# VIRGINIA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES 2014 2015 ANNUAL REPORT





## In Memoriam

Patrick Henry Community College and the PHCC Foundation have established a scholarship to memorialize the life and contributions of Alison Parker. The 24-year old Parker, a 2009 graduate of PHCC and 2015 Distinguished Alumni award winner, lost her life as a result of a brutal crime that shocked the nation.

"As a product of PHCC and Martinsville, she made us all proud of her achievements and the way she carried herself through that success in life," said Chris Parker, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the PHCC Foundation.

Donations for the Alison Bailey Parker Memorial Scholarship can be made online at patrickhenryfoundation.com or by cash or check to the Patrick Henry Community College Foundation, 645 Patriot Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112.

# VIRGINIA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES 2014 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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## A Message From The Chancellor

Virginia's Community Colleges responded to the height of the Great Recession by embarking on its most ambitious strategic plan to date. Achieve 2015. That plan served as a beacon, guiding our colleges through simultaneously unprecedented enrollment surges, as individuals turned to us to craft a personal economic recovery plan, and through unprecedented state funding reductions.

The pursuit of Achieve 2015 and our response to what Virginia needed truly was our finest hour.

Through this annual report, we conclude Achieve 2015. Our success toward its goals are detailed throughout the pages that follow, along with stories about some incredible people we served along the way. From that work our next strategic plan, Complete 2021, takes form and challenges us anew.

Having only a single goal, Complete 2021 is simple though not easy. We strive to triple the number of credentials that Virginia's Community Colleges are putting into the commonwealth's economy by the year 2021.

Industry-recognized credentials, obtainable through our short-term training programs, will play a significant, if not leading, role in that work. The demand Virginia's businesses have for those credentials are growing and our ability to address those needs may well determine Virginia's economic future. Virginia must fill an estimated 1.5 million jobs by the year 2022. While as many as two-thirds of those jobs will require postsecondary education, most will demand less than a bachelor's degree.

Conversations are ongoing with our partners in the Virginia General Assembly and the administration about the resources necessary to address those needs – an issue that we expect to be prominent in the 2016 legislative session.

As we prepare for the golden anniversary of Virginia's Community Colleges – an accomplishment that we will celebrate over the coming year – one thing remains certain: the men and women who created our colleges were visionaries. A system of institutions built to address Virginia's unmet needs in higher education and workforce training grows only more important as time passes, especially for helping individuals earn their way into the commonwealth's middle class, be the responsive difference-makers that we were built to be, and to ensure that the next chapter of the Virginia story is a Alenn UBOS

successful one.



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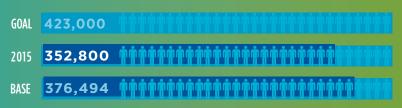


## ACHIEVE 2015 GOAL:

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE EDUCATED AND TRAINED ANNUALLY IN THE VCCS BY 50,000 TO 423,000.

► ENROLLMENT INCREASED BY 7.7 PERCENT, TO 405,511, BETWEEN 2008 AND 2012, AND THEN DECLINED BETWEEN 2012 AND 2015, MIRRORING A STATEWIDE DECLINE IN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.

### **TOTAL ANNUAL STUDENTS**



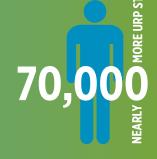
INCREASE THE NUMBER FROM UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS BY AT LEAST 85,000 INDIVIDUALS.

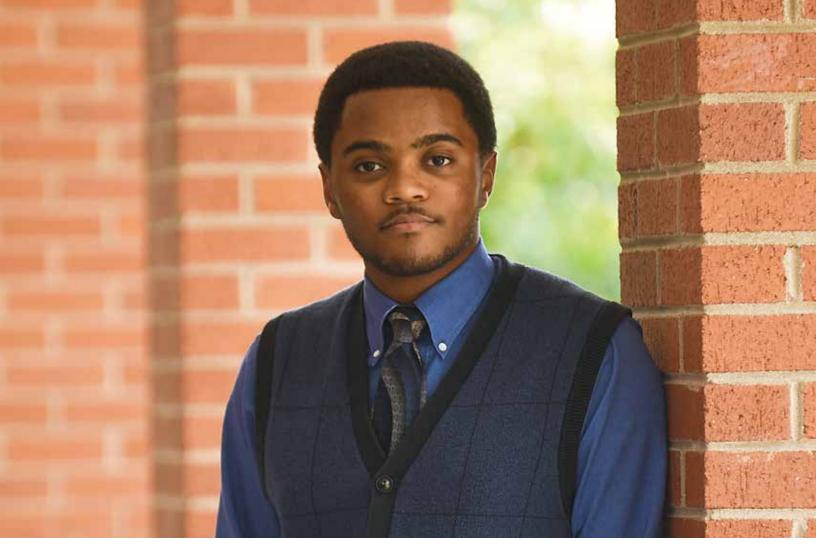
(ORIGINAL GOAL: 25,000 STUDENTS)

► NEARLY 70,000 MORE URP STUDENTS WERE SERVED IN THE FINAL YEAR OF ACHIEVE 2015 OVER THE BASELINE YEAR.

## TOTAL ANNUAL UNDER-REPRESENTED STUDENTS







MICHAH THOMAS PAUL D. CAMP COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Paul D. Camp Community College student inspired to get back on track after personal struggles

Born and raised in Suffolk, Michah Thomas graduated from Kings Fork High School in 2012. The youngest of six children, the first-generation student always knew that he wanted to go to college. But his mother's death in 2005 left a void that made it difficult for Thomas to move forward with the same positive stride.

But with the support of his sister and encouragement from others, he found the strength to return to his focus of continuing education during his senior year in high school when he took two advanced placement courses to make up "for lost time."

"By this time, my father was ill," he said. And although Thomas qualified for eight college credits after scoring a perfect 5 on the AP Biology exam, his GPA wasn't high enough to secure a full scholarship to a four-year college or university.

"I didn't want my father to have the added stress of paying for my college education," he said. "I came to PDCCC with the mindset of applying for financial aid and if I didn't qualify, I wasn't going to go."

Thomas enrolled at PDCCC, taking mostly online computer science courses while also taking care of his dad, a responsibility that was increasing by the day for the 18-year-old. When his father passed away in 2013, Thomas

was feeling lost and overwhelmed.

But, during a visit to the Hobbs Suffolk

I forgot to eat. But I felt like if I slowed down, I might stop.

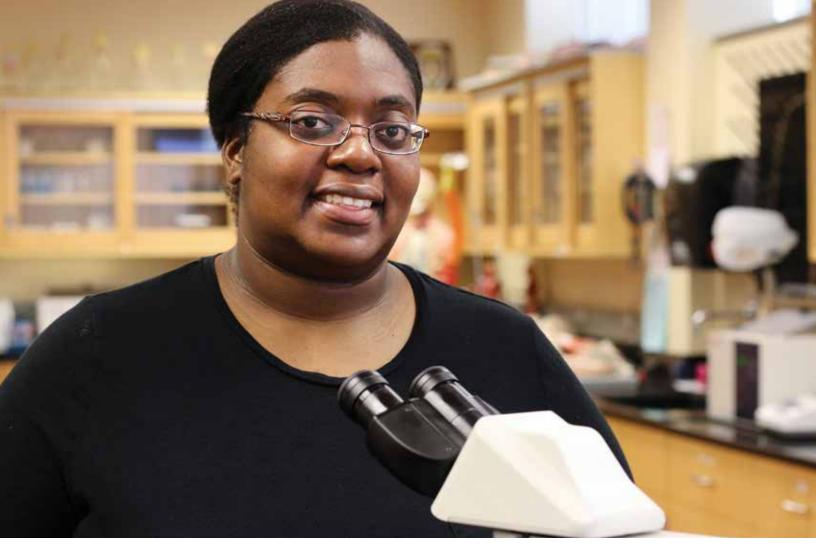
Campus in fall 2014, he met with Sandra Walker of the Students Transitioning through Education Programs Successfully (STEPS) who helped him get his life back on track.

In relatively short order, Thomas was taking a full load of classes during the day, three hours of certification classes at night and working in the computer lab.

"There have been times when I forgot to eat," he said. "But I felt like if I slowed down, I might stop."

When he completes his studies this summer and graduates in May 2016, Thomas plans to transfer to Old Dominion University to earn his bachelor's degree in computer science and apply to graduate school for biomedical engineering.

"There are too many people I want to thank to list them all," said Thomas. "But after coming here and receiving hope from so many others, I have been inspired to keep going."



### CANDICE TOMLINSON PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Returning to college with a clear goal

Born and raised in Northern Virginia. Candice Tomlinson graduated from high school in 2002 but did not enroll at PVCC until 2013.

"I previously attended college but took a break," said Tomlinson. "I was busy with work and family responsibilities, but I knew I would continue to take classes when I found the opportunity."

She began coming to Charlottesville a few years ago to visit her sister, a student at the University of Virginia.

"I decided to take just one class at PVCC to get my feet wet again," she explained. "Then I took a few more as a part-time student, and now I'm taking four classes."

Tomlinson is pursuing an associate of science degree in physical and natural sciences with a biotechnology specialization and has a particular interest in the field of human genetics. She hopes to finish her course work at PVCC, find an internship, and eventually work in a research laboratory at a hospital, university, government or private research facility.

Tomlinson has always liked science more than other subjects, especially the lab work and research.

"I really like the hands-on approach to learning that labs provide, using tools and instruments and running experiments," Tomlinson said.

Applying that passion, she teamed up with fellow students Hazen to develop a written and videotaped entry to the National Science Foundation's

I decided to take just one class at PVCC to get my Maya Fraser-Butler and Stephen feet wet again. Then I took a few more as a part-time student, and now I'm taking four classes. "

Community College Innovation Challenge (NSF CCIC). Held in spring 2015, the NSF CCIC challenged community college students from across the nation to propose innovative STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) solutions to perplexing, real-world problems. The PVCC team proposed an innovative solution to measure water quality in the Rivanna watershed.

Tomlinson and her fellow students went on to the semi-finalist round and were recently named one of the top 10 winning teams in the national competition.

Working part-time while taking a full course load, Tomlinson said that it's the support and flexibility that PVCC provides as well as the financial aid she receives that have allowed her to continue along her path.

"PVCC provides a comfortable environment for adult learners like me." said Tomlinson. "They are truly focused on student success, regardless of where you are in life."



KERRY LOVELL TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## TCC Grad finds meaningful work with mechatronics degree

"By the time I was in my 20s, I was tired of dead-end waitressing jobs and being yo-yoed around. I wanted out of that lifestyle," said Kerry Lovell.

Lovell came to Tidewater Community College to find a new start. After exploring career options, she decided on the mechanical and electrical fields.

"My mom encouraged me to find a hands-on career," she said. "I've always been interested in taking things apart, and putting them back together. If you gave me a toy – anything from a Barbie doll with joints to a music box – it wouldn't be long until I began exploring the inside of the thing."

A single mother, Lovell knew education was the key to proving a stable home for her family. "I began this journey to make a life for my son." she said.

Her first meeting with Thomas Stout, program head for mechatronics, gave her confidence. "He was very interested in my success, and right away put me on a track with classes that were right up my alley."

The mechatronics program combines mechanical and electrical coursework, and prepares students for work in My initial classes included robotics and motor controls, and combined hands-on work with the lectures. I knew I had found my niche. 33

advanced manufacturing. Lovell added, "My initial classes included robotics and motor controls, and combined hands-on work with the lectures. I knew I had found my niche."

Many times, Lovell said, she had questions about the material, or just wanted to better understand what the class was studying. "I felt very encouraged by the faculty to never stop asking questions, never stop improving technique, always study, study, and then study some more. And to remember, that if you make a mistake, you can always try to fix it."

Lovell currently works as a chemical process technician for Canon, Virginia, Inc. in Newport News. "I enjoy my job and the work I do with robots and automated systems," she said. "I encourage other women to pursue careers in mechatronics. It's very rewarding work, and we are beginning to make in-roads in this once male-dominated industry."

## **DUAL ENROLLMENT**



CYNTHIA FORRESTER LORD FAIRFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Dual enrollment student leads fast-paced lifestyle

Home schooled and the youngest of six children, Cynthia Forrester embodies the word "determined." At 17, she is graduating from Lord Fairfax Community College with an associate of science degree. A dualenrolled student at the age of 14, Forrester observed, "Everything about me is associated with LFCC. I've spent most of my adolescence here."

She aspires to become a pediatrician and will advance to The College of William and Mary this fall as a pre-medicine major. She has volunteered during the past two summers at Warren Memorial Hospital with a wide variety of duties, but working with seniors in the retirement center was her favorite.

As a member and chapter president of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, she has been involved in creating a documentary entitled, *Borders and Boundaries We Put on People in the Prison System*. Other projects this year included Frederick County's Relay for Life Cancer Walk and the Congregational Community Action Project whereby she collected and donated blankets for the poor.

Besides attending college, Cynthia is a work-study for LFCC's Workforce Solutions, and an employee of Shenandoah **66** Everything about me is associated with LFCC. I've spent most of my adolescence here. **35** 

Valley Golf Club. She loves the arts and said, "Playing violin and participating in drama groups makes life interesting." She started Krav-Maga (Israeli self-defense system) and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu last summer and attends classes weekly.

After graduation, Cynthia is traveling to Ireland. Thus far, she has visited China, South Korea, and Mexico. She currently resides in Front Royal, Virginia with her family.



CHRIS CHEN NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Community college serves as springboard for career-focused transfer student

When Chun-Ming "Chris" Chen graduated from Chantilly High School in 2011, he had a plan. With business administration as his main focus and 52 credits already under his belt, he decided Northern Virginia Community College was a good first step in furthering his education.

"I liked that the classrooms were much smaller than four-year colleges and it gave me a chance to interact with the faculty."

While studying at Northern Virginia, Chen traveled 50-60 miles a day to get to different classes that were spread out among the college's six campuses. Even with the extra travel, Chen said he is grateful for the unique experience.

"I came into NOVA with many of my basic credits finished so I was looking for higher level and honors courses. Sometimes these courses weren't all at my main campus so they were spread out over the six campuses," Chen recalled. "So I had to find which ones had my classes, and I had to do some traveling."

Not only did he find his way across the finish line, he did so with distinction. Chen became one of 90 students nationally to receive the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation

classrooms at NOVA were much smaller than fouryear colleges and it gave me a chance to interact with the faculty.

Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship which provides up to \$40,000 a year toward tuition, books, living expenses and required fees for the final two to three years needed to earn a bachelor's degree.

His studies in business administration have led to an internship with a realty firm. During his time at NOVA, he juggled work, school and helping out with family – the majority of whom are still in Taiwan. "We have to work together to pay for our living expenses. It's more of a mutual relationship that we help each other out," he said.

Now that he has graduated from NOVA, Chen said he looks forward to going to a four-year college and currently has his eyes set on the economics degree program at Columbia University in New York.



## **ACHIEVE 2015** GOAL:

## **AFFORDABILITY**

MAINTAIN TUITION AND FEES AT LESS THAN HALF OF THE COMPARABLE COST OF ATTENDING VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS.

► VCCS TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES AVERAGED ABOUT 37 PERCENT OF VIRGINIA FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE AVERAGE TUITION AND FEES FOR AN IN-STATE UNDERGRADUATE DURING THE ACHIEVE 2015 YEARS.

**TUITION AND FEES** 

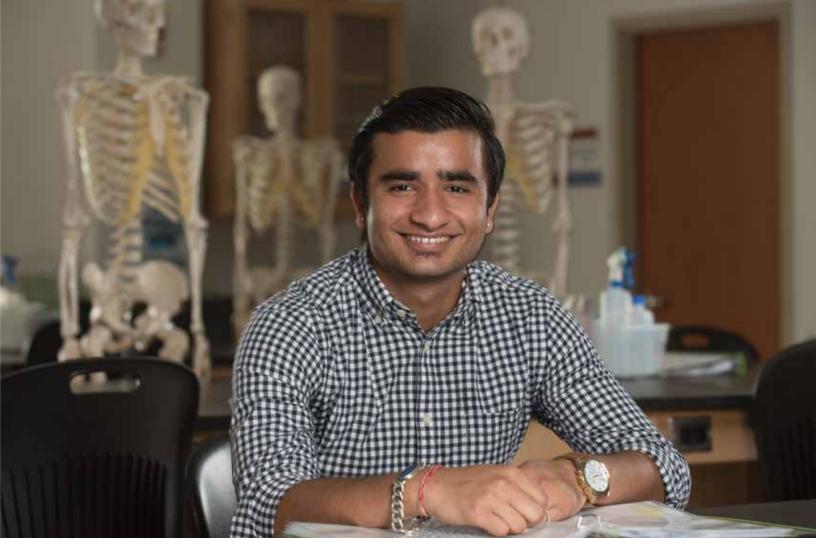
GOAL <50% OF 4 YEAR

70%

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SCHOLARSHIPS BY 36,000.

► FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS INCREASED BY 70% OVER THE BASELINE.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



YADAV SAPKOTA VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Learning the language of success

Yaday Sapkota came to the United States when he was 17, barely able to say "Good morning" in English and having never ridden in a car. He was born in southern Nepal and grew up in a refugee camp with his parents and brother until the family was relocated to Roanoke in 2011. Immersed in a new culture and a new language, Sapkota worked tirelessly to become a success at Virginia Western Community College.

Yaday's story of perseverance, which has inspired countless students and employees at Virginia Western, reached a wider audience as he represented the student body as speaker at the college's 2015 Commencement Ceremony.

"Before Virginia Western, I really didn't know what I was capable of doing," Yadav said. "The college gave me the confidence to thrive in my studies, make friends and even speak in public."

Born in a refugee camp, Yaday did not have access to basic items such as electricity and running water that are often taken for granted in America. It was a difficult childhood, rationing portions of rice to make it through the month and attending a tiny school in camp. Following the lead of a cousin, his family took an opportunity presented by an

international aid agency to build a better life in the United States by immigrating to Roanoke.

"We used to joke that America is 30 minutes from Heaven," he

speak in public. "" said. "We would hear that people were so rich, you could find iPads and iPhones in the street."

Virginia Western gave

me the confidence to thrive in my studies,

make friends and even

Although his perception of America changed, Yadav learned that great things were available to those who worked for them. After struggling with the language barrier in high school, he enrolled at Virginia Western and worked diligently with faculty and staff to make sure his American

Dream would come true.

"If I had given up in the first place, I would never have been in the place I am today. I got low scores sometimes, but I never gave up," Yadav said. "What mattered most was that I was working hard and discovering something new. As long as you come here and work hard, everyone can succeed."



JARED WALLACE DABNEY S. LANCASTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Healthcare was a calling for this DSLCC grad

Jared Wallace always thought he belonged in health care, and at one time considered becoming a hospital administrator. "Then I realized that would mean sitting behind a desk," he said. "I prefer hands-on."

So right out of high school, Wallace started classes at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College, where he took a year of prerequisites and then was accepted into the nursing program. The 20-year-old was one of six men who earned an associate degree in nursing in May. He'll be taking the NCLEX exam in June.

There is a history of health care workers in Wallace's family. His cousin, Yvonne Hall, who performed the pinning ceremony for Wallace, and her mother, the late Anne Caldwell Wright, were both DSLCC nursing graduates. Jared's mother, Gail, is an x-ray technician.

Wallace, who has lived most of his life in Clifton Forge, managed to complete his schooling debt-free; he received a number of small scholarships for tuition as well as books and his parents chipped

in the rest. Community college, he agrees, is a real bargain.

He worked for a few weeks for a local physician, Goings Family Practice, and soon will begin as an emergency room nurse at Carilion Hospital in nearby Roanoke, a position that should suit him.

66 I didn't want to

sit behind a desk.

of guy and I love

I'm a hands-on kind

unpredictability. ""

"I love unpredictability," he said. "I love being kept on my toes."



JASMANE ORMOND THOMAS NELSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Scholarship helps Thomas Nelson student soar to new heights

Thomas Nelson Community College's Jasmane Ormond was selected to receive a \$5,000 STEM Takes Flight in the Community College scholarship by the Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC). The science major was one of 15 students chosen from a pool of more than 200 Virginia community college candidates.

"I am grateful that all my hard work is starting to pay off. My goals are coming to life. I could not have done this without all of the amazing and encouraging teachers and mentors from Thomas Nelson," said Ormond.

The award includes a mentorship program that allows recipients to meet VSGC staff, connect with university students who share similar interests, and network with university faculty. During the award period, STEM Takes Flight scholars will also share their experiences during public forums, classroom presentations and professional meetings.

Looking to improve her life, Ormond enrolled at Thomas Nelson in 2013 having completed high school seven years earlier. Her decision to pursue higher education is yielding great returns. She was elected vice president of the Student Government Association for 2014-2015

and serves as a student ambassador for Workforce Development. Ormond also qualified to coIf My goals are coming to life. I could not have done this without all of the amazing and encouraging teachers and mentors from Thomas Nelson.

enroll at William & Mary (W&M) and began attending classes there in fall 2014-2015.

The active International Club member is poised to complete her studies at Thomas Nelson in 2016. "After I transfer to W&M, I intend to major in science with a minor in philosophy. I aim to teach science and math while continuing my studies at law school. I would like to become an international lawyer," said Ormond.

A mother of two, Ormond admits her schedule can be frenetic at times. But she makes it work because she treats school like a full-time job.

"I'm here and I have everything against me and I'm making it possible. That's the whole crux of community college – you can do it, it's possible and it can take you places!"



## ACHIEVE 2015 GOAL:

## **STUDENT SUCCESS**

TRIPLE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS GRADUATING, TRANSFERRING OR COMPLETING A WORKFORCE CREDENTIAL.

(ORIGINAL GOAL: INCREASE BY 50%)

► THE NUMBER OF VCCS GRADUATES, TRANSFERS AND WORKFORCE CREDENTIAL COMPLETERS INCREASED 82% DURING THE ACHIEVE 2015 TIMEFRAME.

GRADUATES, TRANSFERS AND CREDENTIALS



TRIPLE THE SUCCESS OF STUDENTS FROM UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.

(ORIGINAL GOAL: INCREASE BY 75%)

► STUDENT SUCCESSES BY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS INCREASED 118% DURING THE ACHIEVE 2015 TIMEFRAME.

## **UNDER-REPRESENTED POPULATIONS**





HANNAH COLLINS BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## BRCC student has lofty ambition

Lots of people dream of flying a plane, but BRCC student Hannah Collins plans to take that dream one step further – she plans to fly them AND fix them.

Collins said she's been interested in aviation since she was a little girl. "My dad's best friend is a pilot and he would always take us flying with him. It's simply too much fun not to do!"

Collins, who currently holds a commercial license and is working toward becoming a certified flight instructor, realized that a lot of organizations require an Airframe and Powerplant Certificate in addition to a pilot's license. "If I was in the middle of nowhere and my plane broke, it would be beneficial to know how to fix it myself."

So, she enrolled in the Airplane Maintenance Technology program (AMT) at BRCC in the fall of 2014.

"I decided on the program at Blue Ridge for many reasons. The first reason is that it's in my back yard - I don't have to leave the area to get exactly what I'm looking for. Another reason is that it's the cheapest AMT program I could find! School is expensive so the fact that I'm saving money by going here is a huge deal. I had also heard great things about the program and knew that it was top notch."

In recognition of her stellar academic work thus far, and her promising future, Collins recently received a STEM Takes Flight at Virginia's Community of nowhere and my plane broke, it would be beneficial to know how to fix it myself.

*Colleges* scholarship. A feature of the scholarship is career coaching and mentoring from aviation maintenance technology instructor, Fred Dyen. Dyen is already impressed by her skills.

"Her workmanship in the laboratory is of the highest quality and her attention to detail is without compare."

He's even had Hannah give presentations to high school students about the AMT program and plans for her to mentor prospective BRCC students in STEM-related fields.

Collins' plans for after graduation are to work as a flight instructor to gain additional experience and log flight hours.

"Then I hope to go on the mission field and use what I've learned. That day is approaching fast and it'll be here before I know it."



ALEX CHRISMAN AND JAMES HALEY EASTERN SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Two strangers find themselves on the same path

Alex Chrisman was working part-time at Sage Diner as a bartender when he enrolled at ESCC. Formerly an electronics technology student at Tidewater Community College, Chrisman knew he wanted a career where he could work with his hands. He started in the electronics program at ESCC but, finding the required high level math very challenging, he switched to the HVAC program. One evening, Experiential Learning Coordinator Debbie Daniels came into his classroom and told him about an opportunity for an internship with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS). Chrisman decided to interview for the internship.

James' path to post-secondary education had taken a turn after high school. Having gone out to Radford and spent a short time there, Haley decided that his heart was not into earning an academic four-year degree, so he returned to the Shore and began taking industrial technology classes at ESCC. When his instructor Brian Lilliston encouraged him to apply for the MARS internship, Haley took his advice. That internship was to be his door to an excellent position.

Both Alex and James received the two 12-week internships at MARS. The VCSFA/MARS (Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority) mission

is to launch rockets to the moon, the International Space Station, and other destinations in space. At 66 ESCC prepared me for my internship and the job.Job.Alex Chrisma

the end of the 12-week internship, the interns prepared and presented capstone projects to an audience of employees and invited guests.

When the internships ended in August, the company had openings for two mechanical technician positions. Chrisman and Haley applied for the very competitive positions for which their successful internships gave them the edge. Both were offered full-time positions with excellent benefits.

Both young men speak highly of their ESCC experience, the internships, and their new jobs.

"ESCC prepared me for my internship and the job," said Chrisman. "We learned how systems work in our classes, and even though we aren't working on the same kind of systems, it still was a big help."

"My program helped me learn a different way of thinking," said Haley. "We learned to read and understand technical materials and how to apply what we already knew to new situations."



ELLEN LONG WYTHEVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## WCC student spends summer rubbing elbows with NASA researchers

Army veteran Ellen Long already has a full plate as a full-time Wytheville Community College student and mom to three-monthold son Cooper. This summer, she is adding a NASA internship to that plate. A resident of Sugar Grove in Smyth County, she came to WCC to study engineering and will begin her second year of the program this fall. Ellen's choice to study engineering comes naturally. She is an engineering "legacy" of sorts, coming from a long line of engineers including her father, uncle, and aunt.

This summer, she is taking part in a special partnership program between the Virginia Space Grant Consortium, the Virginia Community College System, and NASA. The *STEM Takes Flight at Virginia's Community Colleges* initiative provides individual research experience opportunities through internships for Virginia Community College students for the 2015 summer semester. Student researchers in this program work with NASA researchers on a designated research project over the course of a 10-week, 40-hour-per-week, summer research experience.

Although taking on this internship with a new baby and throwing in an online summer class may seem like a lot to handle, Long wouldn't have it any other way.

ff Everyone at WCC is a person, not just a number in a classroom, which means the success of each person is more, well, personal.

"I'm reminded of that quote 'Choice, not circumstances, determine your success.' Given that I have a young son and a full plate, I believe that one's life and career are built on the choices we make, and we shouldn't let the situations that life throws at us dictate what we become."

Long praises the opportunities that WCC has provided her in her pursuit of higher education.

"I like the smaller class sizes. If I have issues with the material being covered in class, I appreciate the opportunity to talk with my professors one-on-one. Everyone at WCC is a person, not just a number in a classroom, which means the success of each person is more, well, personal," said Long.

## **VETERANS**



### JESSICA FOX J. SARGEANT REYNOLDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Reynolds grad is a true visionary

Jessica Fox said her motivation for pursuing a career in opticianry stems from her roots in the military.

"I have been working as an optician for the Navy since July 2012. I really enjoy working with patients and find optics interesting."

Fox began her optical education in the service at the Tri Service Opticians School, Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity in Yorktown, Va.

Earlier this year, Fox was selected by Vision Monday as a member of their "Best in Class 2015." Vision Monday is a leading source of news and news analysis for the ophthalmic industry.

The eight honorees were selected from technician and optical dispensing programs from across the country and were selected because of their talent, skill, and dedication to their craft.

Fox was nominated by Reynolds' Opticianry Program Head Kristy Green.

"Completing a college degree is no small task. Completing a college degree with If I really enjoy working with patients. Getting my associate's degree just seemed like the right thing to do. ##

high marks while serving our country as a sailor in the United States Navy is pretty awesome. There is no doubt in our minds here at Reynolds that Jessica has was it takes to become a leader within our profession."

Fox said she really enjoys working with patients and finds optics interesting.

"Getting my associate's degree just seemed like the right thing to do."

One of her most gratifying moments in the field was during a humanitarian deployment to Polynesia and Micronesia. She got to see how happy the patients were when they were finally given clear vision.

Fox plans on taking the American Board of Optometry and National Contact Lens Examiners exams to obtain certifications, and she will be continuing her service as an optician in the Navy.



BRANDON OLMSTED SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## SWCC student is both veteran and advocate

Brandon Olmsted's favorite saying is *you have to overcome, life happens*. Olmsted, a military veteran and student at Southwest Virginia Community College, has lived by that truism.

Already a father of a three-month old baby, and husband of wife Bethany, he was 21 years old when he was recruited for the U.S. Army. He finished boot camp at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, before beginning his training as a veterinary food health inspection specialist. In this position, he worked closely with the FDA and USDA, inspecting the food that went to the troops. In addition, he worked with those four-legged soldiers known as military dogs.

"We had two marine bases nearby and we were also responsible for the veterinary care of their mascot bulldogs. I might be inspecting food bound for troop consumption in the morning and scrubbing to assist on veterinary surgery in the afternoon."

He spent most of his military career at Fort Eustis in Newport News, working as part of a medical battalion. After a botched operation, Olmstead was granted full retirement with benefits.

"I am not lucky, I am truly blessed. I feel proud to have served in the U.S. Army and **SET OF SET OF S** 

feel blessed that my wife and I are able to get a college education and qualify for some substantial G.I. bill benefits."

Getting an education at Southwest Virginia Community College, Olmsted added, was always a part of his and his wife's "life plan."

"Even when I was in active service, I wanted to earn a degree from the college."

Olmsted is currently enrolled in the science program and wants to transfer to a four-year college to complete a bachelor's degree in botany. His wife will be completing her studies at SWCC in spring, 2016. She will transfer to a university to complete her teaching degree.

"I would tell any veteran to find out what your benefits are. I have found that many vets do not really know what benefits are available to them. Call your community college; they have some great counselors who are willing to help. It can make a difference in your life. It has in mine."



## 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.

(ORIGINAL GOAL: 10,000 EMPLOYERS SERVED)

► VIRGINIA EMPLOYERS SERVED BY VCCS MORE THAN DOUBLED IN SIX YEARS.

## **EMPLOYERS SERVED**



UP 200+%



PORCHIA RUSSELL DANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Returning to college with a clear goal

With a scarcity of female machinists nationwide, Danville Community College precision machining graduate Porchia Russell is enjoying the luxury of being able to choose where she will work. The recent graduate is considering multiple job offers from companies throughout Virginia, North Carolina, and beyond.

"Having these job offers shows that hard work does pay off and there are opportunities out there," said Russell who, at last count, had five job offers. "It makes me feel good knowing the industry respects DCC's program. Our experiences lay the foundation for going into an industry setting. The program is designed for you to be successful. You put in the extra effort and you'll get positive results."

Russell was the only female in her class, but said she was not treated any differently by her peers. Since she was a child, Russell said her gender has never stopped her from being the best at everything – sports, academics, and now, machining. Russell, who graduated magna cum laude in May 2015, also won first place in the SkillsUSA state competition for Computer Numerical Control (CNC) milling, and will move to the national level. She also has her level one certification from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS).

Russell said she hopes her decision to start a career in machining will motivate other women to consider similar career pathways.

ff The program is designed for you to be successful. You put in the extra effort and you'll get positive results. ##

"If you're looking for a skill or a trade, manufacturing as a whole is a field that women should consider," Russell noted. "The numbers of women in manufacturing aren't high, but that means there's more opportunity for women who do choose a manufacturing career."

Russell said as she considers the opportunities available to her, including manufacturing, sales, and mechanical, she eventually would like a career teaching others.

"I know that I am on the right track as far as fulfilling one of my callings in life, because I feel that I have multiple callings. I'm honestly at the right place, at the right time," Russell added. "I want my abilities as a machinist to speak volumes."



RYAN HODGES PATRICK HENRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Bridging education and business

Innovative programming, combined with the force of several community partners working together, has created the perfect bridge from well-educated students at Patrick Henry Community College to successful employees with the right skills in the workplace.

That bridge is the Center for Advanced Film Manufacturing (CAFM).

CAFM is a 28-credit program offered through PHCC and New College Institute (NCI), with support from the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation that provides students with a hands-on education in advanced film manufacturing. Founded in 2014, the program graduated its first class of 12 students in spring 2015. Out of the first graduating class, 92 percent of those students have been hired at Eastman Chemical Company.

Ryan Hodges, a graduate of the first class, began his position at Eastman in May as a machine operator in the Dye House. Before starting the year-long program at PHCC, he was underemployed for nearly eight months.

"I found some seasonal jobs and temporary work, but nothing fulltime for a while. My job situation was pretty bleak before I heard about the film program at PHCC," Hodges said.
"We had instructors

66 My job situation was pretty bleak before I heard about the film program at PHCC. #

with manufacturing experience like Mr. (Coy) Park, who taught us about production and quality. He was great at relating what we learned in our textbooks to real-world applications at Georgia Pacific where he (Park) worked."

Hodges largely credits getting hired at Eastman with the time he spent there during his internship.

"I'm thankful for the employees at Eastman who took a special interest in the interns and showed us how things worked," he said. "I think that gave me a leg-up in my interview to be able to relate what I learned and what I could bring to the table if Eastman hired me."

To date, around 30 percent of the world's coated and dyed film is produced in Martinsville-Henry County from Eastman Chemical Company, according to www.advancedfilm.org.



TAMARRA SMITH NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Mother inspires daughter to take up the torch

Tamarra Smith graduated from high school in 2005 and like many of her classmates, headed off to a university. But, the timing just wasn't right for her, so she left college and began working.

Her mother, Linda Holliday, had mentioned NRCC's PIVA welding program to her, but at the time, the program was full. But just a few weeks later, in the fall of 2014, Smith got a call from her mom, telling her a spot was available.

Inspired by her mother's career change, Smith was enthusiastic about the opportunity. "I thought if she can do it, I can do it!" she asserted.

Smith said she's always had an interest in welding and knows that skilled welders are in demand. "I did a little bit of welding in high school," she noted. "We didn't get to do a whole bunch of it, but I thought man, that was fun!"

Having just completed her second semester, Smith said that not only did she enjoy her studies, but she also picked up skills faster than she expected. "I just really took off," she observed.

Smith graduated with a certificate in welding, but intends to return to NRCC in the fall to continue her education.

Though more schooling is on the horizon, she has given some thought to where she'd like to take her welding career outside It gives me a sense of accomplishment to think that people will be using stuff that I make. 33

of the classroom – perhaps, underwater. "In my head, I can picture myself with a scuba tank, a torch, and some sharks swimming around," she offered with a smile.

Regardless of her eventual specialty, her passion for the welding field is evident. "I like that the stuff we do is going to be used somewhere," she said. "It gives me a sense of accomplishment to think that people will be using stuff that I made."

Smith sees her mom as the ultimate role model. "Seeing the things she went through and then completely changing her occupation at her age, it gives me such respect for her," she revealed.

"My children are so talented and so smart", Holliday said. "And I told them 'do not settle – do what you love."



SAM DANGC

### **CENTRAL VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## CVCC student breathes new life into his career

**66** Knowing that

from enjoying the

with asthma. ""

normal activities of

children are held back

being a kid because of

asthma made me realize

that I wanted to make a

living helping kids cope

After receiving his bachelor's degree in exercise science from Liberty University, Sam Dangc went to work for a physical therapy practice in Lynchburg.

After two years, he realized it was time for a course correction.

As an active runner, Dangc was fascinated by lung function and

began researching respiratory therapy as a career. Once he learned of the plight of asthmatic kids, he was hooked.

"Knowing that children are held back from enjoying the normal activities of being a kid because of asthma made me realize that I wanted to make a living helping kids cope with asthma."

Dange was subsequently accepted into the respiratory therapy program at CVCC where he knew he'd receive a quality education.

"It's one of the best programs in the state of Virginia and has one of the highest board passing rates for their students."

While at CVCC, Dangc said he benefitted greatly from the teachings of both Lisa Hodges and Wendy Ayers.

"Both instructors have different, yet very effective teaching styles. They were also there to lend a helping hand in and outside of the classroom. Lisa and Wendy made the class fun and I couldn't ask for a better teachers!"

Dangc graduated with his associate degree in May and has been hired by the Lynchburg region's healthcare system Centra Health where he is a part of the neonatal transport team. **JASON BROWN** 

### JOHN TYLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## JTCC grad thankful for opportunity to give back

Jason Brown is grateful for second chances, and he's determined to open doors for ff John Tyler has given me the tools I need in order to succeed! ##

people who may feel they have no options. That's what he said John Tyler Community College did for him.

Brown described himself as a recovering substance abuse user. His life experiences taught him valuable lessons, and he believes he has much to share with those dealing with similar challenges. That's why he decided to pursue a degree in human services at John Tyler. Before Tyler, Brown said doors kept getting shut, and now, his opportunities are many.

Brown, who celebrated his graduation in May 2015, shared that he's looking forward to his future.

"I am excited to be finished, but I am sad to be leaving the people who have helped me discover who I am supposed to be. John Tyler has given me the tools I need in order to succeed!"

Brown plans to continue his education, earn a bachelor's degree, and work in substance abuse counseling.





BRITTANY THOMPSON RAPPAHANNOCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## RCC Engineering student experiences NASA first-hand

"It was fantastic — to be so close, to feel the building of the excitement as the scheduled launch time approached," said Katie Zanette, one of Rappahannock Community College's career coaches, who, with student Brittany Thompson, traveled to Florida for the test flight of NASA's Orion spacecraft. "The control room discussion was piped into our viewing area. We were as close as any civilian is ever going to get."

Zanette learned of the opportunity to attend the launch through an engineer friend, and Thompson was chosen to accompany her because of her high academic standing and extracurricular achievements, as well as her enrollment in RCC's engineering program.

"We were at the viewing area directly across from the launch area," said Thompson. Previously they had been treated to a guided tour of the facility, including the launch site. "We saw the machine that moves the rocket — it was huge!" At the visitors' center, a space-flight simulator "allowed us to experience what the astronauts go through during launch and in space. It was really fascinating."

At RCC, Thompson is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society (which requires maintaining a 3.5 gradepoint average), a student If The NASA space-flight simulator allowed us to experience what the astronauts go through during launch and in space. It was really fascinating. 33

ambassador, an orientation guide, and a math tutor. She helps in the college bookstore and with college fairs, and participates in RCC's workstudy program and its Student Support Services program.

At RCC's 2015 commencement ceremony, Brittany Thompson will receive an associate of arts and sciences degree, with a specialization in engineering.

Because she grew up surrounded by "Hokies," Thompson hopes to complete her bachelor's degree at Virginia Tech, but is also considering VCU and other universities offering her preferred curriculum of mechanical engineering.



## ACHIEVE 2015 GOAL: RESOURCES

RAISE AT LEAST \$550 MILLION IN GIFTS AND GRANTS TO SUPPORT THE MISSION OF VIRGINIA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

► VCCS MET THE ACHIEVE 2015 RESOURCES GOAL IN FY2013, AND HAS CONTINUED TO RAISE ADDITIONAL GRANTS AND GIFTS.

## **RESOURCES**

GOAL \$550,000,000 面面面面面面面面面面面面面

2015 \$656,627,262 鱼 鱼 鱼 鱼 鱼 鱼 鱼 鱼 鱼 鱼 鱼 鱼 鱼





PATRICK FRITZ VALLEY PROTEINS FELLOW - PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Discovering a new purpose in life

When navy submariner Patrick Fritz was medically retired from active service in 2011, he knew he needed to find a new career to support his family, and that meant going back to school.

"It was definitely a concern. I was worried that I was too old or that I wouldn't be able to transition from the military environment to the academic environment. However, the exact opposite has been true. For newly-separated veterans, it's a great way to transition from the rigid structure of the military into civilian life."

As a 15-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, Fritz was interested in public policy, particularly veterans' issues, and knew that community college would be a good starting point, especially as a first-time college student.

Fritz made his decision to attend PVCC after speaking with Veterans and Admissions Advising counselor Jackie Fisher.

"She is always available to provide support. Her desire to serve the veterans and willingness to go above and beyond made me apply. After speaking with her, I began researching PVCC. The quality of education and the college's commitment to the success of the students, both while at PVCC and beyond, made the decision to attend easy."

In addition to veterans' services, Fritz said the staff and faculty at PVCC have been extremely supportive right If The foundation I have received here will provide me with the tools to succeed wherever I am. ##

from the very beginning. He also found a welcome resource in his fellow veterans, many of whom were eager to help.

"The other veterans on campus come from every branch of service and every career field, from infantry to intelligence to submarines. They provide a tremendous support system, helping with some of the issues that we face as we transition, and share a commonality of experience."

Fritz, a 2015-2016 Valley Proteins scholar, said returning to school in general, and PVCC in particular, has been one of the most rewarding decisions he's ever made.

"The foundation I have received here will provide me with the tools to succeed wherever I am."

In spring 2016, Fritz will graduate with an associate degree in liberal arts, and transfer to the University of Virginia to complete his bachelor's degree in political philosophy, policy, and law.

## **GREAT EXPECTATIONS**



CHAD PETERS LORD FAIRFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Former nomad finds a home and more at LFCC

Chad Peters is a Great Expectations student at Lord Fairfax Community College. He is currently a work-study on campus and it's not unusual to find him spending his leisure time working out at the gym. He also works part-time at the campus bookstore. He loves the outdoors and hiking in the Shenandoah Valley.

But while his circumstances may appear somewhat idyllic now, things were vastly different for him growing up.

Peters entered the Virginia foster care system at the age of seven. Since that time, he's moved between foster homes and group homes both here and in the state of Florida. Eventually, he, like so many of his contemporaries, would "age out" of the system when he turned 18.

When he returned to Virginia, he enrolled at LFCC and eventually earned his GED. Since then, he hasn't looked back.

"Probably the greatest struggle in my life has been making the choice not to go the route of many other young people in this situation and continue on a self-destructive path." Peters is currently pursuing an associate degree in administration of justice with the goal of transferring to James Madison University next fall. In the future, he would like

struggle in my life has been making the choice not to go the route of many other young people in this situation and continue on a self-destructive path.

to work in law enforcement and is very interested in acquiring language skills to enhance his employment options.

Peters is a kind and considerate young man and is always eager to help out in whatever way he can. He is friendly and goes out of his way to be nice to everyone.

Great Expectations has provided Peters with the support he needs to be successful in school. From advising to providing a place where he can study free from distraction, he knows that he has a resource to help him maneuver through life and be successful in college.



SILVIA GARCIA MURCIA

### JOHN TYLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## GE student is shining example of success through support

Silvia Garcia Murcia's life has taken some unexpected turns, but one thing has held constant – her desire to work in health care. **66** I was scared to say something because I thought people might laugh at me. **55** 

Garcia Murcia was born in Honduras and moved to the United States, where she ended up in the foster-care system. After graduating from high school, she immediately enrolled at John Tyler Community College.

When she started at JTCC, Garcia Murcia got involved with the college's Great Expectations program, which provided her with a variety of resources and support – things for which she's grateful.

One of the first people she met was GE coach Vicki Muenstermann who hired a tutor to help Garcia Murcia read and speak English.

"I was scared to say something because I thought people might laugh at me," she said.

In 2013, Garcia Murcia was appointed to SCHEV's Students Advisory Committee. That same year, she was featured in a television advertisement promoting JTCC.

Garcia Murcia wants others to know that their lives can change, too. She regularly reaches out to friends in the Hispanic community and encourages them to get an education.

When Garcia Murcia graduated in May 2015 with her general studies, science specialization associate degree, she was already looking ahead to the next phase of her educational journey – the University of Richmond – where she will study biology. She received a full scholarship to the university and was selected for a student leadership program.

After completing her bachelor's degree, Garcia Murcia plans to enter a physician's assistant program.



## GE grads look to future with hope and optimism

Great Expectations celebrated a record number of graduates at a celebration held at the College of William & Mary in May. Students gathered the night before for a cook-out, arranged flowers for the luncheon, and participated in workshops with area leaders prior to the celebration. Awards included: 32 associate degrees, 25 occupational/technical certificates, two GEDs, six general education certificates, five bachelor's degrees, 12 transfers to four-year schools, and six students entering the military.





## **RURAL VIRGINIA HORSESHOE**



DOMINION FOUNDATION RURAL VIRGINIA HORSESHOE INITIATIVE

## Virginia's Rural Horseshoe project gets economic shot in the arm

The Dominion Foundation is investing in Virginia's future with a \$500,000 donation to the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education's Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initaitive.

Former Governor Gerald L. Baliles, chair of the VFCCE, accepted a presentation check from Paul D. Koonce, executive vice president of Dominion Resources, in May.

"This significant investment from the Dominion Foundation will be used to further the mission of the Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative, which aims to transform Virginia's rural communities through higher education and 21st Century job skills," said Baliles. "We are honored to receive this grant that will boost career opportunities and elevate workforce development efforts in the commonwealth for years to come."

"The Dominion Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of those in the communities we serve, and what could be more important than helping young adults to achieve their full potential through obtaining an associate degree at one of Virginia's Community Colleges," said Koonce. "We are very proud to support the Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative and its strategies to impact the economic prosperity of Virginia."

Said Chancellor Glenn DuBois, "Thanks to Dominion, hundreds of young men and women will see their dreams of earning a college credential come true."

Named for the horseshoe-shaped arc that is formed when the colleges in rural regions of Virginia are marked on a map, the RVHI has implemented strategies to cut in half the number of its residents who lack a high school diploma or its equivalent and to double the percentage of those who hold post-secondary credentials.

One of those initiatives involves engaging community college employees called Career Coaches to help local high school students build and pursue college and career plans while still in high school.

Seven of Virginia's 14 rural community colleges are engaged in the initial pilot and will immediately benefit from the Dominion investment. They include: Blue Ridge, Dabney S. Lancaster, Danville, Eastern Shore, New River, Patrick Henry and Paul D. Camp community colleges.

Whether in numbing cold or staggering heat, or even in the midst of a raging storm, the work demands technical excellence, razor-like concentration, no small amount of courage, all combined with an astounding work ethic. 
Thomas F. Farrell, II., CEO, Dominion



POWER-LINE WORKERS RURAL VIRGINIA HORSESHOE INITIATIVE

## Holding the line in Virginia's Rural Horseshoe

A lot of the power-line workers we see being hoisted or "spiking" their way to the top of utility poles nowadays are quickly approaching retirement age. Once they cross the finish line, the task of finding qualified replacements won't be easy.

Interest in trades as a profession has been waning and when the economy collapsed in 2008, a lot of people looking to increase their job prospects focused on enhancing their technology skills. Learning a trade, it seemed, was something their uncles and grandfathers did.

But that dynamic has changed. The demand for skilled linemen is high and it's growing. The average lineman earns just over \$71,000 a year. But the job requires intensive training and being outside in sometimes harsh and hazardous working conditions.

"It's dangerous, difficult work, and not a lot of people want to do it," said Brian Mosier, vice president of governmental affairs, Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives.

To accommodate the growing demand for power-line workers, Virginia's Community Colleges are partnering with the state's electric cooperatives to offer a new training program through Southside Virginia Community College.

Specifically, VCCS has offered \$342,000 to help with equipment purchases while the Virginia, Maryland, Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC) has requested both monetary and equipment donations from its 15 members to support the school.

The facility, which will be located at SVCC's Occupational and Technical Center near Blackstone, will provide low-cost housing for the students who enroll in the course, and will consist of a mix of indoor and outdoor instruction. Students who successfully complete the program will be issued industry-recognized credentials.

A pilot class is scheduled to begin next spring.

"The opportunity to learn the trade is tremendous," said Keith Harkins, vice president of workforce development and continuing education at SVCC. "And for folks growing up in rural Virginia, it's a career that will allow them to remain here."

Mosier agrees, saying the availability of local talent is essential to the industry's success.

"That's generally the idea; to give younger folks a reason to stay in their local communities."





## 2015 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy Recipients

For more than 10 years, the Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy has recognized outstanding contributions made to Virginia's Community Colleges and their respective foundations by leading philanthropists across the commonwealth. Thanks to the generosity of Wells Fargo, students at each of Virginia's Community Colleges receive a scholarship in a philanthropist's name each fall.

### **Blue Ridge Community College**

Philanthropist: John and Cathy Matherly Scholar: Luis Valderramos

### **Central Virginia Community College**

Philanthropist: Georgia-Pacific Big Island Mill Scholar: Kaitlin N. Mason

#### Dabney S. Lancaster Community College

Philanthropist: Blakeslee Nettleton Chase Scholar: Nicole Marie Zierler

#### **Danville Community College**

Philanthropist: J.T. Minnie Maude Charitable Trust Scholar: Melinda Mondul

#### **Eastern Shore Community College**

Philanthropist: PNC Bank Scholar: Rachal Lankford

#### **Germanna Community College**

Philanthropist: Kent D. Farmer Scholar: Lillian Bramble

### J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

Philanthropist: Jerry and Mary Owen Scholar: Kimberly Frith

### John Tyler Community College

Philanthropist: Michael R. White Scholar: Hoa Pham

#### **Lord Fairfax Community College**

Philanthropist: Morgan Phenix Scholar: Katie Prock

#### **Mountain Empire Community College**

Philanthropist: The Estate of Carol Phipps Buchanan Scholar: Reece M. Williams

#### **New River Community College**

Philanthropist: The Late Robert J. Ingram Scholar: Luan DeMoraes

#### Northern Virginia Community College

Philanthropist: Micron Technology Scholar: Margaret Hudak

#### Patrick Henry Community College

Philanthropist: The Walker Family Scholar: Keri Stegall

#### Paul D. Camp Community College

Philanthropist: Franklin Southampton Charities Scholar: Deven N. Dodd

#### **Piedmont Virginia Community College**

Philanthropist: Patricia Hart Keats Scholar: Max D'Alessio Brooks

#### Rappahannock Community College

Philanthropist: The Wright Family Scholar: Mikelah Dann

### **Southside Virginia Community College**

Philanthropist: R.C. and Viola Hines Scholar: Wade Campbell Bagley

#### Southwest Virginia Community College

Philanthropist: The Estate of Carol Phipps Buchanan Scholar: Alexander Lonnie Jo Thompson

### **Thomas Nelson Community College**

Philanthropist: Siemens Corporation Scholar: Megan Sours

### **Tidewater Community College**

Philanthropist: Vanessa Christie Scholar: Megan D. Hollis

#### Virginia Highlands Community College

Philanthropist: Appalachian Power Company Scholar: Peyton Garrett

#### Virginia Western Community College

Philanthropist: The Powell Charitable Foundation Scholar: lan Webster

#### **Wytheville Community College**

Philanthropist: O.J. Campbell, Dennis R. Throckmorton and Richard G. Copenhaver Scholar: Lydia Marie Flippin

#### **Virginia Foundation for Community College Education**

Philanthropist: Connie Kincheloe Scholar: Daniel L. Green



### **GERMANNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## Doris Buffett: Having the time of her life

The wealthy sister of Warren Buffett isn't globetrotting on a NetJet. She isn't rubbing elbows with famous friends like David McCullough, Don McLean and Ice Cube. She's certainly not shopping on Rodeo Drive.

Ms. Buffett is excited about starting up the \$2 million Germanna Community College mentoring, tutoring and scholarship program she is funding.

The program is for underserved students who will be the first in their families to go to college, with African-American males encouraged to apply.

"I'm betting on this," Ms. Buffett said. "I consider working with Germanna on this to be the most important thing I'm doing in our area. This is a chance to make a difference. I believe we have a good chance of succeeding." Germanna President David A. Sam praised Ms. Buffett for "dedicating her life to giving others hope. Germanna is in the business of hope,

ff This is a chance to make a difference. I believe we have a good chance of succeeding. ##

so our missions are parallel," Sam pointed out. "Germanna and the Fredericksburg area owe her a deep debt of gratitude."

The Gladys P. Todd Academy is named for a Fredericksburg civil rights leader and educator who passed away recently.

The five-year program provides mentoring for students at Walker-Grant and Post Oak Middle Schools and tutoring and dual enrollment scholarships for students at James Monroe and Spotsylvania High Schools.



Since 2006, the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education has awarded more than \$2 million in scholarships to help students across the commonwealth realize their dream of a higher education. Ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000, scholarships awarded through the statewide foundation are based on academic achievement, leadership potential, and community involvement. The VFCCE is proud of its statewide scholarship recipients for 2015.

## Valley Proteins Fellows



Elaina Schweiker

Eastern Shore
Community College



Anna Bailey
Germanna
Community College



Kristin Schaefer

J. Sargeant Reynolds
Community College



Tiffany Riggs Lord Fairfax Community College



Augusto "Gus" Infantas Northern Virginia Community College



Patrick Fritz
Piedmont Virginia
Community College



Fintan Horan
Piedmont Virginia
Community College



Joshua Justus Southwest Virginia Community College



Pascal Shukuru
Thomas Nelson
Community College

## Named Scholarships

#### Gerald L. Baliles Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

Emilee Janney and Jordan Brady Patrick Henry Community College

#### Kathy Camper Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

Gabriela Jordan Ferrufino Northern Virginia Community College

#### John Casteen Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

Hunter Newton-Meade Southwest Virginia Community College Laurel Elayne Burdette Dabney Lancaster and Virginia Western community colleges

### Eva Tieg Hardy Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

Graciela Billingsley Northern Virginia Community College Jameson Cockram New River Community College Sydney Wiles Germanna Community College

#### Laurens Sartoris Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

Rachel Lyle Dabney S. Lancaster Community College Jennifer McConnell Northern Virginia Community College

#### The Florence Berman Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

James B. Davis Rappahannock Community College

#### The Eleanor Saslaw Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

Sara K. Gregory Rappahannock Community College

#### Michael A. Smith Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

Aric Porter and Kenley Meredith Wytheville Community College Kennedi Boyd New River Community College

#### Jonathan Alje Toxopeus Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

Lucia Resendiz Garcia Lord Fairfax Community College

#### ACG Richmond Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship

James L. Brent John Tyler Community College

#### Central Virginia Chapter of the Institute of Real Estate Management Scholarship

Janice Rinker, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

#### Richmond Regional Commonwealth Legacy Scholars

Millie Rudolph, Aysha Brown, Taylor Vocke, Sarah Gwynn and Yahya Maly J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

Sarah Ballester, Joshua Hann, Dustin Johnson Sherae McRae, Matthew Villiot John Tyler Community College



ELEANOR SASLAW AND KEATON GREGORY RAPPAHANNOCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# RCC student benefits from scholarship

State Board for Community Colleges member Eleanor Saslaw's immigrant mother always regretted not having the opportunity to get an education. So, she and her husband made sure their three children would.

"I was brought up knowing the connection to education, the future, a good life individually," Saslaw said. "As I was growing up, I realized the connection to the greater society; how important it was."

When Saslaw was appointed to the State Board, she was tapped to serve as college liaison for both Rappahannock and Patrick Henry Community Colleges. After a visit to Rappahannock, she was impressed with what she saw. So much so that she decided to create two scholarships – one named after herself and another after her mother.

"That's when I decided that I would try to support these students who didn't have the opportunities that I had. But I thought it was so important in that rural area of the state that we give those children those educational opportunities."

As a 2015 recipient of Saslaw's scholarship, Keaton Gregory said she couldn't be more grateful, adding the timing of the award was critical.

"Right now, just with financial aid, I couldn't cover my textbooks which would mean that I would have to ask important in that rural area of the state that we give those children the educational opportunities they need to succeed. ##

**66** I thought it was so

my family for help because I don't make enough with my paycheck."

Gregory, who's now into her second year at RCC, hopes to one day become a first-grade teacher.

"I'm very determined to make it far past where I am right now."

For her part, Saslaw said she'll probably create another scholarship at Patrick Henry.

"Whoever assigned me to those two schools did a really good job of expanding of my horizons."

## **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 2015, 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.

Anonymous Imad Abi-Falah Nancy Agee Dale Andrews Jerry Armstrong Steve Arner Kathy Arrington Julie Atkins Michelle Atkinson Edna Baehre-Kolovani Hazel Baker Sue and Rodger Baker Robin and Gerald Baliles Mary Barnett Kevin Barrowclough Craig Becker Wesley Beddard Jason Bellone Carolyn Berkowitz Peggy Beverly

Riggy Octory

Riggy Octory

Blake Bialkowski

Sharon Bishop

Mary Blanchard and Peter Blake

Paula Bonner-Hopson

Edgar Boone

Beverly Bower

Penelope Boyd

Thomas Brewster

Arthur Brinkley, III

Clement Britt

Kimberly Britt

Dorothy and Larry Brown

Patricia Buck

Sharon Buddemeier

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Sara and Thomas Burke
Doris Ann Byrd
Gretchen Byrd
Barbara and Harry Byrd, III
Cynthia Callaway
Sharon Campbell
Leo Campos
Thomas Cantone

Chandos Carrow Bill Carver John Casteen, III John Cavan Liling and Hank Chao David Clark Emily Clements Kristin Conklin Darren Conner Sammie Cotman Nicki Coyle

Perry Carroll

Sammie Cotman Nicki Coyle Elizabeth Creamer LaVonn Creighton Russell Crescimanno Allavine Curtis James Cuthbertson Gene Damon Linda and Joseph Daniel Madelyn Dantona Sara and Charles Dassance Ellen Davenport Gordon Davies

John Davies, III
James Davis
Herb DeGroft
Jerry Denney
Deborah DiCroce
Gene Dishner
Jane and Dan Dixon
Barry Dorsey
Patricia Dougans

Steve Douty
Sandy and John Downey
William Downey
Glenn DuBois
Peggy and James Durham
Valli and John Duval

Lori Dwyer James Dyke, Jr. Evelyn Edson Jane and Stephen Eitelman Mary Jane Elkins LaVonne Ellis

Bonnie Elosser Karen and Billy Eyles Judy Farmer Martie Finch John Fitzgerald Laura Fornash

Natalie Foster
Betsey and Robert Fountain
Robin Fraker
Leah Fried Sedwick
Emily and Frank Friedman
Tandy Gaffney
Juan and Brenda Garnett
Patricia and E.N. Garnett
Jennifer and Fred Gentry
Mike Gentry

Nanna and Wade Gilley George Gilliam Philip Goodpasture

Philip Goodpasture
Margaret and Richard Gossweiler, Jr.
Dinah and Kurt Gottschalk
Joy and Gary Graham
Adrienne Granitz
Joe Guderjohn
Margaret and Mike Guy
Shannon Hair
Lucy Pryor Hale
Celeste Hall
Dawn Hall

Celeste Hall
Dawn Hall
Edwin Hall
William Hall, Jr.
Dana Hamel
Scott Hamilton
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Andrea and Craig Herndor Charles Hess Pamela Hillbert Samuel Hill Debbie Hines Jeff Hockaday Brendan Hogan Dorothy Hollahan Anne and Ronald Holmes

Lelia Baum Honner

Penelope Howard Edward Howell Lee and William Howell Chia-Lei Hung William Hunter Adriane James Randy Johnson Rosalind Johnson William Johnson

Martha Johnston Hamill Jones, Jr. Robert Jones Anne Holton and Tim Kaine Carol Kasworm Scott Kemp

Constance Kincheloe Jane and Paul Kingston Maureen and Vincent La Piana Deborah Lamm Caroline Lane Chandra Lantz

Christopher Lee Rosalie Lesser Mary Ann and Jack Lewis Elizabeth Littlefield Elizabeth Long Sally Love

**Gabriel Laufer** 

Linda and Chris Lumsden Wickliffe Lyne Jose Macedo George Mack Whit Madere

Whit Madere Bonnie and William Mahone Rena Mallory Amy Mangan Joseph Martin Josephine Martin Violet Martin

Violet Martin
Anne McCaffrey
Intan McCartt
Hed McComb
Dee McGuirl
Gail and Forrest McKay
Nan Kelly McKenney
John McMillan
Sean McMurray

Marie Melton Yvonne Mency

Marlene Mondziel Gaye Montgomery Grace Mooney Elizabeth Moran Sharon Morrissey Cliff Mosby

Charlotte and G. Gilmer Minor. III

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David Nutter
Lara Overy
Dianne Parker
Randy Parker
Melina Perdue
Linda and James Perkins
Karen Petersen
Marsha Peterson
Jeffrey Pinion
Donald Pippin
William Price
Ron Proffitt
Tiffany Pugh

Lianna Purcell Jo Ann and Donald Puyear Deborah and Michael Quillen

John Rainone
Barbara and Fred Rankin
Caroline Rapking
Charles Renninger
Mitzi Reynolds
Linda Rigsby
Gladys Rine
Allyson Roberts

Mary Rohas

Deborah Oswalt and Mark Rubin Ruth Sage Robert Sandel Eleanor Saslaw Greer Saunders

Sue and Thomas Robertson

Caithness and Russell Sawyer Michael Schewel Anita Schneider Michael Schwartz William Darrell Scruggs, Jr. Richard Sebastian Lynn Seuffert Pearl Evans Shaw

Franklin Shrout
Linda Silver
Thelma Simpson
M. Noel Sipple
H. Judson Skinker
Margaret Smith
Wendy and Michael Smith

Natalie Smith Roy Smith Tim Stockton

Tim Stockton
Barbara Stoltzfus
Rachel Strawn
Robert Stroube
Robin Sullenberger
Paul Sweet
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George Taratsas
Marilyn Tavenner
Yvonne and Edwin Taylor
Pichard Taaff

Richard Teaff
Carla and Bob Templin, Jr.
William Thomas
David Tod
Francis Turnage
Larry Tyree
Donna VanCleave
Ada Vandeventer
Melina and Andrew Vaughan

Ada Vandeventer
Melina and Andrew Vaugh
Ruth and Brandt Vaughan
Kellie and Joel Vaughan
Mary Vaughan
Peggy Vaughan
Ralph Vaughan
Niraj Verma
Uma Vissa-Giri
Victoria Waldron
Gloria Walker
Mary Lee Walsh

Kathryn Hammond and Amy Walter

Jeanette Wang Mary Jo Washko Iris Weisman and Ken Wayland Claire Weaver

Sally and James Webb Katherine and D. Eugene Webb

Marcia Webb
Peggy Westcott
Dottie and Alfred Whitt
Kay and Dixon Whitworth
Sally and James Lee Wilkerson
Margaret and Lloyd Willis
Nancy Willson
Pecsilia and May Wignett

Nancy Willson
Rosalie and Max Wingett
Susan and Warren Wolstenholme
Pamela and Robert Woltz, Jr.
Susan and Roy Wood
Elizabeth Woodard
Jane Woods
Ida Lee Wootten
Carol and Jonathan Wright
George Wynne

## Corporations, Foundations & Organizations

A & N Electric Cooperative ABS Technology Architects

ACT, Inc.

Michel Zajur

Alexander Insurance Agency

Altria American Public University System Amtek Company, Inc. **APEX Foundation** Association for Corporate Growth: Richmond Chanter AT&T Foundation Attronica Augusoft Lumens Augusta Health Care, Inc. B.H. Baird Insurance Agency Bank of America Charitable Foundation BARC Electric Cooperative Barnes & Noble College Booksellers Rella Vista Foundation Blackboard, Inc. Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation, Inc. **Bon Secours** Brandywine Realty Trust Brookfield Foundation CampusGuard Canon Virginia Capital One Capital Results Carilion Clinic Carlisle Associates Incorporated Centra Health Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative Children and Family Legacy Fund Children's Health System Chmura Economics & Analytics CoBank Coldwell Banker Professionals, Realtors Commercial Insurance Services ConServe

Coverage, Inc.

Danville Community College **Educational Foundation** Data Network Solutions, Inc. Davis Elliot Company, Inc. Deborah J. Johnston Foundation, Inc. DELL Dewberry Dillon Insurance Agency Diversified Educational Systems. Inc. **Dollar General Literacy Foundation Dominion Resources** Donley's

Dynamic Works Institute Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. Edmentum Educational Foundation of the

VA Chamber of Commerce Electronic Systems, Inc. Emory and Henry College **Essential Education** First English Evangelical Lutheran Church

Froehling & Robertson, Inc. Genworth Foundation **Geographic Solutions** Germanna Community College **Educational Foundation** Grimm and Parker Architects

HCM Strategists, LLC Higher One. Inc. Hirschler Fleischer **Hodges Digital Strategies** Holmes, Riley & Associates of Merrill

Lvnch **HRI Associates** 

Hughes, Gregory & Wells Agency, Inc. **Hunton & Williams** 

Independent Insurance Center Inova Health System JobShop, Inc. John Tyler Community College

**Educational Foundation** Kathryn B. McQuade Foundation Keystone Insurers Group Lee Electrical

Leonard L. Brown Agency Lester Insurance Lumos Networks

Lutheran Family Services of Virginia M. H. West Co., Inc.

Mary and Daniel Loughran Foundation, Inc. Mary Washington Healthcare

McGladrey

McGuireWoods Consulting Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative

Meyer Foundation Moseley Architects

Moses D. Nunnally, Jr. Charitable Lead Unitrust B

Mountain Empire Community College Educational Foundation Mountain States Health Alliance MPACT Solutions

Mullins, Gordon & Norman Wealth Management of Wells Fargo Advisors MyOpenJobs

Nansemond Insurance Agency, Inc. **Nelnet Business Solutions** NetApp

Newport News Shipbuilding (a Division of Huntington Ingalls Industries) North Highland

**National Transformer Sales** 

**Okonite** 

PadillaCRT

ProTrain, LLC

Park Sterling Wealth Management Piedmont Virginia Community College

**Educational Foundation** Prince George Electric Cooperative Potomac Health Foundation PowerSecure. Inc. PowerServices. Inc.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative Raymond James & Associates RealTime Accounting Solutions Rappahannock Electric Cooperative

Regency Women's Club Richard and Caroline T. Gwathmey

Memorial Trust Risk Protection of Virginia, Inc. Riverland Insurers Ronald A. Williams, Ltd. **RRMM Architects** Saunders & Benson, Inc.

Sentara Healthcare **Shelton Short Foundation** 

Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative **SLAIT Consulting** 

SnagAJob

South Boston Insurance Agency Southside Electric Cooperative

Southwest Virginia Community College **Educational Foundation** 

Stanley W. Nowinski/John D. and Mary D. Williams Fund Starr Hill / Red Light Fund

Suffolk Insurance Corporation Susan W. Davenport & W. Edgar Spigle Fund

SyCom Technologies The Armistead Group The Center for Legal Studies The Community Foundation serving Richmond and Central Virginia

The Curtis Group The Kresge Foundation

The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation The SkillSource Group

The William H. -John G.-Emma Scott Foundation

Tidewater Energy Services, LLC Tobacco Indemnification Commission Tuition Management Systems United Utility Supply Cooperative, Inc.

Universal Leaf Foundation University of Virginia Health System Utility Sales Associates, Inc.

Valley Health System Valley Proteins, Inc.

VCU Community Memorial Hospital Verizon Foundation

Virginia Commonwealth Corporation Virginia Community Colleges Association

Virginia Credit Union Virginia Department of Education

Virginia Goodwill Network, Inc. Virginia Hospital Shared Services Corporation

Vocational Research Institute Volvo Trucks North America Washington Forrest Foundation Watkins Insurance Agency, Inc.

Wells Fargo William H. Talley & Son, Inc. Wilson, Timmons & Wallerstein

Insurance, Inc. WIN Learning

World Instructor Training Schools



#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**



**Gerald Baliles** (hair

Ronald H. Holmes Vice Chair

> Edwin C. Hall Secretary

Arthur S. Brinkley, III Treasurer Philip Goodpasture

> General Counsel Mitzi Reynolds **Executive Director**

**Melanie Bias** John T. Casteen, III

> Hank Chao **Glenn DuBois**

James W. Dyke, Jr.

**Jennifer Sager Gentry** William C. Hall, Jr.

> **Eva Teig Hardy** Charles F. Hess

Chandra D. Lantz

**Donna VanCleave** Jeanette Wang **Daniel Weekley** 

Robert W. Woltz. Jr.

**Gaye Montgomery** 

**Maricel Quintana-Baker** 

John Rainone

**Eleanor Saslaw** 

Gerald F. (J.J.) Smith, Jr.

#### HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Honorable George Allen The Honorable James Gilmore III The Honorable Linwood Holton The Honorable Tim Kaine

The Honorable Charles Robb The Honorable Mark Warner The Honorable Douglas Wilder **Dana Hamel, Chancellor Emeritus** 

# State Board for Community Colleges



Idalia P. Fernandez
Chair
Centerville



James Cuthbertson Vice Chair Glen Allen



Carolyn Berkowitz Burke



Thomas Brewster
Falls Mills



Benita Thompson Byas Reston



Darren Conner Callands



LaVonne P. Ellis Chesapeake



Douglas M. Garcia Fairfax



William C. Hall, Jr.
Richmond



David Nutter Blacksburg



Catherine B. Reynolds McLean



Eleanor Saslaw Springfield



Michael J. Schewel Richmond



Don "Robin" Sullenberger
Harrisonburg



Michael Zajur Richmond

Two new members joined the State Board for Community Colleges for 2015-2016, including Douglas M. Garcia of Fairfax and Catherine B. Reynolds of McLean.

They replaced board members Dorcas Helfant-Browning, of Virginia Beach, and Rear Admiral Robert R. Fountain, of Montross.

Two other members were reappointed to four-year terms, including William C. Hall, Jr., of Richmond, and Carolyn S. Berkowitz, of Burke.

Idalia P. Fernandez, of Centerville, was elected chair for 2015-2016, and James Cuthbertson, of Glen Allen, was elected vice chair.

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

## 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



R. Scott Ralls Northern Virginia



Angeline D. Godwin
Patrick Henry



William Aiken Paul D. Camp



Frank Friedman
Piedmont Virginia



Elizabeth H. Crowther Rappahannock



Alfred A. Roberts
Southside Virginia



**J. Mark Estepp**Southwest Virginia



John T. Dever Thomas Nelson



Edna V. Baehre-Kolovani Tidewater



**Gene C. Couch, Jr.**Virginia Highlands



Robert H. Sandel Virginia Western

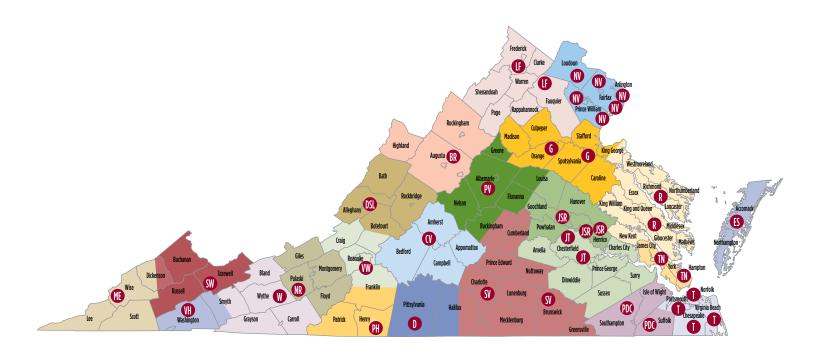


Dean Sprinkle Wytheville



A gathering of presidents – Retired and current presidents gathered to celebrate the achievements of Dr. George Vaughan in February when a special Leadership Fund was established in his honor through the VFCCE. Vaughan, named one of the most effective community college presidents in the nation, served as president at PVCC and as founding president at MECC. Shown here left to right, Frank Friedman (PVCC); John Cavan (SVCC-retired); Bob Templin (NVCC-retired); Vaughan; Jim Perkins (BRCC-retired); John Casteen (UVA-retired); and Frank Turnage (GCC-retired).

# **CAMPUS LOCATIONS AND 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

- 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

- Thomas Nelson
  Hampton
  Williamsburg
- T Tidewater
  Chesapeake
  Norfolk
  Portsmouth
  Virginia Beach
- VH Virginia Highlands Abingdon
- VW Virginia Western Roanoke
- W Wytheville Wytheville



RICHARD MOYER VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# Student's passion for engineering earns MIT acceptance

While a student at Virginia Highlands Community College, Richard Moyer was often seen walking across campus barefoot, sometimes giving the impression that he takes a laidback approach to college life. That myth was dispelled one day last spring when he casually mentioned that he had just been accepted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Moyer is excited about his accomplishments and grateful to his sister, who milked the cows on their 70-acre family farm each morning so he could focus on academics. Now that he's earned an associate of arts & sciences degree in engineering from Virginia Highlands Community College, he's ready to enter the nation's top engineering program.

"The workload is going to be interesting," Moyer said. "I'm ready for the challenge."

His acceptance to MIT is proof that he's done well at Virginia Highlands. He's juggled heavy class loads each semester, sneaking just enough time away from his books to take the SAT subject tests required by the nation's top universities. to colleges, he choose just two

- MIT and Virginia Tech.

And when it came time to apply to be interesting. I'm ready for the challenge. ""

**11** The workload is going

When Pi Day – an event that celebrates the mathematical constant pi – arrived, Moyer logged on to the MIT website for a decision about his future. His mother was with him, he said, and was "somewhat excited" to learn he'd been accepted.

Somewhat excited? Well, Moyer explained, his parents are high achievers themselves. His father holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry and his mother has a master's degree in nuclear engineering. They've always expected their son to do well.

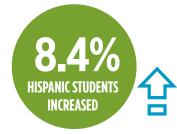
There's no doubt Moyer will do well at MIT, but he admits he's a little worried about the work required to keep pace in a sea of engineering students who love equations every bit as much as he does.

## 2014-2015 ENROLLMENT

	Unduplicated Headcount	Full-Time Equivalent		Unduplicated Headcount	Full-Time Equivalent
Blue Ridge	6,039	2,837	Patrick Henry	3,783	2,052
Central Virginia	6,414	2,611	Paul D. Camp	1,813	780
Dabney S. Lancaster	1,848	723	Piedmont Virginia	7,673	3,003
Danville	5,554	2,373	Rappahannock	4,616	1,848
Eastern Shore	1,131	489	Southside Virginia	7,350	3,264
Germanna	10,012	4,503	Southwest Virginia	3,566	1,787
J. Sargeant Reynolds	17,742	7,469	Thomas Nelson	15,122	6,513
John Tyler	13,753	5,543	Tidewater	39,531	18,673
Lord Fairfax	9,427	4,012	Virginia Highlands	3,315	1,625
Mountain Empire	3,620	1,745	Virginia Western	12,798	4,961
New River	6,617	2,888	Wytheville	4,305	1,963
Northern Virginia	76,044	34,586	VCCS	262,073	116,249

## STUDENTS BY THE NUMBERS

**2009 COMPARED TO 2015** 



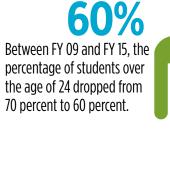
The number of Hispanic students enrolled in VCCS colleges increased 8.4% from FY 2009 to FY 2015.



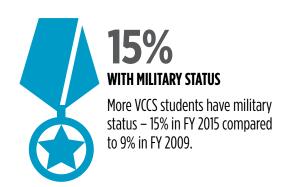
More VCCS students are considered first generation – 22% in FY 2015 compared to 5% in FY 2009. This means the student is the first in the family to attend college.



The percentage of in-state students served by VCCS colleges remained relatively steady between FY 2009 and FY 2015.







## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

#### **Revenues**

Operating Revenue	
Tuition and fees	356,578,354
Federal grants and contracts	89,716,664
State and local grants	8,162,436
Nongovernmental grants	7,874,790
Sales/services of education departments	278,924
Auxiliary enterprises	28,086,747
Other operating revenues	19,624,053
Total Operating Revenues	510,321,968
Nonoperating Revenues	
State appropriations	411,085,895
Local appropriations	2,182,393
Grants and gifts	262,450,576
Investment income	917,922
Net Nonoperating Revenues	676,636,786
Capital appropriations (state and local)	93,260,108
Capital gifts and grants	2,981,336
Total Revenue	1,283,200,198

### **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
Nonoperating Expenses	
Interest on capital asset related debt	4,159,163
Other nonoperating expenses	4,053,094
Total Expenses	1,234,589,925

Final financial statements will be published in November 2015.

## **Total Revenue - By Source**











## **Total Expenses - By Source**















UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS MOUNTAIN EMPIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# The sky's the limit for students enrolled in MECC's drone technology course

AVI-195, Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Systems, is the first course of its kind in unmanned aerial technology to be offered at a Virginia community college.

The course covers the history of unmanned aerial flight, aircraft mechanics, and UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) law. The course culminates in students building and flying their own UAV. Fourteen students participated in MECC's three-credit summer class, each with varying interests and utilizations for UAV technology.

Student Ann Vaughn owns a 16-acre farm and will use her drone to perform routine checks on livestock and fencing. Realtor and photographer Chris Owens will use his drone to produce detailed images of homes and property. "Satellite technology is great but the drone technology gives you better detail and more versatility for getting shots overhead."

Student Robert McLaughlin added, "There are going to be a lot of job opportunities and a lot of different fields will open up as this technology develops."

MECC and Southwest Virginia are now positioned at the forefront of the drone technology industry. The first-ever FAA-approved

If There are going to be a lot of job opportunities and a lot of different fields will open up as this technology develops.

drone delivery occurred in Wise County this summer, as NASA's Langley Research Center shipped pharmaceuticals to the Remote Area Medical event in Wise. Drones then delivered the cargo from the airport to the RAM event nearby. Grant Bloomer, a student in MECC's AVI 195 class, assisted with the historic event.

MECC instructor Fred Coeburn said he hopes the Unmanned Aerial Systems course will develop into a certificate or degree program. Coeburn worked closely with the UAV industry to develop the curriculum and believes there will be a high demand for UAV skills in the future. The Wise County Industrial Development Authority recently received a \$50,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to explore the economic development potential of UAV technology in southwest Virginia.

#### ROCKET SCIENCE SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Rocketry in the classroom: Big, powerful, and really fast



Mathematics textbooks are filled with word problems involving rockets or other things flying through the air, but nothing will hold a student's interest like applying these same

concepts to a real, hands-on project, according to Brent Richey, Associate Professor of Math for Southside Virginia Community College.

In his Governor's School of Southside Virginia's class, mathematics and physics are woven throughout the science of rockets along with lessons in problem-solving within the confines of limited time and limited funding. "Rocket man Richey" and his class this year made a "high power" rocket, defined by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) as rockets that weigh in excess of 1,500 grams with total motor impulse of 160 newton/seconds or more. It is regulated to where these rockets can be launched and who is allowed to launch them. This is done through a certification process that has three levels offered by two associations; the National Association of Rocketry (NAR) and the Tripoli Rocket Association (TRA).

This rocket, carrying an altimeter to record altitude and velocity and multiple video cameras, was successfully launched on June 20, 2015

from Fentress Field in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Richey noted, "The day finally came and we had a very successful launch. It landed in a tree about a We had a very successful launch. It landed in a tree about a mile away but with a little help, we recovered it and it is ready to go again.

mile away but with a little help, we recovered the rocket and it is ready to go again. Recorded altitude was 9,280 feet. All of our electronics worked perfectly and we have some nice onboard video."



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
300 Arboretum Place, Suite 200
Richmond, Virginia 23236
804.819.4961
www.vccs.edu



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