Achieve 2015 Year Two: Virginia's Community Colleges Annual Report 2010-2011

Office of Institutional Advancement, VCCS

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Message from the Chancellor

Achieve 2015: Access

Achieve 2015: Affordability

Achieve 2015: Student Success

Achieve 2015: Workforce

Achieve 2015: Resources

2010-2011 At-A-Glance Pull-out:
  State Board for Community Colleges
  Enrollment Statistics
  Financial Highlights
  College Campuses, Presidents and Service Regions
Virginia’s Community Colleges passionately pursue a promise made two years ago to the communities, employers, families and students we serve.

We are proud of our success.

Achieve 2015 is a six-year strategic plan whose spirit echoes that which first created our 23 community colleges: a willingness to address Virginia’s unmet needs in higher education and workforce training.

Five measurable goals, which are tracked in this annual report and on our website, articulate our priorities of serving more people, especially first-time college students; keeping their tuition costs affordable; ensuring more of them succeed; helping more employers compete; and growing and diversifying our resource base.

In pursuing those goals we are addressing Virginia’s unmet needs of the 21st century.

That pursuit is also leading us to rethink the way our community colleges operate and to seek out creative and innovative ways to do it better. Our reengineering effort benefits from the hard work, perspective and experience of faculty and staff members from across our community colleges. Their primary task is to ensure that complacency, nostalgia and habit don’t dictate what we do moving forward.

The challenges we confront are complex; the resources, limited; and the easy answers, nonexistent.

We embrace this work with zeal, however, because when we find the right answers – and we will – lives are elevated.
You can see how that works in this annual report.

We served more than 400,000 people last year. Their stories of triumph, of hope, of opportunity overwhelm. They could fill a library.

We have selected about two dozen of them to share with you in this annual report. They inspire us. They remind us that while we work in academics, our work is never just academic.

And they demonstrate how by addressing Virginia’s unmet needs today, our community colleges are building a foundation for Virginia’s success tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Glenn DuBois
Achieve 2015 Goal
ACCESS

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

The call for more college graduates is growing louder from policymakers, including President Barack Obama and Governor Bob McDonnell. Virginia’s Community Colleges will play a leading role in the effort to increase the number of Virginia college graduates by 100,000 over the next 15 years. Doing so requires that our community colleges serve more students, especially those who are first time college students and those who come from families with little or no college experience.

Shirley Owens

Model of success has a can-do attitude

“ If I can do it, anyone can. ”

Many students face challenges that create barriers to being a typical college student. However, students at MECC who enroll with General Education Diplomas (GEDs) often become models of success after initial setbacks. Shirley Owens, 49, is a prime example. Married at 17, Owens had her first child at 18, and her second at 28. Though she relished her role as a mother, as her children matured, she made the decision to continue her education. It was not until 2004 that she received her GED and began to pursue her career goal to be a respiratory therapist.

At Mountain Empire, she has maintained a 4.0 GPA and is a proud member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the community college international honor society. “If I can do it, anyone can,” says Owens as encouragement to others who may be hesitant about obtaining their GED and returning to college.

“Everything has been a very good experience,” she says about continuing her education 30 years after she left high school.

Mountain Empire Community College maintains an excellent working relationship with the regional adult education programs to encourage the graduates of these programs to continue their education.
Thanks to the Produced in VIRGINIA program of the University of Virginia, Benjamin Stokes, Jr., is able to pursue an engineering degree right in his own community.

The 20-year-old enrolled at Danville Community College in fall 2008 with the intention of taking general education courses and then transferring to a four-year college. However, by his second semester at DCC, Stokes decided to pursue a major in the mechanical engineering field. He received his associate of science degree in engineering in May 2011 and has transferred to the University of Virginia where he is now seeking a baccalaureate degree in mechatronics.

“I eventually want to have a career in mechanical engineering because I feel that I will have more career options as I get closer to obtaining my bachelor’s degree,” says Stokes, a first-generation college student.

While maintaining a busy class schedule and earning academic honors, he continues to work as a tutor at DCC, sharing his knowledge of mathematics and engineering. He also served as an intern at Essel Propack, where he is learning about the engineering field. Stokes admits that by enrolling in this program he is able to live at home and lessen the financial burden for his family.

“DCC is close to home. There is no need to pay room and board or look for an apartment when one has supporting parents like I do,” Stokes says, noting that he also received a scholarship through the National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholarship for Engineering program, which supports scholarships for academically talented and financially needy students.

The Produced in VIRGINIA program is for students who are interested in pursuing an engineering degree locally. They can begin their studies at DCC by taking the first two years of required classes in general education, science, mathematics and basic engineering before moving on to the UVA portion of the program. A student can complete the entire program by either staying in his or her hometown or pursuing the UVA portion of the program on the Charlottesville campus.
DUAL ENROLLMENT

Hundreds of Virginia students earn an associate's degree before their high school diploma every year. Scores more earn college credit that will save them money and time in their college pursuits. Virginia's Community Colleges make that possible through Dual Enrollment. Offered across Virginia, Dual Enrollment allows qualifying high school students to take college classes, taught by college faculty members, during regular school hours. Policy makers increasingly see Dual Enrollment as a key strategy to increasing Virginia's college graduation statistics.

Paige Romeo
Community college supports Dual Enrollment student

Caroline High School student Paige Romeo walked at Germanna Community College's commencement in May 2011 before she graduated from high school in June. The Dual Enrollment program, which allows students to earn credit for college courses at their high schools, has allowed her to leap ahead and save money at the same time. The cost of Virginia community college courses is about one-third of the cost of classes at four-year-colleges and universities.

The 18-year-old Romeo is also more comfortable with the idea of going off to college because of her Germanna dual enrollment experience. She was to enter Virginia Tech in the fall of 2011 as a junior with just three semesters of work to complete before receiving her bachelor's degree.

“I've gotten a taste of what college is like and still had the (home) support system,” she says, adding that she believes it will make adjusting to college life away from home easier.

“The experience has been awesome,” she says. “All the professors have been nice. I thought their expectations might be too much, but all you have to do is do the work.”

Her mother, 39-year-old Michelle Sullivan, earned an associate's degree from Germanna at the same time Romeo did. Sullivan began college in Maryland 17 years ago, but as a single mother, couldn't continue. Germanna's flexibility allowed her to complete the requirements for her degree.
Justeen Olinger has always possessed the drive to achieve and Virginia Western Community College helped put her academic career on the fast track. Now at just 16, she has already accomplished more than many older students.

Growing up home-schooled in Roanoke County, Olinger decided that her future would be following in her grandfather’s footsteps to create innovative designs in electrical engineering. While completing high school-level coursework at 13, she began dual enrollment at Virginia Western.

“Virginia Western gave me the opportunity to learn from talented mathematics, science and engineering teachers,” Olinger said. “And it was their support in and out of the classroom that really put me a step ahead.”

Olinger graduated in May 2011, finishing at the top of her class. She was selected for the President’s Honor Roll and was one of four student marshals at commencement – an honor reserved for students with the highest grade point averages. She earned a 4.0 GPA.

This fall, Olinger begins classes at Virginia Tech’s College of Engineering, perennially ranked as one of the top engineering programs in the nation, as part of Virginia Western’s guaranteed admission agreement with the school. She doesn’t foresee her higher education ending there, though, as she intends to pursue a master’s degree and possibly a Ph.D.

Olinger is right where she wants to be academically, years ahead of schedule. And Virginia Western helped her get there.

“Their support in and out of the classroom put me a step ahead.”
On June 4, 2011, Alissa Hailey became one of 71 students from Halifax County High School to receive two extremely important documents. Because of the Dual Enrollment program, Dr. John J. Cavan was able to award these graduates with degrees from Southside Virginia Community College just minutes before Superintendent Paul Stapleton handed them their high school diplomas.

The Dual Enrollment program allows high school students to be enrolled in both secondary school and college. The advanced classes they take are actually college level and the credit received counts for both institutions. Since 1988, 14,000 students have taken advantage of this great opportunity through Southside Virginia Community College.

Hailey, who has been accepted at James Madison University for the fall, said all of her 61 dual enrollment credits have been accepted, and she is transferring from high school to JMU as a junior.

“All of my credits transferred and my parents are thrilled at the money they are saving,” she says. She plans to study kinesiology and possibly enter the field of physical therapy.

While the dual enrollment classes require hard work, she noted that they prepare the student for the rigors of college classes.

“Dual enrollment can save families approximately $52,000 over two years if they had planned to attend a four year state college. This is quite a savings and offers many students the chance to pursue graduate and professional degrees using the money they saved,” Dr. Cavan said.
Johnny Willis
Marketing a new career

After nearly 30 years in an industry from which he had hoped to retire, Johnny Willis finally sees light at the end of the tunnel. He used his Trade Adjustment Assistance Act benefits to return to college after his textile industry job was lost, enrolling at Danville Community College in fall 2009 in one of the college’s newest programs – marketing with a specialization in warehousing and distribution.

“I chose DCC for two reasons. One, it is convenient to my home. The second and deciding reason came after I met with my professor – his approach and eagerness to help made me feel comfortable. I felt that I would have the support needed to accomplish my educational goals.

“We discussed my background and work history,” Willis continues. “I had management experience and it seemed reasonable to pursue a marketing degree that would complement my work experience. With most of the manufacturing jobs leaving the U.S., I wanted a degree that would give me opportunities to pursue a new career.”

Willis quickly gained the skills needed and excelled in his coursework. In May 2011, with an associate degree in hand, he landed a job at Twinings - North America in Greensboro, NC, where he is a warehouse associate involved in the worldwide distribution of many flavors and varieties of tea.

“My main goal is to work in a job that gives me a feeling of accomplishment,” Willis says.

“I felt that I would have the support needed to accomplish my educational goals.”
Joni Blair

Scholarship opens up opportunities for student

Joni Blair had a dream of becoming a physical therapist assistant. Thanks to the unique Wythe-Bland Foundation Scholarship Program at Wytheville Community College, she was able to achieve her dream, without having to worry about leaving college already in debt.

“The Wythe-Bland Foundation Scholarship Program opened up so many opportunities for me to expand my education and career path. I am truly grateful for the foundation’s assistance,” says Blair.

“"I am truly grateful for the foundation’s assistance."”

Her family fully supported her desire to attend college, despite the ever-increasing cost of attendance. Like many college students, Blair received some government financial assistance, but it was not enough to cover all her tuition and textbook expenses. With help from the Wythe-Bland Foundation Scholarship Program, she was able to avoid the option of taking on student loan debt, an option that many students choose during these difficult economic times.

The Wythe-Bland Foundation Scholarship Program covered the gap between what Blair received in federal aid and the cost of tuition and fees at Wytheville Community College.

Wytheville Community College was recently named the 12th most affordable two-year college in the U.S., an honor that is attributed largely to the availability of financial aid and scholarships like the Wythe-Bland Foundation Scholarship Program and scholarships available through the WCC Educational Foundation and from the Virginia Tobacco Commission.
Like for many, taking years off work to exclusively attend college is not an option for ShaWanda Weatherspoon.

She enjoys her job as a chef at an upscale restaurant on Smith Mountain Lake, and she has a young daughter to support. Fortunately, Virginia Western Community College’s Culinary Arts program provides her the flexibility to honor both work and family obligations while pursuing her dream.

“My favorite place to be is in a kitchen, making amazing food for people who enjoy great food,” she says. “I eventually want to be an executive chef and own my own restaurant. At Virginia Western, I’m learning the skills to move me another step closer to accomplishing that.”

Weatherspoon has taken the majority of her courses in downtown Roanoke at the Roanoke Higher Education Center, which provides kitchens and classroom space all in one convenient location. She has been able to enroll in long blocks of classes during the evening and at other non-traditional times, which allows her to fit her education around work and family needs.

The culinary coursework hasn’t strictly been about slicing and dicing. She has taken off her apron to learn about accounting principles and make important industry contacts.

“In addition to learning the skills in the kitchen that I’ll need every day, I’ve also learned how a business actually works,” she says. “And the exposure to other local chefs will help me rise in the culinary industry.”

Weatherspoon has found that the flexibility Virginia Western offers means that she can bake her cake and eat it too.

“I’ve learned how a business actually works.”
It’s Linwood Alford’s turn. The disabled veteran turned J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College student spends all of his time and money running Open Door Resource Center, Inc., a not-for-profit organization he founded and now serves as executive director.

Now, somebody is opening the door for him. The Virginia Foundation for Community College Education has awarded Alford with the 2011 Eva T. Hardy Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship. The scholarship, endowed in honor of the retired Dominion executive and community college supporter, is awarded to a student who demonstrates potential for public service and civic leadership.

It’s more than potential when it comes to Alford though. His agency aims to help veterans, bridge healthcare disparities and perform other community services. Alford said receiving the scholarship is a privilege. He is using it to pursue a degree in health services while continuing to grow his organization.

“I never knew that giving myself [completely] to changing someone’s life would be so rewarding,” said Alford.
Amber Thacker knows a thing or two about persistence. She could have given up on her education after being forced to leave high school because of a broken back (the result of a car accident). She could have given up after being home schooled for several years, having a family of her own and still not earning a high school credential.

But she soon realized that she needed to obtain her GED if she wanted to be competitive in today’s job market. PHCC’s Middle College seemed to be the perfect solution. This free program allowed her to complete her GED, obtain a silver level Career Readiness Certificate and successfully complete her first college course within just a few short weeks.

Now taking a full course load through the University of Phoenix and majoring in psychology, she has also completed a dental assisting program through the Dental Assistance Partners of Maryland in Virginia and is working at the local Free Clinic.

Some of the very people she helps at the clinic are her former classmates through Middle College, and she is able to share more than just her dental assisting skills. She can tell them how persistence pays off and can encourage them to continue their higher education.

Because Amber knows: In pursuit of her goals, she has managed to make great grades while taking two programs full time, working and managing a family.

“She soon realized she needed to obtain her GED if she wanted to be competitive.”
VETERANS

The contributions of our veterans cannot be underestimated and in that spirit Virginia’s Community Colleges continue to work to ensure they receive the benefits they deserve. Veteran counseling is a priority for our colleges. Colleges coordinate closely with state and federal agencies to provide the maximum support available utilizing such resources as the new G.I. Bill, Virginia Wounded Warrior Program and college-specific community organizations that make sure veterans are not just enrolled, but welcomed.

Max Jackson

Veteran, businessman and father plans career change with PVCC’s help

“I needed to find a plan B,” said Max Jackson, small business owner, retired Army Reservist, church music director and father of four.

A resident of Fluvanna County, Jackson has an associate’s degree in automotive technology and owns his own auto repair shop, but when he suffered a back injury while serving in Iraq, he knew that he needed to find a new career. Jackson had taken classes in Russian, scuba diving and many other subjects at Piedmont Virginia Community College over the years “for fun,” so it was the first place he turned to seek additional education for a new career. “I knew I needed marketable skills in a growing field,” said Max. “PVCC was my plan B.”

With a love for the sciences, Jackson chose PVCC’s new diagnostic medical sonography associate degree program. Introduced in 2010, the program was developed in response to requests from local health-care employers who need more locally-based sonographers. He enrolled part time in prerequisite courses and will begin his studies in medical sonography full time this fall.

Earlier this year, Jackson was honored with an academic award in anatomy and physiology. He also has received a $3,500 scholarship for 2011-2012 from the Albemarle County Rotary Club.

Jackson’s educational and career goals include completing his PVCC degree in 2013, becoming a certified vascular sonographer and obtaining a job with a hospital or medical imaging center in central Virginia. He has accomplished a lot in his life so far, and with PVCC’s help, he is now “building steam for the second half of the show!”

“I knew I needed marketable skills in a growing field.”
Chantel Yeager is no stranger to service. She met her husband in boot camp and served two years in the U.S. Navy as an electrician’s mate before receiving an honorable discharge due to a serious knee injury.

But that doesn’t stop her from helping other military families. The Paul D. Camp Community College nursing student was recognized this year for her volunteerism, receiving the President’s Volunteer Service Award and the Presidential Call to Service Award “Life Time Volunteer” for 2010.

“I served as ombudsman for three years to the Explosive Ordnance Division’s Expeditionary Support Unit Two,” Yeager explains. The Norfolk unit included the families of 200 to 250 sailors. “Basically, I was the link for families to the commanding officer.” Yeager set up the ombudsman program for the command when it was brand new and became the first ombudsman in October 2008.

“I dealt with things like crisis calls, pre-deployment briefs and family-readiness briefs,” she says. She also organized annual Easter egg hunts, collected toys at Christmas and provided back-to-school supplies for the less fortunate families of all service members.

A native of New Orleans, Yeager was preparing to transfer from Nunez Community College to work on her bachelor’s degree in nursing in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast.

“We had 14 feet of water,” she said. “I lived in St. Bernard’s Parish which was affected by the oil spill,” she said. Afterward, the couple relocated to Corpus Christi, Texas, and eventually moved to Southampton County three years ago.

After completing her program at Paul D. Camp, Yeager still plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in nursing.


“I was the link for families.”
Hiawatha Clemons
From the Marines to TCC to the Secret Service

One of the few, the proud, the Marines – Hiawatha Clemons spent time in the Corps packing up personal belongings of those in his unit who died while fighting the War on Terror on the front lines in Iraq. “I was proud to serve my country and help protect it from any more terrorist attacks,” Clemons says.

After his four years of service, Clemons decided to follow another passion: he began working with disabled adults through the Southeastern Virginia Training Center. “I’ve always had a strong interest in working with people with any type of disability – from physical to mental to developmental.”

Clemons turned to TCC in 2007 to study social sciences with the goal of becoming a special education teacher. An assisted-learning student himself, Clemons recalls the shame he felt while attending “special” classes in high school. “I was told I’d amount to nothing, but now everything is different. At TCC I gained a confidence I never knew before,” Clemons adds. He will graduate this December.

During his time at TCC Clemons got involved in student life, serving as parliamentarian for the Student Government Association and the Student African American Brotherhood group. Clemons credits Emanuel Chestnut, Tim Konhaus and Monica Liburd as TCC staffers who offered friendship, advice and served as mentors.

“At TCC I gained a confidence I never knew before.”

“From here, I really can go anywhere,” Clemons adds with a laugh. But his teaching career will have to wait, as his stellar military service record resulted in another call to duty – this time as a Secret Service agent, protecting government officials and their families.
Perseverance is a potent word to recent Blue Ridge Community College graduate Valorie Kier-Johnson.

She began taking classes in the fall of 2005 and became actively involved in campus organizations such as the SPECTRUM Multi-Cultural Club. “I was really enjoying my classes,” Kier-Johnson says. “I hadn’t really joined any clubs in high school, so I was doing something different by getting involved with SPECTRUM.”

Then she joined the Army National Guard, juggling her coursework and basic training at Fort Jackson, SC.

In 2009, Kier-Johnson was deployed to Afghanistan for nine months with the 276th Engineer Battalion. She performed her duties as a driver of supply convoys honorably and returned home to the Shenandoah Valley to resume her studies in the spring of 2010.

“I never thought about giving up on my education,” she says. “I wanted to go straight back because I knew I would have to catch up as best I could. I was very motivated.”

Though the deployment took its toll physically and mentally, Kier-Johnson would not be deterred and earned an associate’s degree and a general education certificate in May. Recently engaged to a fellow soldier she met while deployed, Kier-Johnson plans to transfer to a four-year school to study botany.

“I feel like I have a bright future,” Kier-Johnson says. “My life is moving at a fast pace, and I feel really good about that.”

“I never thought about giving up on my education.”
When Wendi Rice lost her job with a local employer due to budget cuts, "it felt horrible," says the 37-year-old wife and mother. "I’d never been let go before. I felt like I was letting my family down."

But she didn’t stay down for long.

While scrolling the Dabney S. Lancaster Community College webpage, she saw a notice in big red letters announcing an informational session about the "On Ramp" program that offers tuition assistance for unemployed or underemployed workers seeking to get back into the workforce. Rice was acquainted with the program’s administrator, Joyce Broughman, who immediately went to work to help Rice get into a practical nursing program that DSLCC had recently added to its schedule.

She became part of the first group to graduate from the Rockbridge Area Practical Nursing Program and after passing the board exam, became a licensed practical nurse. She also just started working on the medical surgical floor at a local hospital.

“I always wanted to do nursing,” says Rice. “I went to Radford but didn’t have enough confidence in myself to try it.” She graduated from Radford with a business management degree. “I love the interaction with patients,” says Rice, adding that she never thought she’d be going back to school. This summer she took a microbiology course at DSLCC, with the idea of eventually becoming a registered nurse.

Rice credits her husband and two sons, the instruction and tutoring made available to her, and the “On Ramp” program, as well as the Career Café in her home town of Buena Vista, for making it possible for her to attend college again. “I’m very thankful,” she says.
Canon

471 hired through TNCC-Canon alliance job pipeline

Thanks to a Thomas Nelson Community College-led strategic partnership of Canon Virginia with Virginia’s Community Colleges, the Virginia Employment Commission and the Peninsula Worklink One-Stop System, 471 people have new full-time jobs with benefits while they receive customized community college certificates at the Canon Workforce Center in Newport News.

The Canon Connect Employment and Training Pipeline, now in its third year, attracted 3,060 inquiries this year through VEC, One-Stop and college offices, processed 413 applications and assessed 377 individuals resulting in 87 new hires. The pipeline provided orientations, WorkKeys and COMPASS assessments and pre- and post-hire training with TNCC and Rappahannock Community College.

TNCC developed a 40-hour Canon Global Excellence certificate and three Career Studies Certificates: Electronics Production Technician; Advanced Technician; and Fundamentals of Organizational Leadership. New technology, equipment, production demands and advanced corporate needs required the college to not only meet, but exceed customer expectations.

Canon Japan has been impressed with the quality of the new hires. “This training is key in our efforts to develop a world-class workforce and support the expansion of Canon Virginia. TNCC experts provide outstanding instruction,” says Canon’s Human Resources Director Scott Millar.

As a result, the program has been replicated at RCC, which is complementing the workforce pool for the Newport News facility and providing skilled workers for the Gloucester facility. The pipeline is gearing up to fill some 400 more positions to meet the goal of 880 skilled technicians through the Canon Connect Alliance.

“This training is key in our efforts to build a world-class workforce.”
Carl Booth is dedicated to achieving his dream career in the culinary arts. Engaged, with a new baby boy, he has worked in local restaurants and has been enrolled in Central Virginia Community College’s culinary arts program for one year.

His dream to become a sales representative in restaurant distribution came closer to reality this past November, when CVCC announced the groundbreaking for their new Culinary Arts building.

Booth read about the groundbreaking in the News and Advance and decided he wanted to become a part of the program. He is proud to be a member of the inaugural class and is excited about moving into the recently completed 4,000 sq-ft brick and glass building – and the classes being offered.

“Our class was fortunate to have begun our training in Centra Health’s executive kitchen. I think the hospital’s willingness to provide their facilities to CVCC was visionary as many culinary graduates will no doubt start their careers in Centra Health’s food service division,” he says.

The culinary arts program offers an associate’s degree in culinary arts management and a culinary arts certificate. Booth has taken advantage of the opportunity to learn through the program’s summer internship program at Catalano’s Delicatessen in downtown Lynchburg, where he can be found making sandwiches and catering. He expects to graduate in May 2012.

Construction of the new facility was made possible by a $1.4 million General Assembly appropriation, along with $230,000 from the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Revitalization Commission and funds for site preparation provided by Region 2000 localities. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in July at the building, which is ready for classes this fall.

The program’s director, Dominick Launi, says, “Carl is a model student. He is dynamic and ahead of the game. Like me, he is a visionary and can look ahead to his career in the food industry.”
Virginia’s Community Colleges
2010-2011 AT-A-GLANCE SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION
Nearly 800 people attended the 2011 Virginia Community Colleges New Horizons Conference, where faculty and staff share expertise on technology.

Terry Drumheller and James Smith creatively showcase Virginia Western Community Colleges’ Institutes of Excellence grant-funded project at the 2010 Hire Education Conference. The conference included a special event highlighting how each college’s project contributed to the development of statewide training programs that meet current, high-demand workforce needs of the commonwealth.

Nearly 800 people attended the 2011 Virginia Community Colleges New Horizons Conference, where faculty and staff share expertise on technology. Here, a team of judges looks on while Ian Taylor of Tidewater Community College demonstrates his Excellence in Education – Innovative Use of Technology project, a classroom and office virtual environment.
Dana B. Hamel, the inaugural and longest-serving chancellor of Virginia’s Community Colleges, addressed the State Board for Community Colleges during its January meeting. Hamel was in attendance as the board formally adopted a new award for leadership in service to the VCCS mission. The award is named for Hamel and represents the highest honor the board can bestow.

Students and staff from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College were among hundreds of representatives from all 23 Virginia Community Colleges who visited their General Assembly representatives during January’s “Every Day is Community College Day” events.
COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS

John A. Downey  
Blue Ridge

John S. Capps  
Central Virginia

Richard R. Teaff  
Dabney S. Lancaster

B. Carlyle Ramsey  
Danville

Linda Thomas-Glover  
Eastern Shore

David A. Sam  
Germanna

Gary L. Rhodes  
J. Sargeant Reynolds

Marshall W. Smith  
John Tyler

Cheryl Thompson-Stacy  
Lord Fairfax

J. Scott Hamilton  
Mountain Empire

Jack. M. Lewis  
New River

Robert G. Templin, Jr.  
Northern Virginia

Max F. Wingett  
Patrick Henry

Paul W. Conco  
Paul D. Camp

Frank Friedman  
Piedmont Virginia

Elizabeth H. Crowther  
Rappahannock

John J. Cavan  
Southside Virginia

J. Mark Estepp  
Southwest Virginia

John T. Dever  
Thomas Nelson

Deborah M. DiCroce  
Tidewater

Ron E. Proffitt  
Virginia Highlands

Robert H. Sandel  
Virginia Western

Charlie White  
Wytheville

Jeffery K. Mitchell of Blacksburg was elected chair, succeeding Nathaniel X. Marshall; Hank W. Chao was elected vice chair.

The 15-member State Board is appointed by the Governor to oversee the Virginia Community College System.
# 2010-2011 Enrollment

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<th>Unduplicated Headcount</th>
<th>Full-Time Equivalent</th>
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<td>5,045</td>
<td>2,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southside Virginia</td>
<td>9,439</td>
<td>3,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Virginia</td>
<td>5,352</td>
<td>2,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Nelson</td>
<td>16,306</td>
<td>7,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tidewater</td>
<td>46,066</td>
<td>22,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Highlands</td>
<td>3,863</td>
<td>1,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Western</td>
<td>12,844</td>
<td>4,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wytheville</td>
<td>5,397</td>
<td>2,489</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VCCS Total**: 286,920 128,416

Unduplicated headcount is the number of individuals who took at least one credit course from a college during the academic year (summer, fall and spring semesters). Full-time-equivalent (FTE) enrollment is the computed number of full-time students there would be if each student were taking a full load of 15 credits over two semesters for an academic year.

# Financial Statement for the Year Ended June 30, 2011

## Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and fees</td>
<td>$324,435,003</td>
<td>69.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal grants and contracts</td>
<td>$96,271,321</td>
<td>20.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State and local grants</td>
<td>$4,146,760</td>
<td>0.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nongovernmental grants</td>
<td>$1,059,626</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales/services of education departments</td>
<td>$457,836</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary enterprises</td>
<td>$16,513,625</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating revenues</td>
<td>$15,940,464</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$464,770,655</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nonoperating Revenues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State appropriations</td>
<td>$35,696,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local appropriations</td>
<td>$2,213,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and gifts</td>
<td>$281,775,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>$2,630,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Nonoperating Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$646,324,905</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>$445,325,067</td>
<td>41.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public service</td>
<td>$48,091,302</td>
<td>4.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic support</td>
<td>$85,657,771</td>
<td>7.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student services</td>
<td>$74,518,073</td>
<td>6.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional support</td>
<td>$165,640,539</td>
<td>15.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation and maintenance</td>
<td>$107,537,966</td>
<td>9.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships and fellowships</td>
<td>$145,235,304</td>
<td>13.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary enterprises</td>
<td>$13,585,489</td>
<td>1.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>$257,997</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,085,809,288</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nonoperating Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest on capital asset related debt</td>
<td>$1,888,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other nonoperating expenses</td>
<td>$869,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,088,567,442</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Increase in VCCS Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$32,504,619</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on unaudited statements prepared on accrual basis of accounting in accordance with GASB Statement Number 35. Includes all fund groups. Does not include the VCCS foundations.
Sarah Williams
College opens doors for administrative assistant

Sarah Williams started work after high school as a secretary in the construction industry. But she always wanted to go to college.

With the encouragement of her family, she enrolled in Lord Fairfax Community College in 2008. Three years later, the 45-year-old Front Royal resident graduated with an associate degree in education, an associate degree in liberal arts and a certificate in education.

Williams used a guaranteed transfer agreement to transfer to the University of Virginia. She says, “My experience at Lord Fairfax has opened so many new doors and has implanted an appreciation for education and learning I had never known before.”

“It has changed me as a person, for which I am forever grateful, and has given me so many new friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. I will spend my life giving back to others what has been so freely given to me – a chance.”

At LFCC, Williams was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and part of the All-Virginia Academic Team. She also served in a work-study position with Professor Virginia Hartman and the International Association for Administrative Professionals, where she was awarded a certificate for outstanding work for that organization.

“I will spend my life giving back to others.”
NASA

America’s Space Shuttle program completed its final mission during the summer of 2011. As policy makers hammer out what’s next for NASA, the spirit of exploration and the passion for learning that has always driven our pursuits beyond the atmosphere inspires yet another generation of science-minded explorers. Students from a number of Virginia Community Colleges are taking advantage of opportunities with NASA to position themselves to be part of the nation’s future space program.

Tyriek Bayne

Aerospace Scholars program develops love of engineering

Tyriek Bayne wants to know how things work. It’s that curious nature and his love of science that led him to pursue a degree in engineering from John Tyler Community College.

It also landed him a spot in the coveted National Community College Aerospace Scholars program.

Last October, Bayne was one of only 89 community college students in the country to be selected for the program, which sends students to NASA facilities to teach them about careers in science and engineering and to encourage them to pursue careers in high-tech industries.

“\textit{The teachers at John Tyler really guide and encourage you.”}

As part of the program, Tyriek spent three days at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, where he took tours, met with NASA employees, and attended briefings. He also received real-world, hands-on experience through a team competition that challenged students to plan a Mars exploration mission and to build a model Mars rover that could pass a series of tests.

When asked how his team performed, Bayne smiles and simply states, “We won.” What did the team win? Bragging rights mostly, says Bayne. The team also had a chance to meet Gene Krantz, the NASA flight director who led the team that brought the Apollo 13 astronauts home safely in 1970.

Bayne says he is definitely intrigued by the idea of exploring space, but he still has not settled on the type of engineer that he’d like to become. He hopes his classes at John Tyler will help him figure that out.

“The teachers at John Tyler really guide you and encourage you, and they give you advice from their own experience.” After graduating from Tyler, he plans to transfer to a four-year university to work on his bachelor’s degree.
“I look forward to the challenge,” says RCC graduate Michael Wagner about his January 2011 appointment to NASA’s Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars program. The program allows college students to gain hands-on research experience while working with NASA’s finest minds.

Unenthusiastic as a high school student, Wagner graduated with a GPA that limited his college options severely. But a couple of years in the job market convinced him that he would not accomplish anything without education and training.

“RCC was my best and most immediate option . . . it turned out to be the best thing I could have done,” he says. By the time he earned his associate’s degree, he had boosted his average to 3.56.

Wagner hopes to extend his initial 15-week internship—a public relations position that involves extensive information-gathering, writing news releases and features, and managing websites and social media—through the end of 2011.

Now attending Christopher Newport University, Wagner expects to complete his bachelor’s degree in December 2011, then to go on to graduate school. His ultimate aim is a career that involves writing for the public, perhaps in some form of public relations – similar to what he is now doing for NASA.

Community college “turned out to be the best thing I could have done.”
Lindsey B. Honaker’s career plan is not of this world. The Southwest Virginia Community College student has set her cap on a future in space exploration. Through two summer internships she is closer to achieving her dream of becoming part of the permanent team of the most respected dreamers, thinkers and doers in the universe: NASA.

“The last two summers that I’ve spent at Langley Research Center have given me a greater knowledge of the background and purpose of NASA... I truly have a passion for space exploration and the people involved. I would like to plunge headfirst into my future knowing that I will be able to spend my days in a one-of-a-kind industry built on the strong foundations of dreams that never die and ideas that never cease to amaze,” says Honaker.

The launching pad for her dreams of space exploration was a Virginia Community College. “Southwest Virginia Community College gave me the support I needed to achieve my dreams,” says Honaker. “The professors are wonderful and really give a lot of their personal time and attention to their students,” says Honaker.

In 2010, as a participant in the NASA Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars Program, her internship focused on a project, “Analysis of Pressure Sensor Out of Tolerance Calibrations.”

She also took part in the 2009 Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholarship Program. During this program she participated in a summer academy. The academy worked to collaboratively design a human mission to Mars.

She has always known that the stars would lead her toward her future. “At the age of four I was building my first rocket out of a willow tree, an ink pen and a very big imagination.” She wants others to think as big as she does.

“I want to help ensure that America’s children will continue to have the opportunity to follow their dreams and achieve success in STEM-related fields. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics are the future of not only the United States, but also the entire world,” she says.

“Southwest Virginia Community College gave me the support I needed to achieve my dreams.”
When Danny Hazelwood first started a college degree, he didn’t have the commitment – or the funds – to reach his goal. Twenty years later, he is part of the inaugural class of the Valley Proteins Fellowship program, completing a degree at New River Community College on the way to Virginia Tech.

“I feel a personal need to grow and develop, and this program will give me an opportunity I have never experienced,” Hazelwood says.

Hazelwood went into the insurance business when he left college, and quickly married and had a family. He enrolled in New River last fall after watching his wife successfully navigate college, family and work—all the way to a master’s degree. “Witnessing her achieve her goal gave me the understanding of the importance of a college education.”

The Hazelwoods have two daughters at NRCC as well. “Both my daughters have greatly benefited from the Dual Enrollment program offered at NRCC,” Hazelwood says. “My family will be a family of NRCC graduates.”

Being an advocate for Virginia’s Community Colleges through the Valley Proteins Fellowship is an exciting prospect for Hazelwood, who also spends time volunteering as a lacrosse coach and in the music ministry at his church. He plans to go into the wood science program at Virginia Tech, and to grow a business in hand-made musical instruments using reclaimed woods.

“I want to know this world is a better place for the contributions I have made,” he says. “I feel the character of a person coupled with the talents we are given and the wisdom provided by a good education allow for great things to happen.”
Brittany Shearer found her niche at Northern Virginia Community College’s Manassas Campus, where she served in leadership positions for a variety of clubs and activities. She was Phi Theta Kappa secretary, Campus Council student representative and nominated for Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges.

She also traveled to Richmond with a group of students to meet Virginia senators and delegates on Community College Day. After her photo from that visit appeared in a local newspaper, Shearer received an offer to intern with U.S. Representative Gerry Connolly’s office and she credits NOVA for making this valuable learning opportunity available.

“That experience perfectly sums up how NOVA helped me reach my goals,” said Shearer, who earned two associate degrees, in liberal arts and social sciences.

Not bad for someone who started at a large four-year institution before deciding she wasn’t ready for that level of independence. NOVA’s smaller, more personalized environment gave Shearer the chance to shine and gain confidence in her abilities.

“Even though more students enroll in NOVA than any Virginia university, class sizes are still manageable and my professors were never too busy for me. Many of my instructors and administrators are amazing people and I’m sure they will continue to play significant roles in my academic career.”

She also appreciates lessons learned from her peers. “I met people from all different backgrounds and the stories from other students were a huge motivator for me. Some were there because they couldn’t afford a four-year school or they had to stay home to take care of their parents, and it made me really grateful for my own opportunities.”

Eager now for new challenges, Shearer used the guaranteed admission agreement to transfer to the University of Virginia where she is majoring in government studies. “Taking classes, getting involved and working on weekends forced me to develop time management skills and it’s paid off. I have never felt more confident.”

“I have never felt more confident.”
Blue Ridge Community College
Philanthropy Leader: Lynn T. Reams
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Michael Wood

Central Virginia Community College
Philanthropy Leader: N.B. Handy Company
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Emily McCarthy

Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Philanthropy Leaders: Robert F. and Vivian N. Sutphin
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Ryan Hall

Danville Community College
Philanthropy Leaders: the late Philip N. and Frances K. Daly
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Elana Rojas

Eastern Shore Community College
Philanthropy Leaders: Stephen and Barbara A. Johnsen
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Carina Rodriguez

Germanna Community College
Philanthropy Leader: Culpeper Regional Health System
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Brody Davis

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Philanthropy Leader: Dominion Resources
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Jacob G. Nun

John Tyler Community College
Philanthropy Leaders: Preston H. and Ann Kelly Leake
Commonwealth Legacy Scholars: Brandy Meador and Angelica Arias

Lord Fairfax Community College
Philanthropy Leader: The Dalke Family
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Kyle J. McNeely

Mountain Empire Community College
Philanthropy Leader: C. Bascom Slemp Foundation
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Amanda Harber

New River Community College
Philanthropy Leaders: Hiawatha and Beverly Nicely
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Anthony Turpin

Northern Virginia Community College
Philanthropy Leader: Kathryn A. MacLane
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Gregory J. Altieri

Patrick Henry Community College
Philanthropy Leader: Bassett Furniture Industries
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Tyana Lashae Leghorn

Paul D. Camp Community College
Philanthropy Leader: George Y. Birdsong
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Amanda M. Sowerby

Piedmont Virginia Community College
Philanthropy Leaders: Barbara Fried and the late Mark Fried
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Taylor Hoelscher

Rappahannock Community College
Philanthropy Leader: The Verlander Memorial Foundation
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Aryah Hudgins

Southside Virginia Community College
Philanthropy Leader: Patricia A. Garland
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Juan C. Gascon, Jr. (J.C.)

Southwest Virginia Community College
Philanthropy Leader: Donald L. Ratliff
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Natasha M. Davis

Thomas Nelson Community College
Philanthropy Leader: SunTrust Bank
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Christopher T. Duke

Tidewater Community College
Philanthropy Leader: Hampton Roads Automobile Dealers Association
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Emerson “Blake” Carroll

Virginia Highlands Community College
Philanthropy Leader: Mountain States Health Alliance
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Sarah Kathryn Rush

Virginia Western Community College
Philanthropy Leader: Al Pollard Memorial Foundation
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Jessica Dean

Wytheville Community College
Philanthropy Leader: Wythe-Bland Foundation
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Jasmine Leigh Vaughn

Virginia Foundation for Community College Education
Philanthropy Leader: Kresge Foundation
Commonwealth Legacy Scholar: Mark Mayhew
When first-generation college student Sebastian Kresge established the Kresge Foundation back in 1924, its goal was “the promotion of human progress.”

“In this day and age, that means supporting community colleges and the students they serve,” says Caroline Altman Smith, Kresge’s program officer for education. Altman spoke at the 2011 Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy event in April. Kresge was nominated for the philanthropy award by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education for its support of the Great Expectations program. Kresge provided a two-year, $350,000 grant to support that project, which provides mentoring, coaching and financial resources to help foster youth be successful in college.

The Kresge Foundation was among two dozen outstanding community college supporters honored this year; the value of their combined contributions approaches $11 million.

Each award recipient has a scholarship named after them, awarded to a student attending their respective community college. The scholarships are funded by the Wells Fargo Foundation and the Dominion Foundation.

“A first-generation student who earns a college degree changes the trajectory of his or her family forever,” says Smith, explaining Kresge’s commitment to education. “Education is one of the most powerful anti-poverty tools we have, and it’s a privilege to help implement Kresge’s new strategy, so that more students can realize these enormous benefits.”

“A first-generation student who earns a college degree changes the trajectory of his or her family forever.”

Pictured above, left to right: Glenn DuBois, chancellor; Barbara Fried, Great Expectations benefactor; Michael Smith, treasurer, VFCCE; and Caroline Altman Smith, Kresge’s program officer for education.

Kresge Foundation

Kresge Foundation joins honor roll of Philanthropy Leaders
Students in the *Great Expectations* program attended the 3rd Annual *Great Expectations* Forum in Richmond in November 2010. More than 125 students in programs at 14 community colleges had the opportunity to travel and interact with their peers from across the commonwealth. A program that included lessons in teambuilding and fun – as well as more serious topics including stress management and legal issues – was provided. Maryland Delegate C. T. Wilson, himself a product of the foster care system, was a keynote speaker.
Mandy Lane knew the odds were against her when she enrolled at Virginia Highlands Community College. As a foster care student, she knew that her chances of earning a college degree were less than 2 percent. According to statistics, she was far more likely to end up homeless or in jail.

But rather than get discouraged, Lane sought help through VHCC’s Great Expectations program. The one-on-one help she received through this program helped her stay motivated, she says, right up until graduation day.

“What really helped me the most was just having someone to tell me that I could do it,” she said. “That was reassuring to me. It made me want to work harder and do my best at everything.”

Lane entered foster care at the age of 15. She changed homes and high schools frequently, certain that college wasn’t a realistic option for her. Then she took a dual enrollment course in criminal justice at Abingdon High School and discovered her true passion in life.

Last May, she graduated from VHCC with an associate’s degree in police science. She recently got married and bought a house, too, and plans to begin work on a bachelor’s degree from Old Dominion next year.

“My plan is to become a juvenile probation officer,” she said. “I really want to make an impact on people while they are young. So many young people get in trouble just so they can get attention. I’d like to focus positive attention on them instead of negative attention all the time.”

Lane’s determination and positive attitude were key factors in her success, but she is quick to share credit with those she met through the Great Expectations program. She formed close friendships with other foster care students enrolled in the program and had the opportunity to participate in cultural activities that helped broaden her outlook on life, she says.

“It doesn’t matter that you are in foster care,” she says. “People don’t judge you here. You don’t get looked at differently. They might give you a little extra help, but other than that, you’re like every other student.”

“What really helped me the most was just having someone tell me I could do it.”
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 2011, 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 jreed@vccs.edu.

DONOR HONOR ROLL

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Legislative Reception

Among the many signature events honoring scholarship recipients and philanthropists, the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education also hosts a legislative reception each year to thank members of the General Assembly for their ongoing support of Virginia’s Community Colleges. The 2011 reception featured cut-outs of legislators, shown below, as Delegate Bob Tata from Virginia Beach stands by his “twin” as State Board member Bruce Meyer and his wife Connie Meyer look on.
Shown clockwise from above left, Sen. Frank M. Ruff with his cut-out twin and SVCC President John Cavan; Del. Rosalyn Dance and Del. Danny Marshall; State Board Chair Jeffery Mitchell with Board Members Dorcas Helfant-Browning and Nathanial Marshall; the reception setting at the Jefferson Hotel; Secretary of Education Laura Fornash talks with staff members; Chancellor DuBois with Sen. Charles Colgan.
SCHOLARSHIPS CULTIVATING THE POTENTIAL IN STUDENT LEADERS

Crystal Berry
Southwest Virginia

Morgan Frederick
Lord Fairfax

Tonya Hamrick
Lord Fairfax

Matthew Hart
Southwest Virginia

Danny Hazelwood
New River

The Valley Proteins Fellows
2011-2012

Charlotte Russell
Piedmont Virginia

Jennifer Selders
J. Sargeant Reynolds

Jamie Spicer
Wytheville

Jonathan Wine
Lord Fairfax
Caroline Rapking doesn’t sit still long. Her role as vice president for Global Public Sector markets for CGI Group Inc. keeps her traveling all over North America and Europe counseling governments on the latest business marketing and IT trends.

But it’s her role advancing higher education – including Virginia’s Community Colleges – that fulfills and energizes her.

“I have a real passion for higher education,” says Rapking. “I want to make sure that folks have access to higher education at every level.”

Place the emphasis on “every level”: Rapking has served on the board for the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education since 2007, where she is a faithful member of the finance and investments committee.

She is also a long-time advisory board member for the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, where she earned an MPA specializing in public finance. And she is on the board of trustees of West Virginia Wesleyan College, where she earned a bachelor’s degree.

“I’ve been delighted to add the community college foundation to my arsenal,” she says. “There are so many programs to support that allow people to get a leg up – and contribute to the economy.”

“We have a good set of programs,” she says, mentioning the Valley Proteins Fellowship program, the DuBois Student Success Fund and Great Expectations. “We really are serving people that might not otherwise have an opportunity to get out and get to school.”

“I have a real passion for higher education.”
CAREER COACHES

As a nationally recognized outreach program, Virginia’s Career Coaches are introducing more high school students in the commonwealth to the career opportunities of tomorrow. By administering career assessments, assisting students with developing academic and career plans, matching them with work-based learning opportunities and facilitating business and industry connections, career coaches enhance and expand secondary-postsecondary partnerships. They empower and encourage students to identify and reach for their career goals.

Christy McNeal

Community college prepares student for continuing education and the real world

“I have been able to go to college this year without worrying.”

“My parents had already told me they planned to pay for my schooling, but I did not want to put such a heavy financial burden on them,” McNeal says. “ESCC being an affordable option really swayed me to staying here to get my associate’s degree.”

“When I found out I was receiving the Nick Covatta Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship, it made me even happier about my decision to go to ESCC. I have been able to go to college this year without worrying about how much it was costing, and that has really been a blessing to my family.”

This fall she is beginning Old Dominion University’s Distance Learning program and in two years will have a double major in accounting and finance. She is planning to get her CPA certification after that.

“ESCC has prepared me for continuing my education and also for the real world. I am thankful for every person who was a part of that,” she says.

Christy McNeal had originally planned to move away from home to attend college. But after researching and visiting colleges, she began to realize how expensive college can be.

Thanks to Lori Smith, a Virginia Community College career coach in her high school, McNeal began to seriously consider the option of going to Eastern Shore Community College. She decided that staying home to be closer to her family and saving a lot of money was important to her. Also, working in a local bank’s accounting department allowed her to gain work experience and see if a career in accounting was something she would enjoy.
Melinda Hill
Career coach helps students identify realistic plans

Melinda Hill is extremely passionate about her job. “The words that I say and the information I provide changes people’s lives — that’s exciting.”

As a career coach, Hill helps high school students navigate a world of career opportunities they may not have known existed — and then works with them to develop a plan they can become passionate about as well.

“I provide the resources students need to learn more about their personal interests and skills. Then, I let them use those resources to answer their own questions about how to turn those interests into a career. They become more invested in their own plan by doing the research themselves.”

Whether it’s a certificate course, technical skills training or degree program, she guides students through all of their postsecondary options.

“When I was in high school, nobody told me about the variety of career paths or educational opportunities available to me. With the tools we have now, like the Virginia Education Wizard, I can help students identify a realistic plan with an achievable outcome.”

For Hill, the passion comes from seeing the “a-ha” moment in her students: “when they realize they are smart enough to get a good job and that, with a little work, they can provide more for their families than they ever thought possible.”

“The words that I say and the information I provide changes people’s lives — that’s exciting.”
The Office of Institutional Advancement wishes to extend its deepest appreciation to all of the college public relations offices for contributing photos, profiles and other materials to this annual report.

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