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December 1, 2023

To: Barry Knight, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
John Avoli, Vice-Chair, House Education Committee
Louise Lucas, Chair, Senate Education and Health Committee
Janet Howell, Co-Chair and George Barker, Co-Chairs, Senate Finance and
Appropriations Committee
Cheryl Ivey Green, Chair, Virginia African American Advisory Board

From: Peter Blake

Subj.: Enslaved Ancestors Memorial and Scholarship Program – Annual Report

During the 2021 legislative session, the General Assembly passed House Bill 1980 (Virginia Code § 23.1-615.1). This legislation requires five institutions – the College of William & Mary, Longwood University, the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University and Virginia Military Institute – to identify and memorialize, to the extent possible, “all enslaved individuals who labored on former and current institutionally controlled grounds and property and [provide] a tangible benefit such as a college scholarship or community-based economic development program for individuals or specific communities with a demonstrated historic connection to slavery that will empower families to be lifted out of the cycle of poverty.”

In 2021, SCHEV worked with the participating institutions to develop a set of guidelines to govern the implementation of the Enslaved Ancestors College Access Scholarship and Memorial Program. Each institution has issued an individual report to SCHEV on its implementation of the program and compliance with the guidelines. SCHEV has reviewed and consolidated the individual reports into a consolidated report, which is submitted pursuant to the provisions of Virginia Code § 23.1-615.1.

Thank you for your attention to this information. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable David Reid

**Enslaved Ancestors College Access Scholarship and Memorial Program
Annual Report
December 1, 2023**

College of William & Mary

Memorial Program

In 2009, the William & Mary (W&M) Board of Visitors (BOV) passed a resolution acknowledging the institution's role as a slaveholder and proponent of Jim Crow and established the Lemon Project: A Journey of Reconciliation. A report was issued in 2018, which covered the work of the Lemon Project to date. [This report](#) included a recap of sponsored programs and events, course development and community engagement efforts. It also began to come to grips with the complexities of the history of the African American experience at W&M.

Research and Scholarship

During the past 13 years, faculty, staff, student and community volunteer research has provided insight into the experiences of African Americans at W&M. This information has been shared at conferences and symposia, during community presentations, in scholarly articles and in the classroom.

In April 2018, the BOV officially apologized for W&M's history of slavery and discrimination: "The Board of Visitors acknowledges that William & Mary enslaved people, exploited them and their labor and perpetuated the legacies of racial discrimination. The Board profoundly regrets these activities, apologizes for them, expresses its deep appreciation for the contributions made by the African-American members of its community to the vitality of William & Mary then, now, and for all time coming, and commits to continue our efforts to remedy the lingering effects of past injustices."

Additional information may be found at the following links:

Lemon Project: A Journey of Reconciliation

<https://www.wm.edu/sites/lemonproject/index.php>

History of Slavery at William & Mary: <https://www.wm.edu/sites/enslavedmemorial/slavery-at-wm/index.php>

Hearth: Memorial to the Enslaved

In August 2018, W&M announced a design competition for the Memorial to the Enslaved. The international competition was open to everyone. Dr. Phyllis Slade Martin, Slade & Associates, LLC, served as competition advisor, managing the search through its completion.

"We seek a conceptual design for a physical memorial that establishes a new place of community and contemplation within or directly engaging with the setting of William & Mary's Historic Campus," read the call for submissions. "By virtue of its scale, location, materials and narrative content, the conceptual design will create a noble and lasting tribute to the memory of the people who built and served the university."

The design concept needed to include space for names of the enslaved to be prominently featured. The competition was anonymous. The nine-person jury selected three finalist designs out of over 80 submissions.

From those finalists, President Rowe chose the winning concept, "Hearth" by architect Will Sendor '11. President Rowe shared "Hearth" with the BOV in April 2019.

Once the concept was chosen, W&M sought an architectural firm and construction firm to make the design into a reality. Richmond-based architects Baskervill and construction firm Kjellstrom & Lee, as well as the Memorial Building Committee and W&M's Facilities Management team, spearheaded this phase.

The Board of Visitors committed unrestricted donations to match targeted private gifts totaling more than \$1 million. The groundbreaking for Hearth: Memorial to the Enslaved took place in May 2021 and the dedication was in May 2022. A vessel that will be illuminated annually in recognition of people whom the university enslaved was added in March 2023.

Names of those enslaved may be found at the following link:

<https://www.wm.edu/sites/enslavedmemorial/enslaved-names/index.php>

(Note: names are displayed in sections for those enslaved by W&M, as well as those enslaved by people at the university.)

Enslaved Ancestors Scholarship

During fiscal year 2022, W&M established two endowed scholarships aligned with the SCHEV guidelines for the Enslaved Ancestors College Access Scholarship and Memorial Program. Both the Lemon Scholarship Endowment and the Anne R. Willis Scholarship Endowment will provide need-based scholarship support for undergraduate students with a demonstrated historic connection to slavery as identified in the process set forth under Virginia law. These endowments are funded entirely by private donors. The Lemon Scholarship and the Anne R. Willis Scholarship Endowment will each be awarded annually to an eligible student to partially offset tuition and fees.

Relying on the eligibility requirements established in the SCHEV guidelines, W&M awarded the Lemon Scholarship and the Anne R. Willis Scholarship for the 2023-24 academic year. The university received more than 30 applications for the scholarships. Applications were reviewed by a committee made up of representatives from Admissions, Financial Aid and Diversity and Inclusion. Scholarship recipients were selected based on financial need and the strength of essays submitted.

Funding for Hearth: Memorial to the Enslaved and scholarships did not result from general funds or from increases in tuition or fees.

Longwood University

In accordance with § 23.1-615.1. of the Code of Virginia, Longwood University seeks to “[address] the long legacy of slavery in the Commonwealth, and [acknowledges] that the foundational success of several public institutions of higher education was based on the labor of enslaved individuals.” Longwood University certifies that state general funds and non-general funds, such as tuition and fees, were not used for any aspect of this program, other than the uses allowed under SCHEV guidance.

Longwood University was incorporated as the Farmville Female Seminary Association on March 5, 1839; in 1860, the name changed to Farmville Female College. From 1839 to 1865, the original property for the seminary was on High Street in Farmville (Lots 105 and 107 of the Josiah Chambers survey). The College did not become a public institution until 1884, when it became the State Female Normal School.

Research has occurred in manuscript collections not held by Longwood University in an attempt to identify names of enslaved individuals who may have had a connection to the Farmville Female Seminary. There are no institutionally held records that shed insight on the experiences of enslaved people at the Farmville Female Seminary. According to the records of the trustees of the Farmville Female College after the Civil War, the early records of the Farmville Female Seminary Association were burned by the Union Army as it moved through Farmville on April 6-7, 1865.

Research has uncovered an 1863 lease agreement for an enslaved individual named Mimi (George LaMonte papers, New Jersey Historical Society), and an 1863 runaway slave ad for a boy named Ben “who ran off from the Female College” (Richmond *Whig*, June 16, 1863). These are the only written records that directly name enslaved individuals connected with the Farmville Female College discovered to this date. Additional research continues in manuscript collections, newspapers and government records to attempt to identify enslaved people with connections to the Farmville Female College and Farmville Female Seminary.

Public programming for a commemoration honoring enslaved individuals’ role at the institution was held in March 2023. Dr. Melvin Patrick Ely, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Humanities in History, and author of the Bancroft-prize winning book, *Israel on the Appomattox: A Southern Experiment in Black Freedom from the 1790s Through the Civil War*, will also speak on his recent research about slavery in Prince Edward County. The evening began with a recognition of enslaved individuals who worked at the Farmville Female Seminary and College, including Mimi and Ben.

Planning is underway for a scholarship program for Virginia students who have a “demonstrated historic connection to slavery in Virginia.” Details about the amount, eligibility and the process for application are being worked out. It is intended for this scholarship to be awarded for academic year 2024-2025.

In addition to the above efforts regarding the history of enslaved individuals, Longwood continues to be engaged in scholarship, commemoration and reconciliation work around the Prince Edward County civil rights movement, which is of particular importance to the local community and to Longwood’s partnership with the Robert Russa Moton Museum. As part of these efforts, Longwood awards the Moton Legacy Scholarship to a rising senior. Given annually since 2015, it recognizes a student with great promise for a life and career of citizen leadership.

The ideal recipient will advance in a contemporary context the ideals espoused by those who fought for equal opportunity in Longwood's home communities of Farmville and Prince Edward County during the civil rights era.

University of Virginia

Enslaved Ancestors Memorial and Scholarship Program

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 23.1-615.1, this report provides an update on the implementation of the Enslaved Ancestors Memorial and Scholarship Program at the University of Virginia.

Included in this report are previous actions taken at the University that have laid the foundation for the work that is currently underway, actions taken over the course of the previous year, and specific announced actions that will be taken as the University continues to move forward.

Prohibited state general funds and non-general funds, as outlined by SCHEV guidance, were not used for any aspect of this program other than as allowed under the guidance.

Universities Studying Slavery Consortium and the Gibbons Project

As discussed in the University's 2022 Implementation Report, the goal of the Universities Studying Slavery (USS) Consortium has been to encourage all schools to engage in the work of identifying and memorializing, as well as to connect schools to share research and best practices. The research network that is available because of the Consortium—now made up of 103 institutions of higher education across six countries—helps the University and other institutions break down research silos, connect disparate records and trace enslaved individuals who moved between institutions in the Americas and across the Atlantic. The consortium added four schools in 2023 (LaGrange College, LSU, University of Durham, and the University of Pennsylvania) and Tufts University is in the process of joining. The consortium has also stood up a steering committee—whose membership includes people from over a dozen schools—working on shaping what shared governance, guiding principles and best practices (which includes research and building relationships with descendant groups), cultivating HBCU collaboration and support, and multi-institution project/funding will look like. The two annual conferences have continued to represent learning, collaboration and networking opportunities for universities, descendants and others.

Last year at the 2022 Fall USS Conference at the University of Virginia, President Ryan announced the Gibbons Project, which is “an extensive new effort to support archival and genealogical research at UVA to fully understand the lives of the enslaved laborers who built and maintained the University and to trace their family trees to the present.” The Gibbons Project grew from the work of the President's Commission on Slavery and the University (PCSU) and the Commission on the University in the Age of Segregation and has dedicated staff to oversee archival and genealogical research, as well as research to connect descendants and their ancestors. Central to these initiatives are the efforts of the Descendants of Enslaved Communities at UVA, the mission of which is to research and reclaim the narrative, to honor the legacies of enslaved and free Black communities and their descendants, and to achieve restorative justice for communities rooted at the University of Virginia and surrounding regions. Dr. Shelley V. Murphy, the genealogist hired in 2019 as a descendant project researcher, will research in partnership and collaboration with the Gibbons Project. To date Dr. Murphy has identified and is working on approximately 130 family trees as this work continues. Thus far, approximately 586 of the estimated 4,000 enslaved laborers who worked on Grounds throughout the University's history have been identified.

This past year, the Gibbons Project has discovered the names of six more people that they can now connect to enslavement at the University. These six were not yet named on the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers nor identified in the research to date. It is expected that this number will grow substantially before the end of the year.

The Gibbons Project has identified archival collections held at several libraries that include material naming enslaved people who were enslaved by surnames of people affiliated with the University. The identification of these collections expands the known universe of archival collections to almost 700 collections in total, with over 420 collections currently in the University's own holdings and over 250 manuscript collections held in six other libraries. Work is already underway to research these new collections. Additionally, the Gibbons Project has built a cloud-based data-tracking system to ensure that the University's descendant outreach researcher (genealogist) and the historical researchers reviewing these archives are sharing data.

Lastly, the Gibbons Project has built—and is now populating—a database tracking the local African American community after 1865—including such records as city directories, death records, school censuses, WWII service records, Freedman's Bank and Bureau records, among others. This resource, based upon extensive digitization and research over the past several years, will help the Gibbons Project track the ancestry of living descendants today back to 1870, and assist with connecting post-1870 genealogy to those enslaved at UVA.

Memorial to Enslaved Laborers

The decade-long effort to properly memorialize enslaved individuals was first conceived by students and became a central initiative of the PCSU. Prior to the creation of the PCSU, the University placed a small marker near the Rotunda to memorialize free and enslaved laborers. In 2011, a student-led organization, Memorial for Enslaved Laborers (MEL), worked to garner support for the building of a more fitting memorial. In 2012, a plaque honoring Henry Martin was placed by the University Chapel. Additional efforts to memorialize enslaved individuals at the University included the 2014 renovation and commemoration of a recently discovered enslaved cemetery, the 2015 naming of Gibbons House residence hall after William and Isabella Gibbons—including interpretive panels that tell the Gibbons' story—the adding of interpretive panels at the burial ground that was identified at Gooch Dillard in 1983, and the naming of Skipwith Hall.

In 2016, the Board of Visitors formally began the process of creating the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers by initiating a capital building project and authorizing funds to design the memorial. The Memorial to Enslaved Laborers—which was developed in a collaborative effort involving students, faculty, staff, alumni, the design team and the local community—was formally dedicated in April 2021, after the COVID-19 pandemic forced the University to postpone the originally scheduled 2020 public dedication.

The Memorial is designed in the shape of a broken shackle—representing freedom from physical bondage—the diameter of which matches that of the Rotunda. The Memorial includes two paths: one towards the North Star and the second that aligns with the sunset on March 3, Liberation and Freedom Day. The concentric rings of the Memorial hold three different images and descriptions. The outer wall of the Memorial's outer ring is etched with the image of the eyes of Isabella Gibbons, a former member of the enslaved community who became a teacher after Emancipation. The inner facing side of the outer ring bears the names of individuals known to be enslaved at UVA and includes memory markers created to identify the lives and the names that have yet to be found. The names of individuals identified as this research effort continues will be added to the Memorial and unveiled to the descendants of the enslaved. Lastly, the inner most ring details a timeline that begins with the first arrival of enslaved Africans in Virginia in 1619 and ends in 1889, the year of Isabella Gibbons' death. This timeline details the horrid events in the lives of the enslaved at the hands of students and faculty of the University.

Summary of Community Development and Scholarships

Six working groups have been established under the auspices of the President's Council on UVA-Community Partnerships. Two of those working groups support the broader community development goals of the Enslaved Ancestors Scholarship and Memorial Program: the Pipelines & Pathways Working Group and the Local Economy Working Group.

Last year, the Pipelines & Pathways Working Group developed recommendations to increase the number of disadvantaged community residents hired by the University, decrease the rate of turnover, and increase the number of incumbent Academic Division and UVA Health workers including UVA-affiliated workers who advance up the income ladder. As part of this work, Pipelines & Pathways sought to review and refine guidelines that will ensure equitable access to available jobs by community residents. In February 2022, the Pipelines & Pathways Working Group delivered its report to the President's Council, and the President's Council sent it to President Ryan with a letter of endorsement. In the University's response to this report, President Ryan detailed the University's ongoing and forthcoming efforts to implement these recommendations in order to create more job opportunities for local residents from disadvantaged communities. The response also includes the estimated costs and resource requirements of certain initiatives. Building upon the actions taken last year to support these recommendations, the Pipelines & Pathways—which celebrated its grand opening in May 2023—has 300 participants who are receiving assistance with job search placement, career services, and wraparound support and case management. Since the grand opening, Pipelines & Pathways has exceeded its target placement goal and has helped 52 individuals gain sustainable employment. It has also started HOOS Driving—its first jobs-driven workforce development HOOS Training Program—to recruit, hire and train Transit Drivers for University Transit Service and Charlottesville Area Transit. The program is focused on expanding HOOS Training Program offerings, increasing the number of career development opportunities, and adding new outreach efforts and community events that will allow individuals in underserved communities even more access to employment at UVA.

Last year, the Local Economy Working Group developed recommendations for how the University could increase relationships with local businesses led by women and historically marginalized racial and ethnic groups (disaggregated by group and gender), as well as new businesses in the surrounding communities. In June 2022, the Local Economy Working Group sent its report and recommendations to the President's Council, and the President's Council sent it to President Ryan with a letter of endorsement in July. In its October response to the working group's report, the University announced it would support the implementation of each of the recommendations and dedicate new resources in the FY 2024 budget development cycle to support such efforts. Since then, the University has hired a community engagement coordinator, engaged with a new supplier diversity consultant, launched the search and hired a new director of supplier diversity, and participated in several business engagement events to connect with small, women- and minority-owned businesses. In addition to continued supplier engagement, the Working Group has several ongoing initiatives such as improving data and analysis, seeking active input in the selection process for capital construction projects, increasing SWaM firm participation in the RFP process.

The Equity Center at the University of Virginia seeks to redress racial and economic inequity in university communities and equip students to lead in building a just society. The Equity Center not only seeks to advance its goals through research, but also through action and collaboration, including initiatives such as the Starr Hill Pathways program. Developed by the Equity Center,

the Starr Hill Pathways program is designed to offer Charlottesville area youth career and college exploration and support them from 7th grade through high school. These supports include academic enrichment, 1:1 mentoring support and attending skill-building workshops.

Enslaved Ancestors Scholarship Program

In collaboration with leaders of the Descendants of Enslaved Communities at UVA, the University developed priorities for this scholarship program consistent with the eligibility requirements previously provided by SCHEV. Scholarships equal to the full cost of attendance were awarded to two students who advanced the priorities and met the requirements. Before the scholarships were awarded, the recipients, also consistent with SCHEV guidance, affirmed the accuracy of the information they had provided and their understanding that the awards were subject to the availability of funds and their continued enrollment; they also agreed to permit the University to share their personally identifiable information with SCHEV. The non-state funds that were used for these scholarships met the guidelines provided by SCHEV.

Additional Resources

Dedication of the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers (VIDEO):

<https://news.virginia.edu/video/dedication-memorial-enslaved-laborers-uva>

Exploring the Design of UVA's Memorial to Enslaved Laborers:

<https://news.virginia.edu/video/exploring-design-uvas-memorial-enslaved-laborers>

Memorial to Enslaved Laborers: <https://mel.virginia.edu/> Memorial to Enslaved Laborers

Timeline: <https://mel.virginia.edu/memorial?open=true#making-the-memorial>

Memorial to Enslaved Laborers Stands Out In Telling UVA History:

<https://news.virginia.edu/content/memorial-enslaved-laborers-stands-out-telling-uva-history>

Pavilion X Exhibit - <https://news.virginia.edu/content/pavilion-x-exhibit-highlights-slavery-history-its-former-residents>

President's Commission on Slavery and the University: <https://slavery.virginia.edu/>

President's Council on UVA-Community Partnerships: <https://prescouncil.president.virginia.edu/>

Pipelines and Pathways Working Group: <https://prescouncil.president.virginia.edu/pipelines-and-pathways>

Slavery at the University of Virginia: A Catalogue of Current and Past Initiatives (2013):

https://dei.virginia.edu/sites/g/files/jsddwu511/files/inline-files/SlaveryatUVA_FAULKNER_001.pdf

Unearthed & Understood (Documentary prepared for the symposium "Universities Confronting the Legacy of Slavery"; 2014): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_997dhrOtM

UVA Magazine – "Unearthing Slavery at the University of Virginia":

https://uvamagazine.org/articles/unearthing_slavery_at_the_university_of_virginia

UVA Today – "UVA and the History of Race": <https://news.virginia.edu/news-category/uva-and-history-race>

Walking Tour Map & App: <https://slavery.virginia.edu/enslaved-african-americans-walking-tour-map-app-updated-for-2021/>

Virginia Commonwealth University

During the 2021 legislative session, House Bill 1980 was introduced and ultimately passed by the General Assembly in special session (Virginia Code § 23.1-615.1). This legislation requires five institutions, including Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), to conduct research regarding the institution's relationship with slavery and then to create an Enslaved Ancestors College Access Scholarship and Identification and Memorial Program.

Following SCHEV's release of the Identification and Memorialization Guidelines in 2022, VCU convened a group of university leadership to explore how VCU would: 1) conduct this research, 2) fund this research and 3) take next steps related to the scholarship and memorial programs. While the SCHEV guidelines permit use of state funds for the compensation of researchers to identify enslaved ancestors, VCU used non-state funds for the research component.

To fulfill this obligation, the university convened a subject matter working group consisting of faculty, archivists, budget officers and administrators to pursue a method for conducting this research. The working group commissioned Dr. Peter Wosh, Director of the Archives and Public History Program at New York University and an accomplished archivist to conduct the research and write the report. Dr. Wosh's report, titled, "Slavery and the Medical College of Virginia, summarized, "The Medical College of Virginia (MCV) remained thoroughly embedded within the institution of slavery from its founding in 1838. Tax lists and census data confirm that MCV routinely owned and/or rented at least between four and eight enslaved laborers each year."

Progress

In spring 2023, VCU's Office of the President launched Project Gabriel to report, reconcile and heal the wounds caused by VCU's historic ties to the institution of slavery. This effort is named after Gabriel Prosser, an enslaved Richmond man who organized a rebellion in 1800 intended to end slavery in Virginia. In 2022, VCU renamed its African American Studies building in his honor.

Inspired by Gabriel's boldness, courage and conviction, the Project Gabriel Commission has been deliberate in its efforts to guide VCU on a path toward reckoning with its past, engaging with its present and strengthening all communities for the future.

In February 2023, the Project Gabriel Commission was established along with its membership and charge. The Commission established a timeline, and goals and objectives. Recognizing the vital importance of engagement with the local and VCU communities, a series of forums were scheduled and held. Community forum topics were generated, community citizens and stakeholders were identified, and targeted strategies for engaging attendees were outlined. Subsequently, the commission developed and approved its crafted work plan to determine next steps.

In March, Dr. Wosh shared insights from his report with the commission. Dr. Jody Lynn Allen and Dr. Fanchon Glover also provided information on the implementation and the maintenance of William & Mary's Lemon Project. The Commission planned three public forums focused on the themes of addressing identification and memorialization, scholarships, and community and individual economic programs. Using a small group participatory engagement model, community members provided insight on what the community desired and needed, and challenges and assets for each of the major themes (e.g., identification and memorization, scholarships, and social and economic programs). These well-attended events saw active

participation from several hundred community members, whose valuable insights were recorded and transcribed.

In April, the commission held its third forum and commenced the transcription and analysis of the data collected from all of the forums. Key themes and sub-themes that emerged from the three forums were summarized. Three workgroups were then established to develop draft recommendations. These workgroups focused on (1) community and individual programs, (2) scholarships and (3) identification and memorialization. The community and individual program workgroup was comprised of two sub-groups; one on community programs and one on individual programs.

The resulting recommendations were presented to VCU President Rao by the co-chairs. In May, the preliminary recommendations were finalized and presented by the commission co-chairs at the May 12, 2023, Board of Visitors meeting, where they highlighted key themes that were identified during the community forums. After these preliminary recommendations were formed and discussed, the Commission planned two additional community forums, with goals to prioritize, validate and ensure inclusive recommendations. These forums were held at faith-based institutions to strengthen representation from that community.

In June, the commission continued its logistics planning efforts for the remaining two summer community forums. The commission initiated the planning process to establish a structured approach for creating operational plans to support the recommendations once they were validated by the community. This included the formation of new workgroups organized around the recommendation groups. These workgroups were composed of members from the community, VCU/VCU Health, faith-based organizations, and nonprofits and community organizations. A template to record operationalization plans was developed and shared with each workgroup to facilitate their work moving forward. In June and July two additional community forums were conducted with the dual purpose of validating the existing recommendations and gathering supplementary input to further refine and solidify the final recommendations.

In July and August, workgroups met regularly and collaboratively developed an operational plan that included strategies for implementing each recommendation. These strategies covered important aspects such as projected funding, timelines, identifying responsible entities and establishing partnerships with the community.

In September, the workgroups finalized operation plans that served as a rough blueprint for implementing the recommendations, and they submitted this information to the co-chairs. A final report detailing the Project Gabriel journey and final proposed recommendations were drafted and submitted to the Board of Visitors for review. Co-chairs Sheryl Garland and Dr. Clifton Peay presented the proposed recommendations to VCU's Board of Visitors with a request that the VCU Board of Visitors receive the recommendations in the report and direct VCU's administration to review and consider the Commission's recommendations and strategies with all deliberate speed in light of potential legislative changes, resource availability, operational plans and guidance from legal counsel. The Board of Visitors will receive an annual update from VCU's administration on the progress. This motion was approved on September 15, 2023. Finally, Dr. Faye Belgrave, VCU's recently appointed Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer will now serve as the leader of this project and the point person as it relates for HB 1980 and the Gabriel Project.

In compliance with Virginia Code § 23.1-615.1, Virginia Commonwealth University certifies that state general funds and non-general funds prohibited, as outlined by SCHEV guidance, were not used for any aspect of this program, other than as allowed under this guidance.

To date, Virginia Commonwealth University total spend related to fulfillment of HB 1980 is \$36,550.63.

Additional Resources

Accompanying this written progress report of actions related to HB 1980 to date, we have also attached two additional reports:

Dr. Peter Wosh's: Slavery and The Medical College of Virginia
Project Gabriel: The Final Report

Virginia Military Institute

During the period covered by this report the VMI Steering Committee has continued to direct efforts toward a richer understanding of the Institute's relationship with the enslaved population which contributed to its early growth. To that end, we are pleased to report two significant developments.

Mr. Larry Spurgeon, retired law professor who now concentrates his historical research on the local African American community of Lexington and Rockbridge County, has been hired to take our research in this area to the next step. Mr. Spurgeon has developed a deep understanding of the available archival resources and records which are important to our study. He has completed similar research projects relating to the enslaved community for several organizations, including Washington & Lee University, the Rockbridge Historical Society and the Jackson House Museum.

Our research to date indicates that two slaves were owned by the Commonwealth through VMI with a larger number of hourly hires, perhaps 40-60. With the assistance of Mr. Spurgeon, we have added significantly to our understanding of the hourly hire relationship. The VMI Steering Committee anticipates the completion of a final written report by the end of the year.

In our 2022 report, we suggested that VMI was inclined to create minority scholarships administered in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Enslaved Ancestors College Access Scholarship and Memorials Program. The Steering Committee continues to believe this is a viable opportunity. However, further conversations by the committee lead us to pursue an effective way by which we can support the Community Based Economic Development in the minority business sector of our community.

Accordingly, over the past few months we have had productive meetings with the Walker Program (www.walkerprogram.com) staff exploring how we might support their important mission. The Walker Program works to lower the barriers to business ownership for entrepreneurs of color in our community. It is our intent to provide unrestricted grant support to the Walker Program before the end of the current year. We believe our partnership with the Walker Program can have an immediate impact on the minority-owned business community which serves Lexington and Rockbridge County.

We look forward to continuing the work intended by the Enslaved Ancestors College Access Scholarship and Memorial Program.