



OUR MISSION: YOUR SUCCESS.





Mission Statement

We change lives and transform our community through diverse, inclusive, and equitable education and workforce training, excellent support and services, and innovative partnerships.

Vision Statement

To provide broad and equitable access to higher education and workforce training that empowers our community to thrive and grow.

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PROGRAMS



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To Our Esteemed Community Members, Partners, and Supporters,

With pride and gratitude, I present the **Virginia Peninsula Community College 2023 Annual Report**. This report highlights our accomplishments over the past year and showcases our dedication to the college Mission: to change lives and transform communities. Achievements realized from the collective efforts of our faculty, staff, administration, and the unwavering support of our community and partners, indicate that our mission is possible.

The intentional partnerships we have developed, the generosity of our donors, sponsors, and advocates, and the strategic alignment of our efforts with the needs of the region have been crucial in advancing our mission. Through these collaborations we continue to develop talent that not only remains in Virginia but drives the region's economic mobility.

Last year, our efforts in dual enrollment opened new doors for high school students, offering them the opportunity to jumpstart their college education and gain a competitive edge. The expansion of our short-term training programs has provided flexible, industry-aligned pathways for individuals looking to quickly enhance their skills or change careers. The establishment of a new skilled trades center marks a

pivotal advancement in our commitment to hands-on, experiential learning, preparing students for immediate entry into high-demand fields. Additionally, by increasing the class offerings at our satellite locations, we have brought education closer to home for many, furthering our mission of accessibility and inclusion.

At the core of **Virginia Peninsula Community College's** success is our faculty's dedication to enriching the teaching and learning experience. They engage students in activities that not only improve educational outcomes but also align with the expectations of modern industries. This strategically equips our students for the demands of today's workforce. Moreover, college leadership and staff have been instrumental in forging partnerships, enhancing community outreach, and implementing strategic initiatives that have led to increases in student completion rates and non-credit enrollment. We are positioning our graduates as key contributors to the Peninsula's economic vitality.

We remain committed to offering unmatched access to post-secondary education and to delivering high-quality instruction that meets the talent demands in our region. The journey ahead is filled with both challenges and opportunities, but together, we are poised to make a significant impact. On behalf of the **Virginia Peninsula Community College** family, I extend my heartfelt thanks for your continued support and belief in our mission.

With gratitude,

Dr. Towuanna Porter Brannon



LOCAL COLLEGE BOARD

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Dr. Porter Brannon
President



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Chief of Staff & Director,
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Vice President, Finance
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Development & Innovation



Steven Felker
Vice President, Institutional
Effectiveness & Transformation



Dr. Kerry Ragno
Vice President,
Academic Affairs

Please join us in warmly welcoming our new leaders.

It is with great excitement that we introduce several dynamic and innovative new leaders to the Virginia Peninsula Community College family. We welcome a group of individuals who are not only passionate about education but are also deeply committed to driving student success and outcomes. The addition of these leaders is timely as we embark on advancing our ambitious strategic plan.

Each new leader brings a unique blend of expertise, vision, and dedication to their role, poised to contribute significantly to our collective mission of delivering transformation at scale. Their fresh perspectives and student outcomes driven approach are integral as we continue to navigate the complexities of higher education and work toward making a profound impact on the lives of our students and the broader community.

OUR MISSION: YOUR SUCCESS.

Academic Affairs Leadership



Dr. Joseph Fairchild
Associate Vice President,
Academic Affairs



Nicole Currier
Dean, Arts, Business,
Humanities & Social Sciences



Dr. John "Scott" Stauble
Dean, Science, Technology,
Engineering & Mathematics



Michelle Alexander
Interim Dean, Public Safety,
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Kady Fortier
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Tim Crittenden
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Financial Services



Keith Ferguson
Manager, Budget & Financial
Analysis



Myleah Kerns
Associate Dean of Arts, Business,
Humanities & Social Sciences



Beth Dickens
Associate Dean of Science, Technology,
Engineering & Mathematics



Jenni Jones
Director, Allied Health



Workforce Development Leadership



Bobby Perkins
Director, Manufacturing, Skilled
Trades, & Transportation



Marc Vernon
Director, Financial Aid, Scholarships,
and Military & Veteran Services



Dr. Melissa Pettigrew
Manager, Academic Endpoint
Technology



Brian Foran
Manager, IT Infrastructure



Tracy Ashley
Director, Development



Jeff Bonavita
Interim Director, Institutional
Research

Institutional Effectiveness & Transformation Leadership



Eddie Swain
Director, Business, Information
Technology & Health

Enrollment Management & Student Success Leadership



Mary Kanani
Dean, Enrollment/Registrar



Dr. Monette Dutch
Director, Student Support Services
& TRIO, Interim Dean Retention
& Student Support Success



Sonja Vega
Interim Title IX Coordinator,
Great Expectation Coach



Chris Moore
Director, Athletics



Melanie McNall
Director, Human Resources



Eric Pesola
Director, Marketing
& College Relations

Police, Safety & Security Leadership



Paul Long
Director, Safety & Security



Kelvin Maxwell
Chief, Campus Police



Kathy Shannon
Interim Chief, Campus Police

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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Virginia Peninsula Community College is steadfastly committed to serving our local communities by collaborating with regional partners on modern approaches to training and education. To help further develop these relationships and accelerate the innovations needed for all of us to address both opportunities and challenges, VPCC presented its United for Impact: Bridging Higher Education, Communities, and Businesses event in December 2023.

The gathering allowed key employers and employer associations, local and state agencies, local elected officials and municipal leaders, nonprofits, chambers of commerce, and K-12 partners to discuss how to develop and sustain the creative, flexible, and accessible education and training pathways necessary to improve and support our region.

The College was honored to have Congressman Bobby Scott, Rep. Rob Wittman, VCCS Chancellor Dr. David Dore' and leaders from the Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Dominion Energy, Riverside Health Systems, and Newport News Shipbuilding in attendance contributing to these critical discussions.



CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

- Establishing a pipeline:**
 Community outreach initiatives, including community conversations with area clergy, early childhood development centers and advocacy organizations, and regional K-12 partners are underway. Their feedback is crucial to program planning and development and is funded, largely, through a private grant with the Blocker Foundation. The College is conducting targeted outreach to potential students and connecting with middle and high school students to increase interest in early childhood education.
- Reducing barriers to higher ed:**
 A partnership with the What's Next program, which aims to reduce multiple barriers to individual success for underserved populations, remains strong. The collaboration brought multiple well attended information sessions promoting the College's workforce development offerings and academic programs to the Southeast Peninsula area. The College continues partnering with supporting agencies to meet students' needs and move them toward being ready to enroll.
- Creating training opportunities:**
 Preparations to offer VPCC's Early Childhood Education program in the Southeast region continue. When the City of Newport News completes construction on an Early Childhood Development Center at the corner of Jefferson and 16th streets, the College will offer degree and certificate programs, professional development and training for childcare professionals, teachers, and community members at the site.

NOLAN HEALY AND KAYLEE RICHA



Nolan Healy and Kaylee Richa are perfect examples of the wide-ranging VPCC student body.

Healy is a 2014 graduate of Lancaster Baptist High School in California and majoring in information technology. Richa graduated in 2018 from Woodside High School in Newport News and is majoring in social science.

He works full time as a warehouse specialist for the Navy at Cheatham Annex but is looking for a new career after transitioning out of the military. He was in the Marine Corps for nearly 7 years. She's employed at Patient First and has known for a while the career path she has wanted to travel.

They do have some similarities. Both are members of TRiO Support Services, an experience they found invaluable. Both see their time at VPCC not as the end of their education journeys, but just one more stop along the way.

Oh, and they are among the many married couples who attend the College, having wed Dec. 2, 2023. They met in 2017 (at a UFC streaming event) when Healy was stationed at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station and began dating in 2019.

Here's a closer look at the couple:

What inspired you to attend VPCC?

Nolan: My wife is pursuing a social science degree and is on track to graduate this year from VPCC. I got to watch her mature and develop during her time here at VPCC and the school is close to our home so there's not much of a commute. VPCC offers many transfer opportunities to all in-state four-year public universities as well as networking connections to career opportunities throughout the community. After leaving the military, I knew VPCC would be the best catalyst for growth and development as I start down a new path.

Kaylee: VPCC was the most affordable option for me, allowing me to get a transferable degree with no student loan debt.

Why did you choose your major?

Nolan: I wanted a career that would allow me to solve complex problems, help others, and challenge me to think critically. My grandfather made a career in tech sales after leaving the Navy, and his successful second career inspired me not to sell myself short in what I can accomplish in my second career. Information technology has the job market and flexibility to give me what I am looking for moving forward.

Kaylee: My mother has made a career working in the medical field, which interests me. In 2021, I got the opportunity to work at the same urgent care clinic as my mom and I have been working there ever since.

In the next five years, what are your academic and career goals?

Nolan: My goal is to be working in a position that would allow me to learn and further develop my IT skills with on-the-job training. My goal is to have a mentor in the information technology field. Having the proper mentor is crucial to growth and accountability. I also plan to be working on earning my master's degree in information technology or information systems management.

Kaylee: I plan to graduate from Virginia Commonwealth University with my bachelor's in business and hope to be working somewhere in human resources.

How do you balance your work and school schedules given your various responsibilities?

Nolan: I need to utilize my digital planner religiously. If I don't, things will slip and have the potential to snowball. My digital planner allows me to see my tasks wherever I am. I also use schoolwork as an opportunity to bond with my wife and spend quality time together. Since we both work and go to school full time, we try to use the weekends to go somewhere for a walk or find a library or café to do schoolwork together.

Kaylee: It's been quite an experience juggling school, work, and a new puppy. I find going on walks and to the gym helps me manage stress, as well as a Starbucks before homework.

What clubs or activities are you involved with at the College and in your community?

Nolan: I am a Presidential Ambassador, and a member of TRiO and Veteran Services.

Kaylee: TRiO Support Services

How does participation in these activities impact you, particularly as you continue your college education?

Nolan: When I first got to the school, I didn't know much about the area or how to ensure that I take the proper classes for my degree program. Joining TRiO had a huge impact in ensuring that I am on the right path to graduation. They set me up with a great adviser and provided college success resources. The Presidential Ambassador program has allowed me to participate in my community on a regular basis. Whether it's handing out school supplies or helping the American Heart Association with an event, I get to represent my school and have a positive impact on my community.

Kaylee: Participation in TRiO has put me on track to graduate earlier than I thought... Their advisers have helped me tremendously in mapping out a path to graduation.

What accomplishments are you most proud of as you further your education?

Nolan: I am most proud of the progress I've made by just being at school and taking active steps in being proactive with my mental health. The school and faculty have been a huge help in my journey.

Kaylee: I am proud of myself because I will be the first person in my family to graduate college.

Are there any VPCC faculty or staff members who have inspired you on this higher education journey?

Nolan: Mrs. (Michelle) Manfred for the passionate and loving heart she has for the school and the students. It seems like every time I see her or come home, there's a card from her to brighten my week. Mrs. (LaRai) Petway and Miss (Natasha) Woods for the long hours they put into the TRiO program, even if it was Halloween. They take a personal interest in our lives and motivate us to keep going. Dr. Brannon for her leadership and inspiration. I've always been inspired by leaders who can make their vision clear for all to see and understand. If we can understand the vision, then it makes it easy to follow. Dr. Brannon has made her vision for our school clear, and it makes me excited to be a part of it.

Kaylee: I would like to shout out Natasha Woods for all the words of support and encouragement. Through all the hard and stressful times, she always encouraged me.

What family members do you want to mention for their extraordinary contributions as you pursue your goals?

Nolan: I want to mention my grandparents and thank them for the example of love, support, and strength that they've been my whole life. No matter how crazy life gets, they've been an example of consistency and strength that I can look to for guidance. Last month, they celebrated 59 years of marriage, and I'm on week 10.

Kaylee: I would like to mention my mom for always being there for me and for being the best role model there could be. She loves me and supports me no matter what but always pushes me to better myself.



The purpose of VPCC’s athletics department is to enhance community college life by increasing full-time enrollment, community engagement, and school spirit. The goal of the department is to provide student-athletes with a first-class junior college athletic experience.

The department teaches student-athletes skills both on and off the field/court in addition to bringing great value to the institution. Student-athletes came from all across the country, including Texas, Florida, Georgia, Ohio, North Carolina, and Maryland, to be a part of our athletic teams.

ATHLETICS AT VPCC

Virginia Peninsula Community College is expanding its intercollegiate sports offerings. Women’s volleyball was added for the 2022-2023 academic year and the team earned the New South Athletic Conference newcomer award. Men’s soccer followed in fall 2023 and won the New South Athletic Conference championship. Track and field will begin competing in spring 2024, and cross country will debut in fall 2024. The College aims to add two more sports, bringing to total to nine, in the coming years.

The College has sponsored men’s basketball, women’s basketball, and cheerleading since the 1980s, and added baseball in 2012.



HONORS AND AWARDS

VPCC athletes or teams earned one NJCAA All-America award, two Region 10 NJCAA sportsmanship awards, the New South Athletic Conference Trailblazer award, and a New South Athletic Conference runner-up finish.

In addition, a Gator athlete was a Peninsula Sports Club honoree, and 14 athletes earned All-Academic honors by achieving a GPA of at least 3.0 for the academic year.



KEY NUMBERS

- 74 full-time students participated in a sport at VPCC
- 88% retention rate (average across the College is 66 percent)
- 17 athletes transitioned to play at four-year institutions following the 2022-2023 academic year.
- Those 17 athletes were awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships from their transfer institutions. The schools included VCU, Christopher Newport University, Mary Baldwin, Glenville State, Greensboro College, Regent University, Savannah State University, Johnson & Wales (Charlotte), St. Vincent’s College, Allen University, Ferrum College, and Methodist University.
- The athletics department has 17 volunteers and two work-study students.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

TOANO TRADES CENTER OPENS

Virginia Peninsula Community College celebrated the opening of its new trades center in Toano with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in April 2023. At the event, College President Dr. Towuanna Porter Brannon stressed the project was a community effort.

“It’s a beautiful center. It’s a beautiful facility, but it’s so much more than that,” she said. “This center is a symbol of progress and innovation, but also collaboration... No one of us can do anything by ourselves.”

On hand to help celebrate were industry partners, government officials and local school district representatives.

“While I’m happy to cut the ribbon and celebrate Virginia Peninsula Community College’s ability to expand access and expand its footprint, this is really a symbol of what it looks like when we work together to support the needs of not only the individuals that live in our community, but also the businesses that rely upon us to develop the talent that they need,” Brannon said.

The first students through the door were in the SMAW (shielded metal arc welding) cohort, one of five programs available at the facility.



Other programs available are carpentry, CNC machining, masonry, and facility maintenance. Class sessions will vary from 6-16 weeks, depending on what credentials and certificates are involved.

The 7,800 square foot facility, is in the upper end of James City County, just off Route 60 at 236 Industrial Boulevard. The facility also has work areas, two classrooms and a break room that can be converted into a third classroom. The Peninsula Workforce Development Center in Hampton is almost 40 miles from the new facility, allowing the institution to reach new students.

The new trades center will not only provide economic opportunities for individuals, but also will benefit businesses. Dr. Brannon said she’s excited to bring access to high-demand skills to residents of Williamsburg, York County and James City County.

“I can’t wait to see what we will do together,” she said.

In January 2021, the United States Department of Labor awarded the College \$1.7 million through its Strengthening Community College training grants program for the facility. The funds had to be used for skilled workforce programs.

Program Priorities and Expansion

Skilled trades program expansion continues with support from the U.S. DOL Strengthening Community College Training grant, U.S. EDA Good Jobs Challenge Grant, and the HR STRONG state funding in FY24. The College’s focus areas include welding, marine electrical, residential and commercial electrical, facilities maintenance, HVAC, carpentry, masonry, and machining. The James City County (JCC) Trades Center has established three of the planned four programs – welding, carpentry, and masonry. Computer Numeric Controls (CNC) machining is on track to begin in spring 2024. These programs along with the dedicated staff at the JCC Trades Center fall under the leadership of Director Bobby Perkins.

Allied Health programs remained robust in FY23, and growth is anticipated in FY24. The Virginia Board of Nursing officially continued approval for Workforce Development’s nurse aide



education program in June 2023. This program is offered at VPCC’s Hampton Campus and the Historic Triangle Campus. Certified EKG Technician and Certified Billing and Coding Specialist were approved for FastForward and are now offered as new programs in FY24. Increasing offerings at both the Southeast Center in Newport News and at the Historic Triangle Campus in Williamsburg remain a priority.

The new James City County Trades Center welcomed high school students from Williamsburg/James City County Public Schools in November and December 2023. As part of their annual Manufacturing Day Tours, high school students visited the Trades Center to learn about the available training programs, meet with local employers, and enjoy lunch before returning to school. Jamestown High School, Lafayette High School, and Warhill High School each had a dedicated day for their students providing ample opportunity for great student engagement.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

THE VIRGINIA TALENT PIPELINE PROJECT

The Virginia Talent Pipeline Project, managed by TMG Inc., presented its Career Discovery Day on November 1, 2023, at VPCC's Peninsula Workforce Development Center (PWDC). The event was designed to connect students and jobseekers to careers with small and mid-sized shipbuilding and ship repair employers. In addition to a career fair and a mobile, interactive career demonstration lab supplied by Newport News Shipbuilding, a Project MFG Welding competition took place simultaneously in the PWDC Welding Lab. Approximately 60 students participated in the event and 16 competed in the welding competition. VPCC welding students, Labron Jones and Brent Price performed extremely well in the competition.

Workforce Development experienced enrollment growth in FastForward offerings which provides training in high demand, industry recognized programs. Enrollment increased by more than 34% over FY22.

REGIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SUMMIT

Virginia Peninsula Community College hosted a Regional Apprenticeship Summit, coordinated and sponsored by the Hampton Roads Workforce Council and WHRO, on November 15, 2023. The event included remarks from President Brannon, an Apprenticeship subject matter expert panel, facilitated round table discussions, and keynote remarks from Virginia Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater. The event attracted nearly 100 business, agency, and education representatives.



ENROLLMENT HIGHLIGHTS

DUAL ENROLLMENT

The College's dual enrollment program gives Virginia Peninsula high school students the opportunity to earn college credit by taking college-level coursework at their high school, at one of VPCC's campus locations, or online. Dual enrollment continued to grow in 2023, in numbers of students and in associate degrees and certificates earned by high school students prior to their graduation from high school.

Between the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years, VPCC's number of dual enrollment students increased by 13.7%. With this increase, VPCC served 2,122 dual enrollment students in the 2022-2023 academic year.

The average 2022-2023 VPCC high school dual enrollment senior graduated with 12 earned college credits and a 3.2 college GPA. Overall, 49 high school students graduated having already earned a VPCC degree or certificate.

The top public four-year transfer destinations for VPCC dual enrollment students are as follows:





Current initiatives in the STEM division involve NASA speakers in STEM courses, student field trips, pipeline development for internships and employment, and outreach to K-12 schools and communities on the Virginia Peninsula. Looking ahead, the division's plans include expanding collaborations, student opportunities and educational outreach efforts.

NASA PARTNERSHIPS WITH STEM DIVISION TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR KEY EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

The STEM division, headed by Dean Scott Stauble, is enhancing collaborations with NASA through grants, internships, and apprenticeships. Notable partnerships, such as the Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC) with Old Dominion University, support programs like the Unmanned Systems (UMS) career studies certificate and summer camps. Recent NIH grant collaborations aim to update the UMS curriculum and establish closer ties with high schools in the VPCC service area.

The STEM Takes Flight summer internship program and Technology Exploration Saturdays (for seventh and eighth graders), in collaboration with VSGC, provide valuable experiences for students. Parents of young students participating in Technology Exploration Saturdays have an opportunity to learn about the College's educational offerings, including VPCC-NASA internships. STEM internships enable students to engage in supervised internships at NASA, leading to full-time employment.



IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGY CLASSROOMS

Virginia Peninsula Community College used a \$250,000 award in G3 Innovation Grant funds to install immersive projection systems at its campuses in Hampton and Williamsburg.

The new systems – one at each campus – support at least four G3-designated programs (Administration of Justice, Fire Science, Emergency Medical Services, and Nursing) in two high-demand employment sectors: public safety and allied healthcare. The state-of-the-art technology supports a wide array of learning, simulation, and sensory reality altering opportunities that allow an institution to repurpose a learning space into simulation labs without the need for renovation. The simulation labs,

which is also available to community partners in EMS and nursing among others, give students opportunities to practice workforce skills.

The G3 (Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back) initiative is a state-funded aid program in Virginia for residents who qualify for in-house tuition, have a total household income up to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (around \$100,000 for a family of four), are enrolled in at least six credit hours in a designated G3 program, have applied for federal and/or state financial aid, and maintain satisfactory academic progress.



ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Virginia Peninsula Community College's impacts on its students and the localities it serves are substantial and far-reaching. An investment in the College is an investment not only in current and future students, but also in the overall wellbeing of the Virginia Peninsula region.

Student success rates at VPCC are higher than ever, and the College continues preparing thousands of students each year for immediate employment or transfer to a four-year program of study. In the 2022-2023 academic year, 769 students graduated from Virginia Peninsula Community College, earning 969 associate degrees and certificates. In addition, over 2,000 students completed short-term workforce development programs designed for rapid entry into high-demand occupations. Graduates and completer's of VPCC's programs experienced increased economic and social mobility and contribute greatly to the Virginia Peninsula's workforce and the elevated regional need for talented, highly skilled workers.

The College's impact also extends beyond our students and the immediate employers of our graduates, as our unique role in providing educational opportunity and social and economic mobility enriches the entire Virginia Peninsula. The College recently partnered with a major economic forecasting firm called Lightcast to conduct a study of the annual economic impact of the College on the Virginia Peninsula region. Results from that study include the following major areas of impact:

In 2021-2022, Virginia Peninsula Community College generated \$246.9 million in added income to the Virginia Peninsula economy.

- For every dollar students invest in education at Virginia Peninsula Community College, there will be a \$7.50 increase in their overall future earnings. The average annual rate of return on investment for students is 24.7%.
- For every dollar taxpayers invest in the operations of Virginia Peninsula Community College, there will be a \$3.40 increase in state revenue and social savings. The average annual rate of return on investment for taxpayers is 8.9%.

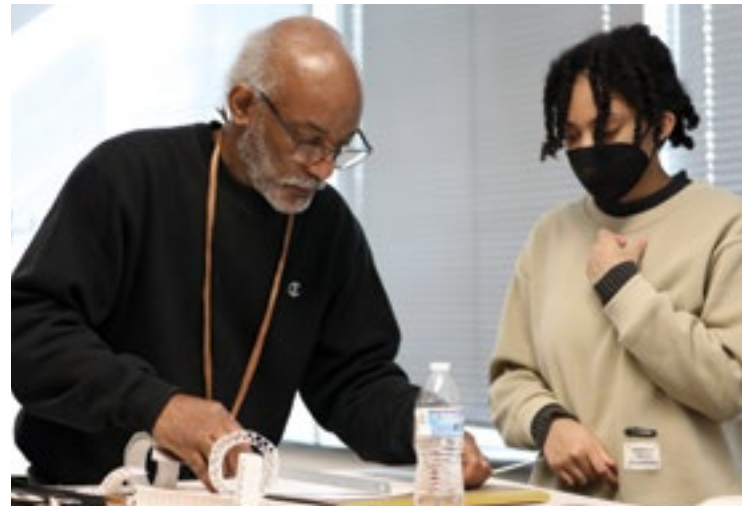
One of the primary reasons for VPCC's substantial economic impact on its region is the fact that VPCC students and graduates remain within the Commonwealth of Virginia and in the Virginia Peninsula region at very high rates and contribute to the local workforce and civic life throughout much of their working lives. This propensity to remain local brings needed talent to regional businesses and industries and infuses the region with additional investment and spending. A recent study by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), indicates 78% of individuals who graduated from VPCC over the last 10 years are still living or working in Virginia. This is substantially higher than the 57% average across all of Virginia's public colleges and universities.



On January 24, 2024, students, faculty, and staff from VPCC visited the House of Delegates in Richmond for the day. The delegation was announced to the legislative chamber by Del. Shelly A. Simonds, and paid in-person visits to Del. Amanda Batten, Del. A.C. Cordoza, Sen Danny Diggs, Sen. Ryan McDougle, as well as Del. Simonds.



FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS



HARD WORK BY FACULTY, STAFF RECOGNIZED

The College's annual awards ceremony took place April 28, 2023 to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of faculty and staff.

Awards in several categories went to 23 winners, and more than 60 faculty members were nominated by students. The online ceremony also featured a new category to recognize adjunct faculty.

The College's Faculty Reward and Recognition Committee, which fielded nominations from throughout College, was led by Janelle Faison and Scott Reid (co-chairs). Other members were Ursula Bock, J.J. Bonavita, Angela Brightmon, Veronica Dempsey, Anthony Fotinos, Liz Kelso, Olufunke Olagunju, and Sirena Sears.



Those honored were:

- **Michelle Alexander, Sandra Calderon-Doherty, Lloyd Carter, Sergio Maria-Fagundez, Michael Filsinger, Antony Fotinos, Jason Moulenbelt and Laura Rondeau**, who received the Vanguard award. It recognizes a full-time teaching faculty member who demonstrates excellence in one or more areas of faculty endeavor, teaching; scholarly and creative engagement; institutional responsibility; or service.
- **Valerie Burge-Hall and Robert Harrison**, who received the Character award. It recognizes a full-time administrative or professional faculty member who demonstrates excellence in leadership effectiveness, strategic engagement or college and community service.
- **Adrianna Hardage, Lynsey LeMay and Hannah Powers**, who received the Focus award. It recognizes a full-time teaching faculty member who demonstrates excellence in collegiality and teamwork; diversity awareness, inclusivity and multicultural enrichment; or leadership.
- **LaShawn Littles, Kris May, Will Moore, James Rudnicky, and Mitzi Williams**, who were presented the Gator-Aid award. It which recognizes staff that have made outstanding contributions to the college through their work and support of faculty and students.
- **Linda Dunn, Carolyn Hunter, LeRon Lewis, Jaime Mead and Andrew Sprague**, who received the Adjunct award. It recognizes adjunct faculty who have gone above and beyond and display true dedication and commitment to their students, fellow faculty members and the college community.
- **Ji (Nina) Mun and Tracy Richardson** received the most nominations as 64 faculty members earned a Learning Environment award, which recognizes faculty who demonstrate at least one of the following characteristics in their teaching: utilizing innovative techniques, creating a supportive culture, responding to learners' needs, maintaining a safe and healthy environment, and/or cultivating student success. They are completely student nominated. Mun and Richardson received between six and 10 nominations.





BREAKING NEW GROUND

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY HELD FOR NEW THEATER



Virginia Peninsula Community College held a groundbreaking ceremony Monday, Dec. 11, 2023 for its new theater. The roof collapsed on the old theater, the Dr. Mary T. Christian Auditorium, in April 2021. No one was injured as the College had been closed because of the pandemic.

“This endeavor is more than just a construction project. It’s a commitment to our community’s cultural enrichment and educational excellence,” VPCC President Dr. Towuanna Porter Brannon told the 75 community officials and College faculty, staff and students who attended the 30-minute ceremony.

“We look forward to the new stories that we will get to tell, to the new performances that we will bring to our stage, and to the countless lives that will be touched by the magic of theater.”

Dr. Brannon said the target date for the new theater opening is spring 2025. “Our vision is ambitious, but we are not just building a theater,” she said. “We’re creating a cultural landmark where talent is nurtured and creativity is celebrated. So together, let’s make this dream a resounding reality.”

The auditorium, housed in Templin Hall, was named for Hampton educator and state delegate Dr. Mary T. Christian. It featured plush seating, a balcony, an orchestra pit, a stage, supporting dressing, wardrobe and practice rooms, and a set construction workshop. The new facility will seat 494 guests, a small increase from the previous venue.

Steve Carpenter, VPCC’s vice president for Finance and Administration, said the \$17 million project is funded by VCCS. RRMM Architects designed the new auditorium, and the W.M. Jordan Company is building the facility.

The name of the new theater has not been determined, said Dr. Brannon. Several factors will be considered, and stakeholder input will be collected before naming recommendations are provided to the Local College Board, which is responsible for approving the names of campus facilities.



CAPITAL PRESENCE IN THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS - SKILLED TRADES CENTER IN THE MARSHALL-RIDLEY NEIGHBORHOOD

VPCC is partnering with the Virginia Peninsula Community College Educational Foundation, the City of Newport News, and the Newport News Economic Development Authority (EDA) to acquire a new trades training facility in the southeast Newport News community. Newport News EDA generously donated the site, located at 2200 Terminal Avenue and 520 21st Street, and the College received significant federal funding from Submarine Industrial Base. Newport News EDA is managing the contract for the design/build phase, with W.M. Jordan Company leading the project team. Building design began in February 2024 and project completion is scheduled for early 2025.

The new facility will represent a significant increase in VPCC’s skilled trades training physical footprint and program capacity. The facility initially will offer three programs supporting the shipbuilding and ship repair industry: welding, marine electrical, and structural fitting. Four programs will be offered to support the residential and commercial construction industry: electrical, facilities maintenance, HVAC, and plumbing. The new facility will provide geographically accessible training to the historically underserved southeast Newport News community and be conveniently located near one of our largest employer partners, Newport News Shipbuilding.

CULTURE OF CARE

Management consultant, educator, and author Peter Drucker, is famously quoted saying “Culture eats strategy for breakfast.” Along with focusing on strategies to improve organizational effectiveness, build capacity, and increase enrollment and retention, the College recognizes that our success in these areas relies on creating a culture of excellence and care. To this end, the College has spent time strategically recruiting excellent new team members, investing in leadership development opportunities for managers and supervisors, and drafting a statement to define the behaviors that will be the measure for our culture of care.

The College began January 2023 with the announcement of an updated organizational structure and chart. For increased transparency, new organizational charts were posted to our public facing website clearly demonstrating structure and vacancies. College leadership clearly stated intentions for strategic recruitment, assembled diverse teams to serve on search committees, and elicited feedback from all who participate in the recruitment process for vacant positions. Numerous vacancies were filled including at least 15 mid-level and senior-level leadership positions.

To increase the communication, collaboration, and positive impact of these new managers, the Office of the President partnered with the Council of Mid-Level Managers to review survey data and create a leadership development series. Monthly workshops have been facilitated on concepts such as building trust, engaging in positive conflict, achieving

commitment, and embracing accountability. Additionally, this group has been engaged to increase cross-college information sharing and information gathering activities. We have seen a marked, positive outcome in communication, collaboration and trust amongst this group of leaders.

Focusing on culture is not just for our managers. Throughout the year, the College invested in providing professional portraits for all team members. These photos communicate professionalism, integrity, and competence, all of which improves relationships with potential students, families, and partners. Additionally, through monthly meetings with the College Council, a college governance committee designed to increase communication and provide input and feedback to the College president, we have developed a statement on our Culture of Care. The process of generating this document included months of conversations, feedback, survey review, and editing that involved students, faculty, and staff participants. The result provides a clear standard of expectations for culture and the behaviors we expect for all who are affiliated with the College. The opening statement follows:

“The **Virginia Peninsula Community College** mission is to change lives and transform communities. Our mission is accomplished through continuous improvement, grounded in a desire for excellence, and demonstrated by our culture of care. This culture is built on the foundation of compassionate engagement, authentic communication, responsible teams, effective outcomes, and servant leadership. We believe that by embodying specific behaviors, we create an environment where our students, employees, and community can thrive.”



Founded in 1979, the Educational Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with the primary goal of securing private financial assistance. This support is intended to enhance existing programs, attract funding for new courses, and contribute to the overall growth and development of educational services. The Foundation allocates funds to diverse initiatives, such as scholarships, faculty development, program assistance, and addressing capital requirements. Annually, the Foundation sustains over 65 scholarships and provides backing for a broad spectrum of academic programs.



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Virginia Peninsula
Community College
Educational Foundation
and Subsidiary
Consolidated Statements
of Financial Position as of
June 30, 2023 and 2022.

	FY 2022	FY 2023
VPCC Educational Foundation Total Assets*	\$11,377,693	\$11,943,791
Total Contributions*	\$737,045	\$665,193
Total number of awarded scholarships, including competitive and student designated awards	254	160
Total dollar amount utilized scholarships, including competitive and staff designated awards*	\$225,328	\$196,878
Total dollar amount of support for VPCC programs*	\$168,242	\$405,690

*Figures taken from audited financial statements





SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

Armand Brown Basketball Memorial Scholarship

Arden Walker

Charles and Mary Hastings Memorial Scholarship

Madison Baker
Ryan Bendixon
Aiden Conway
Jaya Walker

Commonwealth Legacy Scholar Scholarship

Selena Johnson

Dominion Energy Grove Community Scholarship

Ghezal Maroof
Milton Zacarias

Eric S. Murphy Memorial Scholarship

Ethan Sullivan

Finish What You Start – Dual Enrollment Scholarship

Madison Baker
Arianna Banks
Genesis Bryant
Harvey Collier
Anna Hubbard
Elijah Jimison
Skylar Perkins

Alexander Philipsen
Lindsay Smith
Jonah St. Clair
Hayden Wagner

Gayle K. Blankenship Memorial Scholarship

Howard Ames
Adryanna Smith
Anna Stinger

George A. Orphanidys, Sr. Scholarship

Gabriella Young

Hampton Rotary Club Scholarship

Saad-Eddine Sadouk

Irene Morgan Scholarship

Cori Anderson

JBH Memorial Scholarship

Edward Beaudoin
Kelsey Juelicher
Shannisha Owens

J. Frank Benson Memorial Scholarship

Chanel White

James Allison Memorial Scholarship

Andrew Horton

James and Virginia Taylor Nursing and Dental Hygiene Scholarship

Autumn Joslin
Briana Parker
Jessica Whitley

John R Lawson Scholarship

Chloe Gassan
Richard Oben
Alvin Perkins
Jonah St. Clair
Jarissa Webb

John & Tricia Biagas Endowed Scholarship

Ashley Burnett
Gabriela Fletcher

Jonathan Romero Nursing Scholarship Fund

Harry Rogers

Loraine and Louis Drucker Scholarship

Reese Morris
Joseph Stanley

Marge Funk Memorial Scholarship

Anna Hubbard

Mark Daniel Wyatt Memorial Scholarship

Ahmed Elamin

Mary Immaculate Hospital Scholarship

Kelsey Davis

Micron Technology Opportunity Fund

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Rotary Club of the Virginia Peninsula Scholarship

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Virginia Foundation for Community College Education

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Hayden Wagner

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Crystal Jackson

Wythe Women's Club Millie Brown Scholarship

Denise Littman

York County Volunteer Association Endowed Scholarship

Abigail Scott
Kenneth Sedlack



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Cumulative Giving
(\$50,000 +)**

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Williamsburg, VA 23188
757.253.4300

**Peninsula Workforce
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600 Butler Farm Road
Hampton, VA 23666
757.865.3122

**Southeast Higher
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5720 Marshall Avenue
Newport News, VA 23605
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236 Industrial Drive
Toano, VA 23168
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