



Southwest

Virginia Community College

The Eagle Report

November 2019

Southwest Virginia Community College Local Board of Directors

2018 - 2019

Dr. Greg A. Brown	Russell County
Pauline Casey	Buchanan County
Judy Compton	Dickenson County
Dr. Thomas Conley	Tazewell County
Randall Hillman	Russell County
Lynn Keene	Russell County
Danny Lowe	Buchanan County
Erik Robinson	Tazewell County
Trish Rowe	Buchanan County
Bruce Russell	Tazewell County

Southwest Virginia Community College Educational Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors

2019 - 2020

James Boyd	Tazewell County
Wayne Bostic	Russell County
Dr. Robert Brandon	VP Academic & Student Svcs
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Marco Warner, Vice Chair	Tazewell County
John Willis	Tazewell County
Dr. Tommy Wright, Secretary	Southwest President

President's Message



This has been a year of implementing new programs at Southwest Virginia Community College.

Our new School of the Arts, expanded Agriculture program, Athletics, Honors College, and new approach to student services, were all developed to benefit our students, as well as, the community-at-large. These programs are designed to have an impact well beyond the college's campus. The goals of the initiatives are to engage students with our campus, and to support the excellent economic development efforts of the county boards of supervisors and a number of other agencies and organizations.

We believe that these are the goals in which we should be investing.

Dr. Tommy Wright

Athletics starts at Southwest



14 NJCAA Teams, 5 Club Sports

The creation of an active athletic program provides an avenue to students that has not been present for many years. Southwest Virginia Community College is excited to offer its region's student athletes a chance to continue to compete in the sports that they love, while at the same time developing skills that will make them better employees and coworkers. Students, as part of a sports team, learn the important lessons of working together, dedication, and respect.

The college supports the fact that the athletics program also supports academic goals, as national data suggest that student athletes are much more likely to be retained and graduate than the general student population.

The athletic program has two primary components. First, under the leadership of Athletic Director Jason Vencill, the college is excited to join the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) and offer

scholarship-supported programs in ten sports. Those sports include: wrestling, basketball, softball, baseball, volleyball, golf, tennis, cross country, and soccer. In addition, Southwest offers club sports that feature activities of interest to the region such as: fishing, rifles, archery, cheer, and dance.



School of the Arts

A focus on excellence continues with the implementation of a Community-Focused Art Program. Southwest Virginia is a hub of the arts and the College celebrates and supports that reputation by establishing a new School of the Arts. With the development of a new cohort-based curriculum model, we have sixteen new art majors. This program is under the direction of Morgan Wallace Gilbert.

The School of the Arts prepares students in the theory and practice surrounding the creation of art. In addition, students learn about the

ways in which the artist helps communities to articulate their own histories and identities and the ways in which an entrepreneurial spirit plays into the life of the artist. A key part of this program is identifying ways in which the College can partner with existing community art programs and in which the college can create new opportunities to provide cultural enrichment within its region.

This past spring, an Arts Portfolio Day hosted 250 local high school students on campus and Music, Art, Drama (MAD) Summer Camp had

50 participants. A variety of non-credit workshops are held throughout the year at Appalachian Arts Center as well as the main campus.

The Summer Dace Camp and Workshop Series yielded nearly 40 participants and a Gala is scheduled this fall in collaboration with several local dance studios.



Southwest
Virginia Community College
School of the Arts



Expanding Agriculture



Southwest Virginia is known for its rich earth and successful farms. Southwest Virginia Community College is assisting these local farmers by offering an expanded agricultural program. According to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, agriculture is Virginia's largest private industry by far, with an overall economic impact of \$70 billion dollars annually. Furthermore, every job in agriculture supports 1.7 jobs elsewhere in Virginia.

Southwest has always provided outlets for students to pursue careers in agriculture; however, under the leadership of Jereial Fletcher, dean of Mathematics, Science and Health Technologies and associate professor of English, the college is expanding its agricultural program. Southwest has hired a faculty expert and is developing both transfer, non-transfer, and workforce development classes so that the training offered can impact a greater number of people.



Honors College

The Honors College at Southwest Virginia Community College is led by Dr. Kim Austin, director of the Honors College and professor of Early Childhood Education/Development, who is serving as the program coordinator. The cohort-based honors program is designed to challenge academically prepared students within the college's service areas.

The outcomes of the Honors College include the development of academic excellence, communication skills, service to the community, and leadership. The goals of the Honors College at Southwest are to recruit some of the best and brightest

people in the community, to support them with scholarship and grant money, to build the skills they need to be the future leaders of their communities, and to help them transfer to honors colleges at universities within Virginia.



Southwest
Virginia Community College
Honors College



Eagle Project - Day of Service

More than 350 volunteers served 28 community organizations

Southwest Virginia Community College students, staff and faculty is serving local communities and non-profit organizations through it's "Eagle Project – Day of Service."

Dr. Tommy Wright initiated the first Day of Service during the Fall 2018 term. The College offered a second Day of Service toward the end of the Spring 2019 term as well.

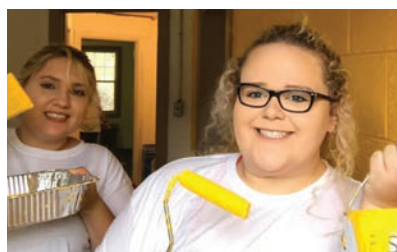
On October 8, 2019, the third Day of Service took place, serving 28 community organizations, schools and groups. More than 350 volunteers served, including Corey Whited, a student at Southwest Virginia Community College.

"The reason that I joined the Day of Service was not only to improve our community, but give back to the community that has given me and others so many opportunities," said Whited.

Whited served at the Tazewell County Airport, cleaning windows and sprucing up the facility.

"Service to others before self is one moto that I live by daily. This simple moto describes the students and faculty that volunteered their time to our wonderful community, not only to improve, but to give back to our community," said Whited.

The next Day of Service is planned for Spring 2020.



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Corey Whited.



Workforce & Continuing Education

Randall Rose, New Dean of Workforce & Continuing Education

In late February, Randall Rose joined Southwest as Dean of Workforce & Continuing Education, as a key step for the College's plans to expand its workforce, continuing education, and career services programming to better serve students, citizens, and businesses in the region.



Outstanding Achievement

James Staten of Raven, Virginia has been recognized for outstanding achievement in our fast-track welding training program while employed at Samuel Pressure Vessel in Lebanon, Virginia.



Southern Gap Transportation and Logistics Center

Construction for the much-anticipated Southern Gap Transportation and Logistics Center has begun! Commercial Driver's License and diesel repair program, as well as several credentialing programs are expected to be available at the center.



Heavy Equipment Operator Graduates

The first cohort of students graduated from Southwest Virginia Community College's new heavy equipment operator program, as a fast-track training recognized by Virginia's Fast Forward program.

Workforce Statistics for FY 2018-2019

Total Workforce enrollment (unduplicated): **708**
 Workforce Credentials Earned (including Fast-Forward): **247**
 FastForward Enrollment: **131**
 FastForward Credentials Earned: **74**



Tuition Free Funding

Hundreds of students have benefited from tuition-free funding at Southwest Virginia Community College since the Fall term of 2018.

Tazewell County high school seniors graduating in 2019 are the latest group benefiting from the tuition break. Students graduating from private schools, homes schools or receiving their GED are also eligible.

Funding for the scholarship in Tazewell County is being made possible by a partnership between the county Board of Supervisors and Mrs. Pricilla McCall, trustee of the estate of Sam G. McCall Jr.

Dr. Tommy Wright, President of Southwest Virginia Community College says community colleges have never been more relevant than they are today.

“The average incoming salary of someone with a two-year degree is higher than those with other credentials or no degree at all. The opportunity for graduates to obtain new jobs or level up to a higher position with their current employer, which increases their pay and disposable income, is a game-changer for many families and the local economy,” said Wright.

Russell County offers tuition-free options to graduating high school seniors through the R.A.C.E (Russell County Access to College Education) program. In addition to minimum G.P.A. requirements, students

must complete 100 hours in a Russell County assigned community service each year.

Buchanan County was the first county in the College’s service area to offer tuition-free options for students. Funding for students is sponsored by the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors. All residents of Buchanan County that meet the College’s eligibility requirements may attend tuition-free. Students in Buchanan County must be county residents for at least 1 year and are required to complete 16 hours of community service each year. 8 hours of the community service must take place in the fall. The remaining 8 hours are to be served in the spring.

During the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 terms, 118 students in Buchanan County benefited from tuition-free funding.

The Russell County R.A.C.E program kicked off at Southwest during the Summer 2019 term. The R.A.C.E program has funded 51 students during the Summer and Fall terms of 2019.

Tazewell County Connect has funded 61 students for the Fall 2019 term.

Prospective students interested in tuition-free options are encouraged to contact the College’s financial aid department for full details and the latest information and requirements.





Title III Grant

Southwest Virginia Community College has received a \$2,250,000 federal grant award this week from the U.S. Department of Education's Strengthening Institutions Program. Phyllis Roberts, Southwest's Grants Administrator, said that Southwest Virginia Community College was one of only two colleges in the state of Virginia to receive one of these highly sought-after grants.

According to Dr. Tommy Wright, President of Southwest, the Title III SIP Program is one of the few grant programs that allows institutions of higher education to custom design a program that will specifically meet their most critical needs and lead to self-sufficiency and growth. Southwest's program was developed primarily to improve the college's capacity to better serve students, especially low-income, first generation students.

"We have designed an innovative program aimed at strengthening our advising and student service programs," said Dr. Wright. "We are confident the strategies we plan to undertake will lead to increased retention, graduation, and transfer rates, and ultimately, contribute to the economic well-being of the region."

Dr. Robert Brandon, Vice President of Academic and Student Services, added, "This program will strengthen the advising and support services students receive in the most formative part of their post-secondary experience and will make advising part of the teaching and learning mission of the College."

Southwest plans to implement a new advising model that will combine the strengths of a central Advising Center for first-year students with the advantages of program-specific advising by faculty members and will allow the college to provide a success coach for every student. A comprehensive First-Year Experience (FYE) program will be established, as well as an advanced early alert system to identify at-risk students and alert advisors to take proactive measures so preventative action can occur before the students withdraw or get



too far behind in their coursework. An integrated technology platform will help the advising staff and faculty make informed decisions about student supports/interventions.

Dyan Lester, Dean of Student Success, says she is excited about all the tools she will be able to put in place with Title III funds to ensure students can achieve their goals and reach their full potential. "Title III funds can help us create an environment of success for our students that can be sustained over time."

Other grant goals include embedding work-based learning strategies and advising services into six newly revised high-demand workforce programs and developing a Financial Literacy program to include a module for orientation courses, development of customized workshops, and new advisement strategies to assure students receive comprehensive financial counseling support.

The grant also includes establishment of a 20-year endowment fund to raise funds to help improve self-sufficiency and future growth of the College.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Additional Grants and Funding

Southwest Virginia Community College received **\$6,383,729** in competitive federal, state, and private grant awards during the 2018-19 academic year. Federal and state financial aid awards totaled **\$6,802,010** for an overall grant portfolio total of **\$13,185,739**.

New Scholarship Awards

- **\$315,000** from Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC) to scholarship students in workforce training programs such as short-term certification programs, STEM, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing;
- **\$250,000** from VA Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) for a second year to scholarship students enrolling in emerging career and technical programs;
- **\$150,000** from Richard and Leslie Gilliam Foundation and \$40,000 from Appalachian Power for the Great Expectations program.

New Academic Program Awards

- **\$330,674** from TRRC and a private donor to launch a new Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program;
- **\$119,948** from Commonwealth of Virginia's Rescue Squad Assistance Funds Program for equipment for SWCC's EMS continuing education programs;
- **\$77,000** from VCEDA for SWVA Agriculture and Expo Center Feasibility Study.

Awards to Continuing Student Success Initiatives

- **\$396,068** – Student Support Services
- **\$256,517** – Upward Bound (UB) Buchanan
- **\$256,516** – UB Appalachia
- **\$223,938** – UB Math/Science
- **\$223,938** – UB Veterans_
- **\$120,000** – UB Supplemental Awards
- **\$124,661** – Great Expectations
- **\$39,807** – Governor's School

New Workforce Awards

- **\$588,072** from Appalachian Regional Commission POWER Program, **\$200,000** from VDHCD, and **\$195,000** from TRRC to launch an Automotive Diagnostics and Repair Career Studies certificate program
- **\$335,024** from Department of Labor and the VCCS to redesign several existing career pathways into three levels that are shorter term and include Dual Enrollment options
- **\$295,359** from U.S. Dept. of Defense for the Procurement Technical Assistance Center
- **\$265,565** from VCEDA for workforce development and training
- **\$190,000** from VCCS FastForward Program to increase capacity and develop customized training
- **\$179,600** from Perkins Vocational Act funds to support career and technical programs and students
- **\$75,957** from U.S. Dept. of Small Business for the Small Business Development Center
- **\$33,727** from VCCS Workforce Credentials Grant for credential based noncredit training
- **\$20,350** from Wells Fargo for three workforce-related grants

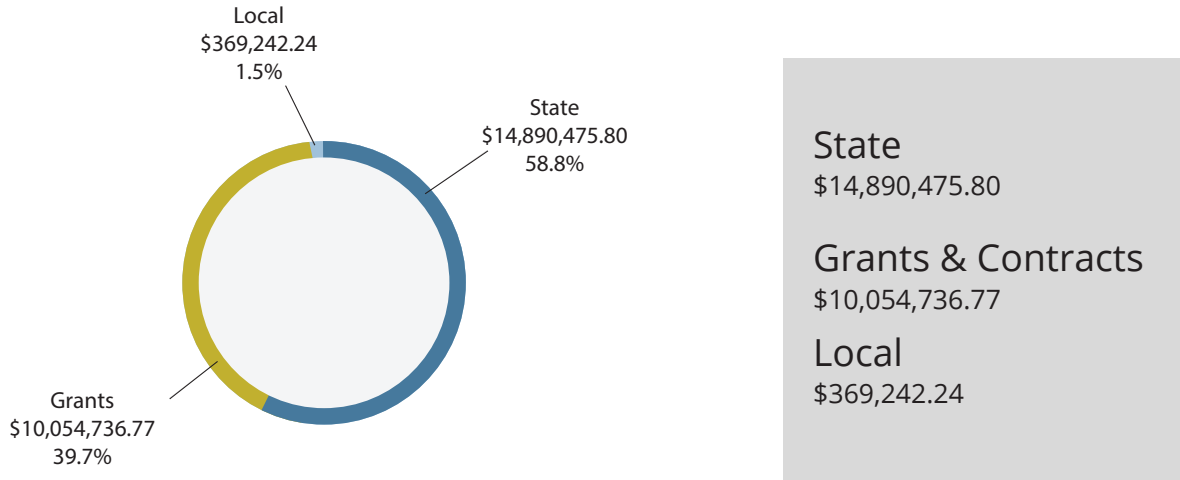
New Student Success Initiatives

- **\$125,000** from Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative for career coaches
- **\$225,000** from Chancellor's Success Coach Initiative for success coaches



Expenditures and Enrollment Data

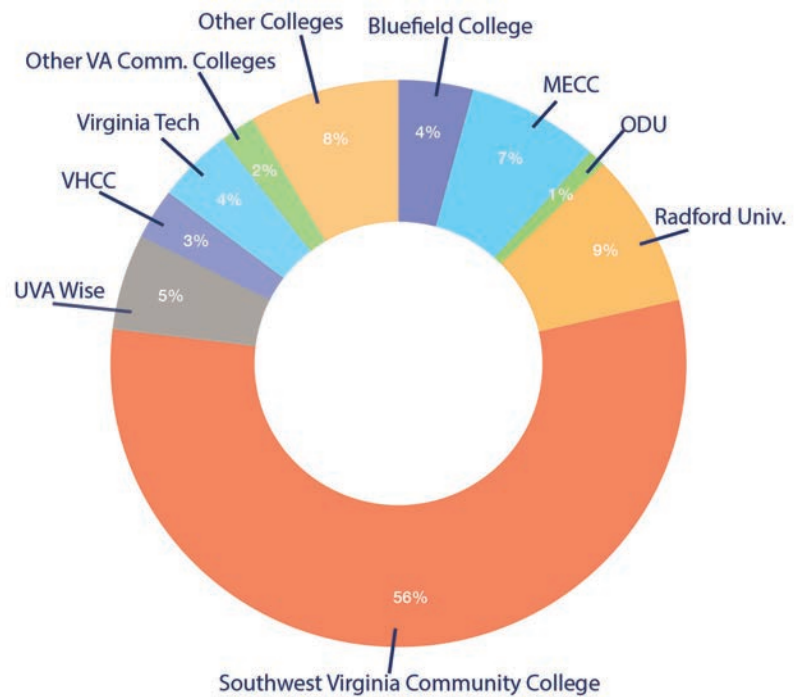
Expenditures by Source FY 2018-2019



Southwest is the First Choice for College

Southwest Virginia Community College remains the first choice for college students in our four county service area. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, 56% of students enrolled in Virginia higher education in Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Tazewell counties attended Southwest.

Southwest is currently ranked #1 among the states 23 community colleges for student retention. The school is also ranked #2 state-wide for enrollment growth.



Southwest has experienced three consecutive semesters of enrollment growth. Only three VCCS schools have managed total FTE growths for three straight semesters (spring-summer-fall).

Our “returning credential completers” rate was the highest in the state. This refers to students who had completed some credential and then returned later for a higher level credential.

Our progression to 12 credits was the highest in the state at 72%.

We generate 51% of FTE through Career and Technical programs, which is **the highest of all VCCS institutions.**

The average credit per student at Southwest was second highest in the VCCS. This speaks to a student population that is making progress towards completion.

Our application yield rate was second in the VCCS last year. This refers to the number of students that decided to register after applying to Southwest.

Fall to Spring retention was the second highest in the VCCS at 74% based on data from the 2017-2018 cohort.

Our WCG enrollments increased by 205%.

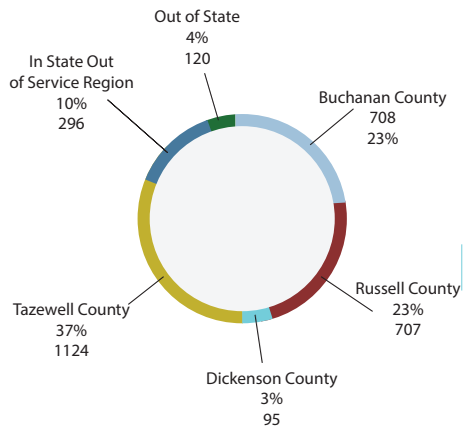
Our Fast Forward credentials increased from 32 to 162 last year.





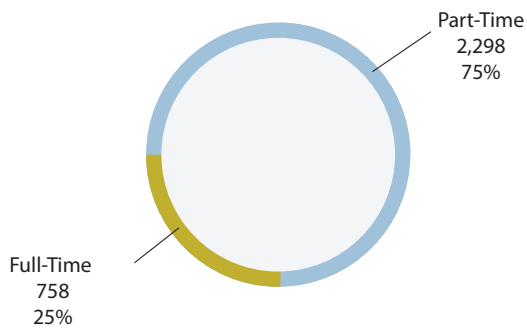
Enrollment Data Continued

Students by Residence



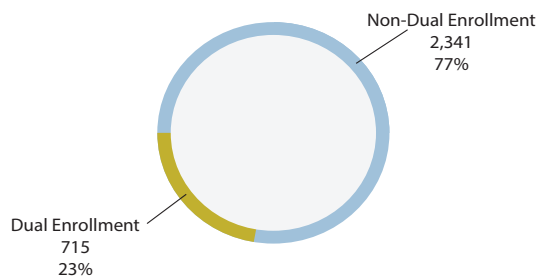
Buchanan County	708
Dickenson County	317
Russell County	707
Tazewell County	1,124
Other Virginia	296
Other	120

Full-Time/Part-Time Enrollment



Part-Time Students	2,298
Full-Time Students	758

Dual Enrollment/Non-Dual Enrollment



Dual Enrollment Students	2,298
Non-Dual Enrollment Students	758

Total Headcount FY 2018-2019:	3,056
Total Full-Time Equivalent Students FY 2018-2019:	1,575





Foundation Report

It's been a remarkable year!

Our Foundation has received incredible support this year from our wonderful Board of Directors and generous donors. Through the individual donations as well as partnerships with local organizations and county Boards of Supervisors, we've been able to provide free tuition to students in all four counties of our service area! We all know that the cost of college includes more than tuition. Books, supplies, transportation, housing, and more are all play a role in students' path to education. Our scholarship applications increased by 66% this year and we awarded \$291,210 to 266 students.

Mary Lawson Honored

Kathleen H. Smith Distinguished Service Award

Mary W. Lawson is the first recipient of the 2019 Kathleen H. Smith Distinguished Service Award. Mary is pictured here with Dr. Tommy Wright, President of Southwest and Susan Lowe, VP of Institutional Advancement.



The Kathleen H. Smith Distinguished Service Award was created by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE) to recognize the accomplishments of an advancement professional within the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). The award honors a leader whose selfless devotion and inspiring achievements in the field of institutional advancement helped elevate the profession and have had an immense positive impact on the Commonwealth.



Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy

The Virginia Community College System and Chancellor Glenn DuBois has presented Mrs. Mary W. Lawson of Richlands, Virginia, with the 14th Annual Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. She was nominated for the award

by Southwest Virginia Community College.

“We can’t thank Mary enough for her proud commitment to our College, the community, and the region. Her efforts have shown brightly in the countless initiatives that she has graciously volunteered with or led. The relationships that Mary has helped establish and cultivate along with her successes in arts initiatives will pay dividends to Southwest Virginia for years to come. Mary is a true champion of Southwest Virginia and our entire region,” said Dr. Tommy Wright, President of Southwest.

Donors Make Great Things Happen!

*Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets for the year-ended June 30, 2019

Revenues:

Operating Gifts and Contributions	\$1,797,438
Investment Return, Net	2,000,197
Other Income	83,917
TOTAL REVENUES	\$3,881,552

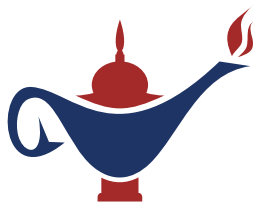
Expenses:

Institutional Support	\$957,613
Student Financial Aid	457,917
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,415,530

Change in Net Assets

Increase in Net Assets	\$2,466,022
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	26,670,218
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$29,136,240

*Unaudited figures.



Southwest
Virginia Community College
Educational Foundation, Inc.



Southwest
Virginia Community College

Inspire • Transform • Strengthen

<https://www.sw.edu>

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