



VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
ANNUAL REPORT | **2013-2014**



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A MESSAGE FROM

THE CHANCELLOR

Virginia's Community Colleges are entering into the final year of the *Achieve 2015* six-year statewide strategic plan. The pursuit of that public promise drives our 23 colleges and 40 campuses. Together, we are serving more students, including more historically underserved students, producing more graduates and assisting more Virginia employers.

I invite you to look at the charts throughout this annual report. They represent a snapshot of our progress, highlighting our successes as well as pointing us to where more work must be done. Among those charts are the pictures and stories of some of the almost 400,000 people Virginia's Community Colleges served last year.

Their stories of success inspire. As our system of community colleges nears its golden anniversary, it is important to remember and remain true to our founding mission of bringing higher education and workforce training to all of Virginia.



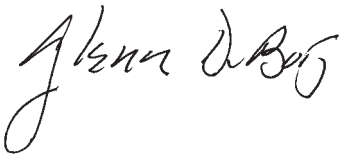
As *Achieve 2015* nears its end, our work begins anew to ensure we meet the needs of the families, employers and communities we serve.

While we vet the draft of our next strategic plan, one thing is certain: our focus remains external, fixed on the needs of those we serve. Our community colleges are at their best when they are the place where people can come together and collaborate on getting a community to where it wants to be.

Virginia faces significant educational needs, including: preparing more high school graduates for college-level work; guiding veterans transitioning to civilian careers; bridging the educational disparities between different regions of Virginia; and connecting today's students with tomorrow's most promising careers, especially in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and health science fields.

These challenges did not occur overnight nor will they be solved overnight. But they are not beyond resolution. With a sense of urgency, with focus, with appropriate resources, Virginia's Community Colleges exist to address these needs. When I see how far we have come, even just in the past six years, I know that we are up to the task!

Sincerely,



Glenn DuBois



“As *Achieve 2015* nears its end, our work begins anew to ensure we meet the needs of the families, employers and communities we serve.”





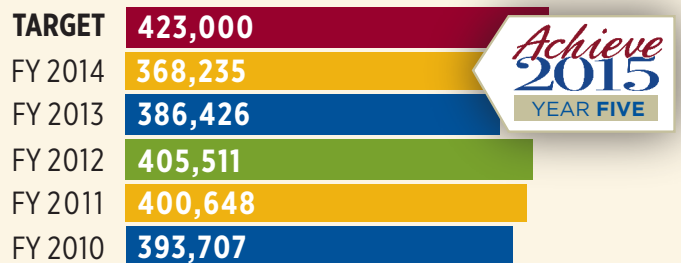
ACHIEVE 2015 | GOAL

ACCESS

Increase the number of individuals who are educated and trained by Virginia's Community Colleges by 50,000 to an annual total of 423,000, with emphasis on increasing the number from underserved populations by at least 83,000 individuals.

Maintaining the state's economic vitality requires increasing the number of college graduates by 2014 and beyond. Virginia's Community Colleges have a critically important role to play in achieving that goal. We can enhance Virginian's reputation as the premier source of workplace competence, confidence and capability by serving more students, including first time college students and those who come from families with little or no college experience.

INDIVIDUALS EDUCATED & TRAINED



UNDER-REPRESENTED POPULATIONS





ASEIN TA | JOHN TYLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Grateful GE student eager to give back envisions a career dedicated to education

Asein Ta believes education is vital. He also believes in the importance of giving back. Because of that, he not only wants to become an elementary school teacher, he wants to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) and travel as a part of the United Nations to help those who need assistance.

Ta was born in a rural area of Myanmar (Burma), and after losing his parents, he moved to Thailand, where he lived in refugee camps for more than four years. When the opportunity arose to move to another country, Ta asked to be taken to the United States. In 2008, he came to Virginia and was placed in the foster care system. He was enrolled in James River High School's ESL program, and at his request, he was placed with a family that spoke only English. Ta says he knew being immersed in the language would help him learn it.

Ta first learned about John Tyler Community College while taking dual enrollment courses at James River High School. He knew the college would be a good fit for him; it was close to home, had smaller classes, and it offered a class schedule that would allow him to still work.

“When I first got to John Tyler, one of the first things I recognized was the classroom size and the other thing is the environment. It is a nice place where you can study – especially the library where there are not a lot of distractions.”

Ta says he feels like he's part of a family at John Tyler and he loves the college's diversity.

After finishing his general studies degree with a specialization in elementary teacher education, Asein plans to transfer to Virginia Commonwealth University to work on a bachelor's and then master's degree.

“When I first got to John Tyler, one of the first things I recognized was the classroom size. It's a nice place where you can study.”

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SHERRI GALLAGHER | NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NRCC student racks up multiple degrees amid a very demanding schedule

To say that Sherri Gallagher has been a busy person would be a striking understatement. The student, business owner, cattle farmer and mother of two graduated from NRCC with not one, not two, but three associate degrees. She earned degrees in electrical engineering technology, electronics technology and instrumentation and control automation.

Gallagher is a contractor with her own business that does construction, electrical work and commercial build-outs. She got her start in construction assisting her husband, but eventually went on to become a licensed contractor herself.

And, as if tackling three degrees on top of her contracting business wasn't enough to keep her busy, she and her family live on a 140-acre farm where they raise Angus beef cattle.

Despite her busy schedule, Gallagher says her children – a 13-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter – enjoyed competing with her to see who could get the best grades.

“Things I anticipated not being the most ‘fun’ subjects turned out to be some of my favorites!”

“It was motivating for them when we got good grades. And I could also sympathize when they struggled with a difficult subject.”

Gallagher says she's made several visits to campus with her daughter who has expressed an interest in attending NRCC after her high school graduation. That's an idea Gallagher can get behind, praising her NRCC instructors for their help and dedication.

“The instructors are incredible, they really work with everyone. And things I anticipated not being the most ‘fun’ subjects turned out to be some of my favorites!”

Gallagher also offers some advice for future students, especially future female students following her path into fields traditionally dominated by men.

“Don't be intimidated. The men in my classes have been very welcoming and helpful and you really build a bond with everyone.”

A tradition of education

Delories Rawlings Drumgold is a great example of the accomplishment of one of Dr. John Cavan's most profound goals for Southside Virginia. In 2000, she started a tradition of education for her family by graduating from Southside Virginia Community College.

At the ceremony on the Christanna Campus, a photograph memorialized the event. The photo with Drumgold reaching for the outstretched arms of her niece, Breanna Elder, captures a profound moment in time featuring happiness, accomplishment and love. The photo won first place nationally for Black and White Photography in competition with community colleges from all 50 states.

The love and caring between the two never diminished. They are as close as mother and daughter, and the niece always obeys her aunt's advice.

"I knew I had to have an education and my Aunt told me I had to have an education and recommended SVCC," Elder said.

Fourteen years after Cavan presented Drumgold with her diploma, her niece smiled broadly as Cavan awarded one to her.

The aunt received her CNA certificate. The niece was awarded an associate degree in business administration and has already transferred to Liberty University.

And the tradition of education continues, Elder notes that her two-year old son will also be a future SVCC student.

The most valuable legacy Dr. John J. Cavan leaves to Southside Virginia is perfectly illustrated by this family's story.



“My Aunt told me I had to have an education and recommended SVCC.”



BRITTANY MITCHELL | TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Heavy but rewarding load has kept nursing student hopping

Brittany Mitchell isn't worried about the sleep she's missed or her messy house.

That's because her education has never been in better shape. Mitchell graduated from Tidewater Community College with her associate's in nursing on May 16 and from Old Dominion University with her bachelor's in nursing in August. She completed classes in the two programs concurrently.

"So my life has been school for the last two years," says Mitchell, president of the Student Nurses Association at TCC.

She's also worked 30 to 35 hours per week as clinical coordinator at Medical Center Radiologists in Virginia Beach, but is good-natured in saying, "Really, I don't sleep."

Mitchell's progression into medicine is a circuitous one, as she earned her initial bachelor's in psychology from Old Dominion in 2008. But real life appealed to her more than research and the daughter of a surgeon's assistant

realized where she belonged after volunteering with the Kempsville Rescue Squad in Virginia Beach. She began TCC's nursing program in fall 2012.

"TCC is regionally and nationally accredited for nursing," she says. "Being a military spouse – my husband has been in the Navy for eight years – I had to go somewhere nationally accredited in case we are stationed somewhere else."

Despite her rigorous load, Mitchell is active within the college. She attended the Virginia Community College System leadership conference last fall and recently attended the National Student Nurses annual convention in Nashville.

While her long-term goal is to be an emergency room nurse, Mitchell also talks of becoming a legislative nurse, noting, "There are so many issues out there in health care and politics that affect nurses. I want to make sure all nurses have a voice."

“Being a military spouse, I had to go somewhere nationally accredited in case we are stationed somewhere else.”

Dual enrollment student says degree pursuit was a real learning experience

It's not unusual to see students like Danielle Combs crossing the stage at Wytheville Community College's commencement exercises. Thanks to dual enrollment courses at Grayson County High School, Combs graduated from WCC in May of 2011 with an associate's degree – weeks before she graduated from high school with her diploma.

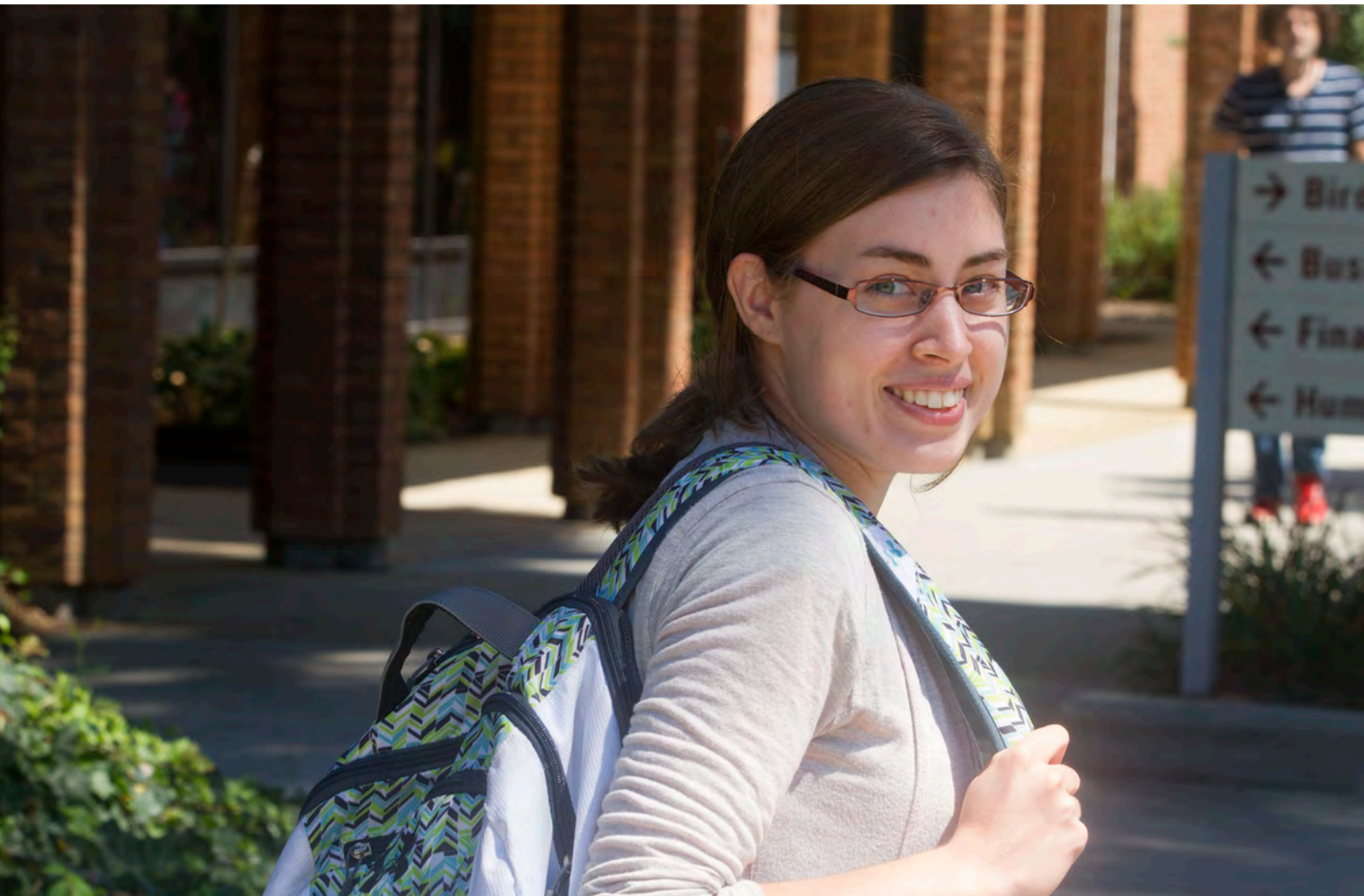
Combs began taking dual enrollment classes the summer before her freshman year in high school and by the end of her senior year, she had completed 29 college classes, racked up 84 transferable college credits, and earned a college degree. From WCC, she moved on to Radford University, where she studied nursing and earned her bachelor's degree in May of 2014.

“Getting my associate's degree and taking college classes through WCC taught me how to study and how to manage my time,” says Combs. “I was ready for college when I went to Radford, and that's because of WCC. Even if I hadn't received my associate's degree in high school,” she adds, “I would still have chosen WCC for my first two years of college.”

At age 21, with both an associate's and a bachelor's degree under her belt, Combs started her first full-time job as a registered nurse in July of 2014 at Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC. She was chosen from a pool of 150 applicants for the job. But she's not finished with her education. She plans to eventually earn a doctorate degree and work as a certified nurse midwife.



“Getting my associate's degree and taking college classes through WCC taught me how to study and how to manage my time.”



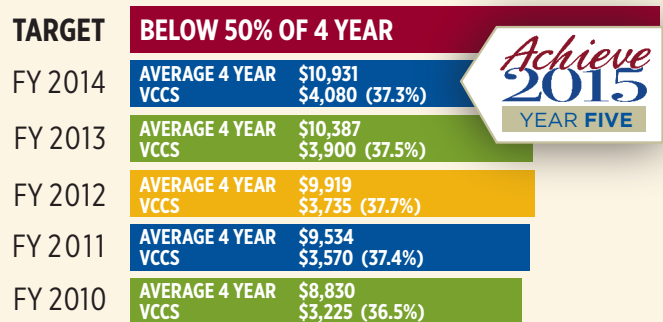
ACHIEVE 2015 | GOAL

AFFORDABILITY

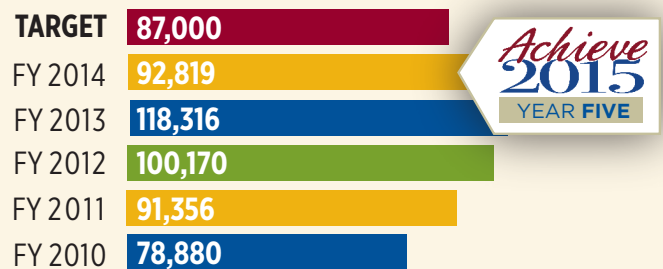
Maintain tuition and fees at less than half of the comparable cost of attending Virginia’s public four-year institutions, and increase the number of students who receive financial assistance and scholarships by 36,000.

The affordability of higher education is a primary concern for Virginia families and students. As costs continue to rise, options become fewer in number. Giving everyone the opportunity to learn and develop the right skills so lives and communities are strengthened is our mission. Virginia’s Community Colleges are dedicated to helping more students secure grants, scholarships and other resources they need to pursue their college dreams and lay the foundation for successful careers.

TUITION



GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS





KEIA HOLMES | RAPPAHANNOCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Achievement is RCC student's middle name

"RCC delivered everything I expected and more," says Monisha La'Keia "Keia" Holmes, who received a transfer degree with specialization in psychology at Commencement 2014. She was also honored that evening with the designation of Class Representative, and introduced the featured speaker.

Though she had been accepted by several four-year colleges, Holmes decided that attending RCC was her best option because it was close to home and community-based, and she knew many of the people attending the college. "It was a great value, and everyone was so friendly," she said. "At RCC you are not just a number—they call you by your name."

At Old Dominion University's RCC site, Holmes worked with counselors to set up a plan preparing her to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology. Because of the excellent selection of RCC courses she was able to take, she will need only one additional year at ODU to complete this degree.

In addition to her academic achievements, Holmes attained membership in the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, participated in RCC's Student Support Services program and in the Federal Work-Study Program, and served as a student ambassador to welcome new students to RCC.

"I also had the honor of representing RCC in the Strategic Planning Task Force for the Virginia Community College System."

Holmes gets her strength from her upbringing, she said. The only child of a single mother, she works hard and doesn't want anything handed to her.

"If you don't have to work for it, it's not worth having."

"At RCC you are not just a number — they call you by your name."

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KATELYN HILL | SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

First generation college student seeks springboard to success at SWCC

Katelyn Hill is a freshman working towards her dream career at Southwest Virginia Community College. She credits her late father and SWCC with motivating her to improve her life.

“When my father passed away, it was a huge struggle financially for my family. I wanted to do something with my life to help others, but didn’t think I would be able to attend college.”

That’s when SWCC stepped in to help. The college offered her a scholarship and she knew then that she had been handed an opportunity that would change her life.

“That scholarship made my education possible.”

Hill is currently enrolled as a Health Science Technology major at SWCC. Her career goal is to be a dental hygienist.

“I feel my father’s influence every day. He was a good man who made the most of what he had. It was the contribution of his positive attitude towards life that made me want to make the most of the scholarship that SWCC offered.”

The future couldn’t look brighter for this Virginia Community College student.

“I’ll be able to achieve my dream career because of my dad and SWCC.”

“I wanted to do something with my life to help others, but didn’t think I would be able to attend college.”



MURRAY AND MANN FAMILY | DABNEY S. LANCASTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Combined clans make for a real family affair at DSLCC

Meet the M & Ms – the Murray and Mann family. Six members strong and all with ties to DSLCC.

Three of the four children, Morgan Murray, Cole Murray and Erich Mann, each received diplomas from three different DSLCC programs during commencement exercises on May 13, and all three graduated with honors. Daughter Amber Mann was a dual enrollment student at DSLCC while in high school. Dad Robert Mann is a DSLCC graduate, and mom Jeanette Mann is director of the Emergency Medical Services program at DSLCC. All of the family members, with the exception of Jeanette, who grew up in Pennsylvania, are graduates of Allegheny High School (AHS).

“Being a small rural community college, it has given our four children a quality education at an affordable price,” says Jeanette Mann, who came to DSLCC in 2011 as an EMS instructor. She has been the director of the EMS program since 2012 and was instrumental in getting the program started.

Her husband, Robert, received his associate’s degree in mechanical design from DSLCC in 1990.

Erich Mann, 20, a 2012 AHS graduate, earned an associate’s degree in administration of justice and a certificate in law enforcement from DSLCC. He plans to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Morgan Murray, 20, also a 2011 AHS graduate, earned a career studies certificate in emergency medical services – intermediate from DSLCC.

Nineteen-year-old Cole Murray earned a certificate in welding from DSLCC. While a welding student at Jackson River Technical Center, he was a member of the welding/fabrication team that placed sixth in the National Skills USA welding contest.

Eric and Amber are also the children of Margaret Mann, a 1992 DSLCC graduate with an associate’s degree in office system technology and a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

“Being a small rural community college, DSLCC has given our four children a quality education at an affordable price.”



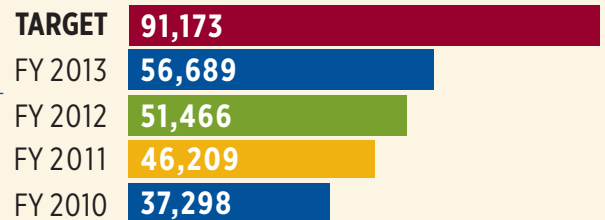
ACHIEVE 2015 | GOAL

STUDENT SUCCESS

Triple the number of students graduating, transferring, or completing a workforce credential, to 91,173, including tripling the success of students from underserved populations to 39,393.

This goal is important to Virginia because Virginia's Community Colleges are national leaders in their innovative work to elevate the issue of student success. The VCCS seeks to improve the numbers of students who successfully complete their community college studies and/or transfer to a university. A statewide overhaul of developmental education offerings – one of the headlines of the VCCS reengineering work – is but the latest effort in pursuing this goal along with strategies like Career Coaches, Middle College and Great Expectations.

GRADUATES, TRANSFERS AND CREDENTIALS



GRADUATES, TRANSFERS, UNDER-REPRESENTED POPULATIONS





BUKURU CELESTIN | VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Making an international impact

Like many international students, Bukuru Celestin has faced challenges in overcoming cultural and language barriers to pursue higher education at Virginia Western Community College.

Originally from Burundi, Africa, Bukuru and his family came to Roanoke via Tanzania in 2008. Though he sang in his church choir as a child, he gave up music in 2005 before eventually immigrating. It was as a student at Patrick Henry High School that he learned about the Jefferson Center's Music Lab.

The Music Lab offers experiential learning in the music business, technology and performance as an extension of the education area schools provide. Intrigued, Bukuru began attending the Music Lab and immediately started conveying the gospel music of his native land to his new home.

"I had stopped creating music, but it was always in my blood," he said. "Americans don't play this stuff, so I began adapting the music in my head to more of an Afrobeat-jazz style."

Bukuru soon began recording demos of songs, and Cyrus Pace, the executive director of the Jefferson Center, passed some on to Michael League of the jazz/funk group Snarky Puppy. Snarky Puppy had performed at the Jefferson Center and League was floored by hearing Bukuru play all the instruments on more than 40 fully composed songs. League immediately began planning a collaboration and the result was an album released in 2013 – Amkeni.

As Bukuru was taking classes at Virginia Western in 2013, his album was climbing the iTunes World Music Charts, reaching No. 8. In January 2014, Bukuru was watching the Grammy Awards when he saw League and Snarky Puppy win Best R&B Performance for their song with Lalah Hathaway.

"When I watched the Grammys and they won, I couldn't believe it," Bukuru said. "And the next week I was playing with them in concert!"

“I had stopped creating music, but it was always in my blood.”



AMANDA HARBISON | NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

New Century Scholar believes Northern Virginia Community College was her best decision

As valedictorian of her high school, Amanda Harbison had her choice of colleges and concluded Northern Virginia Community College was a perfect fit.

“I decided to attend NOVA because of its location, programs of study and flexible class times. I value the smaller classroom sizes because they create a more conducive learning environment. My decision turned out to be the best I have ever made.”

Harbison was already familiar with NOVA after taking dual enrollment classes during her senior year of high school. She studied biotechnology at NOVA’s Manassas Campus where she was actively involved in student life. She served as a summer camp leader for fourth graders and led an open house to encourage middle and high school students to pursue careers in science.

Harbison credits the biotechnology faculty and staff with inspiring her and providing opportunities such as the 2014 Community College Summer Enrichment Program at the National Institutes of Health where she completed an internship before graduating from NOVA.

“My long-term career goal is to work in the field of bioremediation where I can help the environment. I am also interested in a number of research areas, particularly nanotechnology, environmental biology and neurogenetics.”

Based on grades, leadership and other attributes, Harbison was named the 2014 New Century Scholar for Virginia. Sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation, Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the American Association of Community Colleges, the program recognizes the highest scoring students out of more than 1,700 nominees nationwide.

“I value the smaller classroom sizes because they create a more conducive learning environment.”



MARCUS BAKER | TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A good student on a bad path found new direction at TCC

Marcus Baker was never violent, but the mischief that started in third grade escalated to suspensions in high school and a respect issue that led to dismissal from Chowan College.

Slowly but surely, Baker began to turn his life around and on May 16, he became a first-generation college graduate. As the student speaker selected for the class of 2014, he shared his journey from the projects in Portsmouth to Norfolk State University as a Links scholar.

One day, Baker says he'd like to mentor youth and ideally start a nonprofit that prepares middle schoolers for college.

"There's nothing I can do to change the problems I created and the stress I put on my family and community," he says. "The only way I can fix it without changing the past is to make a brighter future for somebody else."

When Baker was 12, a good friend was killed coming home from a party.

Instead of that making an impression, Baker continued a path of self-destruction that included an unsuccessful semester at Chowan and a stint in the military that was also short-lived.

"After that, I came home and went head first into the streets," said Baker.

Meeting his current girlfriend, Chinita Booth, changed his direction. She didn't just encourage Baker to start his education at TCC, she arranged it.

The academics didn't prove difficult for Baker, who carried a 3.7 GPA in high school. But becoming immersed in TCC campus life nurtured him in a way life on the streets never did.

"TCC is a place where they let me be me despite my mistakes. This school helped me grow as a man."

"TCC is a place where they let me be me despite my mistakes."

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SPENCER WALKER | DANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Undaunted, disabled veteran earns two degrees while eyeing a third

At the age of 21, Spencer Walker joined the U.S. Air Force. While serving in the military, he suffered a gunshot injury which left him partially paralyzed and wheelchair-bound. Despite the physical and emotional challenges linked to his recovery, Walker decided to enroll in Danville Community College and pursue his love of computers.

In May 2014, his dream was realized when he received two associate degrees – one in computer programming and the other in gaming and mobile application development. Walker plans to transfer to Radford University and pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science under the software engineer curriculum. His ultimate career goal is to start his own business creating websites and developing software for mobile devices.

The road to a college degree has not been an easy one for Walker – it's required numerous adjustments along the way. But, his efforts were rewarded when he received the Stephanie L. Ferguson Medallion of Courage, named in memory of a DCC student who also faced many challenges in continuing her education.

Walker overcame his own set of challenges to excel academically and was a member of both Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Beta Gamma honor societies. He also served as vice president of the Programming Club in which members assist Boys and Girls Club youth with learning programming skills through an online program called Code Academy.

"My biggest supporter has been my mother because she encouraged me to attend college," Walker says. "The most challenging obstacle was returning to school after so many years away. My faith has helped me overcome my obstacles. You can do anything."

“My biggest supporter has been my mother because she encouraged me to attend college.”

Army veteran finds civilian purpose at Thomas Nelson

Ryan Douglas spent five years as a cavalry scout in the U.S. Army before enrolling at Thomas Nelson Community College. His duties primarily involved going into enemy territory as a member of a small unit to assess situations and report information back to the larger unit. An Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran with numerous awards, he exited the Army in 2009.

Douglas' quandary became translating his military experiences to civilian life.

"There a lot of things that you learn in the military. But it's an entirely different world. In the military, you can do [things] one or two ways and that's fine. Those one or two ways don't necessarily translate to civilian life."

By 2014, his dilemma was resolved. Douglas had positioned himself among the most visible and active students on campus through memberships in various organizations. Additionally, he was part of the college's delegations to Richmond for meetings with Virginia lawmakers two consecutive years.

Participation in Thomas Nelson's Student Veterans of America chapter jump-started Douglas' engagement in campus life.

"I went to the first interest meeting and I walked out as president."

Affordable, quality education drew the Yorktown resident to Thomas Nelson. The personal growth opportunities kept him plugged in. Extra-curricular activities allowed him to attend leadership conferences, network with other student leaders and regularly interact with college administrators.

"Wearing suits, going to board meetings, business meetings and conferences, I would've never seen myself doing any of those things four or five years ago when I got out. I was a soldier and that was it. I learned that it's okay to be more than that. I will always be [a soldier] but it's okay to add to my repertoire."



"I went to the first interest meeting and I walked out as president."

Virginia's Community Colleges serving more and more diverse military veteran students

That's no surprise says VCCS grad turned veteran turned professor



A growing and increasingly diverse number of U.S. military veterans are enrolling in Virginia's Community Colleges. That's neither a mistake nor surprising says one person who has spent her adult life watching the issue from all sides: first as a community college student and graduate; then as an officer in the Army Reserve; and now as a full-time nursing professor at her alma mater.

"The system is more user-friendly for veterans today than when I was in college in the early 1980s," said Brenda Dixon, a professor of nursing at Germanna Community College. "We reach out to the veterans, and employ coordinators to ease the transition of veterans to the college setting."



ACHIEVE 2015 | GOAL

WORKFORCE

Increase the number of employer-provided training and services to 13,000, with a particular focus on high-demand occupational fields.

This goal is important to Virginia because its community colleges were created in part to address Virginia's unmet needs. Since then, community colleges and employers have built a myriad of unique and customized partnerships that have attracted new companies and helped existing firms expand and compete in the global market. Creating more of those partnerships will play a key role in affirming Virginia's international reputation as a great place to do business.

EMPLOYERS SERVED





ALEXANDRIA DIVINIE, LYNN EATON AND LAUREN HALL | PATRICK HENRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Welding girls make sparks fly

In a career largely populated by men, some women might think twice about signing up. But three women enrolled in the welding program at Patrick Henry Community College said they didn't have any second thoughts about their intended careers.

"My grandpa is a welder, my dad is a welder and my brother is a welder – I've been around it my whole life," said Alexandria Divinie.

Divinie started at PHCC in 2010 when she came back through the Middle College program to earn her GED (General Education Development) certificate. She has already been certified in MIG (metal inert gas) welding and is working to gain other certifications.

First-year student Lynn Eaton said she was introduced to welding in her high school agriculture class and "just loved it." Eaton transitioned to PHCC from Franklin County High School through the Great Expectations program.

Lauren Hall started at PHCC as a student in the human services program, but found it wasn't the right fit.

"I feel really comfortable; I thought it was going to be awkward and weird because I'm a girl, but everybody has treated me just the same."

"My mom always said I needed to find a trade because it was good for you," she observed.

Being the only three females in a class full of men could be intimidating to some, but Divinie said she feels like one of the guys.

"I feel really comfortable; I thought it was going to be awkward and weird because I'm a girl, but everybody has treated me just the same."

Dwight Bower, a welding instructor at PHCC, said Divinie, Eaton and Hall have been a joy to have in class.

"These girls are going to have promising careers. With the certifications they're earning, they can go anywhere in the nation!"



CHRIS AND ALEX HERNANDEZ | EASTERN SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Brothers leverage workforce program to carve career paths for themselves

The old saying that good things usually come in threes frequently applies but in the case of the Hernandez brothers, the good things came in twos.

Chris and Alex Hernandez were participants in the ESCC Workforce Investment Act (WIA) youth program while students at Arcadia High School. The goal of the program is to help eligible youth graduate from high school and make a successful transition to employment or education.

Chris and Alex moved with their mother from California as she sought to bring them to a safer environment. When they enrolled at Arcadia High School, both she and they knew they had found a location where they could flourish and pursue their dreams.

Chris became the first brother to enter the WIA program and to begin work with ESCC career coach, Faye Wilfong. He enrolled in the Badger welding program and there, discovered his career niche in life. Under the skillful

supervision of his welding instructor, Glenn Muhle, Chris mastered basic and then advanced skills and earned numerous certifications required for employment in the field. After graduation, he was offered employment with Liebherr, a nationally-known manufacturing company.

Alex, the younger brother, was enrolled in the WIA program during his junior year. He had chosen the building trades program at Badger South with an eye toward becoming a building contractor.

After talking with a Marine recruiter, Alex decided that his future lay with the military. Upon graduation, he began basic training. Afterward, he transferred to another training post where he received his assignment for refueling jets – not exactly the career pathway he had envisioned but one he is enjoying for now. He remains hopeful that at some point, he will be using those building trades skills he earned in high school.

They knew they had found a location where they could flourish and pursue their dreams.



KATHRYN GRAHAM | CENTRAL VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Starting over enables CVCC grad to discover her passion

Her associate's degree from a community college in Michigan paved the way for a job as a radiologic technologist. But Kathryn Graham wasn't finished. Thinking more education could have an even bigger impact on her career, she went back to school and earned her bachelor's degree. That's when life happened.

Graham started raising a family and with her husband's career bouncing the family from state to state, she decided the time had come to put her professional ambitions on hold. By the time the family landed in Lynchburg in 2011, Graham's children were already in junior high school.

My, how time flies.

Realizing her children would soon be leaving the nest, Graham started making preparations to reenter the workforce. But she wondered if the skills, experience and yes, the education she had received earlier in life, would be enough to find work in a difficult economy.

Eager to obtain a marketable skill, Graham bypassed the four-year colleges in the area and focused exclusively on Central Virginia Community College. She started in administrative support technology then fell in love with accounting.

By May 2014, Graham had graduated summa cum laude, earning another associate's degree, this time in applied science, and a certificate in accounting.

"CVCC gave me the opportunity to develop a new skill set and the confidence to reach for new dreams."

It wasn't long before Graham was hired as an accountant by Trax International in Lynchburg – a global professional services firm specializing in government contracting and services to the energy sector.

Even though she's employed, Graham is still taking additional accounting courses at CVCC, and may eventually sit for the CPA exam.

"The education offered and the support of the instructors at CVCC is world class!"

“CVCC gave me the opportunity to develop a new skill set and the confidence to reach for new dreams.”

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ALEX HOLLIS | PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Doing what she loves

It's not unusual to find a person who really likes chocolate, but PVCC culinary arts student Alex Hollis takes her passion for it to a whole new level.

"I've always loved chocolate – the smell, the taste, the way it melts. Chocolate makes people smile, and sometimes I'll give it to my friends just to make their day."

Hollis says her interest in the confection intensified when she was at the grocery store with her mother one day and saw some of the large bricks of chocolate that professionals use. She bought a block and some molds, and her first batch of homemade gourmet chocolates was born.

She had also found her calling.

"I knew I wanted to go to a culinary school out of high school. I graduated from high school in May 2013, and PVCC launched their culinary program later that fall. It worked out perfectly!"

Alex says she truly enjoys her classes, especially the professional chef, Professor Eric Breckoff, who teaches them.

"He is an excellent instructor, and shows us exactly what's expected of us in class as well as what we'll need to know in the future."

After she graduates from PVCC, Alex would like to enroll in a four-year culinary school, or transfer to the University of Virginia to pursue a business degree while working for a local chocolate company.

She offered some advice to students who might be considering going into the culinary arts field.

"Just take some cooking classes with PVCC, even if they're not for a degree, to see how you like it. And get a good pair of shoes. It's a lot of hard work and a lot of time on your feet."

For Alex, that's exactly where she wants to be standing.

“Sometimes, I’ll give chocolate to my friends just to make their day.”



STEVEN PEARSON | THOMAS NELSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Thomas Nelson primed student for triumph in nursing

When D. Steven Pearson decided to pursue a career in nursing, he turned to Thomas Nelson Community College for the education. Since earning an associate degree in nursing from Thomas Nelson in 2010, he has earned bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Old Dominion University and is now a family nurse practitioner at Pediatrics of Oyster Point in Newport News. "I wouldn't have been able to do any of this without the Thomas Nelson program. I will always be proud of my Thomas Nelson roots," Pearson said.

He selected Thomas Nelson because it was an economical way to start his education. The program's national certification allowed for Pearson's seamless transfer to Old Dominion University. "The nursing instructors are knowledgeable, very helpful and have a genuine interest in teaching and growing a new generation of registered nurses," Pearson said. "The program

is extremely accommodating to both the younger student as well as the older student with a family. The academic portion of the program is rigorous, and the clinical hours and experiences are perfect for training and developing new nurses."

After completing the program at Thomas Nelson, Pearson was hired as a staff nurse on a telemetry floor and later as a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit staff registered nurse before becoming a primary care provider at Pediatrics of Oyster Point. "I keep up with many of my classmates from the 2010 class [at Thomas Nelson], and the vast majority have successful nursing careers that range from medical-surgical, labor and delivery, intensive care unit, emergency room and neonatal intensive care unit to hospice care and family practice."

“I wouldn't have been able to do any of this without the Thomas Nelson program.”

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ACHIEVE 2015 | GOAL

RESOURCES

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

This goal is important to Virginia because public resources alone are no longer sufficient to fund the pursuit of the Virginia Community College mission. To fulfill the goals of Achieve 2015 and to meet the needs of the students, families and employers our colleges serve, Virginia's Community Colleges must expand their financial base. The colleges continue to seek partners among employers, foundations and individuals who understand the transformational value of Virginia's Community Colleges and are willing to invest in that work.

RESOURCES





KAREN RICKETTS | J. SARGEANT REYNOLDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Scholarship lightens the load for grateful Reynolds grad

For some people, finding a suitable career is a process of discovery that can take years. Karen Ricketts would turn 27 before her destiny would finally catch up with her.

In her application for a scholarship, Ricketts wrote the following: “I would like to become a nurse mainly because of the challenge and I care about people. It always brings me soul-quenching joy to help someone in need.”

That’s not idle rhetoric. Ricketts routinely volunteers in her community and she’s also a regular blood donor.

Ricketts began attending classes at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in 2009. She was working full-time and trying to manage things on her own. Getting her prerequisite courses behind her proved to be quite a challenge and she soon realized something had to give. She could no longer pursue a degree without taking on an onerous amount of student debt. That’s when she asked for help and the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education was happy to oblige.

With the help of a Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association scholarship – one of many scholarships offered through the Foundation – Ricketts was able to forge ahead and graduate with an associate’s degree in nursing last spring. But she’s not done yet.

“I plan to continue to work towards getting my master’s degree and become a nurse practitioner.”

Ricketts, who’s currently working as a nurse in suburban Richmond, reflects positively on her community college experience. Given the opportunity, she’d do it all over again.

“After high school, it took me a long time to decide what I wanted to do with my life. I made the decision to start going to J. Sargeant Reynolds to complete my degree and financially, it made more sense. I received scholarships and financial aid through the community college and it helped tremendously.”



AMANDA HILLBRAND | LORD FAIRFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

For LFCC student, GE program offered promise of a brighter future

Amanda Hillbrand caught a break in 2010. That's when she enrolled at Lord Fairfax Community College. It was, for all intents and purposes (and by her own admission), time to have fun – something she hadn't previously experienced to any measurable degree as a foster youth.

But there was a problem. Having fun meant taking the slow road to an associate's degree. Hillbrand didn't receive hers until 2014 – four years after enrolling at LFCC.

"I wasn't as responsible as I otherwise should've been," she confessed. "But, as I got older, I really wanted to be more hands-on. All I knew is that I wanted to finish college."

Hillbrand credits her involvement with the college's Great Expectations program and her coach – Carla Newman – in particular with helping her find her way.

"She helped me tremendously. She made sure everything was in order for me financially, making sure I had my books and that my personal life was in order."

Hillbrand also benefitted from a scholarship established at Lord Fairfax by

Dottie and Al Whitt, long-time supporters of the Great Expectations program, Lord Fairfax, and all of Virginia's Community Colleges. Dottie Whitt was an inaugural board member when the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education was re-established in 2005 and is a continuing investor for both VFCCE and at Lord Fairfax. The Great Expectations program – and students like Hillbrand – are part of what makes it all worthwhile.

"It is the best thing ever to have help from somebody because I live on my own. I'm financially responsible for everything in my life."

Hillbrand, who plans to transfer to Shenandoah University next fall to pursue her bachelor's in nursing, feels having a goal is essential for any foster youth to succeed.

"You can be just as normal as the president of the United States. You can BE the president of the United States. Honestly, there's nothing that can hold anyone back in life...except for themselves."

MECC student refuses to let her beginning define her end

As a child, Katie Wolle was in and out of foster care more times than she can count. She attended five different elementary schools before sixth grade. “I was always the new kid,” she says laughing. Fortunately, Wolle was adopted by her parents – Steve and Michelle Wolle – at age 11.

Because she had been served by the foster care system, Wolle qualified for the Virginia Community College System’s Great Expectations (GE) program. Wolle, who graduated in May 2014 with an associate of arts and sciences degree in general studies, says the GE program provided her with additional counseling, financial aid, and an appreciated support system.

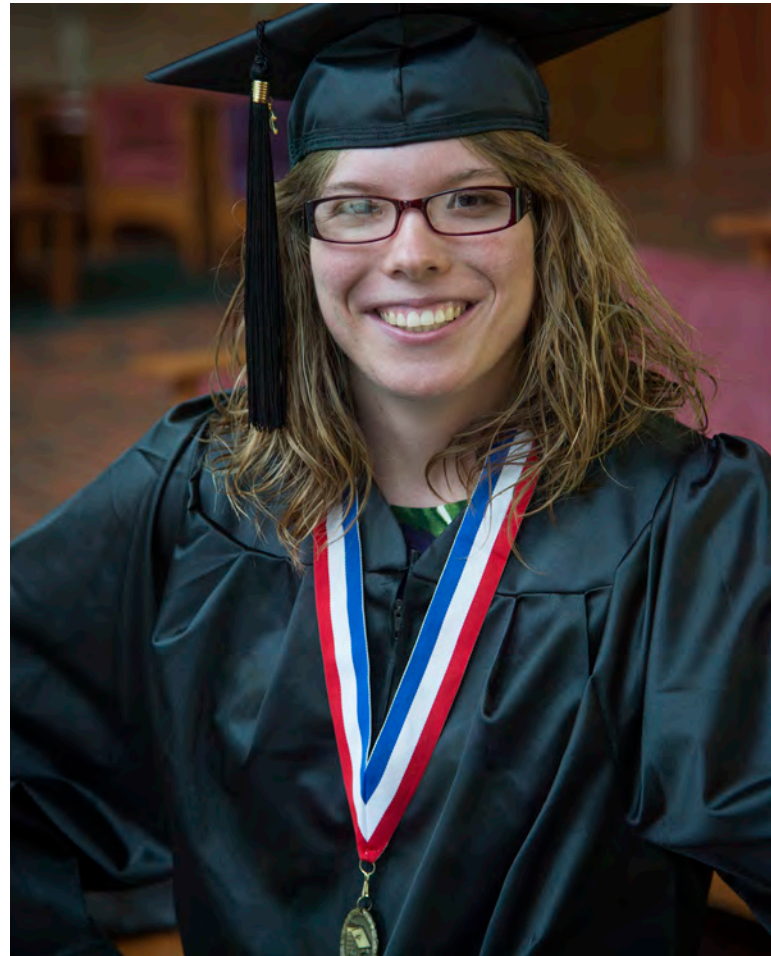
“My counselor would always check on how I was doing in class. She helped me get tutoring when I needed it and she became my advisor. The financial assistance was very useful and helped with books and school expenses,” Wolle said.

Wolle plans to transfer to a four-year university to complete her degree in biology so she can pursue a career teaching high school science. Her GE counselor, Jayne Stamper, says she has no doubt that Katie will be an amazing teacher.

“She is a dedicated, hardworking student who is always a joy to interact with, socially and professionally. I know she will be a fantastic teacher who will enrich the lives of all her future students.”

While her time in foster care was difficult and painful, it has made Wolle the person she is today. “Without foster care, I wouldn’t be where I am now. I might be in a much worse situation and that’s what I focus on.”

“Without foster care, I wouldn’t be where I am now.”



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

“Great Expectations expands educational opportunities and offers hope for a brighter future to an important group of deserving and disadvantaged young Virginians: youth transitioning out of the foster care system.”

– Anne Holton, Secretary of Education and former First Lady, Commonwealth of Virginia

Now in 18 community colleges, the program served more than 800 students last year, helping them find a successful future. Great Expectations students are graduating in stronger numbers every year.



Great Expectations
FOSTERING POWERFUL CHANGE



MICHAEL A. SMITH AND GERALD F. SMITH, JR. | RURAL VIRGINIA HORSESHOE INITIATIVE

Michael A. Smith and Valley Proteins, Inc. Make Record Donation to VFCCE



Michael A. Smith and Valley Proteins, Inc., the family-owned company Smith operates with his brother, Gerald F. Smith, Jr., are each donating \$1 million to the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education.

The combined \$2 million gift – among the largest ever made to a foundation supporting

Virginia’s Community Colleges – becomes the lead gift for the Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative.

“We believe in rural Virginia. That is why we are strategically investing in a plan to help bring rural Virginia back,” said Michael A. Smith, past chair of the VFCCE.

Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative

The Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative, which will benefit from the gift, is a partnership between 14 Virginia community colleges, their foundations

and the VFCCE. The ten-year initiative will help middle class families who mistakenly believe education past high school is out of reach; foster youth who are most at-risk; and adults who failed to finish high school but need money to pay for workforce training beyond a GED.

“This is a transformative gift for our young statewide foundation. It comes from an employer with deep roots in Virginia. It is a validation of what our community colleges can do to ensure Virginia companies succeed and that every Virginia family can obtain the opportunity that higher education provides,” said Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia’s Community Colleges.

A legacy of generous investments

The \$2 million gift is the latest in a series of significant investments that Valley Proteins has made in the VFCCE.

“We are so grateful for the generosity and leadership Mike Smith and Valley Proteins have provided our foundation,” said Jennifer Gentry, vice chancellor for Institutional Advancement. “With their partnership we are making a difference for families across Virginia.”

[for position only]

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Sunday, December 29, 2013

Improving Education

Investing in rural Virginia's comeback

BY GERALD F. SMITH JR.
AND MICHAEL A. SMITH

We are proud to say that we were born and raised in rural Virginia. The people and communities of the region have contributed to our family's company, Valley Proteins, ever since our grandfather opened it for business shortly after World War II. We believe in rural Virginia.

That is why we are strategically investing in a plan to help bring it back.

Our company is investing \$1 million in the Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative. Michael A. Smith, vice president of Valley Proteins, is matching that with a personal donation of \$1 million. That lead gift of \$2 million will kick off a public-private partnership to elevate our region's education pipeline.

As a family-owned business that employs 1,600 people, we depend on educated and well-trained employees to succeed. Those folks are not always easy to find—and unless something changes, that will only get harder in rural Virginia.

Rural Virginia, which includes the Northern Neck, Eastern Shore, Southside and Southwest Virginia and sweeps up the valley to Winchester, has 2.1 million people. If it were its own state, it would rank 50th in the nation in the percentage of people who hold a college degree; the rest of Virginia would rank No. 2. Likewise, 1 in 4 people in rural Virginia lacks a high school diploma. That compares with 1 in 10 for the rest of Virginia.

That's bad news for employers like us, and its bad news for rural Virginia's working families. Before this decade is over, two out of three jobs available in Virginia will require more than a high school education. We need to elevate rural Virginia's education game to bolster the region's reputation as an attractive place to begin, expand and relocate a business. Should we not, the oppor-



DEAN HOFFMEYER/TIMES-DISPATCH

Rural Virginia boasts immense natural beauty, including the Levisa Fork River in Grundy (above) and Grayson-Highlands State Park near Mouth of Wilson. But educational attainment lags other parts of the state.



BILL LOHMANN/TIMES-DISPATCH

tunities of the 21st century could pass us by for good.

The Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative is an answer to a longstanding challenge. The effort is a partnership among 14 Virginia community colleges, their foundations and their statewide foundation, the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education. The 10-year initiative will help middle-class families that mistakenly believe education past high school is out of reach; foster youth who are most at risk; and support adults who failed to finish high school but need money to pay for

workforce training beyond a GED certificate.

The initiative focuses on two goals that would be game changers for our future. The first is to cut in half the current percentage of rural Virginia's population without a high school diploma (or equivalent). The second is to double the number of people in rural Virginia who hold a workforce credential or an associate's degree from 26 percent to 53 percent.

This project will begin a four-year, seven-college pilot phase next year. Its leaders are seeking support from the General Assembly for modest

The two goals: Cut in half the percentage of rural Virginia's population without a high school diploma, and double the number who hold a workforce credential or associate's degree.

funding included in Gov. Bob McDonnell's introduced budget. That public investment would be matched on a 3-to-1 basis with privately raised money, like the investment we are making.

The Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative will work by making part-time community college career coaches in rural Virginia high schools full-time, allowing them to help more students and families with college and career planning. Further, it will provide up to \$50,000 in scholarships, per college, to help GED recipients pursue postsecondary workforce training, earning the certifications that often lead to good-paying jobs and careers.

The tactics employed here have been proven

effective at Virginia's community colleges and by the Patrick County Education Foundation. We believe in them. That's why we are investing in them.

Valley Proteins has been in business for more than 60 years in rural Virginia. We have accomplished that by doing our homework and investing our money wisely. We have made this investment decision the same way, and we expect a solid return for it—a return, in this case, that will payoff for the future of the rural Virginia communities and people we believe in.

Gerald F. Smith Jr., the company's president, and Michael A. Smith, the company's vice president, lead Winchester-based Valley Proteins. Contact them at (540) 877-2590.

“We believe in rural Virginia. That is why we are strategically investing in a plan to help bring rural Virginia back.”



2014 CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN PHILANTHROPY RECIPIENTS AND SCHOLARS

The Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy recognizes outstanding contributions made to the growth and development of Virginia's Community Colleges and their respective foundations. Recipients of this award demonstrate a passion for the mission of community colleges – to ensure that deserving people receive the advantage of a college education. Each fall, students are awarded Commonwealth Legacy scholarships in honor of the philanthropy leaders.

Blue Ridge Community College

Philanthropist: Augusta Health

Scholar: Sarah Clark

Philanthropist: Sentara RMH Medical Center

Scholar: Kyle Templeton

Central Virginia Community College

Philanthropist: The Merryman Family

Scholar: Dalton King

Dabney S. Lancaster Community College

Philanthropist: The Alleghany Foundation

Scholar: Jonathan Coleman

Danville Community College

Philanthropist: Danville Regional Medical Center

Scholar: Meredith Meissner

Eastern Shore Community College

Philanthropist: Jeff Holland

Scholar: Thomas Molter

Germanna Community College

Philanthropist: Spotsylvania County

Scholar: Andrea Gayle

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

Philanthropist: Metropolitan Health Foundation

Scholar: Michael Fare

John Tyler Community College

Philanthropist: Cameron Foundation

Scholar: Ali Muslem

Lord Fairfax Community College

Philanthropist: William Holtzman

Scholar: Kyle Hanson

Mountain Empire Community College

Philanthropist: Martha J. Rhoton

Scholar: Alexis Potter

New River Community College

Philanthropists: Paul Duncan and Gary Duncan

Scholar: Megan Mercer

Northern Virginia Community College

Philanthropist: Volkswagen Group of America

Scholar: Renee Ordoobadi

Patrick Henry Community College

Philanthropist: Gary and Susan Collins

Scholar: Travis Maxey

Paul D. Camp Community College

Philanthropist: Smithfield Foods

Scholar: Bonnie Newsome

Piedmont Virginia Community College

Philanthropist: Julie Heyward

Scholar: Spencer Clem

Rappahanock Community College

Philanthropist: Children of

Elizabeth and Charles Ryland

Scholar: Kendra Yates

Southside Virginia Community College

Philanthropist: Halifax Regional Health System

Scholar: Delilah McCall

Southwest Virginia Community College

Philanthropist: CONSOL Energy

Scholar: Hunter Newton-Meade

Thomas Nelson Community College

Philanthropist: Sentara Healthcare

Scholar: Jeremy Collins

Tidewater Community College

Philanthropists: Robert C. Nusbaum and

Linda S. Laibstain

Scholar: Nevin Voors

Virginia Highlands Community College

Philanthropist: The late C.B. Hale

Scholar: Jessica Moret

Virginia Western Community College

Philanthropist: Roanoke City School Board

Scholar: Alexie Jacques

Wytheville Community College

Philanthropist: Daniel M. Copeland

Scholar: Kenley Meredith

VFCCE

Philanthropist: Valley Proteins, Inc.

Scholar: Tiffany Riggs



KIM KENYON | BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Partnership between college and local business is a work of art

When the newly formed Public Safety division of ComSonic, Inc. needed a logo, they turned to a trusted partner – Blue Ridge Community College. In coordination with Professor John Bell of the BRCC Art Department, a logo design contest was developed around a class assignment. The student with the winning design would receive \$500 from ComSonic, in addition to an assignment grade.

Kim Kenyon submitted the winning design, which is now highly visible in all promotional facets for the ComSonic Public Safety business unit. As a part-time designer, photographer, and marketing consultant, Kim was happy to be able to add the logo to her portfolio.

“I was thrilled. It was an honor to have my design chosen by a company like ComSonic. They are a true example of an entrepreneurial success story,” Kim said.

BRCC’s relationship with ComSonic dates back more than two decades; the company began funding scholarships for students in the electronics

technology program in 1991. In the spring of 2013, they were recognized with the Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy by the Virginia Community College System.

ComSonic has also hired many BRCC graduates. Currently, BRCC grads make up nearly 50 percent of the Repair Services division in Harrisonburg, with 24 out of 50 employees being from the College.

Pam Snyder, director of human resources at ComSonic, said that BRCC’s ability to develop programs and certifications for their current employees, according to the specific needs of their company, is invaluable. “We’re not a huge company, and Blue Ridge will help us create training to address our very niche needs, even if we only need the training to be offered once.” That training, according to Snyder, helps ComSonic to stay competitive in the industry. “Blue Ridge has been the best training resource we have.”

“Blue Ridge has been the best training resource we have.”

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ALAN TOXOPEUS | LORD FAIRFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Community college advocate leaves behind a legacy of compassion and generosity

Alan G. Toxopeus loved his family, his faith, Michigan State University – and Virginia’s Community Colleges.



He was proud that he was able to lead the way for his siblings as the first in his family to attend and graduate from Muskegon Community College. They would all go on to earn advanced university degrees.

And as a long-ago transplant to the Shenandoah Valley, he brought his gratitude for the opportunities that he himself received along with him – and immediately went to work for community colleges in Virginia, proclaiming the “good news.”

“As a community college graduate of more than 50 years, it is easy for me to sing the praises of community colleges,” he told a Thomas Nelson graduating class in 2005. “Community college was the best college value then – and it remains so now.”

He was always one to put words and actions where his heart was, recalls his

wife of 49 years, Dr. Marge Toxopeus.

“We lost a dear friend in December 2013,” notes Dr. Jennifer Sager Gentry, vice chancellor for institutional advancement for Virginia’s Community Colleges.

In addition to a full measure of church and civic activities, Toxopeus served on the Lord Fairfax Community College Board for eight years, and as chair from 1992–93. He followed that up with service to the Lord Fairfax Educational Foundation, and then he was appointed by former Governor Mark Warner to a term on the State Board for Community Colleges, chairing that body in 2006–2007.

A key supporter of the newly revitalized Virginia Foundation for Community College Education, he and his wife Marge in 2007 initiated one of the first endowed scholarships for the statewide foundation in honor of their son, who died at age 16 in an automobile accident.

In 2010, Alan and Marge Toxopeus were named by the VFCCE as recipients of the Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy.

This summer, Meghan Schoenhals of Winchester (pictured below,) became the eighth community college student to benefit from the Toxopeus’ generosity, as the 2014 Jonathan Alje Toxopeus Scholar.

A graduate of John Handley High School, she is attending Lord Fairfax Community College this fall to study criminal justice. “Your generosity will help me focus on my education, rather than worrying about finances,” Schoenhals said. “I promise to work hard and make good use of the scholarship.”



Paul D. Camp Community College enrollment revives mother/daughter relationship

Christine Wells and her daughter, Amanda Douglas, were not as close as they would have liked to be. But after enrolling in the business administration program at Paul D. Camp Community College, their relationship began to quickly evolve into a close knit one that they would come to cherish.

For four years, they helped each other with homework, studied together, and came to realize how much they had missed each other's company.

"I talk to her almost every day now," said Douglas. "She is not only my mom, but a great friend as well."

Wells added, "We truly enjoyed knowing that we would be together in each class, as it was a struggle at times."

Wells, 46, earned her associate's degree in business administration and a certificate in general education in May 2014 and graduated summa cum laude.

Douglas, nearly 26, graduated magna cum laude while working a full-time job in Smithfield. A wife as well, she received seven local scholarships while enrolled at PDCCC.

Like her mother, Douglas is a member of the Omega Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She earned her associate's degree in business administration and a certificate in general education in May 2014.

In addition, the Ivor residents are the first in their family to graduate college with a degree. "My mother actually started going to PDCCC the semester before I did," said Douglas. "She encouraged me to begin taking classes, and said, 'If I can do it, you can do it!'"

Both mother and daughter are now planning to earn bachelor's degrees in the near future, and Amanda's brother (pictured) is planning to take some dual enrollment classes at PDCCC before he enrolls full-time at the college.



"We truly enjoyed knowing that we would be together in each class, as it was a struggle at times."

DANA HAMEL LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS



Dana Hamel

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Glenn DuBois
Jean and Stephen Eitelman
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Mark Fried*
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Lee Gurel and Linda A. Loy

Jan Gray
Heather and Shannon Hair
Karen Petersen
Carol Underhill Schwartzman
Lynn Seuffert
P. Martin Sharpless, Jr.
Michael A. Smith

*deceased

DONOR HONOR ROLL

The Virginia Foundation for Community College Education is deeply grateful for all of the private gifts and grants that make it possible for the VFCCE to carry out its mission of providing access to education for all Virginians. The Honor Roll reports all gifts to the VFCCE for fiscal year 2013, 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 VFCCE by emailing foundation@vccs.edu.

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Anna Lawson
Matthew Lawson
Chris Lee
Rosalie Lesser
Jack Lewis
Susan Liberty
Elizabeth Littlefield
Gene Lockhart
Robert Loser
Patty Lotts
Jim Loux
Sally Love
George Mack
David Mair
John Manzari
Violet and Bob Martin
Vincent Mastracco Jr.
John Matthews
Willie McAllister
Anne McCaffrey
Alex McCallister
Intan Widi McCartt
Charles McDonough
Louis McGinty
Yvonne Mency
Connie and Bruce Meyer
Denise Millican
Susan and Frank Miner
Charlotte and G. Gilmer Minor III
Jeffrey Mitchell
Allison and Jeffery Mitchell
Marlene Mondziel
Grace Mooney
Elizabeth Moran
Clifford Mosby
Vicky and Gary Muensterman
Michael Murphy
Lindsey Narmour
Hiawatha Nicely
Patty and Ned Nicholas
Doug Nichols
Amy Nisenson
Pete Nolan
David Nutter
Mary Katherine O'Connor
Lara Overy
Laurie Owens
Aida Pacheco
Esther Perantoni
Marilyn Perdomo
Karen Petersen
Jeffrey Pinion
Donald Pippin
Suzanne and B.G. Porter
William Porter
Bill Price
Lona Pugh
Tiffany Pugh
Lianna Purcell
Bradley Purcell
Deborah and Michael Quillen
John Rainone
Caroline Rapping
Judy Rasmussen
Mary Reed
Shane Reid
Charles Renninger
Mitzi Reynolds
Doug Rinker
John Ritchie
Lynda and Charles Robb
Allyson Roberts
Sibyl Roberts
Jennie Romero
Chris Rooney
Carl Rosberg
John Ruffino
James Ryan, Jr.
David Sam
Roger Sant
Greer Saunders
Lina Savkar
Jennifer Sayegh
Zachary Sayegh
Janet Scagnelli
Elliot Schewel
Anita Schneider
Susan Bailey and S. Buford Scott
William Darrell Scruggs, Jr.
Richard Sebastian
Jennifer Selders
Harry Sellers
Shinaya Seth
Lynn Seuffert
Denise Sheffer
George Sherman
Franklin ShROUT
Dawn and Stuart Siegel
Linda Silver
Andrea Simmons
Nina Sims
M. Noel Sipple
Dolores Smith
Jason Smith
Kathleen Smith
Kaye and Gerald Smith
Margaret Smith
Wendy and Michael Smith
Kathleen Smith
Natalie Smith
Roy Smith
Paul Smolevitz
Turner Spencer
Donna Stanley
Scott Stell
Abigail Stonerock
Joe Straten
Rachel Strawn
John Strickler
Kim and James Stutzman
Terrance Suarez
Robin Sullenberger
Monty Sullivan
Paul Sweet
Betty and William Talley III
Garry Taylor
Lisa Tharpe
Ida Thompson
Cheryl Thompson-Stacy
Margaret Toxopeus
Gwen Turbeville
Bobbie and James Ukrop
Mike Van Sickle
Helen Vanderland
Donna VanCleave
Raina Vann
Armando Vega
Brian Viscuso
Uma Vissa-Giri
Linda Wallinger
Claire Weaver
Katherine Webb
Marcia Webb
Peggy Westcott
Robert Whitney
Dottie and Alfred Whitt
Sally and James Lee Wilkerson
Marcy Williams
Van Wilson
Pamela and Robert Woltz Jr.
Susan and Leroy Wood
Shartek Woodson
Paulette Yates
Michel Zajur

Corporations, Foundations & Organizations

ABS Technology Architects
 AC Corporation
 Achieve Healthcareers
 ACT, Inc.
 Akademos
 Alexander Insurance Agency
 Altria
 American Public University System
 Amtek Company, Inc.
 APEX Foundation
 The Armistead Group
 Association for Corporate Growth: Richmond Chapter
 AT&T Foundation
 Augustoft, Inc.
 Aztec Software
 B.H. Baird Insurance Agency
 Balfour Beatty Construction
 Bank of America Charitable Foundation
 Barnes & Noble College Booksellers
 Barton Malow Company
 Blackboard, Inc.
 Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.
 Bon Secours Richmond Health System
 Boyer Landscapes, Inc.
 Brown's Insurance Agency
 Canon Virginia, Inc.
 Capital One
 Carilion Clinic
 Carlisle Associates Incorporated
 Carlton Wright Insurance Agency, Inc.
 Carroll Independent Fuel LLC
 Central Virginia Community College
 Chem-Tech Solutions Inc.
 ChemTreat, Inc.
 Chmura Economics & Analytics
 Clinch Valley Medical Center
 Commercial Insurance Services, Inc.
 Community College Workforce Alliance
 Compass Energy Gas Services, LLC
 Council of Higher Education for VA Coverage Inc.
 Cox & Johnson Insurance Agency, Inc.

Crowder Insurance Agency, Inc.
 Dabney S. Lancaster Community College Educational Foundation
 Danville Community College Educational Foundation
 Data Network Solutions, Inc.
 Dell
 Department of Education, Virginia
 Dewberry
 Dillon Insurance Agency
 Diversified Educational System
 Donley's
 Eastern Shore Community College
 Educational Credit Management Corporation
 Envicor Enterprises
 ESI Electronic Systems
 Fieldale Insurance Agency
 Ford Insurance Agency
 Freddie Mac Foundation
 Froehling & Robertson, Inc.
 Genworth Foundation
 Germanna Community College
 GHT Insurance Agency
 Gilbane Building Company
 Greenfield Center
 Grimm and Parker Architects
 Halifax Regional Health System
 Harwood & Son Insurance
 Helfant Realty, Inc., Realtors
 Hershey Chocolate of Virginia, Inc.
 HESS Construction + Engineering Services
 Hirschler Fleischer
 Hodges Digital Strategies
 Holmes, Riley & Associates of Merrill Lynch
 HRI Associates
 Hughes, Gregory & Wells Agency Inc.
 Huntington Ingalls Industries
 Independence Golf Club
 Independent Insurance Agency
 Integrity Services
 J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
 Jenkins Centrigue Co., LLC
 Jobs For The Future, Inc.
 John Tyler Community College Foundation, Inc.
 Kaye & Gerald Smith Family Fund

Kee Construction Services, Inc.
 Kemper Consulting, Inc.
 Keswick
 Labor Finders of NC
 Leonard L. Brown Agency, Inc.
 Lester Insurance
 Lord Fairfax Community College Foundation
 Lumos Networks
 Mangum Economic Consulting, LLC
 Mason Insurance, Inc.
 Marriott Downtown Richmond
 Marsh
 Mason Insurance Agency
 McGuireWoods LLP
 McGuireWoods Consulting
 Mid-Atlantic Irrigation Co., Inc.
 Mid-South Steam Boiler & Engineering Company, Inc.
 Moseley Architects
 Mountain Empire Community College Foundation, Inc.
 MPACT Solutions
 MyOpenJobs
 Nansemond Insurance Agency, Inc.
 NCCER
 Nelnet Business Solutions
 New River Community College Educational Foundation
 Newport News Shipbuilding
 Norfolk Oil Transit, Inc.
 Northern Virginia Community College Educational Foundation
 Onken, Inc.
 PadillaCRT
 Park Sterling Wealth Management
 Patrick Henry Community College
 Paul D. Camp Community College Foundation
 Pearson
 Piedmont Virginia Community College Educational Foundation
 Potomac Health Foundation
 Rappahannock Community College Educational Foundation
 Raymond James & Associates
 Risk Protection of Virginia
 Riverland Insurers

Robins Foundation
 Ronald A. Williams, Ltd.
 RMM Architects
 Saunders & Benson, Inc.
 Schillen Enterprise Inc.
 SkillSource Group
 SLAIT Consulting
 South Boston Insurance Agency
 Southside Virginia Community College Foundation
 Southwest Virginia Community College
 SOWELA Technical Community College Foundation
 SPW
 Stanley W. Nowinski/John D. and Mary D. Williams Fund
 State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
 Strange's Florists, Inc.
 Stuart A. Reed Excavating LLC
 Suffolk Insurance Corporation
 Summit Trailer Sales, Inc.
 Sunrise Corporation
 SunTrust Banks, Inc.
 SyCom Technologies
 The Arthur W. Perdue Foundation, Inc.
 The Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
 The Collis Warner Foundation
 The Community Foundation
 The Dupps Company
 The Greenfield Center
 The Hodges Partnership
 The Homestead
 The Hotel Roanoke
 The Jefferson Hotel
 The Towe Insurance Service
 The Virginia Mainstream Project
 Thomas Nelson Community College Educational Foundation
 Tidewater Community College Educational Foundation
 Tobacco Indemnification Commission
 Town Insurance Service, Inc.
 Truck Enterprises, Inc.
 Truckee Meadows Community College
 Tufo Flooring Delmarva, Inc.
 Universal Leaf Foundation

University of Phoenix
 University of Virginia Health System
 U.S. Department of Justice
 Valley Proteins
 Virginia Association of Realtors
 Virginia Business Systems
 Virginia College Savings Plan
 Virginia Commonwealth Corporation
 Virginia Community Colleges Association
 Virginia Construction Industry Educational Foundation
 Virginia Credit Union
 Virginia Dare Cruises & Marina
 Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
 Virginia Goodwill Network, Inc.
 Virginia Highlands Community College Educational Foundation
 Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association
 Virginia Manufacturers Association
 Virginia Truck Center
 Virginia Western Community College
 Watkins Insurance Agency, Inc.
 Wellpoint, Inc.
 Wells Fargo
 Wells Fargo, The Private Bank
 William H. Talley & Son, Inc.
 Williamsburg Insurance Associates
 Wilson, Timmons & Wallerstein Insurance, Inc.
 Winchester Printers, Inc.
 Wyndham Virginia Crossings Hotel
 Wytheville Community College
 Yount, Hyde & Barbour



The Virginia Foundation
 FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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 Chairman

Edna V. Baehre-Kolovani
 Gerald L. Baliles, chairman
 Arthur S. Brinkley III
 treasurer
 John T. Casteen III
 Hank Chao
 Glenn DuBois

James W. Dyke, Jr.
 Adam M. Fried
 Jennifer Sager Gentry
 Phillip Goodpasture,
 general counsel
 Edwin C. Hall
 William C. Hall, Jr.

Eva T. Hardy
 Robert W. Harrell, Jr.
 Charles F. Hess, secretary
 Ronald H. Holmes,
 vice chairman
 Kathleen A. Langan
 Chandra D. Lantz

Mitzi S. Reynolds
 P. Martin Sharpless
 Donna M. VanCleave
 Jeanette Wang
 Robert W. Woltz, Jr.

HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dana Hamel, Chancellor Emeritus
 The Honorable George Allen
 The Honorable James Gilmore
 The Honorable Linwood Holton
 The Honorable Timothy Kaine
 The Honorable Charles Robb
 The Honorable Mark Warner
 The Honorable Douglas Wilder

**JOHN JIMENEZ**

Dabney S. Lancaster
Community College

**CHRISTOPHER HENSHAW**

Germanna
Community College

**LINDA FOREMAN**

J. Sargeant Reynolds
Community College

**JAYSON JOHNSON**

J. Sargeant Reynolds
Community College

**RYAN PLEDGER**

J. Sargeant Reynolds
Community College

**WANDA OLDEN**

Paul D. Camp
Community College

**MADELEINE MORALES**

Piedmont Virginia
Community College

**LISHA LONG**

Southwest Virginia
Community College

**KINGDOM OGUIBE**

Thomas Nelson
Community College

**DANIEL PEETS**

Wytheville
Community College



The Virginia Foundation

FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION

NAMED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2014-15

**Gerald L. Baliles Commonwealth
Legacy Scholarship**

Brandon Wimbish, Martinsville
Madison Wells, Martinsville
Patrick Henry Community College

Kathy Camper Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

Michee Mutangu, Leesburg
Northern Virginia Community College

Jonathan Alje Toxopeus Scholarship

Meghan Schoenhals, Winchester
Lord Fairfax Community College

John Casteen Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

Jennifer Butler, Fredericksburg
Germanna Community College

Eva Hardy Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

Aster Birri, Radford
New River Community College
Christina Dadaian, Virginia Beach
Tidewater Community College

**Shahnaz Ahmed Commonwealth
Legacy Scholarship**

Lauren Housel, Barboursville
Piedmont Virginia Community College

**Michael A. Smith Commonwealth
Legacy Scholarship**

Anna Bailey, Fredericksburg
Germanna Community College

ACG Richmond/VFCE

Jose Martinez, North Chesterfield
John Tyler Community College

William H. Talley III Godwin Society Scholarship

Breanna Hawkins, Midlothian
John Tyler Community College

Danny Hunley Godwin Society Scholarship

Alex Brockman, Williamsburg
Thomas Nelson Community College

Richmond Region Commonwealth Legacy Scholars

Shauneal Bobb, Adam Mandelblatt,
and John Tivenan
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Kailey Washok, Juliana Hybner, My Nguyen,
and Lyndsay Welch
John Tyler Community College

Potomac Health Foundation Fellows

Emily Kern, Omoladun Olaseni-Adaramola,
Morgan Rigg
Northern Virginia Community College



BREANNA HAWKINS | JOHN TYLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Scholarship honoring Godwin Society member is a tribute to higher education

As a young man, Bill Talley III clipped a quote from the newspaper and carried it in his wallet for years.

The saying – “The greater rewards go to those who continue their education” – struck a chord with the man who would later serve as a member of the State Board for Community Colleges, as chair of the John Tyler Community College Board and as a 30-year member of the John Tyler Community College Educational Foundation.

Breanna Hawkins came from a family where most just finished high school and went to work. “I was determined to not be like that; I wanted to further my education and get a degree,” said the Midlothian student.

So it’s a fitting tribute to both philanthropist and scholar that Hawkins is the recipient of the William H. Talley Godwin Society Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship, designated for a student attending John Tyler.

The scholarship is based on Talley’s service on the State Board, and as a former State Board member, his membership in the Godwin Society. He has received top philanthropy honors from both John Tyler and from Virginia’s Community Colleges, where he was in the first group to receive the Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy in 2006.

But his service to community colleges spans decades. “I didn’t truly appreciate how much education can change lives until I was involved with John Tyler,” said Talley, chairman of the 109-year old William H. Talley & Son, Inc. in Petersburg. “Today, education is more important than ever.”

Hawkins says she and her mother weren’t sure how she would be able to afford to continue college before she was notified of the scholarship. Now, the business administration major and fashion merchandising minor is looking forward to transferring to a four-year university and using her business skills to someday open her own fashion boutique.

“The greater rewards go to those who continue their education.”

– William H. Talley III

Achieve
2015
YEAR FIVE
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COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS



John A. Downey
Blue Ridge



John S. Capps
Central Virginia



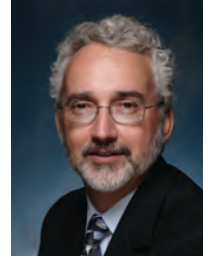
John J. Rainone
Dabney S. Lancaster



Bruce R. Scism
Danville



Linda Thomas-Glover
Eastern Shore



David A. Sam
Germanna



Gary L. Rhodes
J. Sargeant Reynolds



Ted Raspiller
John Tyler



Cheryl Thompson-Stacy
Lord Fairfax



J. Scott Hamilton
Mountain Empire



Jack M. Lewis
New River



Robert G. Templin, Jr.
Northern Virginia



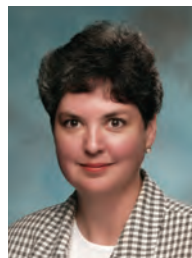
Angeline D. Godwin
Patrick Henry



Paul W. Conco
Paul D. Camp



Frank Friedman
Piedmont Virginia



Elizabeth H. Crowther
Rappahannock



Alfred A. Roberts
Southside Virginia



J. Mark Estep
Southwest Virginia



John T. Dever
Thomas Nelson



Edna V. Baehre-Kolovani
Tidewater



Gene C. Couch, Jr.
Virginia Highlands

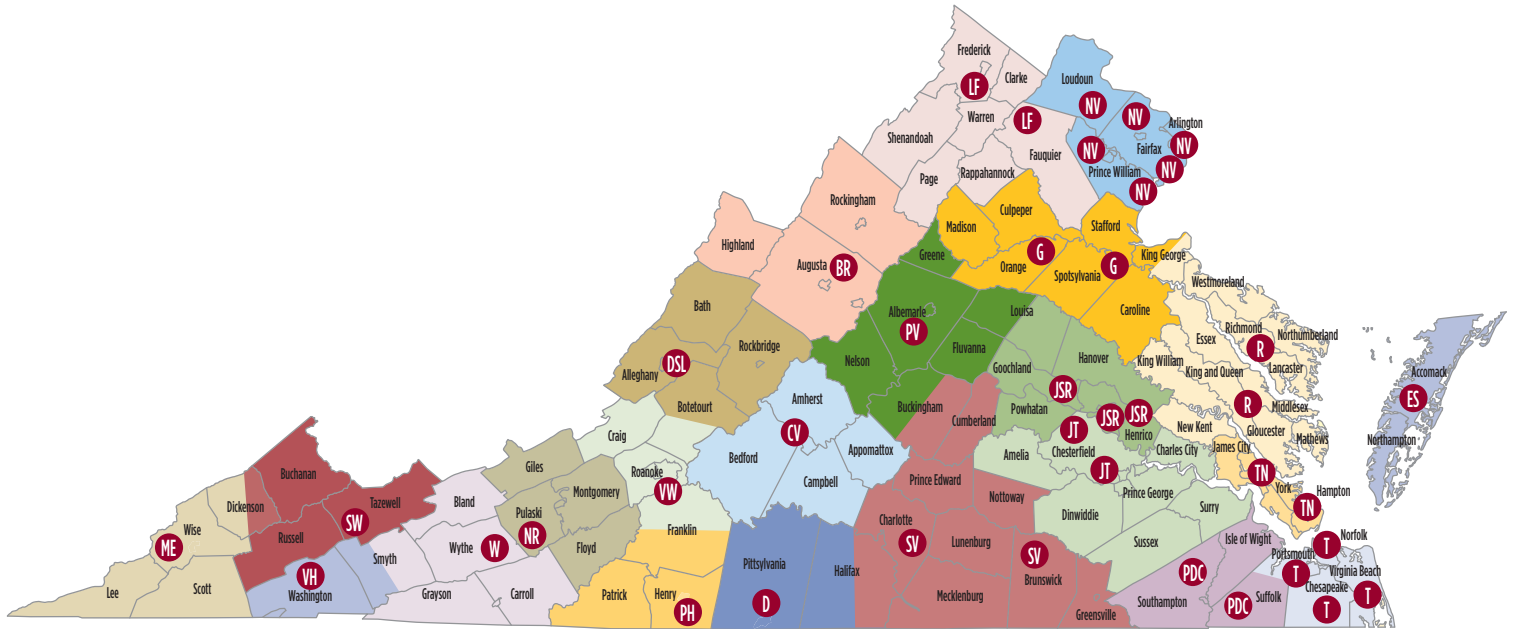


Robert H. Sandel
Virginia Western



Charlie White
Wytheville

CAMPUS LOCATIONS AND SERVICE AREAS



- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| BR Blue Ridge
Weyers Cave | JT John Tyler
Chester
Midlothian | PH Patrick Henry
Martinsville | TN Thomas Nelson
Hampton
Williamsburg |
| CV Central Virginia
Lynchburg | LF Lord Fairfax
Fauquier
Middletown | PDC Paul D. Camp
Franklin
Suffolk | T Tidewater
Chesapeake
Norfolk
Portsmouth
Virginia Beach |
| DSL Dabney S. Lancaster
Clifton Forge | ME Mountain Empire
Big Stone Gap | PV Piedmont Virginia
Charlottesville | VH Virginia Highlands
Abingdon |
| D Danville
Danville | NR New River
Dublin | R Rappahannock
Glenns
Warsaw | VW Virginia Western
Roanoke |
| ES Eastern Shore
Melfa | NV Northern Virginia
Alexandria
Annandale
Loudoun
Manassas
Springfield
Woodbridge | SV Southside Virginia
Alberta
Keysville | W Wytheville
Wytheville |
| G Germanna
Fredericksburg
Locust Grove | | SW Southwest Virginia
Richlands | |
| JSR J. Sargeant Reynolds
Goochland
Henrico
Richmond | | | |

STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The State Board for Community Colleges welcome five new members in 2014, including Carolyn Berkowitz of Burke, Thomas Brewster of Falls Mills, William C. Hall, Jr. of Richmond, Eleanor Saslaw of Springfield, and Michael J. Schewel of Richmond. They replaced former members Bruce J. Meyer of Virginia Beach, Stephen T. Gannon of Henrico, Sacha Gong of Falls Church, Mirta M. Martin of Midlothian, and Michael C. Thomas of Richmond.

Dorcas Helfant-Browning of Virginia Beach was elected chair, succeeding Bruce J. Meyer. Idalia Fernandez of Centerville was elected vice chair.

The 15-member State Board is appointed by the Governor to oversee the Virginia Community College System.



Dorcas Helfant-Browning
Chair
Virginia Beach



Idalia P. Fernandez
Vice Chair
Centerville



Carolyn Berkowitz
Burke



Thomas Brewster
Falls Mills



Benita Thompson Byas
Reston



Darren Conner
Callands



James Cuthbertson
Glen Allen



LaVonne P. Ellis
Chesapeake



Robert R. Fountain
Montross



William C. Hall, Jr.
Richmond



David Nutter
Blacksburg



Eleanor Saslaw
Springfield



Michael J. Schewel
Richmond



Don "Robin" Sullenberger
Harrisonburg



Michael Zajur
Richmond

2013-2014 ENROLLMENT

	Unduplicated Headcount	Full-Time Equivalent		Unduplicated Headcount	Full-Time Equivalent
Blue Ridge	6,293	2,855	Patrick Henry	4,490	2,166
Central Virginia	6,731	2,668	Paul D. Camp	2,026	858
Dabney S. Lancaster	1,872	738	Piedmont Virginia	7,800	3,017
Danville	6,041	2,604	Rappahannock	4,887	1,890
Eastern Shore	1,142	511	Southside Virginia	8,249	3,524
Germanna	10,131	4,447	Southwest Virginia	3,668	1,749
J. Sargeant Reynolds	18,408	7,945	Thomas Nelson	16,212	7,026
John Tyler	13,980	5,709	Tidewater	42,442	20,057
Lord Fairfax	9,613	4,070	Virginia Highlands	3,394	1,614
Mountain Empire	3,834	1,862	Virginia Western	12,849	5,048
New River	7,038	2,880	Wytheville	4,594	2,031
Northern Virginia	77,332	35,559	VCCS Total	273,026	120,827

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014

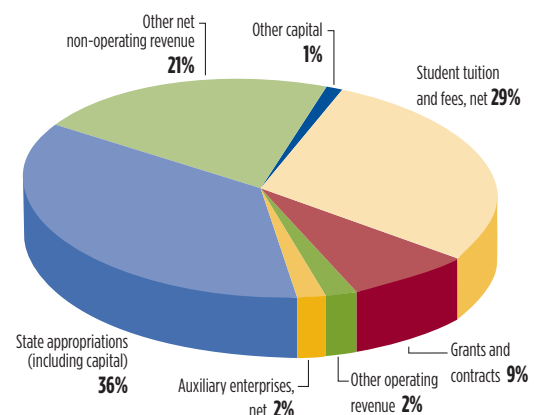
Revenues

Operating Revenue	
Tuition and fees	\$ 365,448,469
Federal grants and contracts	90,810,761
State and local grants	7,627,791
Nongovernmental grants	7,542,423
Sales/services of education departments	244,718
Auxiliary enterprises	23,705,593
Other operating revenues	21,320,635
Total Operating Revenues	\$516,700,390
Nonoperating Revenues	
State appropriations	\$ 404,867,676
Local appropriations	2,520,894
Grants and gifts	271,706,660
Investment income	993,881
Interest on capital asset related debt	(3,514,759)
Other nonoperating expenses	(4,063,136)
Net Nonoperating Revenue	\$ 672,511,216
Capital appropriations (state)	\$ 47,740,789
Capital appropriations (local)	7,285,739
Capital gifts and grants	3,049,839
Total Revenue	\$1,247,287,973

Expenses

Operating Expenses	
Instruction	\$ 493,145,258
Public Service	45,833,194
Academic support	119,952,297
Student services	96,242,442
Institutional support	184,405,422
Operation and maintenance	121,666,473
Scholarships and fellowships	128,295,278
Auxiliary enterprises	18,615,256
Other expenses	185,075
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,208,340,695

Total Revenue - By Source





AUSTIN COMPTON | VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Gulf coast field trip helps student discover his passion

If you ask Austin Compton about his spring break trip to the Gulf Coast, you'll quickly discover that it wasn't the relaxing vacation you might imagine. No five-star resort. No room service. No lazy days spent lounging on the beach.

Instead, Austin and 13 others enrolled in a coastal ecology course at Virginia Highlands Community College and spent the week at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory examining fish and blue crabs, watching dolphins jump from the sea, and identifying the birds that are native to the region.

"It made me realize that you don't really experience nature or understand science until you see animals as they are in their natural habitats," he said. "It was all hands-on and there wasn't a single minute wasted."

A graduate of Bristol's John Battle High School, Austin said he has always been curious about genetics and molecular science, but wasn't convinced he

could turn that interest into a career. Unsure what to do after high school, he enrolled at VHCC. That decision changed his life.

"It opened a lot of doors for me to explore different fields and be independent without really leaving home," he said. "I like to describe my community college experience as getting into the 3-foot-deep pool and then slowly working my way into the 8-foot side. I was eased in. The classes here are challenging, but there were always people here to reassure me and help me."

Compton credits Dr. Kevin Hamed, professor of biology at VHCC, for igniting his passion and preparing him for the next phase of his education.

“It was all hands-on and there wasn't a single minute wasted.”

One student's journey: from the depths of adversity to the heights of achievement

Kimberlie Morris, who was homeless for 18 months in 2003 and 2004, graduated magna cum laude from Germanna Community College last December in what was a proud moment not only for her and her family, but for GCC.

Morris went from living in her car to finding herself on the road to success, in part because of the Germanna Guarantee Scholarship Program, which helps students who don't qualify for financial aid or have gaps in that aid that might otherwise prevent them from attending college.

The 34-year-old Morris said the support allowed her to focus on being a full-time student. She made the President's List and the Phi Theta Kappa honorary society.

"When I was living in my car, just trying to make it from day to day and find some way out, I never imagined this could happen," she said. Both her parents were high school dropouts.

"Now," she said, "I can say my father is proud of me because I have a degree."

"Scholarships are essential for many students to make their dream of higher education and a better life a reality," GCC President David A. Sam said. "Our students are committed, intelligent, passionate, and persevering, but sometimes they face challenging obstacles – one of which is having enough funds to pay for their education. Time and again, our benefactors step forward to help students achieve their dreams."



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. A special thanks to JTCC for use of their extensive photo library.

For further information, contact:
Office of Institutional Advancement
Virginia Community College System
101 N. 14th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
804.819.4961
www.vccs.edu



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