities.



Members of the Dana Hamel Legacy Society

The following have generously included the VFCCE in their estate plans and are the inaugural members of The Dana Hamel Legacy Society:

Patricia Dougans
Glenn DuBois
Jean and Stephen Eitelman
Jennifer Gentry
Joy Graham
Jan Gray
Karen Petersen
P. Martin Sharpless, Jr.
Carol Underhill

Left: Chancellor Emeritus Dana B. Hamel visits with students at the 2010 Philanthropy Leadership luncheon.

A Commitment to Our Future

Private gifts and grants make it possible for the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education to carry out its mission of providing access to education for all Virginians. In fiscal year 2010, the majority of gifts and pledges were directed to program development, scholarships and student aid. The foundation is grateful to the following:

Friends

Imad Abi-Falah Emilio Acevedo Bernard Afful Shahnaz Ahmed Jennifer Allman Jennifer Anderson Karen Angelici Misty Armstrong Julie Atkins Robert W. Bailie Jayne Barnard Kevin Barrowclough Bruce Bartek

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Randal J. Kirk

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Samantha Krishnamurthy Srinivas Kuman

Carol Kyber

Maureen and Vincent La Piana

Cheryl Lawrence Kimberly Lawrence Matt Lawson Christopher Lee Samantha Lee-Fleming Donna Liberman Austin Ligon Greg Liptak Sally Love Ralph Lucia Chris Lumsden Andrew Lyon Shweta Mahendrakar Nathaniel X. Marshall Mirta Martin

Violet Martin Jeanine Maruca Willie McAllister Anne McCaffrey Scott McCombe Bernie McGinn Monica Melville

Yvonne Mency

Grace Mooney

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Peggy and John Singleton **Noel Sipple**

Angela Skarp Debra Smith Kathleen C. Smith Margaret A. Smith Natalie Smith Rov M. Smith Mary Dunne Stewart Russ Stinson Paul Sweet Donna Swiney William H. Talley, III George Taratsas Garry Taylor John T. Taylor Teresa Thomas Jean Thomas-Banks Kathy Thompson **Ruth Tilley** Susan T. Timmons **Evelyn Tobian**

Margaret and Alan Toxopeus

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Corporations. Foundations and Organizations

We acknowledge with gratitude the following groups whose direct grants supported our programs during fiscal year 2010.

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Corporate Matching Gifts

We thank the following companies and our friends who took advantage of generous matching gift programs to double - sometimes triple - the impact of their donation.

Gilbane Building Company PepsiCo Foundation Verizon Foundation

Gifts In Kind

CISCO **FERIDIES** Strange's Florists, Inc. Valley Proteins Wyndham Virginia Crossings The names of individuals who were honored or memorialized by donors in fiscal year 2010 are listed below.

Gifts in Honor

Glenn DuBois Barbara J. and B. Mark Fried William C. Hall, Jr. Eva T. Hardy Anne Holton Tim Kaine Connie Kincheloe Julien Patterson Carol Underhill Preston Wilhelm

Gifts in Memory

Michael Schiavone Raymond Terry William Underhill

The Honor Roll reports all gifts to the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education for fiscal year 2010, which spanned July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010. The list is based on VFCCE gift accounting and database information. If you see a listing or name in error or one that is missing please contact the Foundation at 804.819.4961 or jreed@vccs.edu.





Julien Patterson

Board of Directors

John T. Casteen III Glenn DuBois James W. Dyke, Jr. Jennifer Sager Gentry Philip H. Goodpasture Hugh F. Gouldthorpe, Jr. William C. Hall, Jr. Barbara A. Johnsen Constance R. Kincheloe

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The Honorable Charles Robb The Honorable Mark Warner The Honorable Douglas Wilder

Muriel Seaward and Amber Smith Family ties and friendly rivalry make higher education a reality



"Go ahead and pursue that dream. You can accomplish it." uriel Seaward and Amber Smith help each other study for the classes they take at LFCC's Luray-Page County Center and support each other's dreams of completing college degrees. They also engage in a little friendly rivalry – which makes sense, because Muriel Seaward is Amber Smith's mother.

Seaward, retired from the military, works full time at Home Depot while pursuing an associate's degree that will help her begin a career in human resources. She plans to transfer to a four-year university. She felt uncomfortable at first about being an older student, she said, but found her professors and classmates have been very supportive.

"I'm really proud of her," Smith said of her mother. "She's making good grades."

Smith graduated from Luray High School in 2009. She is considering medicine or dentistry and works as a dietary aide at Page Memorial Hospital. She attends LFCC on a scholarship that helped offset her college expenses and enabled her and her mother to both attend school at the same time.

Both mother and daughter agree that they would not have been able to attend school without the access to classes and the flexibility of scheduling provided by the Luray-Page Center. In fall 2009, they even took a class together.

For anyone considering college, Seaward has this advice to share: "Go ahead and pursue that dream. You can accomplish it. I can't wait to graduate and walk across that stage."

State Board for Community Colleges 2010-2011



Nathaniel Xavier Marshall Chair, Lynchburg



Jeffery K. Mitchell Vice Chair, Blacksburg



Hank W. Chao Vienna



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Falls Church



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Dorcas Helfant-**Browning** Virginia Beach



Danny Hunley **Newport News**



Barbara A. Johnsen Pungoteague



Adele C. Johnson Midlothian

he 15-member State **Board for Community** Colleges is appointed by the Governor to oversee the Virginia Community College System. Those joining the State Board for Community Colleges in 2010-11 included Sasha Gong of Falls Church, Bruce Meyer of Virginia Beach and Mike Thomas of Richmond, replacing former members Mark Graham of Abingdon, Chris Lumsden of South Boston and Alan Toxopeus of Winchester. Nathaniel Marshall succeeded Gary Hancock as chair and Jeffery Mitchell became vice chair for the 2010-11 year.



Bruce J. Meyer Virginia Beach



R. Michael Mohler Richmond



Robert W. Shinn Richmond



William H. Talley III Petersburg



Michael E. Thomas Richmond

Glenn DuBois Student Success Fund



Saying farewell, creating new beginnings

Four former chairs of the State Board for Community Colleges said goodbye this year after finishing their second terms on the panel. But the group, including (left to right after Chancellor DuBois): Mark R. Graham, Constance R. Kincheloe, Alan G. Toxopeus and Chris A. Lumsden, turned their departure into a celebration by donating and raising \$50,000 as an initial endowment to the Glenn DuBois Student Success Fund through the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education. The endowment will be used to create an emergency fund that will assist VCCS Middle College students by covering small, external emergency expenses that can too often derail one's college pursuit.

2010-2011 Enrollment

College	Unduplicated Headcount	Full-Time Equivalent
Blue Ridge	6,831	3,119
Central Virginia	8,007	2,915
Dabney S. Lancaster	2,247	867
Danville	6,951	2,854
Eastern Shore	1,446	662
Germanna	9,774	4,245
J. Sargeant Reynolds	19,663	8,117
John Tyler	13,693	5,751
Lord Fairfax	8,993	3,841
Mountain Empire	4,507	2,136
New River	8,431	3,391
Northern Virginia	72,563	32,537
Patrick Henry	5,047	2,629
Paul D. Camp	2,515	982
Piedmont Virginia	7,485	2,878
Rappahannock	4,590	1,858
Southside Virginia	9,381	3,860
Southwest Virginia	5,631	2,585
Thomas Nelson	15,834	6,581
Tidewater	45,370	21,507
Virginia Highlands	3,818	1,818
Virginia Western	13,224	4,893
Wytheville	5,242	2,451
VCCS Total	281,243	122,479

Adrian Jones



Adrian Jones overcame homelessness, obtained a GED certificate and then graduated from J. Sargeant Reynolds in 2007 with an associate's degree in business administration.

This past May, he graduated from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in business, a concentration in finance and a minor in real estate.

In a recent letter to Reynolds' transfer specialist Vicki Bruce, Jones wrote, "You helped me to get accepted into Virginia Tech,

and I wanted to write and say thank you for everything you did to help me. I'm only able to reach this milestone in my life because of your dedication and commitment to helping me achieve my goals."

Jones' story is one of survival and perseverance in the face of tremendous odds. "Looking back, I am truly amazed at my progression from a background of utter poverty and abuse to the cusp of achieving my dreams," he said.

He was a 24-year-old high school dropout when he entered the Safehaven homeless shelter and made a determined decision that education would be the key to achieving his dreams. First stop was the Adult Career Development Center, where he passed the GED on the first try. Next stop was the associate's degree transfer program at JSRCC.

He set high goals: honor roll every semester and to be inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. But, he said, "I have gone on to surpass even my own wildest expectations."

Calling himself not the smartest, but the "hardest working student at J. Sargeant Reynolds," he said he's learned that "perseverance, dedication and hard work are the cornerstones of success in life."

Financial Statement for Year Ended June 30, 2010

Federal grants and contracts 90,264,724 20.	.8% .8% .9%
Tuition and fees \$ 302,820,898 69. Federal grants and contracts 90,264,724 20.	.8% .9%
, ,	9%
State and local grants 3,954,931 0.	
	0%
Nongovernmental grants 8,470,233 2.	
Sales/services of educational departments 477,004 0.	1%
Auxilliary enterprises 15,632,391 3.	6%
Other operating revenues 12,363,532 2.	.8%
Total Operating Revenues \$ 433,983,713 100.	0%
Nonoperating Revenues	
State appropriations 359,633,898	
Local appropriations 2,288,807	
Grants and gifts 217,891,138	
Investment income 3,062,623	
Net Nonoperating Revenues \$ 582,876,466	
Capital appropriations (state and local) 98,725,758	
Capital gifts and grants 11,712,281	
Total Revenue \$ 1,127,298,218	

Expenses			
Operating Expenses			
Instruction	\$	423,454,053	41.1%
Public service		63,506,498	6.2%
Academic support		82,586,361	8.0%
Student services		66,766,374	6.5%
Institutional support		161,363,264	15.7%
Operation and maintenance		94,126,587	9.1%
Scholarships and fellowships		125,182,325	12.2%
Auxiliary enterprises		12,050,950	1.2%
Other expenses		84,103	0.0%
Total Operating Expenses	\$1	,029,120,515	100.0%
Nonoperating Expenses			
Interest on capital asset related debt		3,332,063	
Other nonoperating expenses		428,987	
Total Expenses	\$1	,032,881,565	
Increase in VCCS Net Assets	\$	94,416,653	

Based on unaudited statements prepared on accrual basis of accounting in accordance with GASB Statement

Number 35. Includes all fund groups. Does not include the VCCS foundations

Miranda Groves

New GI Bill, plus affordable tuition help future flight nurse



"The excitement and demands of flight nursing are my calling."

Miranda Groves, 24, always knew she'd serve her country in the military. Daughter of a lifelong Marine, raised in a strong military family, she joined the Navy with high hopes.

Fate forced her down a different path, however, when she broke her foot three times and took an early discharge. "But I had excellent training in the Navy that will apply to my education and future career as a flight nurse," said Groves.

Her Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits also serve her well, paying her way through TCC's Beazley School of Nursing and into the National Flight Nurse Academy of Case Western University in Ohio.

TCC is the top community college in the country in numbers of military veterans using the Post-9/11 GI Bill and ranks fourth among all colleges and universities. Those facts don't surprise Groves, a work-study student in TCC's Veterans Affairs Office, staffed by veterans.

"I think we do a really good job reaching out to vets," she said. "I like to tell them about their benefits and entitlements; it's scary to come out of the military and try to start a college career. We give them some security."

Groves has set her goals farther down the road. After she earns her TCC nursing degree, she has to gain three years of emergency room experience before applying to the academy.

"But it's absolutely what I want to do; the excitement and demands of flight nursing are my calling."

Brittnee Ricks

PDCCC student plans to pursue pediatrics

They say when the going gets tough, the tough go shopping.
Paul D. Camp Community College student Brittnee Ricks, who recently
graduated with a 4.0, is living proof. "It's a stress reliever," she said about her
favorite pastime.

The science major will head to Old Dominion University to earn her bachelor's degree in biology. Ricks hopes to continue her studies at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

"I always knew I wanted to be a pediatrician," she said. "I love kids."

Brittnee, 19, has demonstrated her leadership skills at PDCCC by representing the college at the Virginia General Assembly and by attending the state Student Leadership Conference. She was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa and is a member of the Literary Club and Faith Unleashed in Everyday Life (FUEL).

She also works for Student Support Services, tutoring all levels of math. "I also tutor some of my cousins at home," she said.

Ricks stresses to other students the importance of staying focused in school. "Always put your schoolwork first, because education is the door to opportunity," she said.



"Always put your schoolwork first, because education is the door to opportunity."

Donna Terry

TNCC graduate a national standout

sitting on the couch simply thinking about achieving a goal won't make it happen, asserts 2010 Coca-Cola Bronze Scholar Donna Terry.

As a Coca-Cola Bronze Scholar, Terry was listed in a special section of USA Today and received \$1,000. The Thomas Nelson Community College nursing graduate was selected based on scores earned in the All-USA Academic Team competition administered by Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society. She was one of the top ten two-year college students in Virginia.

Terry used to think about taking steps toward her lifelong dream of becoming a nurse – often – but she kept putting it off. That changed in 2007 when she enrolled at TNCC.

The effects of an empty nest and a poignant television sermon by Joel Osteen



were catalysts in her decision to finally pursue nursing, and her fervor hasn't waned since.

She maintained strong study and work ethics, had a 3.87 grade point average and was a member of TNCC's chapter of PTK. Terry was also in the Nursing Honors Program, the Student Nurse Association and was elected class ambassador last year.

In 2009, she organized a ceremony during which first-year nursing students received stripes as recognition that they completed the program's first phase. "The college had not conducted a Striping Ceremony in roughly seven years," Terry said.

Terry plans to specialize in cardiac care, furthering her education at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Doug Bray Advancing through apprenticeship

After spending the last six years making airplane parts at Euro-Composite in Culpeper, 29-year-old Doug Bray saw a chance to advance his career when the company began an apprenticeship program in partnership with Germanna Community College.

"It was definitely a good opportunity for me," said Bray, "it will help me to excel at what I'm doing and come up with new ideas to do my job that maybe I wouldn't have without taking the program and without getting my license."



The four-year apprenticeship program combines classroom work with on-the-job training at the work site and paves a path for the apprentice to earn an associate's degree and a journeyman's license. The specialized program is designed to meet the need for trained industrial maintenance technicians and is intended for those who wish to work as maintenance employees or those who have recently been hired as maintenance employees. It also allows current employees to upgrade the skills necessary to support and maintain high-technology equipment. The apprenticeship program is mutually beneficial to the employees, who are receiving a training program tailored to their career and to

"It's been a learning experience," Bray said. "It's taught me things I never knew and also helped me refresh on things I learned in high school and never really used while I was working. It will definitely help me to think more critically. It's been a little tough at times, but it's definitely been enjoyable."

the employers, who reap the benefits of a highly skilled workforce.

Matthew Shane Van Ness DSLCC changes life of Army veteran

"This college saved my life." That's the testimony of Matthew Shane Van Ness, who earned his associate's degree in administration of justice from Dabney S. Lancaster Community College in May.

The 37-year-old Clifton Forge native and high school graduate spent several years in the Army as a transportation specialist, serving in Saudi Arabia,



Haiti and Howard Air Force Base in the 1990s. He then worked in municipal wastewater treatment and later was employed at a local industrial plant. He was laid off two days before Christmas in 2008.

"The Trade Act gave me a chance to go back to school," said the Army veteran. "My girlfriend convinced me that I probably wouldn't get this chance again. I had been out of school for 16 years."

Van Ness credits the faculty and staff at DSLCC – and his girlfriend – with helping him get through those first tough semesters. "The librarian sat with me for an hour, helping me find sources for a research paper. I've become friends with a lot of my professors."

Van Ness found his niche in the ADJ program and is currently working as a private investigator with a local firm, after earning his PI certification. He plans to return to DSLCC to obtain a degree in forensic science, and is especially interested in the field of security.

"DSLCC gave me a solid foundation for a new career."

Kevin Hamed

A passion for biology and teaching



"His teaching skills are phenomenal and his passion for life and biology is extraordinary."

Hannah Miltier, student

passion for science and deep appreciation for the diverse wildlife present only in Appalachia earned Kevin Hamed, an assistant professor of biology at Virginia Highlands Community College, recognition as the 2009 Virginia Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

This prestigious award recognizes faculty members for their impact on and involvement with students, scholarly approach to teaching and learning, contributions to education in the institution and community, and support from colleagues and students.

"His teaching skills are phenomenal and his passion for life and biology is extraordinary," said Hannah Miltier, one of several students, colleagues and friends who supported the nomination. "He is a person that is very committed to his profession, and is a teacher that makes learning fun, invites you to explore with him, and is all around an exceptional individual."

Because his own love for learning was sparked by an energetic teacher who took him out of the classroom and into nature, Hamed introduces his biology students to the remarkable creatures living in the wetlands and forests nearby. He couples classroom learning with scientific research performed in the field – always teaching students to explore, to discover, to document results and to examine the larger impact of their findings.

Hamed was awarded a 2009 Virginia Community College Chancellor's Faculty Fellowship and a one-year sabbatical to pursue a doctorate at the University of Tennessee. He recently resumed his full-time teaching duties at VHCC and, as a doctoral student, is continuing his extensive research on Appalachian salamanders – an interest that has been covered in several regional and statewide publications this year.

Community College Presidents



Dr. John A DowneyBlue Ridge



Dr. Cynthia S. Bambara, Interim Central Virginia



Dr. Richard R. TeaffDabney S. Lancaster



Dr. B. Carlyle Ramsey
Danville



Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover
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Dr. Marshall W. SmithJohn Tyler



Dr. Cheryl Thompson-Stacy Lord Fairfax



Dr. Scott HamiltonMountain Empire



Dr. Jack. M. Lewis New River



Dr. Robert G. Templin, Jr.Northern Virginia

Campus Locations & Service Areas

BR Blue Ridge Weyers Cave

CV Central Virginia Lynchburg

DSL Dabney S. Lancaster Clifton Forge

Danville Danville

ES Eastern Shore Melfa

G Germanna Fredericksburg Locust Grove

JSR J. Sargeant Reynolds Goochland Henrico Richmond

JT John Tyler Chester Midlothian

LF Lord Fairfax
Fauquier
Middletown

ME Mountain Empire Big Stone Gap

NR New River Dublin

NV Northern Virginia
Alexandria
Annandale
Loudoun
Manassas
Springfield
Woodbridge

PH Patrick Henry Martinsville

PDC Paul D. Camp Franklin Suffolk

PV Piedmont Virginia Charlottesville

R Rappahannock Glenns Warsaw SV Southside Virginia Alberta Keysville

SW Southwest Virginia Richlands

TN Thomas Nelson Hampton Williamsburg

T Tidewater
Chesapeake
Norfolk
Portsmouth
Virginia Beach

VH Virginia Highlands Abingdon

VW Virginia Western Roanoke W Wytheville

Wytheville

Wise

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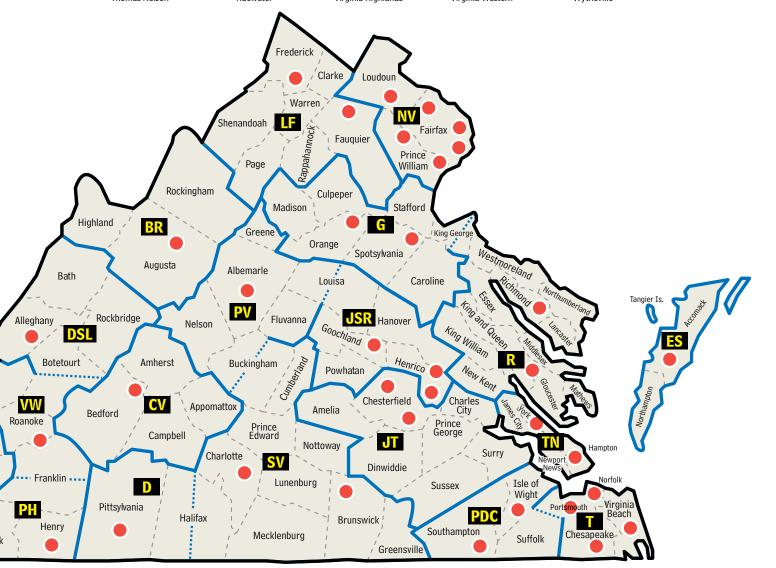
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The Office of Institutional Advancement wishes to extend its deepest appreciation to all of the college public relations offices for contributing photos, profiles and other materials to this annual report.

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