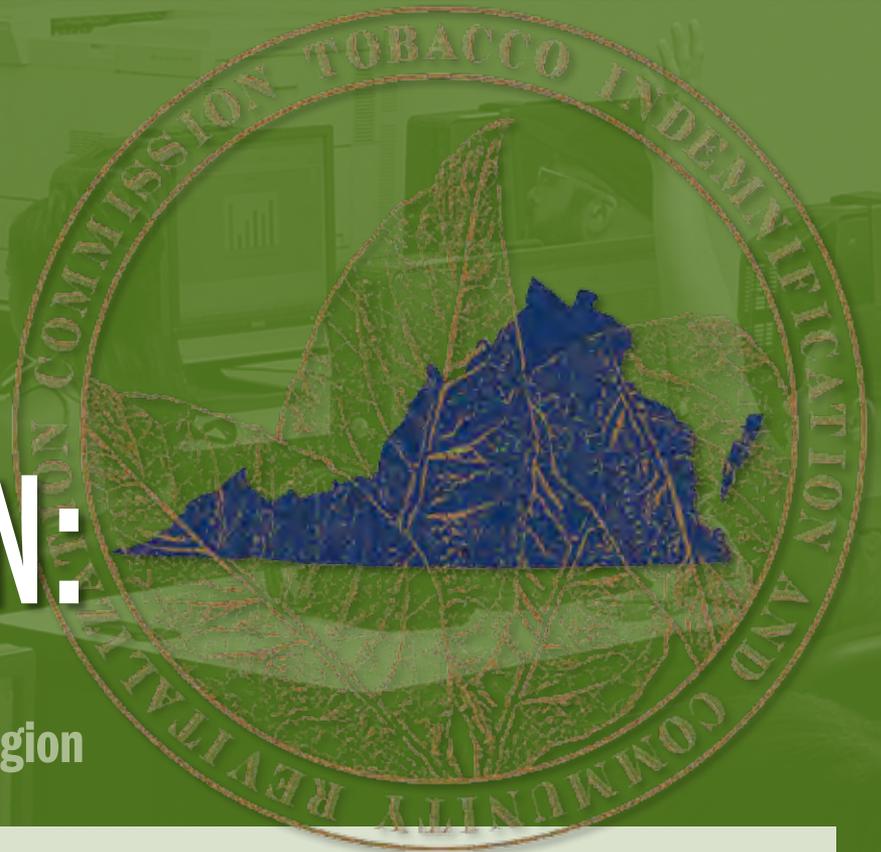


VIRGINIA TOBACCO COMMISSION:

Funding Revitalization and Innovation in the Tobacco Region



TOBACCO FUNDS BOOST EDUCATION ACROSS A REGION

As the recently released JLARC study of the Tobacco Commission states, “Economic challenges have plagued tobacco region localities for at least four decades, and recent declines in key industries have exacerbated those challenges. Importantly, low educational attainment contributes to economic difficulties in the tobacco region and has been identified as a key obstacle to revitalization.” At the outset of the Commission’s existence, there was an immediate recognition that the region historically has shown low rates of educational attainment, a cultural phenomenon directly related to long-standing regional industries that required only low-skill, low-wage workers.

The Commission immediately partnered with the region’s community colleges

in 2000 to expand access to programs, facilities and financial aid. The creation of the Commission’s Education grant program in 2003 has provided a venue to target funds to a wider array of projects that build a more robust regional educational pipeline from GED to community college to bachelor and graduate degrees.

Today the Commission’s investments in education continue to assist educational institutions and tobacco region residents to build personal pathways to higher education that enable residents to gain higher-wage, higher-skilled employment with businesses that are also being recruited to the region. The focus continues to be on providing facilities and programs that previously did not exist in the region, providing financial aid

to encourage residents to obtain degrees and certifications, meeting the workforce training needs of the region’s employers, and creating a new cultural mindset in the region that understands the value and importance of higher education not only to the individual but to the long term restructuring and success of the regional economy. “Partnering with educational institutions in our region was one of the first strategies we adopted as a Commission, and to this day it is one of the best and more important things we are doing for our residents with these funds. The programs and facilities that have grown out of these partnerships will benefit these students for decades to come” says the Commission’s Chairman, Delegate Terry G. Kilgore.





CENTRAL VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ALTAVISTA CENTER

434-309-1225

www.cvcc.vccs.edu

The CVCC Altavista Center opened in January 2001 at the Altavista Office Park (formerly the Lane Corporate Office Building) at 701 5th Street in Altavista. The Virginia Tobacco Commission dedicated \$889,000 for building renovation and computer lab updates. The Center offers a broad spectrum of day and evening programs in credit and non-credit modes and specialized training in workforce development for business and

industry. Delivery systems include traditional classroom instruction as well as Web-based/Internet courses, compressed video, computer assisted programs, Lab-in-box learning, and print-based courses.

Assessment services available are COMPASS placement testing, Work Keys assessments, and career and interest inventories. The complete COMPASS test can usually be done on a "walk-in" basis during the hours of operation (allow at least two and a half hours). Students should call the Center for appropriate testing fees.

Open computer lab time is set aside for enrolled students. Tutoring services in most subjects are available as needed.



APPOMATTOX CENTER

434-832-7200

www.cvcc.vccs.edu

The CVCC Appomattox Center offers day and evening programs in credit and non-credit modes and specialized training in workforce development for business and industry. The Virginia Tobacco Commission dedicated \$736,000 for building renovations and state-of-the-art science lab equipment. Delivery systems include traditional classroom instruction as well as Web-based/Internet courses, and compressed video (interactive television). The Appomattox

Center, located in the Carver-Price Educational Complex on Business 460, opened in 2007.

An academic advisor is on-site and available on an appointment basis to assist with general academic advising as well as program planning and scheduling of classes.

The complete COMPASS test is available at the Appomattox Center on an appointment basis during the hours of operation (allow at least two and a half hours). Students should call the Center to schedule an appointment and for appropriate testing fees.

The computer lab is available to the public at times when no classes are scheduled in the lab. Priority is given to CVCC students during these open times.



BEDFORD CENTER

540-586-7901

www.cvcc.vccs.edu

In January 2005, Central Virginia Community College began offering classes to the residents of the city and county of Bedford at a new, state-of-the-art facility in the Bedford Center for Business. The Virginia Tobacco Commission dedicated \$75,000 for science lab equipment. In 2010, we offered 128 classes to over 650 students. Delivery systems include traditional classroom instruction as well as Web-based/Internet courses, compressed video, hybrid courses, and specialized training in workforce development for business and industry.

An academically accelerated Early Col-

lege program is also offered. Qualified high school juniors complete their last two years of high school at the Bedford Center and earn an Associate Degree in General Studies at the same time as their high school diplomas. This program is also offered to qualified home-schooled students.

In addition to classes, the Bedford Center is a full service facility offering admissions and enrollment, assistance with financial aid, degree and transfer advising, and payment processing. Assessment services available are COMPASS placement testing, Work Keys assessments, and career and interest inventories.

The center also has a community meeting room which seats up to 85 people and is available for technology based

seminars and conferences at no charge to government and non-profit groups. The room may be scheduled for use by other groups with a fee.

We offer strong customer service in Bedford and with support services from the main campus in Lynchburg are ready to serve the community and to assist students in achieving their educational goals.

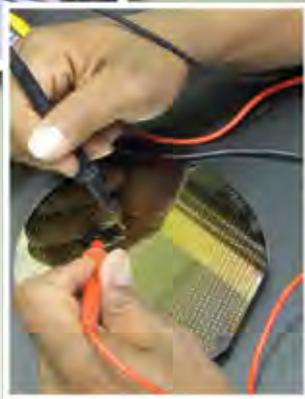


DANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Thanks for your support!



The Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Revitalization Commission has been instrumental in providing vital assistance, such as the following programs/initiatives:



- **Student Scholarships**
 - Tobacco Families
 - Advanced Manufacturing Classes
- **Tutoring Center**
- **Two (2) Nursing Faculty Positions (2009-2012)**
- **One (1) Engineering Faculty Position**
- **Equipment for Programs**
 - Advanced Manufacturing
 - Alternative Energy
 - Nanotechnology
 - Network Security
 - Nursing (including simulators)
 - Precision Machining Technology
 - Polymers
 - Robotics
- **Renovations**
 - Womack Hall
 - Barkhouser Free Enterprise Center
- **Special Initiatives/Partnerships**
 - University of Virginia (Engineers PRODUCED in VA)
 - New College Institute (Finish Line)
 - Southern Virginia Higher Education Center
 - Institute For Advanced Learning and Research (Wood Products)

DCC

Danville Community College

434.797.2222
434.797.8542 (TTY)
www.dcc.vccs.edu

info@dcc.vccs.edu
1008 S. Main St.
Danville, VA 24541



Danville Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, national origin, sex, or disability in its programs or activities. Member, Virginia's Community Colleges

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Mountain Empire Community College is the western gateway to education and training in Virginia. Located in Big Stone Gap, the college's mission is to provide quality higher education and workforce training programs and services that are financially and geographically accessible and meet individual, business, and community needs.

Tobacco Family Scholarships

As a recipient of Virginia Tobacco Commission (TIC) funds since the year 2000, the College has directed over 75 percent of the funding towards scholarships for members of tobacco families, which through May of 2011 numbered 3,007.

AIMS Higher Scholarships

In 2002, the College established the AIMS Higher Scholarship program with TIC funds to encourage students in grades 8-12 in Lee, Scott, Wise and Dickenson Counties and the City of Norton to complete a challenging curriculum and to pursue higher education. From 2003 – 2010, these scholarship recipients have numbered 714. The 2011 fall semester AIMS Higher Scholars is the largest cohort to date, numbering over 150.

Gate City High School



Mountain Empire Community College annually hosts a recognition luncheon and provides a medallion to all high school students who have met the curricular, attendance and service criteria of the AIMS program. These scholars who choose to enroll at the College are awarded an AIMS Higher Scholarship, receiving free tuition and fees.

Workforce Training

Mountain Empire Community College has targeted Virginia Tobacco Commission funds to meet local workplace demands and support the economic development in the Southwest Virginia region.

- **Health Care** – In 2004 and 2005, funding to the Virginia Tri-college Nursing Program supported the purchase of simulation equipment and the creation of weekend and part-time RN nursing programs to provide greater access.
- **Mining** – In 2006 and 2007, TIC funding provided training of new and current miners; portable, on-site training equipment for mining operators; and simulation equipment and training at the new Virginia City Hybrid Energy installation in Wise County in partnership with Dominion Virginia Power.
- **Computer Training** – From 2006 through 2008, Mountain Empire Community College used TIC funds to create a Fast Track Software Development program to meet the specifications for IT jobs at CGI-AMS and Northrop Grumman in Lebanon. Forty-six trainees graduated from this program.



Roof Bolt Simulator



Mountain Empire Community College
276-523-2400
www.mecc.edu

MECC Foundation
276-523-7466
www.mecc.edu/foundation/index.php

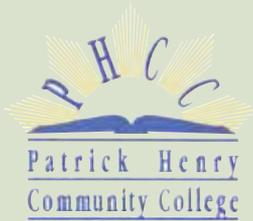
Your Place to Begin

PATRICK HENRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Over the last five years through TICRC's support, PHCC has been able to offer educational opportunities in its rural community which otherwise would not have been available. These opportunities include:

- 433 scholarships allowing students to focus on completing a degree or certificate with many students transferring to colleges such as Virginia Tech, UVA, and others.
- The creation and expansion of programs in motorsports, horticulture/viticulture/agribusiness, nursing, adult basic education, entrepreneurship, and early college experiences.
- Access to updated instructional technology.
- The ability for more high school students to take college level courses as part of their high school curriculum.

Our community has consistently sustained the Commonwealth's highest unemployment rates for more than a decade. With the support of TICRC we are making progress in economic revitalization through higher education.



Land once used to grow tobacco is particularly well-suited for growing grapes. PHCC students in the Viticulture program learn each step of the process, from growing the grapes to turning them into wine.



PHCC's Horticulture program prepares students for employment in the landscape, nursery and grounds maintenance industries.



Students in the motorsports program at PHCC get hands-on experience in preparation for jobs in the motorsports industry.



Thanks to the support of TICRC, PHCC has a vineyard to produce the grapes needed for wine making classes.



Graduates of PHCC's nursing programs enter the health care workforce well-prepared.



Tutors are available to help students master material and prepare for success.

SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

GOLDEN LEAF TURNS TO GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

Southside Virginia Community College serves ten counties in Virginia formerly sustained by the tobacco industry. The college now provides endless opportunities for citizens to grow and improve their skills for the economy and workplace of the 21st Century. Funds from the Virginia Tobacco Commission have enhanced and created modern facilities, innovative programs and provided student scholarships to families with a rich heritage in tobacco.

SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY TOBACCO COMMISSION FUNDS

Programs of Study

- Agribusiness
- Diesel Technician
- Truck Driver Training
- Onsite Wastewater Training
- Underground Utility Locator Training
- Fire Science Technology
- Emergency Medical Services
- Nursing
- Engineering

Facilities

- Workforce Development Centers
- Occupational Technical Center
- Public Safety Center

Development and Enrichment Programs

- Middle College
- Career Coaches

The Virginia Tobacco Commission has played an elemental part in revitalizing the economy and quality of educational opportunity in the southern tier of Virginia. These opportunities have helped to evolve everyday people, many under employed, with careers as nurses, firefighters, EMTs, teachers, electricians, computer technicians, business and industry leaders and the innovators of the next decade.



www.southside.edu
1.888.220.SVCC

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

REAL EDUCATION...REAL PEOPLE...REAL WORLD

ABOUT SWCC

The college's vision is to "transform lives, strengthen communities, and inspire excellence." Southwest believes that students are the primary reason we exist and our purpose is to help them achieve their goals and aspirations.

Making students our number one priority is not an empty phrase at SWCC.

HISTORY

Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC) is a two-year institution of higher education established as a part of a state-wide system of community colleges serving primarily the residents of the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson (partial), Russell and Tazewell. The College operates under policies established by the State Board for Community Colleges and the Local College Board. The institution is financed primarily by State funds supplemented by contributions from the participating localities.

Over 3,700 SWCC students owe their success to the Virginia Tobacco Commission.

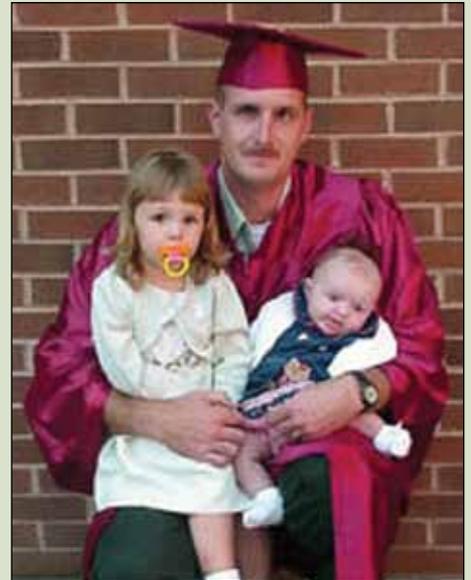
The Virginia Tobacco Commission has been instrumental in providing educational grant opportunities for thousands of SWCC students. Funding through the Tobacco Commission has provided:

Scholarships - The Virginia Tobacco Commission has afforded SWCC student recipients immense career opportunities. Many of these students are now graduates and employed in a number of industries across the region, the Commonwealth, and the country.

Information Technology (IT) - SWCC students are prepared for high-level information technology IT careers through the college's Fast Track Program. This innovative program was developed to assist two new international IT industry partners in building an employee base versed in state-of-the-art computer programs.

Clinical Simulation Labs - Health technology students can now receive hands-on training using high tech mannequins that simulate actual patients. This advanced technological training allows Southwest students to experience simulated clinical scenarios, helping them to learn, practice, and fine tune proper nursing techniques.

Green Technology Training - Through the SWCC Construction Academy, Southwest has trained a number of students in "green" building processes to create a structure that is resource-efficient and environmentally responsible. The college has been a leader in training individuals to take their place in the sustainable construction industry of the southwest region of Virginia and beyond.



VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Virginia Tobacco Commission has provided about **\$6.4 million** to Virginia Highlands Community College in the past decade to support student scholarship, the Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program, and the Horticulture Program.

SCHOLARSHIP

VHCC in 2001 began receiving funds through the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Program to provide tuition assistance for eligible tobacco growers, quota holders, and their immediate family members. Nearly 3,000 VHCC students have received a share of these funds over the past decade and 430 of these students are now VHCC graduates.

In addition, Tobacco funds now fund the AIMS Higher Scholarship Program, which provides tuition assistance for VHCC students who meet high academic standards and are actively involved in community service projects. To date, 472 students have attended VHCC through the AIMS Higher Scholarship Program.

PART-TIME EVENING/WEEKEND NURSING PROGRAM

The highly successful Part-time Evening/Weekend Nursing Program offered by the Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program (VATNP) was started after a community survey revealed that family and work responsibilities were preventing many potential nursing students from entering the traditional six-semester program.

VATNP responded by piloting a part-time program on the Southwest Virginia Community College Campus in 2004 and, the following year, a \$170,000 grant from the Virginia Tobacco Commission allowed VATNP to expand the program to the campuses of Virginia Highlands Community College and Mountain Empire Community College. In 2007, the Tobacco Commission provided another \$260,000 to expand the program again – this time so those working in other healthcare professions could attain the additional training needed to become Registered Nurses.

The Part-Time Evening Weekend Nursing Program, which began with just 14 students, now enrolls more than 150 students on all three campuses.



NURSING SIMULATION LAB

As another boost to the Nursing Program, the Virginia Tobacco Commission recently provided \$100,000 to renovate space within the Nursing Education Building at VHCC for a state-of-the-art Nursing Simulation Laboratory. The lab, which is the first of its kind in the region, is equipped with high fidelity mannequins that can be programmed to exhibit common symptoms of many different medical conditions.

VATNP students currently complete clinical training in hospitals throughout the region, and this will continue to be an important component of the program. However, the simulation lab will enhance this training by allowing students to simultaneously care for multiple computerized patients who require different levels of care. Each session in the lab is videotaped and reviewed by the student and nursing instructor to ensure students are learning from the lab experience.

When not being used by VATNP students, the lab is available to provide continuing education programs for the region's healthcare workers and for use by other nursing education programs.

HORTICULTURE PROGRAM/ GREENHOUSE

As tobacco farming opportunities began to diminish throughout Southwest Virginia, the Virginia Tobacco Commission partnered with Virginia Highlands Community College to seek input from the

farming community. A survey funded by the Tobacco Commission soon revealed a need for trained and qualified employees in the "green industries" including floral shops, landscaping businesses, and golf courses.

VHCC's horticulture program was soon created, offering opportunities for students to earn a two-year Associate of Applied Science Degree in Horticulture Technology or an Associate of Arts & Sciences Degree in Science with a specialization in Horticulture.

As the program began to grow, the Tobacco Commission once again offered support by providing \$550,000 for a 4,000-square-foot campus greenhouse that includes an advanced environmental control system, classroom space, a growing room, and a learning laboratory. A separate allocation of \$37,420 was awarded by the Tobacco Commission in 2007 to fund a shade system to provide temperature control within the facility.

Since 2005, VHCC has awarded over 50 credentials to students studying horticulture. Many are now working in the green industry growing food, propagating plants, working in retail, or starting their own businesses. Others have gone on to pursue advanced studies at places like Virginia Tech, the University of Tennessee, or even to more distant locations like Prescott College and the University of Hawaii.



WYTHEVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Wytheville Community College sincerely appreciates the support of the Virginia Tobacco Commission for the following projects:

WCC FORGING FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- \$700,000 since 2009
- 574 scholarship awards
- 182 graduates
- The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) recently named Wytheville Community College the 12th most affordable two-year college in the United States

WCC'S TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAM

- \$280,000
- Purchase of tractor trailers and funding for initial program costs
- 114 graduates
- 87 graduates have found related employment

WCC'S HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) PROGRAM

- \$71,882
- Purchase of initial program equipment
- Graduates
 - 19 students completed the HVAC diploma program
 - 26 students completed the HVAC career studies certificate program
- Students enrolled Fall Semester 2011
 - 24 students enrolled in the HVAC diploma program
 - 12 students enrolled in the HVAC career studies certificate program



WCC student Travis Blevins received a scholarship through the WCC Forging Futures Scholarship Program. Blevins' family grew tobacco in Grayson County. "The scholarship is helping me pursue my goal of being a machinist. I am grateful to the Virginia Tobacco Commission for the scholarship that I received," said Blevins.



Several students recently completed WCC's Truck Driver Training Program. Pictured left to right: Row 1- Jamin Martin, Chris Slate, and Joey Hall; Row 2- Julia Jessup, Mark Farmer (Assistant Instructor), Matthew Nester, Bill Reeves (Instructor) and Mark Nuckolls (Assistant Instructor).





Southern Virginia Higher Education Center

Established 25 years ago, SVHEC is a unique and non-traditional grassroots community collaborative. From humble beginnings in a mobile unit on the grounds of the local high school, the SVHEC has grown to:

- Occupy **two** facilities on the downtown South Boston campus
- Partner with **nine** educational partners, including one international institution
- Provide access to more than **70** degree programs
- Establish signature academic programming in **Digital Art & Design and Product Design & Development**
- Serve more than **4,000** students from 16 Virginia counties and four cities annually.
- Impact the region's educational attainment as evidenced by the **1,511** certificates and degrees conferred (since 2005) to students attending the SVHEC.

The Virginia Tobacco Indemnification & Community Revitalization Commission (TICR) has been and continues to be a vital catalyst in sustaining and growing the SVHEC's innovative workforce and education efforts.



Summary of TICR Funds

2001	2003	2005	2007	2008	2008-2009	
SVHEC Technology & Furnishings	Renovation for the Advanced Technology Lab	Amatrol Training Equipment for ATL	Renovation and start-up for the Center of Nursing Excellence	Digital Audio Visual Instructional Support (DAVIS)	R&D Center for Advanced Manufacturing & Energy Efficiency (R&D CAMEE)	
Technology & furnishings for the initial 35,000 sq. ft. of the SVHEC's first building (620 Bruce St.)	Renovated 7,000 sq. ft. for industrial training. Technical training equipment and lab space used for dual enrollment & community college students as well as incumbent worker training in electricity, electronics, and PLCs.	This grant allowed the SVHEC to put electronic module trainers in the ATL. The equipment is used for workforce training and tradesmen instruction.	4,200 sq. ft. were renovated in the 1st building for an advanced simulation lab for nursing education and training. To date, the CNE has had more than 755 users.	Funds allowed the installation of an AV recording system for advanced simulation. Students are able to receive instant feedback of their simulation performance, greatly enhancing the learning experience.	Funds to renovate a 2nd tobacco warehouse at 605 Seymour Dr. This facility, the SVHEC-Innovation Center, houses R&D CAMEE, the Business of Art & Design programs, and SVHEC Workforce Services.	Operational funding for R&D CAMEE, which works with local & regional industry to leverage energy-efficient equipment and processes to compete in a global economy. R&D also works with universities to enhance commercialization of research for economic development. An example of this is R&D's work with the UVA Breathe House project.

www.svhed.org

820 Bruce Street, South Boston, VA 24692 Phone: 434-572-5440 | Toll-Free: 800.283.0098



Trust us with your future!

- Choose from over 90 degree programs through 10 partner colleges and universities
- Attend night and weekend classes to accommodate your busy schedule
- Learn through enhanced instruction utilizing the latest technology
- Gain professional certifications and licensures for added credentials
- Graduate with bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree from an accredited school
- Take classes year-round
- Advance your career by studying Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
- Achieve affordability with tuition assistance provided by The VA Tobacco Commission
- Reserve a computer lab, classroom, Tiered Executive Auditorium or the Grand Hall. Approximately 100,000 square feet available for meetings, conferences and trade shows.

Enroll today and improve your life by degrees!

UVA, Virginia Tech, Old Dominion, UVA-Wise, Radford, VCU, Emory & Henry, Virginia Intermont, Averett, King College
Featured in photo below VCU Nurse Anesthesia (CRNA) program

Preparing Students for Top Jobs of the 21st Century



Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
PO Box 1987, One Partnership Circle
Abingdon, VA 24210

(276) 619-4300
www.swcenter.edu
info@swcenter.edu

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED LEARNING AND RESEARCH

The campus of the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville opened in 2004, thanks to a \$20M grant from the Virginia Tobacco Commission. Since then, the Institute has worked to develop and attract the talent and technology for economic and community transformation in Southern Virginia. The Institute has three areas of emphasis: education, research and conferencing.

DAN RIVER PLANT PROPAGATION CENTER

The center is the first commercial spinoff from research in biofeedstocks and high-value ornamental plants. Scientists work with the biofeedstock miscanthus, a type of grass that can be converted into fuel, chemicals and plastics. The center also propagates azaleas, day lilies, lilies, hellebores and poppies, and markets them to nurseries and growers. The VT Spirit is a day lily that was created by DRPPC to match the colors of Virginia Tech.



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER - SENTEC

SENTEC will open on the Institute's campus later this year. SENTEC will provide lab space and demonstration facilities for research partners involved in converting biofeedstocks into high value chemicals and materials. The building itself is a showpiece of sustainable technology – with a cistern to collect rainwater for irrigation, solar arrays, a vegetated roof, regional recycled and renewable construction materials, and chilled beam technology.



STEM MOBILE LEARNING LAB

More than 5,000 southern Virginia students recognize the STEM Mobile Learning Lab when it's out on the road. That's how many have experienced its hands-on experiments in solar and wind power, nanotechnology, energy-saving CFL light bulbs and robotics. The truck that leads the lab can run on biodiesel. In its first eighteen months of operation, the STEM Lab has visited more than 100 sites.



VIRGINIA INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMANCE ENGINEERING AND RESEARCH (VIPER)

With its facility at the Virginia International Raceway in Halifax County, VIPER is perfectly located to work with its motorsports, automotive and defense clientele. VIPER has a hard to find 8-post shaker rig for wheel and vehicle dynamics for its clients, as well as two driving simulators that can put you behind the wheel in a variety of vehicles and driving environments. Groups and conferences can reserve

time on the simulators for educational and team-building events.



THE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE CENTER

The Conference Center incorporates service, technology and bold architecture that remain with its clients long after their visit. With an 8,400 square foot Great Hall and 25,000 square feet overall, the Conference Center has the flexibility to accommodate executive and professional training, workshops, trade shows, banquets and weddings. The IT includes a full range of video and teleconferencing services and interactive white boards to promote a professional and collaborative environment.

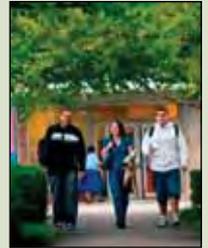


NEW COLLEGE INSTITUTE

NEW COLLEGE INSTITUTE: REALIZE YOUR POTENTIAL



Further reinforcing NCI's collaboration through grant funding from the Virginia Tobacco Commission, NCI has launched, in partnership with three community colleges, a project called "Finish Line." Research shows that there are thousands of individuals throughout the Commonwealth that have some college credits, but did not complete a degree. Finish Line project staff members will target individuals within 15 credit hours of completing an associate's degree, educate them about their options, and assist them in enrolling at their local community college.



Established as a state higher education center on July 1, 2006, New College Institute is changing the way people think about higher education in Southern Virginia.

Located in Martinsville, Virginia, NCI offers bachelor's degree completion (3rd and 4th year) programs and master's degrees through Virginia colleges and universities. NCI, by design, partners significantly with the Virginia Community College System as well as colleges and universities throughout the Commonwealth. To date, 244 students have completed bachelor's or master's degrees through NCI.

NCI has state-of-the-art instructional technology and delivers programs to several sites around the state. Faculty members (NCI has several faculty-in-residence) teach students in a variety of ways: in the classroom, interactive videoconference, and online to enhance the student experience. NCI can connect up to 20 sites at one time for either a single videoconference or multiple simultaneous video calls.

Located in a rural region, NCI leadership recognizes the critical importance of developing a culture that encourages and supports educational attainment, therefore an important part of New Col-

lege Institute's mission has always been community educational outreach. Without a significant investment in college awareness and access activities, some individuals and families may not fully understand their options or the opportunities that a college degree can afford them. New College Institute outreach staff members are embedded in the community, developing vibrant partnerships with schools, businesses, and community organizations.



www.newcollegeinstitute.org



BRINGING HIGHER EDUCATION CLOSER TO HOME

Tobacco Commission investments – in conjunction with other local, state, federal and private funding partners - have enabled localities and educational institutions to construct new long-lived facilities where “pathways” of educational offerings are available to residents who previously would have been forced to travel significant distances to obtain an academic credential and be trained for work with local employers. Find out more by reading about four of the centers below.

TAKING EDUCATION TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHSIDE

Southside Virginia Community College serves the largest service region of any of the Commonwealth's community colleges that covers ten counties and one city (4,200 square miles). With two strategically located campuses, the college also offers classes and workforce training at many other locations in order to serve everyone who can benefit.

The **Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center** was developed through the coordinated vision and efforts of SVCC, the Southside Planning District Commission and the South Hill Community Development Association to renovate a former furniture store in South Hill into a multi-faceted education and workforce training center, using funds from the Tobacco Commission and federal agency partners. At the Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center offerings include Administrative Support Technology, Machine Technology, Basic Spoken Spanish, Welding, OSHA Safety Classes, Information Technology Essentials such as Computers for Beginners, Intro to Computer Applications, Intro to Quickbooks, Excel and Powerpoint and Drafting courses. There are also courses in Shop Practices, Childhood Development. The college also offers High Performance Manufacturing Technology at this site as well as Teacher Recertification Courses. Emergency Medical Services classes are offered at the local hospital.



UTILIZING TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE THE TEACHING-LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Since opening its doors in August 2008, **SVCC Southside Virginia Education Center** has seen growth in the number of students enrolled and courses offered. The facility consists of a resource center, multiple classrooms, including computer labs, virtual distance learning room, biology/health sciences lab, bookstore, student lounge, courtyard, conference room, administrative office space and industrial lab. The resource center provides SVCC students with a computer lab in which they can conduct research, complete class assignments and projects, or have a place to study. Classrooms are equipped with SmartBoards, projectors, VCR/DVD combos, and instructor computers and printers. This enables instructors to utilize technology to enhance the teaching-learning experience. The virtual distance learning room, allows SVCC to reach a wider service area when teaching courses. These courses are taught via compressed video technology. The instructor may teach the course at one location and it can be broadcast to other locations of SVCC. Currently, an economics course and fire sciences courses are being delivered to the Greenville County location through compressed video. The facility is equipped with three computer labs. The 1,000 square foot fully-equipped biology/health sciences lab enables SVCC to offer courses in biology and nursing.

The SVEC was built using Tobacco Commission and other state and federal grant funds, while annual operations are funded through a partnership of local governments including Greenville, Emporia, Brunswick and Sussex. Longwood University established a presence at SVEC in 2010, initially offering an elementary education program that leads to teacher licensure. Additional Longwood programs such as criminal justice, social work and nursing are anticipated in the near future, using a “2+2” model in partnership with SVCC.

The SVEC was built using Tobacco Commission and other state and federal grant funds, while annual operations are funded through a partnership of local governments including Greenville, Emporia, Brunswick and Sussex. Longwood University established a presence at SVEC in 2010, initially offering an elementary education program that leads to teacher licensure. Additional Longwood programs such as criminal justice, social work and nursing are anticipated in the near future, using a “2+2” model in partnership with SVCC.



OFFERING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR LOCAL CITIZENS

The **Crossroads Rural Entrepreneurial Institute** in Galax opened in a former home improvement store in 2005 to help improve the lives of people in southwest Virginia and beyond, by providing an innovative educational and economic development engine that will contribute to the revitalization of the region's economy while offering a brighter future for its citizens. Representing small business development, economic development, and education, the following agencies work together in the Crossroads Institute to build the capacity of the communities and the people in the region:

- 1) **The Southwest Regional Enterprise Center** - a mixed-use business incubator facility including business assistance and consulting services;
- 2) **Wytheville Community College** - a technology-enhanced educational center - including high-demand technical curricula and occupational programs for high school and college students, transfer programs, a university center and a continuing education center for workforce skills including literacy, GED, workforce and corporate training;
- 3) **Blue Ridge Crossroads Economic Development Authority** - formed in 2008 among Carroll County, the City of Galax and Grayson County, BRCEDA leverages the leadership capacity of these three localities to deliver coordinated economic development services to the region focused on small business development and related projects.
- 4) **Crossroads Small Business Development Center** - a center to assist small business development by providing business plan preparation, one-on-one counseling, financial analysis, sales marketing planning, and access to capital resources.

The Crossroads Institute (<http://crossroadsva.org>) contains a mixed-use small business incubator, a computer emporium with student and public access; an idea lab for pre-incubator small business planning, technical and occupational lab, electronics and computer networking labs, health science and wet labs, a teaching kitchen, building technologies labs, classrooms and two seminar rooms with video teleconferencing capabilities, a learning assistance center, an exhibit hall and atrium (also serves as a cafe and social area), and a well-equipped conference room. Crossroads is also now partnering with the New College Institute in Martinsville and Averett University in Danville to expand baccalaureate and masters degree completion offerings in the region.



PROMOTING AND ENHANCING WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LIFELONG LEARNING

The **Franklin Center for Advanced Learning and Enterprise** is a higher education workforce center providing opportunities in employment, training, and education to the citizens and employers of Franklin County, The Town of Rocky Mount, and the surrounding Southside Region. The partnership includes twenty agencies and organizations from local governments, educational institutions and community based agencies who support the mission of the Franklin Center which is "to promote and enhance workforce and economic development through lifelong learning". This commitment makes the community stronger and more competitive in a global market place.

Adult education and college classes are offered through Franklin County Public Schools Adult Education, Virginia Western Community College, Patrick Henry Community College and Averett University. The first Licensed Practical Nursing class will graduate in December of 2011. This was made possible through support from the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission and Patrick Henry Community College. The TIC, along with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, the Carilion Foundation, local business and industry resources, Franklin County Board of Supervisors and the Town of Rocky Mount collaborated to complete the six million dollar project in 2007. Since its inception in 1999, thousands of customers have received services and have attained degrees and certificates at the local level. Higher Education opportunities incorporate state of the art distance learning equipment to bring classes, conferences and business meetings home to the locality giving everyone more returns on their investments. According to Kathy Hodges, Executive Director, "The Franklin Center continues to be Franklin County's best kept secret in the fastest growing locality west of Richmond!"

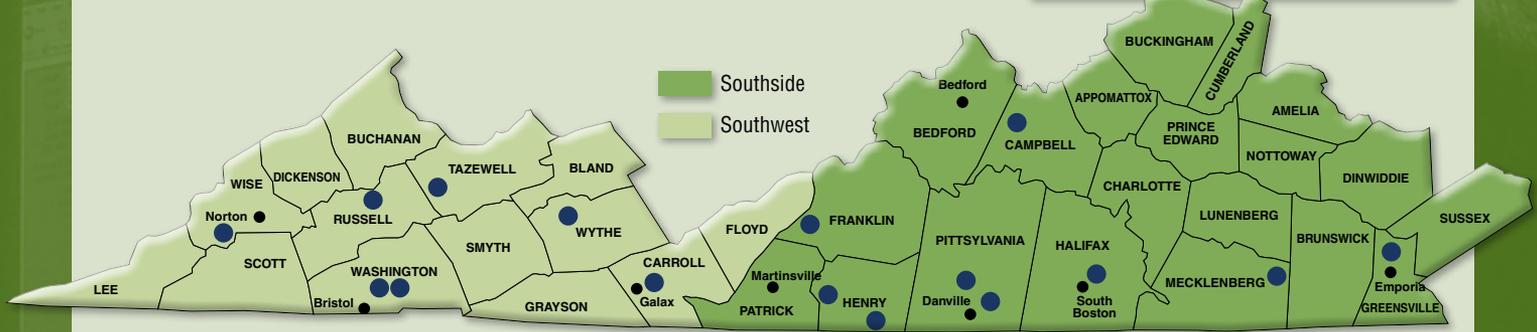


SCHOLARSHIPS APPROACH \$30 MILLION AND 7,000 RECIPIENTS TO DATE

In addition to providing financial aid to community colleges, the Commission's programs to provide financial aid to tobacco region residents pursuing bachelor and graduate degrees have awarded more than \$29 million through the 2010-11 school year to nearly 7,000 residents of Southern and Southwest Virginia. An additional \$5 million is in use this school year from the Commission's Southwest Virginia Burley Tobacco Scholarship program and Southside Tobacco Loan Forgiveness programs. The latter forgives a year of financial aid for each year a graduate returns to work in the tobacco region, while the former serves families

in Southwest that have grown tobacco, hold tobacco quota or have worked in the industry. "It's gratifying to hear of so many students who have been able to benefit from these funds to obtain a college degree – many of them the first in their family to do so – and build a stronger culture of higher education achievement in the region" said the Commission's Vice Chairman and Education Committee Chairman, Senator Frank M. Ruff. "It's even more gratifying to see how many students are using the affordable "2+2" approach of attending community colleges where they benefit from our financial aid, then following up

with our scholarships to obtain bachelors degrees." For more information on the Commission's scholarship programs please visit the online application portal at <http://tobacco.swcenter.edu>.



COMMUNITY COLLEGES & LEARNING CENTERS

(highlighted in this advertisement)

Central Virginia Community College
www.cvcc.vccs.edu

Danville Community College
www.dcc.vccs.edu

Mountain Empire Community College
www.mecc.edu

Patrick Henry Community College
www.ph.vccs.edu

Southside Virginia Community College
www.southside.edu

Southwest Virginia Community College
www.sw.edu

Virginia Highlands Community College
www.vhcc.edu

Wytheville Community College
www.wcc.vccs.edu

Southern Virginia Higher Education Center
www.svhed.org

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
www.swcenter.edu

Institute for Advanced Learning and Research
www.ialr.org

New College Institute
www.newcollegeinstitute.org

Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center
www.southside.edu/directions/southhill

Southside Virginia Education Center
www.southside.edu/directions/emporia

The Crossroads Rural Entrepreneurial Institute
www.crossroadsva.org

Franklin Center for Advanced Learning & Enterprise
www.thefranklincenter.org

Contact: Neal E. Noyes, Executive Director 804-225-2027 Neal.Noyes@tic.virginia.gov www.tic.virginia.gov