



Southwest
Virginia Community College
Inspire • Transform • Strengthen

Annual Report

2024 - 2025



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**Students are
our Mission**

From the President

As I reflect on the 2024–2025 academic year, I take pride in how Southwest Virginia Community College continues to fulfill its mission of opportunity, innovation, and service to our region. This annual report highlights our collective achievements from the past year—accomplishments made possible by our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners, showcasing our institution’s strength and the promise of its future.

In the past year, we have expanded our reach in health sciences, introduced workforce certifications in high-demand fields, and strengthened transfer pathways that prepare students for careers as well as further education. These initiatives, supported by strong community partnerships and a focus on hands-on learning, ensure that our students gain skills directly linked to the opportunities that await them.

Student life—including athletics, clubs, and campus events—continues to enrich the college experience, providing meaningful ways for students to connect, lead, and grow. Together with their classroom learning, these opportunities make Southwest not only a place of learning but also a place of belonging.

The support of our Foundation has been vital, expanding scholarships, enhancing programs, and investing in facilities that directly impact student success. The generosity of our donors and the commitment of our partners remind us that Southwest is more than a college—it is a shared investment in the future of our region.



Dr. Clinton Hayes

This year has also brought important milestones. We are currently engaged in reaffirmation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, a process that emphasizes our accountability and commitment to excellence. At the same time, we are advancing a new strategic plan focused on student success, workforce alignment, and community partnerships—one that will guide our efforts in the coming years and ensure we remain responsive to local needs and statewide goals.

As I begin my tenure as president, I am honored to join a community defined by dedication and achievement. Amanda and I are grateful to call this community home, and I look forward to the year ahead as we build on this proud tradition and ensure that Southwest Virginia Community College remains a beacon of opportunity for our region.

Who We Are

The 1966 General Assembly of Virginia authorized the establishment of a statewide system of comprehensive community colleges and appointed a separate State Board to develop a Master Plan for a statewide system of community college education in Virginia. The Master Plan designated that a community college be established in the area serving Buchanan, Dickenson (partial), Russell, and Tazewell counties.

A delegation of local citizens met with state officials to determine the feasibility of the immediate development of a community college for the region. A local College Board was appointed in the summer of 1967. This Board recommended naming the college Southwest Virginia Community College and appointing Dr. Charles R. King as its President.

The College officially opened to students in the fall of 1968 with an initial enrollment of 710 students. The fall 2024 credit enrollment headcount consisted of 2,391 students.

What We Do

Programs of study at Southwest Virginia Community College include criminal justice, business, education, engineering and technology, general studies (transfer), industry and manufacturing, and science/health technologies. In addition to classes offered at the college’s main campus, we provide instruction at off-site locations, including the Lebanon Center, Bluefield Center, Bluestone Center in Bluefield, Booth Center in Grundy, and the Southern Gap Transportation and Logistics Center in Grundy, as well as online.

Furthermore, the Southwest Virginia Community College Workforce and Continuing Education department offers fast-track training and industry-recognized credentials. This department also provides customized, cost-effective training solutions for employers.



Where We Work

Southwest Virginia Community College operates within a geographically diverse and economically vital region encompassing Buchanan, Dickenson (partial), Russell, and Tazewell counties.

The work of Southwest Virginia Community College is deeply integrated into the social and economic fabric of the region. Faculty, staff, and administrators engage in teaching, training, advising, and community outreach across a wide range of settings, from traditional classrooms and technical labs to remote learning environments and industry-specific training facilities.

Our presence in multiple counties allows us to respond directly to local workforce needs, support regional development initiatives, and foster educational equity. Whether collaborating with employers, mentoring students, or delivering specialized instruction, our work is defined by a commitment to service, accessibility, and excellence throughout Southwest Virginia.

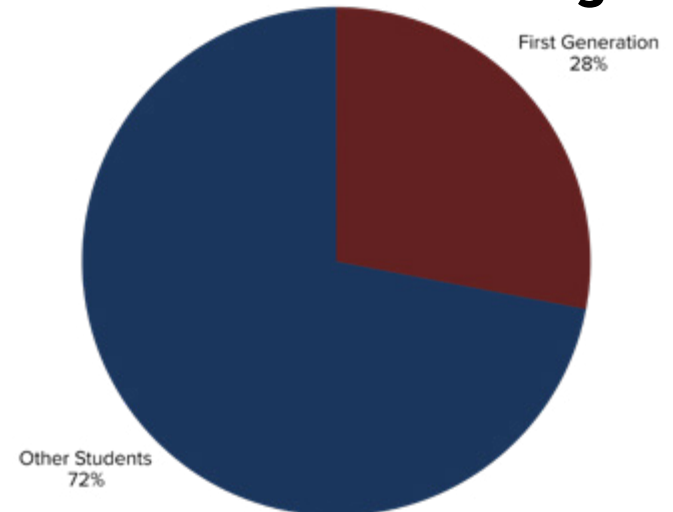
When We Grew

- 1967** - The College was founded under the guidance of Dr. Charles R. King.
- 1971** - The College Receives SACS accreditation
- 1975** - Tazewell Hall is officially opened to the public.
- 1982** - The SWCC Educational Foundation was Established
- 1988** - Ralph B. Davis Hall Dedication
- 1997** - Groundbreaking for Charles R. King Community Center
- 2007** - J. Mark Estepp is appointed to the position of President
- 2008** - Alex E. Booth Center Opened
- 2009** - The Earl and Dorothy Dellinger Learning Resource Center opens
- 2017** - Southwest Virginia Community College celebrates its 50th anniversary
- 2018** - Tommy F. Wright is appointed to the position of President
- 2022** - Groundbreaking for Eagle Valley
- 2025** - Dr. Clinton Hayes is appointed to the position of President.

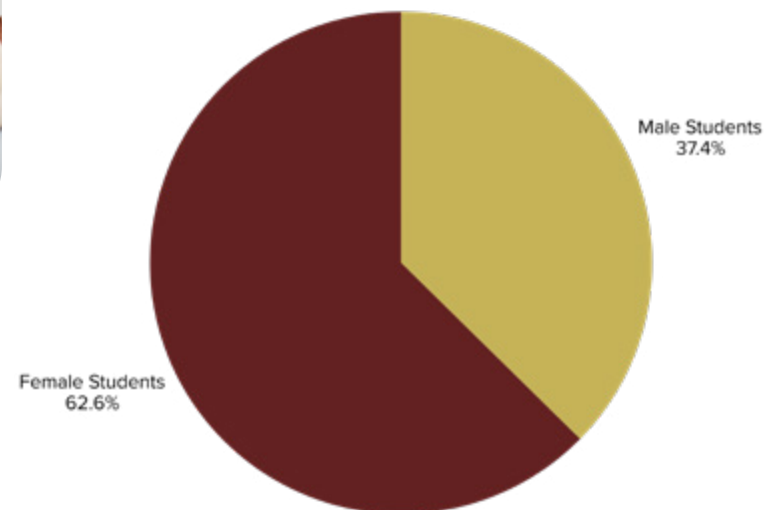




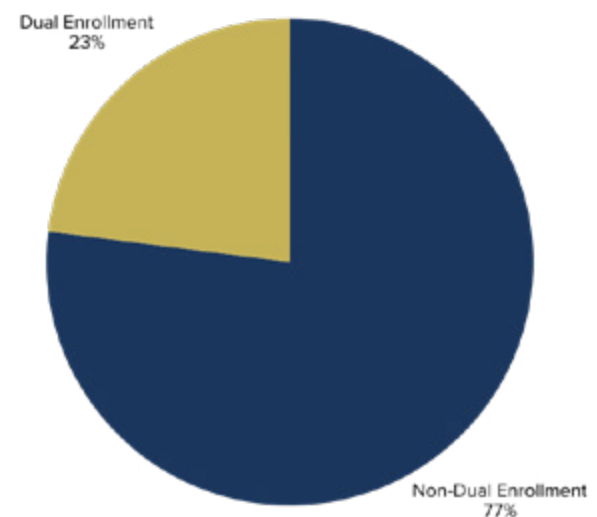
First Generation College



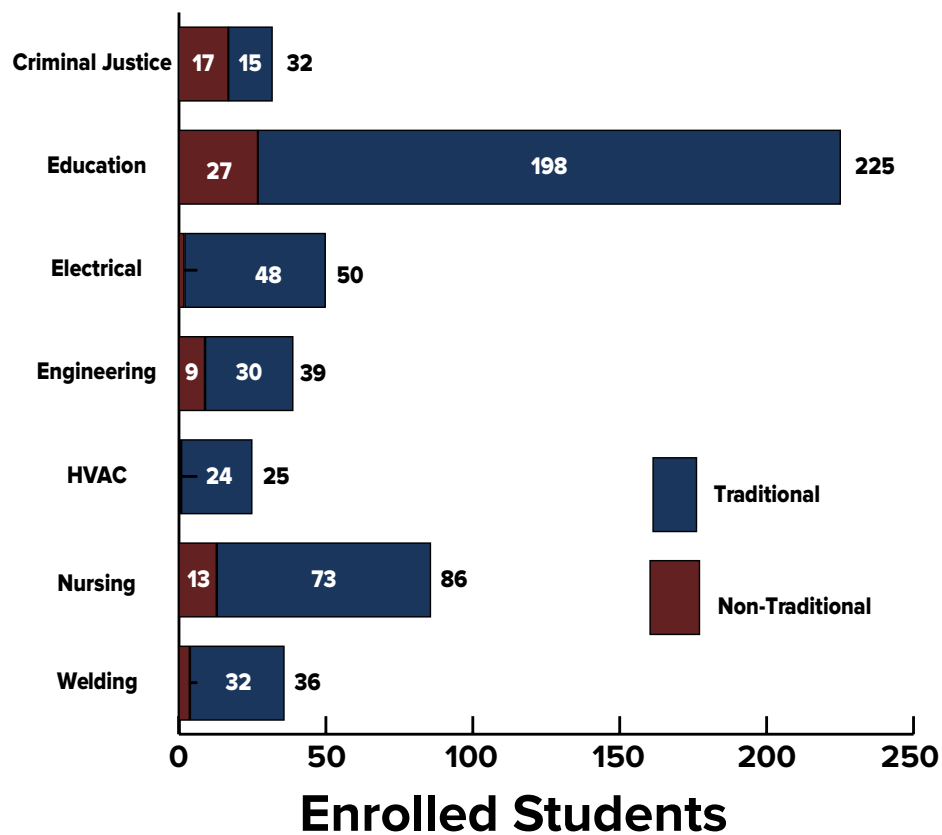
Gender Distribution



Dual/Non-Dual Enrollment



Non-Traditional Careers



Campus Life

Southwest Virginia Community College had a successful fiscal year, maintaining steady enrollment, graduation, and retention rates.

Total Full-Time Equivalent Students FY 2024-25:
1,722 Students

Total Headcount FY 2024-25:
3,202 Students

Most Popular Programs:
Health Science Technology - 338 Students
General Studies - 306 Students
Business Administration - 101 Students



Staff & Faculty

450 Total Employees

- 95 Full-Time Classified Staff
- 150 Adjunct Faculty
- 135 Part-Time Employees (Incl. Clinical Wage)
- 70 Full-Time Faculty (Incl. administrative and instructional)

New Hires: 94

From July 2024 to June 2025, 94 new employees were hired at Southwest Virginia Community College. This includes:

- 16 Full-Time Classified Staff
- 33 Adjunct Faculty
- 35 Part-Time
- 10 Full-Time Faculty

2024 - 2025 Graduates by Number of Awards	
One Award	355 Students
Two Awards	100 Students
Three Awards	35 Students
Four Awards	4 Students
Five or More Awards	1 Student
Total Graduates	495 Students

What is Going On

NISOD Excellence Awards

Nine outstanding faculty and staff members were selected as recipients of the 2024 NISOD Excellence Awards.

The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) recognizes individuals who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues.

Southwest Honoree's included:

Neyia Beavers
Robert Brandon
Crystal Dye
Dyan Lester
Susan Lowe
Denver Riffe
Kim Steiner
Richard Underwood
Whitney White



**SWVCC Leadership at Disney*

Honors College

Capstone Research Project - 19 Students participated in the Honor's Symposium with the J. Fletcher Research Series

Community Service - Honor's students collectively logged 795 hours at varying locations such as Blackberry Winter, Word of Victory food pantry, and other local venues.

Disney Leadership Institute - 27 honor students participated in the Disney leadership program through the Genan funding.

Honors Graduates - 95% of Honor graduates transferred to a four year institution, or were accepted into a SWCC health-tech program.



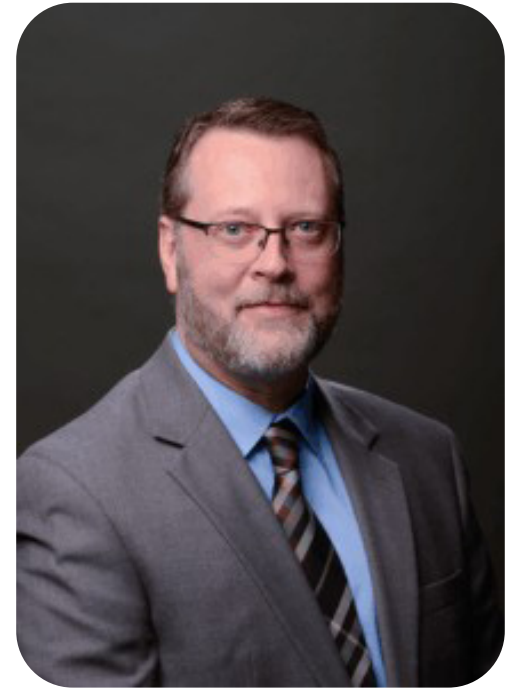
**(L-R) Crystal Dye, Neyia Beavers, Dr. Robert Brandon, Richard Underwood, Denver Riffe*



**Dr. Tommy Wright*



**Dr. Victoria Ratliff*



**Dr. Clinton Hayes*

Presidential Changes

Southwest Virginia Community College began the 2025 fiscal year under the leadership of Dr. Tommy Wright, who had served as president with distinction. His tenure was marked by a commitment to student success, institutional growth, and regional collaboration. In October 2024, Dr. Wright was appointed Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations at the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), a role that allows him to apply his financial acumen and strategic leadership across the entire state system.

Following Dr. Wright's transition, Dr. Victoria Ratliff was named Interim President of Southwest Virginia Community College by Dr. David Doré, Chancellor of VCCS. Dr. Ratliff, a respected leader within the college, brought continuity and stability during a pivotal time. Under her guidance, the college maintained its momentum while a search committee was formed to identify the next permanent president, someone who could build on the college's strong foundation and lead it into the future.

On May 22, 2025, the college proudly announced that Dr. Clinton Hayes would become the fourth permanent president of Southwest Virginia Community College. Dr. Hayes officially began his tenure at the start of the 2025–2026 fiscal year, bringing with him a wealth of experience in higher education leadership, student engagement, and workforce development. His appointment marks a new chapter for the college, one focused on innovation, community partnerships, and expanding opportunities for students across the region.

Workforce & Continuing Education

FY 2024-2025 Statistics:

Total Students Enrolled: 948

Total Credentials Earned: 842

Total Fast Forward Enrollments: 500

Total Fast Forward Credentials Earned: 417

Top 5 Programs by Enrollment:

1. Welding
2. Certified Nurse Aide
3. Commercial Drivers License (CDL)
4. Heavy Equipment Operations
5. Fiber Optic Technician

During the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Southwest Virginia Community College signed the MOU with Dept of Corrections Appalachian CCAP. Southwest entered into a contract with Taylor Construction for our Fiber Optics program. Southwest also provided customized training to Coronado Global.





Athletics

Baseball 1-42

- **Cason McInnis & Damien Boyd:** Region X Honorable Mentions
- Received the ABCA Academic Excellence Award

Cross Country

- **Lauren Keene:** NJCAA All-American (Double Honoree)

Basketball (Men) 6-17

- **Corean Nelson & Adrian Mayes:** NJCAA Region 10 Third Team All-Region

Basketball (Women) 18-10

- **Paige Niethammer:** NJCAA Third Team All-American, Region 10 Division II Player of the Year, 2-Time First Team All-Region
- **Paige Niethammer & Maddie Day:** Region 10 All-Academic Team
- **Maddie Day & Tamila Francis:** Region 10 Honorable Mention

Golf

- **Coach Bryan Greenway:** Region X Coach of the Year (2 Consecutive Years)
- Region X Division II Champions (2 Consecutive Years)

Soccer (Men) 5-8-4

- **Salvadore Forte Vaz De Noronha & Rivaldo Mitchell:** All-Region Second Team
- **Xavier Cabada-Perry:** 2-Time All-Region Honorable Mention
- Most Wins in Program History

Softball 4-28

- First Home Win in Program History

Volleyball 18-14

- **Destanie Ambers:** All Region First Team, Region All-Tournament Team
- **Jayci Bowers & Charlee Hale:** All-Region Second Team

Expenditures by Source

<u>State</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>Auxiliary</u>
\$21,677,510.04	\$14,736,649.74	\$376,848.30	\$1,265,793.13
<u>Total Expenditure</u>			
\$38,056,801.21			

Economic Impact

According to an economic impact study prepared by Lightcast, the activities of Community Colleges in Southwest Virginia, including Mountain Empire Community College, New River Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, Virginia Highlands Community College, and Wytheville Community College, support one out of every 14 jobs in the region. They have also collectively contributed to the economy by adding \$560.4 million in income to the regional economy.

*Source: Mountain Media, LLC
Data Provided by: Lightcast (Economic Modeling , LLC)*

Grants Reports

Federal Awards

\$1,149,940 - USDA Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning & Telemedicine
\$506,478.62 - USDA SNAP E & T 50-50 (SNAP Employment & Training)
\$474,447 - U.S. Dept. of Education Student Support Services (TRIO Grant)
\$403,402 - U.S. Dept. of Education Upward Bound Buchanan
\$393,402 - U.S. Dept. of Education Upward Bound Appalachia
\$372,047 - APEX Accelerators (U.S. Small Business Administration)
\$348,550 - U.S. Dept. of Education Upward Bound Math/Science
\$309,505 - U.S. Dept. of Education Veterans
\$161,801.27 - Carl Perkins Vocation Act
\$106,000 - FANTIC (Financial Assistance for Noncredit Training for Industry Credentials)
\$74,100 - U.S. Dept. of Small Business (Small Business Development Center)

REGIONAL AWARDS

\$200,000 - ARC Cyber ACCESS Initiative (Appalachian Regional Commission's ARISE Program (through AACC/CCA Cyber ACCESS Project) (1/1/25-12/31/29)
\$107,722.23 - ARC Workforce for Opportunity for Rural Communities WORC/Advanced Manufacturing (Year 3)

VCCS AWARDS

\$225,000 - CSCI (Chancellor's Award for College Success Coach Initiative)
\$159,289.93 - Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative
\$78,746 - VCCS Invest VA539
\$49,000 - VCCS Employee Assistance Fund
\$40,000 - VCCS Supplemental GF

STATE GRANT AWARDS

\$1,672,000 from G3 Last Dollar Aid
\$931,000 from G3 Student Supp Incentive SSIG
\$347,000 from G3 Non-Credit Aid
\$215,000 from GoVirginia AMTIP Advanced Manufacturing
\$208,000 from VGAP (Virginia Guarantee Assistance Programs)
\$100,650 from PELL Boost Initiative
\$53,237.88 from DMV Training
\$51,000 from Part-Time Tuition Assistance Program
\$49,000 from VMSDEP (Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents)

PRIVATE FOUNDATION/OTHER AWARDS

\$846,262 from Anne & Gene Worrell Foundation: Honors, Great Expectations & Tuition-Free Match
\$240,000 from Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (Workforce Financial Aid 2024-2025)
\$150,000 from CVMC (Clinch Valley Medical Center) (Athletic Trainer Salary)
\$105,142 from Virginia Tobacco Regional Revitalization Commission Automotive Technology Expansion
\$105,000 from VCEDA – EV/Hybrid Trainer
\$102,000 from VCEDA – CDL Truck
\$100,000 from VCEDA – Emerging Workforce Scholarships
\$60,000 from VFCCE (Virginia Foundation for Community College Education) Flood Disaster Relief
\$35,000 from VFCCE (Virginia Foundation for Community College Education) Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief
\$28,500 from Lumina Foundation REACH Deep
\$ 5,000 from Community Foundation for Two Virginias (food pantry)

Total Grants Awarded = \$14,491,221

From the Foundation





Dr. Susan R. Lowe
Vice President of Institutional Advancement

A Year of Impact

As we close another successful year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors, partners, and community members. Your unwavering support continues to transform lives and expand opportunities for students across our region.

This year, we awarded a record number of scholarships—thanks to your generosity. These funds helped reduce financial barriers and enabled students from diverse backgrounds to pursue higher education with confidence and focus.

Donor support also made it possible for students in our Honors Program to participate in meaningful travel experiences to Japan and the United Kingdom. From historic sites to national conferences, these opportunities deepened their academic understanding and broadened their global perspectives.

We also made progress in addressing student housing needs by supporting initiatives that provide safe, affordable living spaces. Stable housing helps ensure students can focus on learning without the added stress of where they will stay.

Food insecurity remains a challenge for many, but with your help, we expanded the Food for Thought Pantry at both our Bluefield and Grundy sites. Ensuring students have access to healthy meals and personal care items directly supports their well-being and academic success. The Festival of the Arts continues to be a vibrant celebration of cultural richness from Southwest Virginia, across the United States, and around the world. Thanks to your support, this event brings together artists, educators, and community members to honor creativity, share diverse traditions, and promote global cultural understanding.

As we move into the next academic year, the Foundation remains focused on increasing access to education, supporting student achievement, and enriching our community. Together, we are building a stronger future for Southwest Virginia.

Thank you for making this impact possible.



Southwest
Virginia Community College
Educational Foundation, Inc.

Foundation Projects

Hagerman's Pavillion

The Eliza Hagerman Pavilion opened at the Appalachian Arts and Events Center. The outdoor addition to the facility features a stage and a fireplace designed by brick sculptor Johnny Hagerman.

Construction of the pavilion was funded by community donors. Major donors, named the "Baker's Dozen" were recognized at the event with one of a kind commemorative brick sculptures from Johnny Hagerman. All donors also have their names featured in the brickwork around the stage. These donors include David & Brittany Mullins, Dr. Susan R. Lowe & Kenny Lowe, General Shale - Piney Flats Branch, John and Cathy Payne, Johnny and Penny Hagerman, Lynn and Charlotte Keene, Mark & Lisa Singleton, Peter & Jane Mulkey, The Stelio & Betty Corte Charitable Foundation, The Stelio & Betty Corte Charitable Foundation in Honor of Dr. Mike Henry, The Stelio & Betty Corte Charitable Foundation in Honor of Mary W. Lawson, Tom & Dyan Lester, and Senator Travis & Angel Hackworth.



**Pavillion Opening*



**Culture Walk at the Festival*

Festival of the Arts

The 2025 Festival of the Arts was a triumphant success thanks to the many dedicated volunteers that helped to make it happen. The festival was celebrating its 30th anniversary, marking an impressive milestone for both the event and the college.

The event saw over a dozen events, including a Student Art Show, Piano X Three, Trivia, Camerata Virtuoso, Children's Camerata, Worldsgiving, Eagle Con, Knoxville Symphony Chamber Orchestra, Festival Dinner, and a Culture Walk.

The 2025 "Back to Our Future" Festival of the Arts was in honor of Mary W. Lawson, without her dedication to cultural enrichment in our area the festival would not be possible.

Revenue:

Operating Gifts and Contributions:	\$842,034.99
Investment Return:	\$2,551,529.01
Other Income:	\$723,255.48
Total:	\$4,116,819.48

Expense:

Institutional Support:	\$1,793,753.60
Student Financial Aid:	\$506,903.43
College Programs:	\$1,615,610.47

Change in Net Assets:

Total Expenses:	\$3,916,267.50
Total Revenue:	\$4,116,819.48
Change:	+\$200,551.98



Recognitions and Awards



Randall Hillman received the 19th Annual Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. Mr. Hillman, a native of Russell County Virginia, has been a longtime dedicated supporter of Southwest and its students. He continuously showcases his commitment through various roles including Donor, Chair of the Southwest Local Advisory Board, and as a long-time participant in the SWCC Golf Classic. In addition to his contributions to education, Mr. Hillman serves on the Board of Directors for Russell County Hospital in Lebanon, VA. Beyond his civic engagements, he is known as a farmer, real estate developer, and successful businessman. Randall takes pride in his family life, cherishing his role as a father and grandfather.



Thank you to the **Anne & Gene Worrell Foundation's** generous support of the Honors and Great Expectations programs at Southwest. The Foundation's grant covers housing costs for Great Expectations students and provides opportunities for Honors & other Southwest students to study abroad, as well as additional scholastic opportunities. We are grateful that the Anne & Gene Worrell Foundation supports these opportunities, enabling our students to enhance their education and develop into global citizens.

In Our Memories



Bill Akers was a beloved member of the Southwest community, and his contributions to the institution were immeasurable. In his life, Bill dedicated years of service to his community, touching the lives of students and community members alike. Known for his exceptional med flight experience and leadership as chair of several boards, Bill consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence in his professional endeavors. However, it was his personal qualities that truly set him apart. Colleagues remember Bill for his kindness, wisdom, and unwavering support, which made him a cherished friend and mentor to many. We celebrate the lasting legacy Bill leaves behind. His dedication to our institution and his passion for his work will continue to inspire us for years.



Dr. Norman Rexrode was a beloved pillar in the local medical community as well as Southwest. Dr. Rexrode contributed 42 years of his life practicing medicine and teaching paramedic classes at the institution.

In his memory, the Dr. Norman L. Rexrode, Jr. Memorial Scholarship was established for paramedic students. This scholarship was made possible Dr. Bob Mueller, a grateful friend and colleague to Dr. Rexrode.

Program Offerings

Associate of Applied Science

- Accounting
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Business and Technology
- Business Management
- Culinary Arts
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography*
*Partnership with Tidewater CC
- Early Childhood Development
- Electrical Electronics
- Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic
- Environmental Management & Recreational Ecology
- Information Systems Technology
- LPN to RN Transition
- Mental Health
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Radiography
- Criminal Justice
- Substance Abuse

Career Studies Certificate

- Advanced Automotive Technology
- Advanced Emergency Medical Technician
- Advanced Precision Machining
- Advanced Studies Certificate in Music
- Advanced Studies in Science
- Advanced Welding and Fabrication
- Appalachian Studies
- Automotive Diagnostics and Repair
- Basic EMT Skills
- Bookkeeping
- CAM and CADD Fundamentals
- CNC and Machine Operations
- Computed Tomography
- Computer Repair Technician
- Crime Scene Technology
- Cybersecurity
- Cybersecurity and Networking Fundamentals
- Digital Media
- Early Childhood Education
- Early Childhood Infant and Toddler
- Electrical Installation
- Electricity Fundamentals
- Emergency Medical Technician Plus
- EMS - Intermediate to Paramedic Bridge
- Geographic Information Systems
- Guide Essentials
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
- Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Technology
- Industrial Maintenance
- Information Technology & Business Fundamentals
- Introduction to Food Services
- Leadership and Entrepreneurship
- Management Specialist
- Manufacturing Fabrication
- Mechatronics
- Medical Coding
- Outdoor Interpretation and Education
- Outdoor Recreation
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomy
- Precision Machining
- Pre-Engineering



- Recreational Ecology
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- Semi-Automated Welding
- Sports Management
- Visual Arts
- Welding
- Welding (diploma)
- Welding Fundamentals

Fast Forward Training

- Certified Nurse Aide
- Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
- CompTIA Certification
- Diesel Repair
- Heavy Equipment Operation
- Phlebotomy Technician
- Plumbing
- Skilled Trades and General Contracting
- Small Unmanned Aircraft System (Commercial Drone)

Associate of Arts

- Liberal Arts
- Liberal Arts, Appalachian Studies Major
- Liberal Arts, Fine Arts Major
- Liberal Arts, Music Major

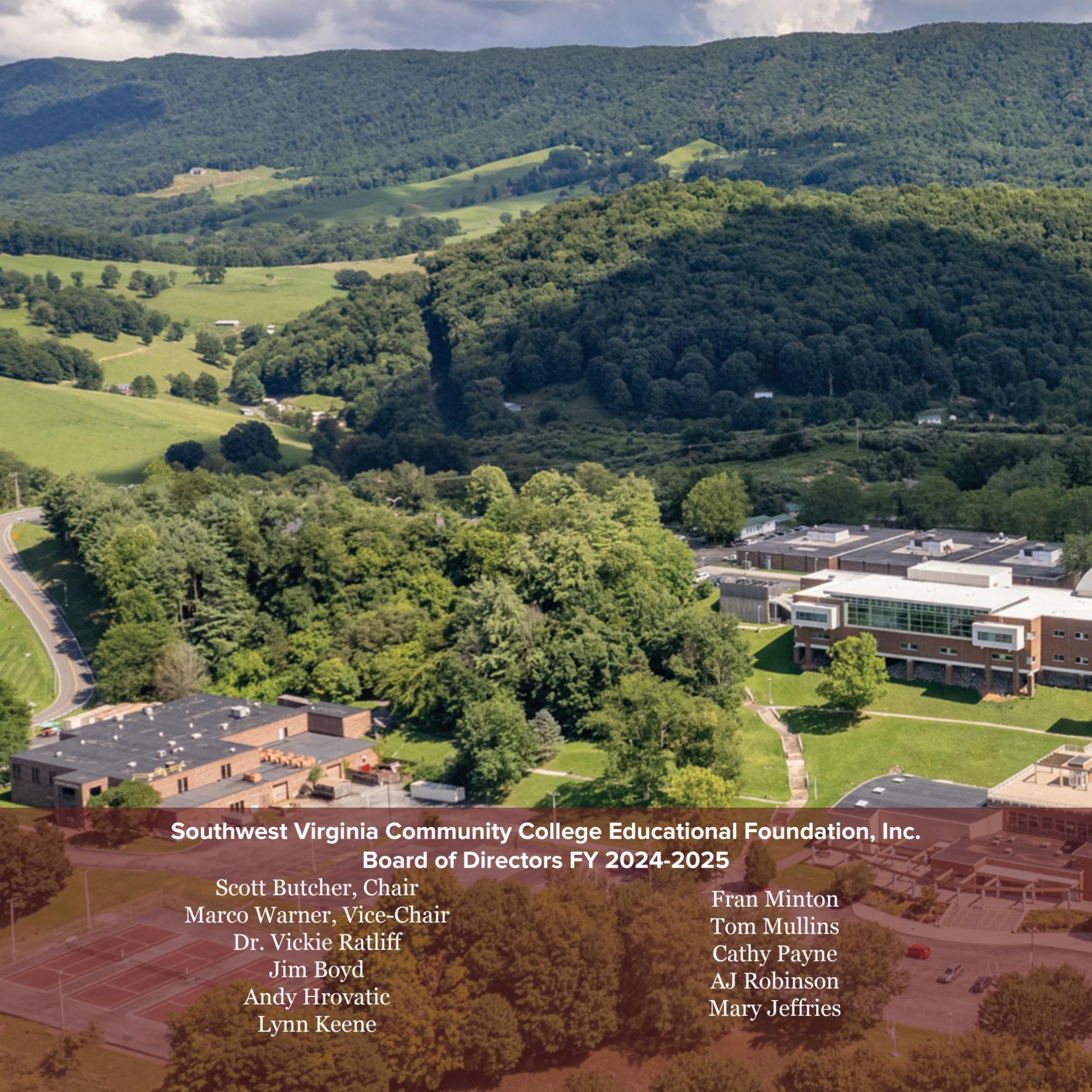
Associate of Science

- Business Administration
- Computer Science
- Education
- Engineering
- Environmental Science, Science
- General Studies
- Information Technology
- Kinesiology
- Pre-Medical Major
- Public Health
- Science
- Social Science

Certificate

- Fiber Optic Technician*
*Partnership with Quanta Services
- Health Sciences
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
- Law Enforcement
- Legal Studies
- Practical Nursing
- Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Counselor
- Uniform Certificate of General Studies

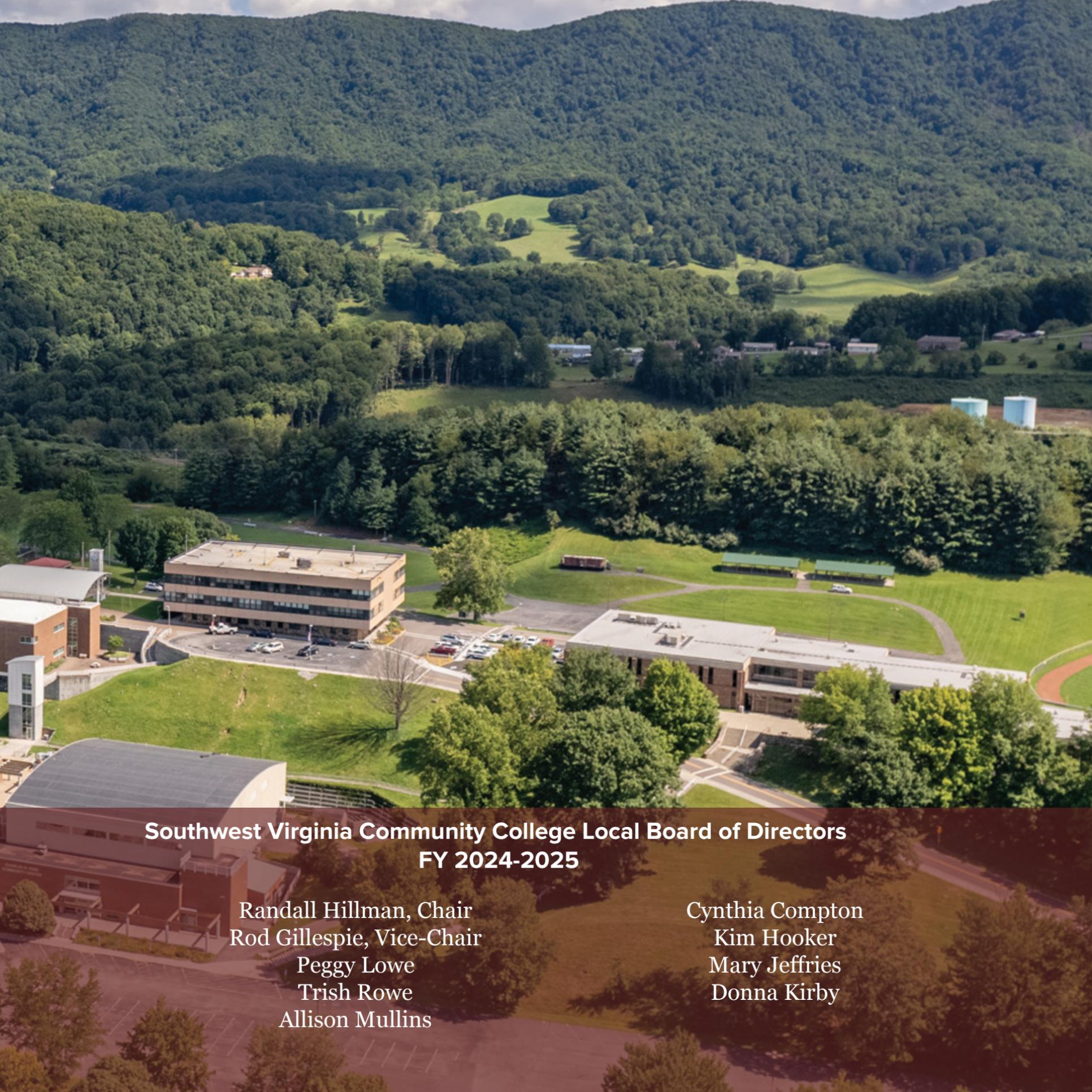


An aerial photograph of the Southwest Virginia Community College campus. The image shows several large, modern brick buildings with flat roofs and large windows, surrounded by lush green lawns and dense trees. In the background, rolling hills covered in thick forest rise up under a partly cloudy sky. A winding road is visible on the left side of the image.

Southwest Virginia Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.
Board of Directors FY 2024-2025

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Marco Warner, Vice-Chair
Dr. Vickie Ratliff
Jim Boyd
Andy Hrovatic
Lynn Keene

Fran Minton
Tom Mullins
Cathy Payne
AJ Robinson
Mary Jeffries



**Southwest Virginia Community College Local Board of Directors
FY 2024-2025**

Randall Hillman, Chair
Rod Gillespie, Vice-Chair
Peggy Lowe
Trish Rowe
Allison Mullins

Cynthia Compton
Kim Hooker
Mary Jeffries
Donna Kirby



Southwest Virginia Community College

724 Community College Road
Cedar Bluff, VA 24609
276-964-255

Bluefield Center

745 South College Drive
Bluefield, VA 24605
276-964-7787

Distance Learning

PO Box 1101
Richlands, VA 24641
276-964-7279

Appalachian Arts and Events Center

112 River Road
Cedar Bluff, VA 24609
276-596-9188

Southern Gap Center

1102 Ovenbird Road
Grundy, VA 24614
276-964-7343

Booth Center

1195 Edgewater Drive
Grundy, VA 24614
276-964-7354

Bluestone Workforce Training Center

670 Camp Joy Road
Bluefield, VA 24605
276-322-2080

Lebanon Center

144 Highland Drive
Lebanon, VA 24266
276-964-7580