

## Tech Prep: Pathways from High School to College through Career and Technical Education

*“Tech Prep is a critical aspect of the effort to help young people develop a strong understanding of the career pathways that lead to life-long opportunities for their achievement of the American dream.”*

—John Downey, President, Blue Ridge Community College

Tech Prep Career Pathways Programs serve employers by preparing young adults for high demand, high skills occupations by aligning high school and community college career and technical education programs and providing students with dual-enrollment, career coaching, work-based learning, early college placement testing and other opportunities. National performance standards for the program include postsecondary enrollment, graduation, and employment rates of students.

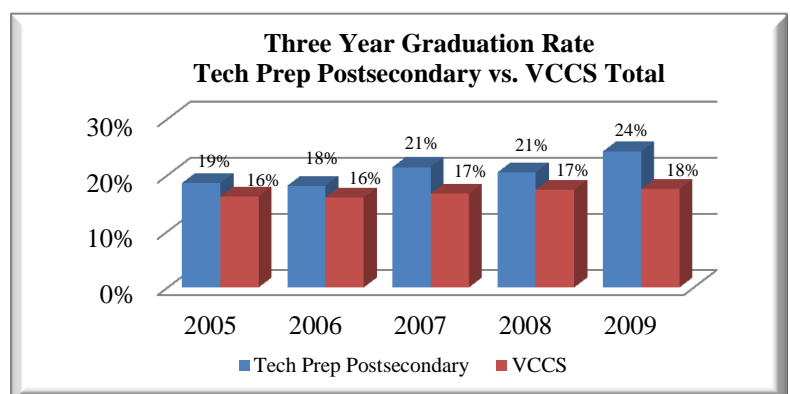
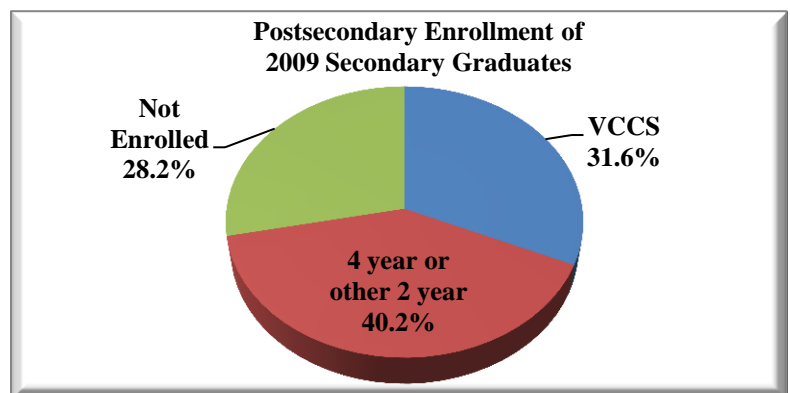
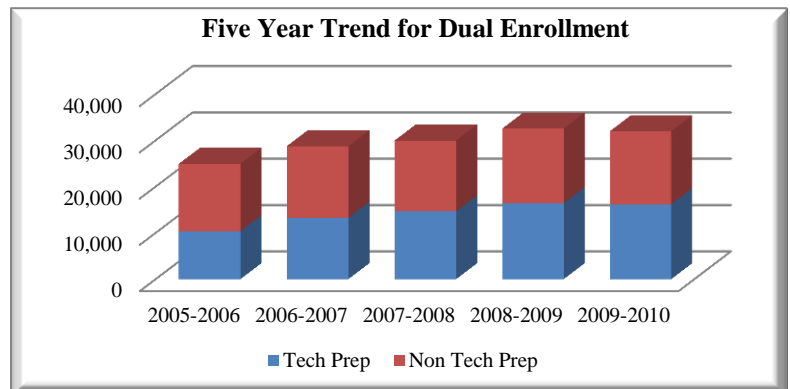
**Definitions:** Secondary Tech Prep students are those high school students enrolled in at least one career and technical (CTE) dual enrollment course. Postsecondary students are those who graduate and enroll in a two- or four- year college or university.

### Highlights:

- Over 25,000 secondary and post secondary students were identified as Tech Prep in 2009-2010—a 66% increase over the past five years.
- Over half (51%) of VCCS dual enrolled students were classified as Tech Prep in 2009-2010.
- Nearly three-quarters (72%) of students who participate in Tech Prep enrolled in postsecondary education.
- Tech Prep students earn awards at a higher rate than a typical VCCS student. In 2009, nearly a quarter (24.2%) of Tech Prep students received an award within three years, compared to 18% of VCCS students.

### Reflections:

The Tech Prep programs provide opportunities for students to explore careers, determine their plans for postsecondary education and earn college credits in high school, which contribute to the access, success, and workforce goals of *Achieve 2015*. Colleges should engage with local high schools to encourage students to participate in Tech Prep programs as a successful entry into higher education.



## Tech Prep Secondary Data and Postsecondary Performance Measures for 2009-2010

College	Profile of Secondary Tech Prep 2009-10					Tech Prep Performance Measures 2009-10 Reporting Period			
	Dual Enrolled	Tech Prep Enrolled <sup>1</sup>	% TP of Dual Enrolled	High School Graduates <sup>2</sup>	Avg. Cred. Earned in HS-VCCS	Enrolled in VCCS <sup>3</sup>	Enrolled other 2yr or 4yr <sup>4</sup>	Received VCCS Award	Employed 12mth post grad <sup>5</sup>
	N	N	%	N	N	%	%	%	%
Blue Ridge	964	480	49.8	263	7	37.2	38.3	34.3	78.6
Central Virginia	1,397	754	54.0	422	15	29.8	36.4	15.9	71.7
Dabney S. Lancaster	556	293	52.7	147	10	39.0	43.0	36.0	75.0
Danville	1,733	1,088	62.8	427	12	36.3	33.6	26.3	67.8
Eastern Shore	250	117	46.8	88	7	40.0	30.9	35.7	80.0
Germanna	1,322	166	12.6	118	13	28.3	61.7	33.3	72.2
J. Sargeant Reynolds	1,434	848	59.1	582	14	19.6	42.9	9.5	94.4
John Tyler	2,467	931	37.7	558	12	22.8	46.2	21.1	84.6
Lord Fairfax	1,870	804	43.0	381	18	32.1	53.7	26.7	63.5
Mountain Empire	1,025	636	62.0	282	20	51.0	32.1	36.4	62.8
New River	1,460	1,074	73.6	552	15	35.2	39.2	29.9	82.5
Northern Virginia	1,908	900	47.2	544	9	25.6	44.7	*	73.6
Patrick Henry	837	502	60.0	297	33	42.1	36.6	32.9	70.8
Paul D. Camp	503	329	65.4	122	15	28.7	42.6	29.4	100.0
Piedmont Virginia	1,363	253	18.6	156	14	22.3	56.8	*	70.0
Rappahannock	1,669	1,120	67.1	430	20	30.9	44.6	21.0	81.3
Southside Virginia	2,370	1,739	73.4	785	23	32.7	34.2	32.0	61.3
Southwest Virginia	963	479	49.7	208	18	50.0	23.7	36.4	75.0
Thomas Nelson	1,838	1,285	69.9	489	7	22.5	43.6	9.7	62.5
Tidewater	1,348	268	19.9	175	14	28.8	48.8	20.8	59.3
Virginia Highlands	826	478	57.9	235	12	46.3	27.3	30.9	63.9
Virginia Western	2,511	841	33.5	387	16	35.3	48.4	18.4	71.4
Wytheville	1,348	822	61.0	391	18	37.9	26.0	37.2	80.6
System	31,962	16,207	50.7	8,039	15	31.6	40.2	24.2	70.8

\*Data are limited for these colleges due to low enrollment or inadequate data for the reporting time period. These data are expected to improve as dual enrollment data improve and the numbers in the program grow.

### How Were Data Generated?

Measurement periods and cohorts vary for the performance measures provided.

<sup>1</sup>Secondary Tech Prep students were identified based on enrollment in a CTE course as a dual enrolled student using VEE enrollment, class, and course files.

<sup>2</sup>Number of graduates is based on Tech Prep high school graduates who enrolled in 2007-2008 and graduated in 2010.

<sup>3</sup>Postsecondary Tech Prep students were based on 2008-09 high school students who graduated high school and enrolled in college or university within one-year.

<sup>4</sup>National Student Clearinghouse data were used for identifying enrollment in postsecondary education outside of the VCCS.

<sup>5</sup>Employment rates were based upon whether a 2009 VCCS graduate was employed (according to the Virginia employment wage records) within one year of graduation from any postsecondary institution.

### For More Information:

Visit <http://www.vccs.edu/studentsuccess> to learn more about student success.