There are 1,100 community colleges in the United States enrolling over seven million students, representing 46% of all of the undergraduate college students in our nation. Despite these facts, I still get questions from people who don’t fully understand the mission of the community college and how community colleges differ from four-year colleges and universities. To understand PVCC and all community colleges, you need to appreciate the power of four beliefs that drive who we are and what we do.

1. **We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to get a postsecondary education and we will try to eliminate barriers that prevent people from enrolling.** How does PVCC do this? We keep tuition relatively low (37% of the tuition at Virginia public universities). PVCC has non-selective admissions. That means that everyone with a high school degree or a GED is eligible to enroll because many mediocre high school students will become outstanding college students when they mature and get focused. We offer courses day, evening, weekend, online, and at off-campus sites so that working adults and people with busy lives can still enroll. We reach out to underserved populations to encourage them to reach their potential through education. We offer people a second chance, a third chance and even a last chance to improve their lives through education, including offering degree programs to the inmates at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women.

2. **We believe in student success.** It is not enough to enroll. We want our students to succeed. But it cannot be success because we lowered our standards. Student success is measured by their grades after they transfer to a university to pursue a bachelor’s degree or their success on the job after completing a PVCC career and technical program. We promote student success by providing a personal, caring environment with dedicated faculty and staff. Tutoring is available for free in all subjects and our writing center and math lab assist students with mastering these critical elements of the curriculum. Our student services department provides for all students academic advising and career counseling. Accommodations are available for special needs students. Intervention specialists work with students in danger of dropping out for academic, financial or personal reasons. At PVCC, we succeed only when our students succeed.

3. **We believe in the power of great teaching.** PVCC faculty are hired to teach. Some do research and some write books, but they are hired because they love to teach and excel at it. Unlike universities, which often have 200 or more students in a freshman level class taught by a graduate student, PVCC keeps its classes small (95% have fewer than 40 students and none is larger than 80 students) and only uses fully qualified college faculty. PVCC faculty get to know their students and provide personal, individual attention. Great teaching helps produce successful students.

4. **We believe in community.** PVCC works with area employers, economic developers and community leaders to help create a highly skilled local workforce. If UVA Health System needs to hire pharmacy technicians, PVCC creates the program. When the wine industry was poised for growth in Central Virginia, PVCC created programs in viticulture and enology. When defense intelligence jobs were hard to fill, PVCC created a program to prepare local individuals for these high paying jobs. When Charlottesville Area Transit needed bus drivers, PVCC partnered with the City of Charlottesville to train local residents. PVCC helps people get the skills they need to get local jobs, and by doing so, helps our local employers succeed.

As you read this year’s annual report, think about these four beliefs. You will see their influence in every story.

The American community college was described by former Secretary of Education, John Gardner, as “the greatest educational invention of the 20th century.” That is the power and the promise of achieving these four beliefs and that is what PVCC strives to do every day and every year. I hope you will enjoy reading about the success and accomplishments of PVCC faculty, staff and students in this year’s annual report.

Frank Friedman, PVCC President
ffriedman@pvcc.edu
Quality Healthcare Programs Put Graduates on the Road to Success

The Growth of PVCC’s Programs

Since its founding in 1972, PVCC’s healthcare programs have grown substantially, both in the number of graduates, as well as program offerings available to students. Since its early days, nursing has remained the college’s most popular healthcare program, graduating more than 85 students each year in its registered nursing and practical nursing tracks.

In recent years, however, new allied health programs have been established at PVCC, allowing students to receive training in radiography, diagnostic medical sonography, emergency medical services, surgical technology, and other healthcare fields needed to fill the increasing demand for trained workers to staff hospitals, physicians’ offices, long-term care facilities, and medical and surgery centers.

“Healthcare is one of the fastest growing areas of employment in our community,” said Kathy Hudson, dean, health and life sciences at PVCC. “As a comprehensive community college, we routinely reach out to local healthcare employers to discuss their needs for future employees and then collaborate with them to make sure they have a pool of qualified employees.”

According to Hudson, new programs are established when employers reach out to the college with an identified or projected need. Faculty and staff then work with employers to establish program curricula that not only train students in the specific skills they need to excel in the job, but to pass state and national certification exams in their fields.

The Importance of Community Partnerships

Once the curriculum has been established, partnerships with community entities, most notably the University of Virginia and Martha Jefferson Hospital, help to make these programs a reality, providing financial support when state funds are unavailable or insufficient to get new programs up and running.

“Healthcare program development is truly a community effort,” said Hudson. “Because the state does not provide program start-up funding, PVCC relies on our community partners to fund any necessary equipment and faculty salaries for the first three years, at which time the college takes over this funding. Our community partners also provide access to required clinical resources so that our students can experience real-life situations in addition to on-campus lab practice. We couldn’t do this without them.”

Job Placement Success for Graduates

The value of these community partnerships is made even more apparent when students are able to secure jobs within months of graduating. Job placement is extremely important to PVCC, especially for career and technical programs such as those in allied health. Success is measured in the number of graduates that have secured employment within six months of receiving their associate degree. In general, the college’s goal is to ensure that at least 90% of its career and technical education graduates are employed by the six-month deadline. In 2014, a study conducted by PVCC’s Institutional Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Office found that 96% of PVCC health science graduates were employed. In nursing alone, 89% of PVCC graduates were employed between six and nine months of graduating, with half of those graduates employed at UVA and 14% employed at Martha Jefferson Hospital.

“As a single mother, my journey to my current career was a long and bumpy one,” said Mary Katherine Thurman, a 2013 graduate of PVCC’s nursing program who now works at UVA’s Transitional Care Hospital. “Sometimes I felt like an acrobat balancing the raising of my daughter Lily, work, school, and my dream of becoming a nurse. I’m very thankful for my time and experience at PVCC—it provided me with a smooth transition to University of Virginia’s RN to BSN program and prepared me for my first job as a graduate nurse.”

Mary Hannah Dolan, a 2015 nursing graduate who now works on the orthopedic trauma floor at the UVA Medical Center, agrees.

“PVCC is extremely dedicated to its students. The staff makes sure you reach your educational goals and that you know the skills you need to use on a daily basis,” said Dolan. “What’s more, the faculty and staff really exemplify what true compassion is: to take time for others even when it’s not convenient for you. The sacrifice of self, laying your personal needs down so that you can help another—that is what I want to stick with me throughout my whole nursing career and throughout my life.”

Like nursing, job placement rates for other PVCC allied health programs are equally high. Radiography, a program that PVCC started in 2010, had a job placement success rate of 100% for the 2013-2014 graduating class; all were employed within 12 months of graduating.

“My biggest goal in my career is to be in a place where I love waking up and going to work and that I can support my family,” said Josh Kramer, a 2013 graduate of PVCC’s radiography program who now works at Martha Jefferson Hospital as a vascular interventional radiology technologist. “PVCC not only gave me the tools to begin to succeed in my career, but also the support and follow-up after graduation to make sure my next goals were in sight and ready to be achieved.”

In addition to working at Martha Jefferson, Kramer will be teaching as an adjunct instructor at PVCC beginning this fall. He says that he’s excited to be teaching so early in his career and expects to see continued growth in the radiography program.

“With our continued partnership with UVA, PVCC students will continue to be exposed to the newest technology, the latest techniques, and innovative treatments,” said Kramer. “Employers nationwide will be excited to see the clinical experiences and capabilities of our students.”

On the cover: Ebonee Parrish graduated magna cum laude (with high honors) in 2010 with an associate degree in liberal arts. After graduating from PVCC, she used the guaranteed admissions program to transfer to U.Va., where she earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology. She now works as a family and youth counselor in Charlottesville.
PVCC Adds Five New Programs for 2015

Five new programs of study are now offered through PVCC including Central Services Technician, Construction Management, Cybersecurity, Pharmacy Technician, and Retail Management.

**Central Services Technician**

This 21-credit program can be completed in two semesters and will train students to be a central services technician responsible for the proper decontamination and sterilization of equipment used in hospitals and community-based surgery centers.

Jobs in this high-demand field are expected to grow 21% in Central Virginia over the next decade, compared to 14% nationally.* The program is made possible by support from the University of Virginia Health System and Martha Jefferson Hospital.

**Cybersecurity**

The 28-credit career studies certificate in cybersecurity prepares students to work as network specialists, with an emphasis on protecting data confidentiality and preventing attacks on computer systems and networks.

Aligned with standards set forth by the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education, this certificate will also help prepare graduates for the Security +, SSCP, CISM and ISSP certification exams and will prepare graduates to function in public, private and government organizations in roles requiring assessment, operations, protection and improvement of network security systems.

**Construction Management**

The 23-credit career studies certificate in construction management prepares graduates to plan, direct and coordinate construction projects, including development and implementation, and provides training for managers in specialized construction fields, such as carpentry or plumbing.

**Pharmacy Technician**

Consisting of 29 credits, the program prepares students for work as a pharmacy technician in hospitals and retail-based pharmacies. Students who excel in this field are detail-oriented and would enjoy working in a structured environment.

The current average salary for pharmacy technicians in Central Virginia is $13-15 an hour, and economic projections estimate a 27% growth in this field over the next 10 years.*

This new program is made possible by generous support from the University of Virginia Health System.

**Retail Management**

PVCC’s new Retail Management Program will train students to supervise sales associates in a retail establishment. The 24-credit Career Studies Certificate will prepare graduates for the National Retail Federation (NRF) Certification exam in Retail Management that will allow for further career advancement.

Jobs in retail management are expected to grow 4% by 2022 in Central Virginia with an average annual salary of $39,644 ($19.06 an hour). The retail sector is projected to grow 9% in Central Virginia by 2022.*

PVCC has more than 40 programs of study that prepare graduates for a job, career change or skills upgrade, or transfer to a four-year school to complete a bachelor’s degree. To learn more about PVCC’s programs of study, visit www.pvcc.edu/programs.

Satellite Center Locations Make PVCC Accessible to Many

Eugene Giuseppe Center | 222 Main Street | Stanardsville
PVCC recently completed its third year of holding classes at its satellite center at the Eugene Giuseppe Center in Greene County. This academic year, more than 360 students took classes there. Courses offered at the Center include art appreciation, criminal justice, biology, business, economics, English, health, information technology, math, philosophy and sociology.

Located on the second floor of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library (JMRL), the Center also has a large community room that PVCC rents to agencies, organizations and the general public on a space-available basis. To learn more, visit www.pvcc.edu/greene.

Jefferson School Center | 233 Fourth Street NW | Charlottesville
Home to the college’s popular Culinary Arts Program, PVCC recently wrapped up its second year of offering courses at the Jefferson School Center in downtown Charlottesville. This academic year, 306 students took classes at the Jefferson School. In addition to culinary courses, PVCC offered classes in English, health, psychology, child development, information technology, business, math, and other credit classes.

PVCC’s Workforce Services Division also schedules a number of noncredit culinary classes there for individuals seeking personal enrichment. To learn more about PVCC’s noncredit offerings, visit www.pvcc.edu/workforceservices. For more information about PVCC’s Jefferson School Center, visit www.pvcc.edu/jefferson.

PVCC Campus Branch of UVA Community Credit Union Opens
On March 16, PVCC and UVA Community Credit Union held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open its new Campus Branch at PVCC.

“We are pleased to be able to offer PVCC students another avenue for learning,” stated Frank Friedman, PVCC president, “Whether in the classroom or on the job, our students will have the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience.”

The PVCC Campus Branch is a full-service branch serving the students, faculty and staff of PVCC. The new branch is the result of an educational partnership formed in 2014 between the college and the credit union. The purpose of this partnership is to help students gain practical money skills and learn about banking industry careers through classroom projects, working at the campus branch, maintaining accounts and by attending free financial seminars conducted by the credit union. The branch will be staffed by credit union trained PVCC students.

The PVCC Campus Branch and ATM are located in the Main Building at PVCC. Members who join the credit union and open an account at the PVCC Campus Branch have access to all credit union products and services at any branch location or through Online Banking and Mobile Apps.

Leading up to the grand opening of the PVCC Campus Branch, PVCC students participated in classroom projects for marketing the new branch. Students entered contests for naming the branch and designing a logo. The student winners were recognized at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Credit union staff and PVCC faculty and administrators are already formulating plans for new classroom projects and initiatives for the 2015-2016 school year.

“Our partnership with PVCC furthers the credit union’s commitment to providing quality financial education to our community,” said Alison DeTuncq, credit union president/CEO, “We are pleased to have this opportunity to work with students and help increase their knowledge of the financial industry as well as help them manage their personal finances.”

Learn more at www.pvcc.edu/uvacreditunion.
PVCC Earns 2015 Military Friendly Schools Designation

PVCC was named to Victory Media’s Military Friendly Schools® list for 2015. The list honors the top 15% of U.S. colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans and dependents and to ensure their academic success. This is the second year in a row the college has received this honor. Nearly 700 current students at PVCC are classified as veterans, active-duty military, reservists or dependents. The college is designated “Military Friendly” based upon having a dedicated military and veterans affairs advisor, an active Student Veterans of America club, a Veterans Center on campus, information sessions for prospective students who are veterans, academic advising for enrolled veterans throughout their tenure at PVCC, support services such as tutoring and academic coaching, and observances on campus of Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Meet two of PVCC’s outstanding student veterans below.

Patrick Fritz: Discovering New Purpose

When Navy Submariner Patrick Fritz was medically retired from active service in 2011, he knew he needed to find a new career to support his family, and that meant going back to school.

Transitioning to College Life

“It was definitely a concern,” said Fritz. “I was worried that I was too old or that I wouldn’t be able to transition from the military environment to the academic environment. However, the exact opposite has been true. For newly separated veterans, it’s a great way to transition from the rigid structure of the military into civilian life. There is a structure not unlike the military actually. Just like the military, you have to be on time, you have to manage your time efficiently, and you have to meet strict deadlines.”

As a 15-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, Fritz was interested in public policy, particularly veterans’ issues, and knew that community college would be a good starting point, especially as a first-time college student.

Why He Chose PVCC

Fritz made his decision to attend PVCC after speaking with Veterans and Admissions Advising Counselor Jackie Fisher.

“The support services here are incredible,” said Fritz. “Jackie Fisher is always available to provide support. Her desire to serve the veterans and willingness to go above and beyond made me apply. After speaking with her, I began researching PVCC. The quality of education and the college’s commitment to the success of the students, both while at PVCC and beyond, made the decision to attend easy.”

Camaraderie and a Sense of Belonging

In addition to veterans’ services, Fritz says that the staff and faculty at PVCC have been extremely supportive right from the very beginning. He also found a welcome resource in his fellow veterans.

“The other veterans on campus come from every branch of service and every career field, from infantry to intelligence to submarines,” said Fritz. “They provide a tremendous support system, helping with some of the issues that we face as we transition, and share a commonality of experience. It’s an opportunity to continue the best part of military service: the camaraderie and sense of belonging.”

Leading by Example

“There are so many opportunities here, just like in the military, to be mentors and role-model behavior for some of the younger students,” said Fritz, who was recently elected president of PVCC’s Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. “Many clubs and student organizations have veterans in leadership positions where we can utilize those skills we learned while active duty. And I want to be an example for my kids. I’m the first one in my family to go to college. Now I have a frame of reference for my own children. I can tell my kids about the process, about what to expect when they go to college.”

Fritz was recently selected as a Valley Proteins Fellow for the 2015-2016 academic year and is one of only nine community college students in Virginia to receive this honor. Launched five years ago with generous support from Valley Proteins, Inc., this scholarship program provides second-year, full-time students with financial resources as well as service opportunities and a unique leadership curriculum. Fellows are selected on the basis of demonstrated academic excellence, leadership potential, and financial need.

Looking to the Future

In spring 2016, Fritz will graduate with an associate degree in liberal arts, and transfer to the University of Virginia to complete his bachelor’s degree in political philosophy, policy, and law. He’s already made the decision to continue on and earn his master’s degree and intends to enroll in an accelerated master’s program through the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at U.Va. Once he’s earned his master’s degree, he plans to either work with veterans’ issues at the local level or with immigration law.

A Solid Foundation

“Returning to school in general, and PVCC particularly, has been one of the best and most rewarding decisions I have ever made,” said Fritz. “The military has instilled the drive to be the best, and PVCC allows the opportunity to continue that and provides a supportive environment that fosters the development of new skills. At PVCC, the rewards are directly proportional to the effort you put in. The foundation I have received here will provide me with the tools to succeed wherever I am.”
Amy Davis: The Journey for a New Dream

Eye on the Sky
For most people, jumping out of airplanes isn’t common, let alone something they aspire to do, but for army veteran Amy Davis, it was her dream, and the best part of her military career.

“It was super fun,” said Davis. “I still miss it, but I can always do it on the civilian side. One day, I will get back in the sky.”

Living the Dream
Davis began her military service as a counterintelligence agent in the Army Reserves, where she served for eight years before requesting a transfer to Fort Bragg in North Carolina to undergo training as a parachute rigger and paratrooper in 2004. Her choice to transition was deliberate because it would allow her to go to airborne school, something she’d wanted to do for years.

“My favorite uncle was a Green Beret in Vietnam, and before he passed away, he gave me his airborne wings,” Davis said. “He told me that I could have them if I earned them. They were already 50 years old when he gave them to me and had belonged to his father—my grandfather—before him.

They’d seen battle in both World War II and Vietnam. I knew then that I needed to become airborne certified.”

After completing her training, Davis spent the next four years parachuting, before retiring from the Army Reserves in 2007 when she and her husband, who was active-duty Army, decided to start their family.

Changing Careers
Having earned a bachelor’s degree in cellular biology from Western Washington University and a master's degree in epidemiology and statistics from the University of Arizona while still in the army, Davis turned her sights towards earning a Ph.D. She completed her doctorate in Urban Services Leadership at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in 2010 while raising two small children and living in California.

“It was a lot of work,” said Davis with a laugh. “I had to fly back and forth to Richmond to meet with my dissertation committee a lot, but it all worked out in the end.”

She spent the next several years working from home as a research associate for VCU in a grant-funded position. Once the grant ran out, Davis was laid off, and she found herself unable to get another academic position because she never knew where her husband would be stationed next.

Finding a New Calling
“I realized that I needed to find a new field—one that I could work in from anywhere and one that was always in demand,” said Davis. “I chose sonography. I think being a sonographer will be very interesting. Each day will be different since I’ll see new patients every day. And most importantly, it will allow me to be mobile. Army posts are always looking for sonographers, so I can work anywhere in the world.”

Why She Chose PVCC
Davis says the decision to come to PVCC was easy. She knew that her husband was going to be transferred to the Charlottesville area in summer 2015, so the location was perfect, especially since PVCC was one of only four schools in Virginia that offered an accredited sonography program.

“After researching schools, I realized that I could complete my entire degree at PVCC without needing to transfer anywhere else. I decided it was fate, and I applied.”

Davis is currently taking her program prerequisites online from her home in Sanford, N.C., near Fort Bragg. She says that she loves her online classes and that the college has been very accommodating about allowing her to take her exams remotely.

“Some of my classes required that exams be taken on campus, which isn’t an option since I live so far away,” said Davis. “But my instructors worked with me so that I could use the testing center at Fort Bragg for my exams. They made it so easy. It’s been wonderful.”

Once Davis and her family move to Charlottesville this summer, she will be taking the rest of her prerequisites on campus, before applying to the sonography program in May 2016.

To learn more about PVCC’s veterans services, visit www.pvcc.edu/veterans.
Created by Andrew Ullman and Hayward Majors in 2012, the University Bridge program offers specialized services to international students who are looking to further their education in the United States. The program connects students with community colleges, allowing them to take general education courses and earn an associate degree prior to applying to a four-year college.

“University Bridge provides a soft landing for students, giving them extra care while enjoying the small classes offered at community colleges like PVCC.”
– Hayward Majors

“University Bridge provides a soft landing for students, giving them extra care while enjoying the small classes offered at community colleges like PVCC,” said Majors. “It was our goal from the very beginning to partner with the best community colleges near top universities and provide exceptional services to international students as they transition into college.”

Once accepted into the program, students are provided with personalized services that complement those offered by partner community colleges. Services include housing, academic planning and social and cultural activities. The PVCC-University Bridge partnership began in 2013 when the first class of international students began taking courses in fall of that year.

“We chose PVCC for many reasons, including its top quality faculty, its location next to one of the top universities in the nation, and the proven success of its graduates,” said Majors. “What we have learned by working with PVCC helps serve as a model for other campuses.”

PVCC’s first class of participants included:

Zihan “Mia” Li, of Liaocheng, China, who received an associate degree in general studies and will be transferring to the University of Virginia to major in global development studies.

Jinsha Liu, of Beijing, China, who graduated with an associate degree in business administration and will be transferring to the University of Michigan to major in financial mathematics.

Ruihong “Ron” Sun, of Dalian, China, who graduated this summer with an associate degree in art and will be applying to the University of Virginia to major in visual arts and economics.

Weidong “Wilson” Zhao, of Weihai, China, who is set to graduate in December 2015 with an associate degree in business administration and will be applying to the University of Virginia to major in financial mathematics.

Not only are our students going to top universities next year, but they have helped us mentor and prepare this year’s incoming group of students, who will start taking classes next fall.”

John Donnelly, vice president, instruction and student services at PVCC, agrees.

“The University Bridge program is a win-win for the participating students and for PVCC,” said Donnelly. “We are proud of the success of this first group of international students. Having these students on our campus and in our classes has enriched our students’ experiences by providing a new global perspective.”

– John Donnelly

All students are graduating with GPAs of 3.81 or higher. Majors and Ullman couldn’t be more pleased.

“We really see ourselves as an extension of PVCC,” said Majors. “While our first class was small, we wanted to take our time to build the best program we could. Our students’ success proves that it works.

“Having these students on our campus and in our classes has enriched our students’ experiences by providing a new global perspective. We wish them well in their future academic pursuits.”

To learn more about the University Bridge program, visit www.ubridge.org.
2015 Workforce Services Milestones & Highlights

- PVCC’s Viticulture and Enology Program celebrated its 10th Anniversary on March 19, 2015. Approximately 15 to 20 wineries in Virginia have been started by PVCC students.

- Kids College@PVCC reached 850 enrollments for the summer of 2014. The program also received grants from the Freas Foundation and the Chancellor’s Innovation Fund to start a program for underserved students in the rural counties and inner city Charlottesville. Albemarle County Rotary Club named Kids College as a multi-year recipient of Kids Swing, its major fundraiser.

- Workforce Services partnered with the City of Charlottesville and both public and private sector employers to start Growing Opportunities (GO), a program to train low-income unemployed and underemployed adults. Programming includes:
  - Workplace readiness skills
  - Career readiness certificate preparation and testing
  - Job shadowing and job coaching
  - Mentoring
  - Technical skills training (including commercial driver’s license, nurse aide and administrative assistant/office worker).

  PVCC had 100% completion for 32 students.

To learn more about Workforce Services offerings and programs, visit www.pvcc.edu/workforceservices.

Great Expectations Opens Doors for Foster Youth

PVCC’s Great Expectations Program is a statewide program that helps current and former foster youth between the ages of 13 and 24 in Central Virginia gain access to a community college education and transition successfully to living independently.

Using PVCC resources and working with community agencies and individuals, Great Expectations provides a full array of academic, career and support services. The program has an advisory board with representatives from social service and other agencies and individuals who have a passion for the welfare of foster youth.

“Great Expectations aspires to be that beacon of light for so many of our youth that feel lost, alone and hopeless,” said Sarah Groom, PVCC Great Expectations advisor. “We want to encourage them to rise above their circumstances and have futures different from the pasts they have been so badly scarred by. This program not only has the potential to change individual lives, but the potential to change our communities by providing these individuals with the opportunity and resources they need to succeed.”

To date, the program has assisted more than 150 PVCC students and currently serves more than 70 students at the high school and college levels. Funding for this program is made possible through a generous donation by Barbara and Mark Friedman, the VCCS Educational Foundation and other community donors. To learn more about Great Expectations, visit www.pvcc.edu/ge.
Commencement 2015

PVCC graduated 680 students—its largest graduating class ever—at the 42nd annual commencement on Thursday, May 14, at the John Paul Jones arena.

A significant number of graduates worked, parented and/or met other responsibilities while attending PVCC, as evidenced by the number of graduates who stood to applause when PVCC President Frank Friedman asked which of them fulfilled such demographics.

Keynote speaker was Anne Holton, Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Holton commended graduates on their hard work, their persistence, and their decision to choose community college as the first step in their educational journeys.

“One of the most obvious benefits to a community college education is its affordability,” said Holton. “The fact that so many of you are graduating with no debt, or very little debt, is a tribute to the strength of our community colleges and what they offer. Tuition, fees, supporting yourself through college may have been a struggle—I’m sure it was—but you have found the absolute smartest path financially to higher ed attainment."

Student speaker Brandon Zeman spoke about his time working in the Admissions and Advising Office as a student ambassador and how that gave him insight into the lives of his fellow students.

“Each and every one of us shares a unique story about our educational journey,” Zeman said. “Today is about celebrating a milestone in our lives, about congratulating each and every one of us for the sacrifices that we have made. Hundreds of students with hundreds of different stories sit in the audience right now. Remember where your journey started. At that school sitting on top of the hill: Piedmont Virginia Community College.”

PVCC 2015 Graduates by Location

Awarded Degrees in 2014-2015

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<th>SUMMER 2014</th>
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<td><strong>591</strong></td>
<td><strong>892</strong>*</td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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*680 students earned at least one Degree, Certificate, or Career Studies Certificate from PVCC this academic year. Some students earn more than one.
PVCC Student Team Named One of Top 10 Winners in National Science Competition

A student team at Piedmont Virginia Community College has been named one of the top 10 winners of the 2015 National Science Foundation Community College Innovation Challenge (NSF CCIC).

Held in spring 2015, the NSF CCIC challenged community college students from across the nation to propose innovative STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) solutions to perplexing, real-world problems. Students were invited to identify key problems and propose innovative solutions in areas with potential for solving some of America’s most daunting challenges: big data; infrastructure security; sustainability (including water, food, energy and environment); and broadening participation in STEM. Participating student teams submitted projects ranging from engineering algae to improve fuel production to developing mobile medicine dispensing units for disaster relief.

Teams submitted their entries in January to NSF, who selected several finalists to attend its “Innovation Boot Camp,” which was held from June 15 to 18 in Washington, D.C. The PVCC student team, comprised of science major Maya Fraser-Butler; science major Stephen Hazen; and biotechnology major Candice Tomlinson, all of Charlottesville, placed as a finalist, earning the team the opportunity to take part in the Innovation Boot Camp, where PVCC was selected as one of top 10 winning teams.

“I’m so proud of our students,” said Anne Allison, associate professor, biology, who served as the team’s faculty advisor. “Winning this competition advances their young scientific careers to the highest level.”

PVCC’s team focused its project on freshwater sustainability in Virginia. To supplement work already being done by groups such as the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and StreamWatch, the team proposed creating a new way of measuring water health by surveying protists, the largely single-celled organisms that form the base of the food chain in aquatic ecosystems. To manage research workflow and share data with the public, the team used an emerging open-access tool called the Open Science Framework (OSF), to manage a large number of authentic research projects. Allison also uses an open-source, online homework system that she designed with several of her PVCC colleagues. The use of open-source materials and homegrown online systems allows her to not only reduce costs for the college, but more importantly, to ensure that her students succeed by providing them with tools that they can access from anywhere.

When it comes to her laboratory courses, Allison feels that it’s very important to involve undergraduate students in authentic, scientific research, a task that can be somewhat daunting due to the high volume of students that need research experience and the small number of faculty who are available to serve that need.

In an effort to get more community college students involved in research, Allison is currently pioneering the open-source research management tool, Open Science Framework (OSF) to assist educators with managing complex research projects that involve multiple students.

“OSF is a great, free tool that provides a centralized and powerful system for managing research, which allows students to conduct research and gain critical evaluative and analytical skills needed to identify and create excellent work,” said Allison. “And because the answers in authentic research are not known, students and faculty get to share their love of learning and exploration. Whatever educators can do to make these experiences widely available, we should.”

The bottom line for Allison is that she loves teaching and wants to make sure that she provides a quality education for her students so that they not only learn and gain mastery of the material, but develop a love of science that they will carry with them into their future careers.

“I try to share my love of science with my students in a very genuine and personal way,” said Allison. “I think they sense my excitement, and they start to catch the science bug. When science educators allow for lots of exploration, and when we involve students in scientific research, students realize that learning is about more than grades. They take ownership of their work and see their contribution as part of something bigger. They leave the classrooms and labs still talking about the work. They go into the world with a much deeper appreciation and understanding of science.”

To learn more about the CCIC competition, or view videos from community college winners, visit www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/communitycollege.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Anne Allison, Associate Professor, Biology

Dr. Anne Allison began teaching at the college as an adjunct instructor in 2007 and was promoted to a full-time professorship in August 2013.

Since her arrival as a full-time faculty member, Allison has hit the ground running, embracing a wide variety of educational technology and open-source materials for her classes and introducing new research models into her lab courses.

At PVCC, Allison teaches everything from introductory life science and general biology classes to advanced courses in cell biology and genetics. For several of those courses, she uses open-source online textbooks to make the material more accessible for students, as well as an open-access research tool, the Open Science Framework (OSF), to manage a large number of authentic research projects. Allison also uses an open-source, online homework system that she designed with several of her PVCC colleagues. The use of open-source materials and homegrown online systems allows her to not only reduce costs for the college, but more importantly, to ensure that her students succeed by providing them with tools that they can access from anywhere.

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Student Awards & Recognition

The following students were recognized at PVCC’s 11th Annual Academic and Leadership Awards convocation held in April 2015. Students were selected by PVCC faculty in recognition of their grade point average, class involvement, service to PVCC and/or peers, and leadership.

Division of Business, Mathematics and Technologies
Accounting: Jo Ann Moore
Laura A. O’Rourke Award for Administrative Support Technology: LaValla C. Coleman
Cleav and Peggy Parker Award for Business Administration: Melissa S. Krieman
The Money Professors Award for Business Management: Douglas A. Fargo
James W. O’Rourke Award for Computer Science: Brennan J. Ebeling
Ken Hamm Award for Criminal Justice: Thomas S. Brizzolara
Virginia Ross Award for Culinary Arts: Alicia M. Simmons
Economics: Christian J. Adams
Larry Brown Award for Electronics and Computer Technology: Peter T. Arthur
Sarah Rogers Award for Engineering: Joshua R. Smith
Information Technology: Chris Avant
Euler Prize for Excellence in Mathematics: Richard M. Marshall V
Frances G. and Glenn M. Norcutt Mathematics Spirit Award: Jena K. Helfrick
Wolf, Goss and Mayer Award for Physics: Brennan J. Ebeling
Web Design: Erin M. Kennedy

Division of Health and Life Sciences
Dick Harrington Award for Composition: Jesus Pino
Dance: Sarah A. Mcloch
Ada Sloan Award for English: Amin Haghatalab
Fine Arts: Susan J. Sorbello
Roger C. Chappuis Award for French: Sarah A. Shifflett
Rebecca and Andrew Strealy Award for German: Cory C. Coogan
Emily Timberlake Watterson Award for History: Michael L. Baize
Carole Friedman and Gail Koplow Award for Humanities: Thomas Hunt
Frances G. and Glenn M. Norcutt Award for Literature: Molly A. Turner
Prudence Curtis Award for Music: Nicholas A. Lauterbach
Philosophy: Joaquin D. Litzenberger
Mary Ann Elwood Award for Political Science: Jacob Hannay
Dr. Neil Friedman Award for Psychology: Fei Guo

John Albert Broadus Award for Religion: Samuel L. Amos, III
Sociology: Nicole E. Smith
Spanish: Kao Hobenik
Speech: Erin M. Kennedy
Theatre & Drama: Sarah L. Williams

Division of Humanities: Fine Arts and Social Sciences
Dolores Brandolo Award for Anatomy and Physiology: Stella Masako Kanda
Lloyd Willis Award for Biology: Dorcas F. Yoder
Biotechnology: Candice Tomlinson
Chemistry: Veronica Deighan
Kirby Award for Diagnostic Medical Sonography: Michael S. Green
Elizabeth Morning Hamm Award for Emergency Medical Services: Kevin L. Mast
Geology: Catherine R. Tatman
Health Information Management: Gigi Ferraris
Jane Hendricks Award for Patient Admissions Coordinator: Gigi Ferraris
Campbell Ross Award for Horticulture: Antonia Florence
Rosa M. Lee Award for Microbiology: Amalia M. Lomo
Mildred Montag Award for Nursing: Mary H. Dolan
Wyant-Dowell Award for Physical Education: Amy E. Porter
Mary Lamb Wyant Award for Practical Nursing: Stephanie J. Shirley
Elizabeth Nalley Award for Radiography: Karen E. Pfeiffer
Dana Reye Shifflett Award for Surgical Technology: CopperPhoenix

Distinguished Student Award
Brandon L. Zeman
The highest award presented by the college to a student, the Distinguished Student Award was established in 1994 to recognize students who demonstrate exemplary service or leadership at the college and through activities in the college service region and beyond.

Board Service Award:
Lauren J. Housel
2015 Travel Scholarship Recipient:
Patrick E. Hedger

PVCC All-USA Academic Team Nominees
PTK Top 10 All-Virginia Academic Team and Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Silver Scholar: Charlotte A. Barstow
PTK All-Virginia Academic Team: Brandon L. Zeman

Student Leadership Awards
Art Club: Aubrey L. Tomlin
Graphics Club: Aubrey L. Tomlin
Basketball Club: Spencer Clem
Christian Student Fellowship Club: Cory C. Coogan
Engineering and Technology Club: Mark G. Potter
First Quadrant Tutoring: Jena K. Helfrick
Horticulture and Environmental Club: Jonathan L. Dean
Student Activities: Jonathan L. Dean
International Club: Kayley Yimin Liang
Investment Club: Brandon L. Zeman
Mu Alpha Theta: Albert Hwang
Music Club: Jacob R. Brumback
Radiography Club: Elizabeth Luchetti
Soccer Club: Edwin Alicantu
Spanish Club: Brighit N. Bautista
Structured Learning Assistance Facilitator: Rachel Koch
Student Government Association: HyeYun Joo
Student Nurses Association of Piedmont: Jessica D. Walsh
Ultimate Frisbee Club: Calvin D. Biessecker III
Writing Center Tutoring: Annette L. Cashatt

Phi Theta Kappa 2015 Inductees
Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the national honor society at Piedmont Virginia Community College, recently inducted 36 new members. To be eligible for PTK, students with 12 to 30 credit hours in a program of study at PVCC must be enrolled full-time during the semester they become a member and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Students with more than 30 credit hours in a program of study at PVCC must be enrolled full- or part-time during the semester they become a member and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher.

Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities
The following students were nominated by PVCC faculty for academic excellence and student leadership.

Three-Year Faculty Appointments and Promotions:

Jane Anderson, assistant professor of nursing
Melanie Bailey, professor of history
Karen Bloomfield, assistant professor of nursing
Eric Breckoff, associate professor of culinary arts
Charemon Brooks, assistant professor of nursing
Hunter Moore, assistant professor of engineering and electronics
Theresa Rase, assistant professor of nursing

Five-Year Faculty Appointments and Promotions:

Wendi Dass, assistant professor of math
Wendy Diment, assistant professor of nursing
David Duvall-Early, instructor of computer science
Jorge Grajales-Diaz, assistant professor of Spanish
Kim Hoosier, professor of sociology
Charles Huffman, associate professor of psychology
Tom Hyder, professor of engineering
Jessica Kingsley, professor of English
Jennifer Koster, associate professor of English
Juliane Milburn, associate professor of nursing
Kristina O’Meara, associate professor of nursing
Ann Smith, associate professor of nursing

Faculty Rewards

Karen Bloomfield, assistant professor of nursing, for the Teaching Effectiveness Award
Wendi Dass, assistant professor of math, for the Institutional Responsibility Award
Kit Decker, professor of Spanish, for the Excellence Award
Kim Hoosier, professor of sociology, for the Teaching Effectiveness Award
Jessica Kingsley, professor of English, for the Excellence Award

Kudos, Service Awards & Retirements

Diane Valade, assistant professor of mathematics, for the Teaching Effectiveness Award

Faculty Recognitions

Anne Allison, associate professor of biology
Andriea Clark, clinical coordinator of radiography
Colum Leckey, associate professor of history
Hunter Moore, assistant professor of engineering and electronics
Bill Pratt, assistant professor of business
Kris Swanson, assistant professor of French

College Awards & Recognitions

Anne Allison, associate professor of biology, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award: 2015 Rising Star Nominee, VCCA Faculty Showcase
Patty DeCourcy, administrative assistant, Greene County, Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award
Adam Hastings, dean, Business, Mathematics and Technologies, Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award
Jessica Kingsley, professor of English, New Horizons 2015 Excellence in Education Award: Best Practices in Teaching Face-to-Face, Online and Student Success
Colum Lecky, associate professor of history, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award: 2015 Institutional Representative Nominee
Rob McHenry, testing specialist, VCCA Support Staff Showcase Award
Crystal Newell, coordinator of library services, Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award
Nicole Oechslin, professor of English, New Horizons 2015 Excellence in Education Award: Best Practices in Teaching Face-to-Face, Online and Student Success
Andrew Renshaw, coordinator of dual enrollment and off-campus programs, Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award
Lisa Shifflett, administrative assistant, Instruction and Student Services, Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award
Malena Smith, administrative assistant, Jefferson School, Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award
PVCC Writing Program Wins Award for Excellence in Education

A writing intensive program for students at PVCC has received a Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Best Practices in Teaching award for excellence in education. Jessica Kingsley and Nicole Oechslin, PVCC professors of English, developed the program.

“Write Here, Write Now: Creating a Culture of Writing at PVCC” is the winner in the category of Best Practices in Teaching Face-to-Face, Online and Student Success. The program is a series of writing experiences in the classroom that prepares PVCC graduates to meet the writing expectations of four-year institutions and the workforce. Since the program’s inception in 2011, PVCC has offered 123 classes in 17 different disciplines that have an increased number of assignments to promote the value of writing.

Beryl Solla, professor of art, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award: 2016 Institutional Representative Nominee, VCCA Faculty Showcase and Chancellor’s Award for Teaching Excellence Nominee

Timothy Woodson, grounds, Distinguished Service Award

Retirements

Linda Cahill, librarian, 22 years
Patricia Franklin, associate professor emeritus of biology, 22 years

Nery Hererra, buildings and grounds, 22 years
Jon Hexter, associate professor emeritus of mathematics, 17 years
Marie Melton, business manager, 42 years
Doris Roach, purchasing officer, 14 years
Anita Showers, director of Marketing and Media Relations, eight years

Robert Thacker, buildings and grounds, 29 years

NOT PICTURED
Melanie Bailey, Charemon Brooks, Linda Cahill, Patty DeCourcy, Nery Hererra and Malena Smith
Message from PVCC Educational Foundation President Rob Capon

Thank you for your generous support of Piedmont Virginia Community College. Private donations from businesses, individuals, and foundations have helped make PVCC a nationally respected community college that helps make our region an outstanding place to live and work. Our Educational Foundation Board passionately believes in the mission of PVCC because it’s transforming lives, building businesses, and strengthening our community. We believe that investing in education is the best investment our community can make.

Your gifts have become even more important because state governmental funding to the Commonwealth’s community college system has steadily declined in recent years. Fortunately, through the generosity of our extremely supportive community, the PVCC Educational Foundation has had a successful year that is helping PVCC meet the growing challenge to provide services to students, businesses, and the community.

Because of your generosity, the Educational Foundation generated more than $1.4 million in 2014 from all sources, an increase of 40% in overall giving from 2013. This private funding supported many programs, including radiographic technology, culinary arts, fine arts, and nursing; faculty and staff teaching and learning grants; workforce services programs; academic awards; scholarships; the Great Expectations Program for foster youths’ transition to college; and many other vital college services and programs.

Your tremendous support resulted in a record-breaking $212,109 for the 2014 PVCC Annual Campaign, an increase of 60% over the 2013 Campaign. This was the most successful annual campaign in PVCC’s history, and is the first time we’ve reached $200,000. We are pleased to report that 100% of our Board members contributed to the campaign, and their donations increased by 32%. The campaign included 54 donors who gave $1,000 or more, and seven donors who gave $10,000 or more. Alumni donations increased by more than 600%!

This year, Bill and Evelyn Deisbeck, Frank and Sue Friedman, Patt Keats, Marshall and Virginia Thompson, and Ed and Betty Whitcomb reached the $50,000 level in cumulative giving, earning them a place on the PVCC Donor Wall. We are deeply appreciative of their commitment to PVCC.

The impact of your support is characterized by Zachary Chagnon, a May graduate in the radiologic technology program who made inspiring comments at the dedication of the Theodore E. and Patt Hart Keats Science Building. Zach said his PVCC experience will forever change his life for the better and that he now has the ability to achieve his dream of “becoming directly involved in the fight against cancer and other diseases.” He praised PVCC and its donors for enabling our graduates to “dedicate our lives to saving the lives of our community’s sick, elderly, and injured.”

Your donations are changing lives. The PVCC Educational Foundation Board deeply appreciates your generosity. But we cannot rest on our laurels. Your continuing support is vitally important to PVCC so that we can meet the diverse needs of our growing community, and continue to do so with excellence.

Thank you, again, for your continuing support of our community college.

Robert Capon
President
Keats Science Building Dedicated

PVCC formally dedicated the Theodore E. and Patt Hart Keats Science Building in recognition of a generous donation made by Dr. Patt Hart Keats to support the Radiologic Technology Program. Dr. Keats and her late husband, Dr. Theodore E. Keats, shared a passion for the field of radiology, he as a renowned radiologist, she as a radiologic technologist. Through their devotion, they helped ensure excellence in the practice of radiography for future generations. A graduate of PVCC, Dr. Patt Keats has created the perpetual Keats Awards of Excellence in the Radiologic Technology Program.

CenturyLink Donates Funds for Holiday Event

CenturyLink generously donated $7,500 to support PVCC’s “Let There Be Light” holiday extravaganza. The event was attended by several thousand local residents. CenturyLink’s $7,500 donation in 2014 is a 50% increase from the previous year.

Pictured from left: PVCC President Frank Friedman; CenturyLink Market Development Manager Simone Alley; and PVCC Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Development Jim Ross.

Greene County Students Awarded Scholarships for Early College Program

Greene County Schools Superintendent Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh reached out to PVCC seeking more scholarship opportunities for her students to attend the college’s Early College Program. The program enables high school students to take college classes at the PVCC Eugene Giuseppe Center as they pursue an associate of science degree in general studies while in high school. Dr. Whitmarsh spoke with such eloquence and passion for her students, said Institutional Advancement and Development Vice President Jim Ross, that the PVCC Educational Foundation leaders included an initiative in the 2014 Annual Campaign to raise $40,000 to provide Early College scholarships to William Monroe High School students.

Thanks to a $20,000 challenge donation from anonymous, extremely community-minded Greene County leaders, and donations from more than two dozen local residents, the campaign raised the necessary funds and 21 WMHS students will now be attending PVCC’s Early College Program for the 2015-2016 academic year, giving them the opportunity to earn a college degree at the same time as their high school diploma.

New Endowed Scholarship for Nursing Students Established

Community philanthropist Mary Beth Smyth has created a scholarship through the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation (CACF) that will support PVCC students who are working toward an associate of applied science degree in nursing. The endowment is created simultaneously with a second fund at CACF that will support nurses employed at Martha Jefferson Hospital to earn their bachelor of science degrees in nursing.

“One of our community’s unsung heroes for education has done it again,” said Jim Ross, vice president of institutional advancement and development at PVCC. “Mrs. Smyth has a vision of making our world a better place through education, and she just took another giant leap toward doing that.”

The two-year Smyth Scholarship for Nursing at PVCC is made possible through the philanthropy of Mary Beth Smyth and her late husband, Gordon. The Smyths established the Smyth Foundation Fund in 1990 after Gordon retired from DuPont after 42 years of service. “Gordon was a real scholar,” said Mary Beth. “He taught people as long as he was alive—he loved tutoring, teaching Sunday School, and books. His main interest was always education, so we’re glad to do what we can to help people succeed.”

CACF President Anne Scott said, “The endowed nursing scholarship will help attract and retain talented nurses and help make high quality healthcare available and accessible to all. We are honored to partner with leaders in nursing education, Martha Jefferson Hospital and PVCC, and to play a part in realizing Mary Beth and Gordon Smyth’s education vision, now and for many years to come.”
The fundraising successes of this past year illustrate the deep appreciation citizens of our region have for our college and its role in helping make this community so great. Many people and businesses gave generously to help our college meet the increasing needs of our community while experiencing the trend of less financial support from the state. The end result of this generosity was the record-setting PVCC 2014 Annual Campaign and the dramatic 40% increase in overall private revenues the Educational Foundation generated this year from all sources.

Throughout our service region, caring people from all walks of life stepped forward with generous donations to enable PVCC to have needed resources to provide even better service to students, business, and our overall community.

To all who donated any amount this year to the PVCC Educational Foundation, please know you are deeply appreciated. Thank you for enabling our college to change lives for the better. In so many ways, you are changing our part of the world for the better.

Jim Ross
Vice President, Institutional Advancement and Development Executive Director, PVCC Educational Foundation

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### 2014 Donors to PVCC

#### $100,000 +
- blue moon fund, Inc.
- Julie Heyward
- Dr. Patricia Hart Keats
- University of Virginia Health Systems

#### $50,000 - $99,999
- Betty and David Whitcomb
  - Fund at Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
- Perry Foundation
- The Stultz Foundation
- Martha Jefferson Hospital

#### $25,000 - $49,999
- The Batten Family Fund in the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
- Dominion Foundation
- Fluvanna Education Community Scholarship Fund at Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
- Barbara Fried
- Dr. Frederick and Mrs. Susan Lang

#### $10,000 - $24,999
- CenturyLink
- Martha Jefferson House
- Mary Beth Smyth
- Smyth Foundation Fund at Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
- UVA Community Credit Union, Inc.
- Wells Fargo
- Anonymous Donor

#### $5,000 - $9,999
- 20th Century Retail Merchant Association of Charlottesville/Albemarle Charlottesville Scholarship Program at Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
- Robert and Andrea Collins
- Dr. Albert R. Colville
- Jane E. Brown Foster
- Freas Foundation
- Greene County Economic Development Authority
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- Jessica Lester Memorial Fund
- LexisNexis
- Barbara Pasco
- Lynn Pribus
- Anonymous Donor

#### $2,500 - $4,999
- Albemarle County Rotary Club Foundation
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- Marianne L. Shepard
- SRC Engineering
- Cynthia Stultz
- Virginia Foundation for Community College Education
- The Watterson Foundation

#### $1,000 - $2,499
- Acoustical Solutions
- American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 74
- Better Living Foundation
- G. Larry and Dorothy A. Brown
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- Dr. Jim and Mrs. Pam Ross
- Sarah Sturm
- Craig van der Linde
- Mr. and Mrs. Justin van der Linde
- The Williams Mullen Foundation
- Bryan D. Wright, Esq.
- John and Trula Wright

#### $500 - $999
- Alpha Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa
- Altrusa International, Inc.
  - of Charlottesville
- Aqua Virginia
- Nelson E. Bickers
- Central Virginia of CPCU Society
- Dr. A. Bruce Dotson

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Thank You for Giving So Generously to PVCC in 2014!
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Nelson County Garden Club
Joyce Nunge
Daniel and Martha Nunziato
Gabriel Ofiesh and Mary Maher
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Bruce Robinson
Christiann Rogers
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