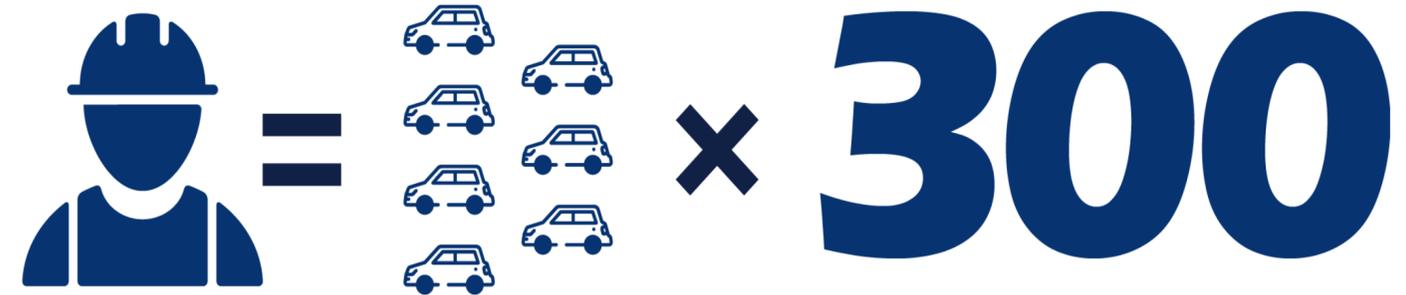


# VCCS is training students for sustainable careers

## DID YOU KNOW...

**THAT A GOOD COMMERCIAL HVAC TECHNICIAN CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN +/- 10000 METRIC TONS OF CO2 A YEAR, OR THE EQUIVALENT OF 2100 CARS ON THE ROAD?**



Commercial equipment in large building can last up to 40 years and if not properly maintained, can result in significant electricity waste. In fact, space cooling alone accounts for 15% of the electricity used in commercial buildings on average.<sup>1</sup> According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), much of the energy and cost that goes into powering HVAC is lost to waste – upwards of 30% in the average commercial building.

*“If technicians do their job well, they have more ability to affect environmental damage and climate change than any other labor group. There are so many new technologies and new systems, but almost nobody is paying attention to maximizing the efficiency of how it runs.”*

As buildings are *electrified* and efficient HVAC grows as a subset of the overall HVAC market, workers with an interest in the space have an opportunity to use their problem-solving skills to install new efficient systems and reduce energy consumption overall.

# VCCS is training students for sustainable careers in a sustainable and equitable way

VCCS is training students for critical HVAC and other STEM careers using sustainable and equitable curriculum with NC3, the National Coalition of Certification Centers. NC3 has several defining principles that serve the Virginia community including:

Certifications are free for the students and curriculum is available online, additionally, a trained instructor can certify an unlimited number of students.

- No printed textbook or workbook = less paper wasted
- No shipping = fuel savings
- No cost = equitable access to this curriculum, no financial barrier

Students work on a standardized set of high-tech equipment; everyone has access to the same materials.

- Levels the playing field as each student has access to the equipment
- More efficient instruction
- Industry partner updates the curriculum with up-to-date industry changes
- Curriculum updates are delivered online to the instructor, no delay, no charge
- NC3 instructors have access to benchmark programs, curriculum, and processes with other Member Schools – they don't have to reinvent the wheel, rather they partner with their colleagues around the country.

## Wytheville Community College: NC3 October 2021 School on the Rise!

What makes Wytheville Community College stand out amongst other institutions in their region? Michael Morrison says, "We do everything we can to make sure that students are successful. I think that's what makes a difference and is why we stand out. Every staff member at Wytheville is focused on making sure our students have what they need to succeed."

Perry adds...



*We've worked really hard to ensure we have quality equipment in every program that we run, especially on the occupational side. We're heavily invested in ensuring we have top notch equipment in our labs, and we consistently spend a lot of money trying to increase the quality of our equipment so that when a student does come into one of our programs, they're working with the latest and greatest. We also have a great team here with quality employees... from top to bottom! We have a caring campus overall, and it's beautiful on top of that. We sit right at the foot of the mountains; looking in any direction, there are large, breathtaking mountains visible from our campus.*

# Expanding Patrick and Henry’s workforce development partnership with Festo and NC3

“P&HCC's partnerships with Festo Didactic and NC3 have played an important role in the economic renaissance occurring within our service region. This work has been central in our community's ability to land recent major economic development projects,” said Greg Hodges, President of Patrick & Henry Community College.

Hodges added, “This expanded partnership between Patrick & Henry Community College and Festo demonstrates the continued commitment our institution has to meeting our region's workforce needs. Career and technical education programs have never been in higher demand, and **thanks to Festo and NC3, P&HCC has become a national leader in industry certifications helping to fill these essential pipelines.** We’re excited to take this work to an even greater level.”



CURRENT NUMBER OF CERTIFICATION TYPES OFFERED	
Danville Community College	2 Certifications
Lord Fairfax Community College	6 Certifications
New River Community College	35 Certifications
Patrick & Henry Community College	26 Certifications
Southwest Virginia Community College	22 Certifications
Virginia Peninsula Community College	13 Certifications
Tidewater Community College	8 Certifications
Virginia Highlands Community College	1 Certification
Virginia Western Community College	29 Certifications
Wytheville Community College	69 Certifications