



The Virginia Foundation
FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION

News Update



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Luncheon Celebrates Commonwealth Legacy Scholars

The sixth class of Commonwealth Legacy Scholars honored

Scholars representing each of Virginia's Community Colleges and the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE) joined statewide business, education, community and government leaders and guests to celebrate the prestigious Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship program in November.

These scholarships were awarded to students from across the commonwealth who have demonstrated academic excellence and a commitment to develop their leadership skills. Each scholarship bears the name of a philanthropy leader who has supported Virginia's Community Colleges.

For the first time, a scholar was also named in honor of philanthropy leaders for the VFCCE, the statewide foundation supporting community college education.

Anna Powell, Community Affairs Manager for Wachovia Wells Fargo, said the bank believes that "opening doors for future generations by giving them access to education is the most important investment we can make." The scholarship program helps drive the students' "future success in life," she said. Wachovia Wells Fargo has been a key financial supporter of the scholarship program.



Matt Smith presents appreciation gift to Anna Powell of Wachovia Wells Fargo.

The luncheon's keynote speaker, Patrice Tanaka, encouraged the students to use education to transform their lives and realize their dreams and desires. She is chief creative officer of the CRT/tanaka firm.

The Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship Program was initiated in 2006 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Virginia Community College System. The program awards a \$3,000 scholarship to first-time college students attending one of Virginia's 23 community colleges.

Become Our Partner

Consider a gift or donate online at www.vccs.edu/foundation

2010 RECIPIENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

Kyle VanLear
Justin High
Matthew Ethan Dale Smith
Ashleigh N. Scolpini
Christy McNeal
Paige Riley
Brandi Vaughan
Elizabeth Reed Tsiptsis
Brittany Clatterbuck

Tanner Sine
Miranda Beth Jessee
Zane Parker Yopp
Antonio Larios
Brittany Nicole Stone
Zachary C. Gurganus
Chelsey Blevins
Jaylee Strawman
Normand "Rudy" Adams

Kathleen "Katie" Light
Angel V. Santiago
Samantha Theverapperuma
Kayln Renee King
I Chieh Lin
Samantha Magyar
Trey LaFollette

A Note From the Chancellor

Psst...pass it on.

The connection between Virginia's Community Colleges and Virginia's success is increasingly recognized by policymakers. I am seeking your help to continue that during the 2011 General Assembly session.

Governor Bob McDonnell, over the past year, has been leading two commissions— the Governor's Commission on Economic Development and Job Creation and the Commission on Higher Education Reform, Innovation, and Investment— aimed at increasing the number of jobs in Virginia and fulfilling his pledge to create an additional 100,000 college graduates by 2015.

Virginia's Community Colleges are where the panels' work comes together.

The panels recommend bolstering community college programs to increase the number of high school students taking college classes and using our innovative guaranteed transfer opportunities to boost state support for our workforce programs.

So, how can you help? Elected leaders listen to you. Reach out to your delegate and senator – through a phone call, email, or letter – and tell them how important your community college is to you, where you live, and why.



Chancellor Glenn DuBois



Supporting Students

The VFCCE offers many opportunities to support students. A new initiative, the Glenn DuBois Student Success Fund, will benefit Middle College students. Members of the State Board for Community Colleges initiated the fund in the chancellor's honor, presenting a surprise \$50,000 check. While criteria for awarding the funds are still being developed, the special funds will be targeted to helping students who encounter an emergency situation or one-time, unusual, or unforeseen expense during the pursuit of their education at one of Virginia's Community Colleges. Show your support and help students succeed by making an online donation today: www.vccs.edu/foundation.

GIFTS & GRANTS

The following three significant grants have been recently awarded to VFCCE's *Great Expectations* program.

- A two-year grant of \$350,000 from the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to establish a *Great Expectations* program at John Tyler Community College and a statewide mentoring program for the foster youth in 15 of Virginia's Community Colleges;
- A grant of \$99,700 from the Appalachian Regional Commission to support *Great Expectations* programs at Mountain Empire, Patrick Henry, Southwest Virginia and Wytheville Community Colleges; and
- \$350,000 from the Kresge Foundation to establish a *Great Expectations* program at Tidewater, expand the Anne Holton Legacy Fund and develop an Internet-based "best practices" forum in order to share information with other states and nonprofit agencies working with foster youth.

VFCCE DONATES LEGO BLOCKS

The Virginia Foundation for Community College Education, usually the recipient of donations, turned the tables by donating 25 large buckets of LEGO blocks to the Neighborhood Resource Center in the Fulton Hill neighborhood of Richmond. The blocks were donated in honor of long-time supporter, Victor Branch, of Bank of America.

The LEGO blocks had been used as a tool during a retreat where leaders of the 23 community colleges spent some time rethinking the way that Virginia's Community Colleges do business.



Three New Leaders Join The VFCCE Board

Ronald H. Holmes, Barbara A. Johnsen and Donna M. VanCleave

Ronald H. Holmes is a vice-president of wealth management and senior financial advisor with Merrill Lynch/ Bank of America. A native of Fredericksburg, he received a bachelor's degree from The College of William & Mary and an M.B.A. in finance from George Mason University. Mr. Holmes began his career in financial services in 1990 with Wheat First Securities. He is senior partner of Holmes, Riley & Associates of Merrill Lynch. Previously, Mr. Holmes has served as campaign and board chair of the Rappahannock United Way, president of Fredericksburg Big Brothers & Big Sisters and treasurer of Fredericksburg Hospice. Currently he serves on the boards of the Spotsylvania Educational Foundation, the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce (Enterprise Board), and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation. He is a past recipient of the Jaycees Distinguished Service Award.

Barbara A. Johnsen serves on the State Board for Virginia's Community Colleges, where she is liaison to Rappahannock Community College in Glens and Warsaw. Additionally, she is president of the Eastern Shore Community College Foundation Board. Dr. Johnsen retired from the Flagship Group, Ltd. of Norfolk, where she served as the acting officer manager. Before that, she served as director of public relations and director of development for Tidewater Community College in the early 1990s. She has served as a career counselor, guidance counselor, and teacher in several school systems. Dr. Johnsen received her doctorate in college administration from The College of William & Mary, her master's in guidance and counseling from Villanova University, and her bachelor's in English from the College of New Rochelle.

Donna M. VanCleave is the vice chancellor for administrative services with the Virginia Community College System. She has served in this capacity since October 2008, where she oversees the areas of operating and capital budget development, facilities management, human resources, and accounting and fiscal services. She began her career in state government as an education budget analyst at the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget. She then served as university budget director at Virginia State University. She joined the Virginia Lottery, where she was the director of finance and served as interim executive director for a year. In August 2006, Ms. VanCleave joined Radford University as vice president for finance and chief financial officer. She obtained a BA in communications studies from Virginia Tech and a master's in business administration from The College of William & Mary.



Great Expectations student with keynote speaker C.T. Wilson.

Making a Difference, Building Better Lives

The Virginia Foundation for Community College Education hosted the 3rd Annual *Great Expectations* Forum in November in Richmond. More than 125 students representing *Great Expectations* programs at 14 Virginia Community Colleges gathered to participate in educational opportunities on topics including stress management, money, legal issues and the appropriate use of social media.

For many of these students, the opportunity to participate in the forum was the first time they had traveled and interacted with their peers from across the commonwealth.

The students joined invited guests at a luncheon that featured attorney and Maryland Delegate C. T. Wilson as the keynote speaker. Mr. Wilson shared his experiences as a youth in foster care and delivered a powerful, passionate speech encouraging the students not to give up on themselves. "It makes sense for community colleges to provide leadership in this role," C.T. Wilson said. "I wish Maryland had a similar initiative in place for our youth."

The *Great Expectations* program has touched the lives of more than 300 youth - all made possible by our corporate sponsors, grants and donors like you. Your contributions make a difference.

Look for more information about how your contributions are changing lives at greatexpectations.vccs.edu.



The Virginia Foundation

FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION

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Make a difference through giving

“I would not have been able to pay for my first, let alone second, semester for college without all the help you and VFCCE have given me. You cannot imagine the weight that has been lifted from me. Thank you.”

Karyn Pickett
2009 Commonwealth Legacy Scholar

By making a donation, you will help us with our mission of providing access to education for ALL Virginians. Contributions from individual supporters are a vital part of our success. To help open doors for future generations, please visit our website at www.vccs.edu/foundation or contact Anne McCaffrey, Director of Development and Scholarships, at (804) 819-5396 or by email at amccaffrey@vccs.edu.

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