

STRATEGIC PLAN LEADERSHIP UPDATE:

On January 17, 2025, VCCS Chancellor David Doré announced leadership changes for implementation of the VCCS Strategic Plan ***Accelerate Opportunity***:

I am writing to provide an update on the *Accelerate Opportunity* steering committee.

In fall 2024, the Virginia Community College System formally launched our six-year state-wide strategic plan, [*Accelerate Opportunity*](#).

Accelerate Opportunity was a collaborative system-wide effort led by a steering committee chaired by Dr. Marcia Conston, President of Tidewater Community College. After four years of leadership to the VCCS strategic planning steering committee, Dr. Conston will now transition leadership to Dr. Jean Runyon, President of Virginia Piedmont Community College, and Dr. Felicia Ganther, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Workforce Programs, who began in her role at System Office on January 1.

Dr. Conston has been integral to VCCS strategic planning since 2021 when she co-chaired the steering committee for *Opportunity 2027*. Dr. Conston's expertise and extensive strategic planning experience helped guide us towards a metrics-driven plan and our ambitious goal to "award 300,000 cumulative meaningful credentials by 2030 across all regions through accelerated access and success for every student."

Please join me in thanking Dr. Conston for the years of commitment, service, and focus on student success in the development of *Accelerate Opportunity*. I would also like to recognize our additional steering committee members for their dedication and effort in driving our strategic plan in collaboration with our 23 colleges: Dr. Kristen Westover, President, Mountain Empire Community College; Dr. John Rainone, President, Mountain Gateway Community College; Dr. Quentin Johnson, President, Southside Virginia Community College; Dr. Shannon Kennedy, President, Rappahannock Community College; Dr. Greg

Hodges, President, Patrick & Henry Community College; Dr. John Downey, President, Blue Ridge Community College; Dr. Dean Sprinkle, President, Wytheville Community College; and Dr. Cat Finnegan, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research & Reporting, Liaison to the Steering Committee.

Please also join me in welcoming Dr. Runyon and Dr. Ganther to their respective roles as co-chairs. I look forward to our work together in the year ahead to accelerate opportunity for all Virginians.

Sincerely,

David Doré, Ed.D.

Chancellor