PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

Agenda

January 8, 2014
4 p.m.
W. A. Pace Jr. Board Room

Laila Bare
Presiding

1. Welcome and Call to Order

2. Approval of November 6, 2013 minutes (attachment #1, for action)

3. Public Comment

4. President’s Report
   A. Budget/VCCS/PVCC Updates
   B. College Updates (Dr. Donnelly, Dr. Hamm, Dr. Ross, Mr. Ruggeri, Mr. Parker)

5. Program Highlight: SAILS: Student Assistance & Intervention for Learning Success
   David Lerman, Student Success Advisor
   Todd Parks, Coordinator of Academic Support Services

6. Chair’s Report
   A. Legislative Visits, Thursday, January 9 and Monday, February 10, 2014
   B. VCCS Legislative Reception, Jefferson Hotel, February 12, 2014
   C. Next College Board Meeting, March 5, 2014 (Buckingham County)

7. Other

8. Information Items (attachment #2)
   A. Board Membership
   B. Terms of Office
   C. College Board Calendar
   D. Media Highlights, November-December
PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

Board Meeting No. 244

November 6, 2013

Meeting number two hundred forty-four of the Piedmont Virginia Community College Board was held Wednesday, November 6, 2013, in the W. A. Pace Jr. Board Room.

Present

Laila Bare
Vera Cooke-Merritt
Stephen Davis
Bruce Dotson
Alvin Edwards

Leonard Gardner
Debbi Goodman
Robert Hodous
Peter Kleeman
Ava Pippin

Absent

Sean Michael McCord
Sean Moynihan

Others

Frank Friedman, President
Pat Buck, Assistant to the President & Special Projects Coordinator
John Donnelly, Vice President for Instruction & Student Services
John Hahn, Director of Institutional Research, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness
Clifford Harry, Dean of Humanities, Fine Arts & Social Sciences
Connie Jorgensen, College Senate
Marie Melton, Business Manager
Jeannie Perutelli, Professional Association of Support Staff
Nathaniel Ricca, Student Government Association
James Ross, Vice President for Institutional Advancement & Development
Shivaji Samanta, Chief Information Officer
Meg Sewell, Assistant Professor of Child Development & Psychology
Anita Showers, Manager of Marketing & Media Relations
Jorge Diaz-Grajales, Faculty Professional Association
Media

Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. Bare welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The proceedings of the September 4, 2013, meeting were approved.
Public Comment

None

Introduction of New Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness

Dr. Friedman introduced Dr. Jolene Hamm, the new director of institutional research, planning and institutional effectiveness. Dr. Hamm is a Fluvanna County High School graduate and was a dual-enrolled student at PVCC. She received her doctorate from Virginia Tech, and has most recently been at Ferrum College in a similar position.

Presentation of Pin to New Board Member

Dr. Bare presented a College lapel pin to new board member Alvin Edwards (Charlottesville); he spoke briefly about his education, career and community involvement.

Resignation of Nelson County Representative

Mr. Russell tendered his resignation from the College Board, effective October 22. The county is seeking a replacement to fill Mr. Otis’ unexpired term.

President’s Report

Budget/VCCS/PVCC Updates.

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars, which administers the Fulbright Scholar Program for the U.S. Department of State, named the grant recipients in The Chronicle of Higher Education. About 800 scholars are given the grants each year to lecture, consult, or conduct research abroad; PVCC’s Colum Leckey is one of 23 community college faculty to receive a grant and is doing research in Russia this semester.

The College Board was made aware of the September 23 bomb threat. All PVCC personnel handled the situation professionally with a smooth evacuation. The Albemarle County Police Department provided exemplary service with their incident command. A debriefing session was held following the event to review procedures and make adjustments as needed.

With the conclusion of the elections, it is time to start thinking about the General Assembly session and the budget. SCHEV has presented their budget recommendations for higher education to Governor McDonnell; it adds $128 million for higher education in the first year of the biennium to continue in the second year with additional funding for an increase of $381 million for higher education. It addresses faculty salaries of 2-4% in each year and the expansion of the community college transfer grant, an idea that the Chancellor floated years ago. These grants would provide for community college tuition rates for the last two years at Virginia public higher education institutions after students graduate from a community college, with the State making up the tuition difference. It’s a win-win situation for students and the State and would likely lead to enrollment increases at community colleges. SCHEV did not recommend new capital outlay money for this year but did for maintenance reserve funds that could negatively impact funding of our student success center.
Last week Dr. Friedman met with a group of consultants and Albemarle County officials regarding a feasibility study on the merits of a wine heritage center. College land adjacent to the Stultz Center could be an option and would provide opportunities for joint facility use.

*Legislative Visits.* The 2014 visits are scheduled for Thursday, January 9 and Monday, February 10. Students will not be in classes on the ninth which allows for greater participation. Additional details will be forthcoming.

**College Updates**

*Dr. Donnelly*

- Several grants are providing a variety of opportunities for expanding services including a DOE CCAMPIS grant relating to childcare; $10,000 from Dominion Power for recent GED completers to transition to PVCC by taking the SDV and Introduction to Computers courses; and a DOL SAILS grant (Student Assistance and Intervention for Learning Success), an automated early alert system that provides feedback to struggling students and an advising tracking component.
- Registration for spring classes started November 1.
- Through the Rotary Club, the College will host visiting faculty from Buenos Aires this spring and a PVCC student will visit the country in the summer.
- A Veterans Day celebration takes place Monday from 9-11 a.m. and Board members are invited to attend.
- ODU is working on a plan to offer courses at the Giuseppe Center.
- The Analyst Boot Camp will be offered in the spring.
- In the international arena, WFS is working with Tibetan entrepreneurs; Chinese higher education leaders are in Charlottesville, arranged through UVA, and are interested in the transfer agreements.
- PVCC is offering a travel-study trip to France in mid-May, organized by Professor Kris Swanson. Contact Dr. Donnelly for more information.

*Dr. Ross*

- The annual fundraising campaign is underway and includes a volunteer student phone-a-thon as well as sending letters to members of the business community, donors, prospective donors, and faculty and staff. Dr. Bare encourages 100% participation in the campaign by the Board.
- A redesigned college website will be unveiled in March.
- Dr. Ross accompanied Dr. Friedman to a Nelson County community leaders event, providing a wonderful opportunity for marketing the College.

*Mr. Samaanta*

- Steps are underway to improve wireless coverage on campus, particularly in the cafeteria, Bolick Center and the North Mall Meeting Room. The large number of electronic devices used by the student population necessitated the increased coverage.
- A camera system has been installed in the culinary kitchen at Jefferson to provide better viewing of lessons for the students.

*Ms. Melton for Mr. Parker*

- A search committee is being put together for the police chief position and will include representatives from the faculty, staff and student organizations; police chiefs from other community colleges; and the VCCS state emergency coordinator. A spring hire is anticipated.
• The College received a $5,000 grant from the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water District which will help fund the establishment of a native and wildlife meadow on campus grounds.
• Cleveland Pear and Crepe Myrtle trees and azaleas have been planted along college drive and perennials are being planted as well.

Dr. Hamm
• The annual student survey is in progress. It helps provide feedback in the College’s continuous quality improvement as well as for the strategic plan.
• A Virginia Employment Commission study shows that the College has provided educational services in the past five years to nearly 20 percent of the employed population of Charlottesville and the surrounding counties. The report included PVCC students who were enrolled in credit classes at the College within the last five years and who were employed for the first two quarters (January-June 2013) in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene and Nelson Counties. Eighteen percent of people employed in these areas have attended PVCC within the past five years. In addition, the report states that 65 percent of employers within the area employ current or former PVCC students.
• Dr. Hamm will be conducting a longitudinal study relating to the redesign of developmental Math/English courses.

Enrollment Profile

Dr. Hamm provided a summary of the fall 2013 enrollment profile, a copy of which is included in the meeting packet. It provides an early look at fall semester credit enrollment and highlights important trends that have implications for planning.

Compared to last fall, headcount is down slightly at 1.8%; the 18-21 age group increased significantly; Greene County showed the largest enrollment increase but other counties also had increases, and Albemarle had the most significant decrease; there was a large decrease (13% to 7%) in developmental class enrollments, possibly due to accurately assessed and placed students and new student orientation programs and will be studied further. Of the 439 recent high school graduates at PVCC, 164 students were dual enrolled in PVCC courses last year and there was a 125% increase in home school completers.

Program Highlight: Childcare Partnership with YMCA

Dr. Haury and Professor Sewell provided background information about and implications of being awarded the CCAMPIS (Child Care Access Means Parents in School) grant.

Dr. Haury, project coordinator, reported that child care provided by the YMCA’s intergenerational childcare center, will be housed at the Jefferson School City Center. PVCC is the only Virginia community college to receive this grant. A Career Studies Certificate in Early Childhood Development prepares students for employment in this field.
PVCC Board  
Meeting No. 244  
Page Five

Ms. Sewell, program coordinator, reported that the DOE grant is for $210,344 over four years. Pell Grant students will receive childcare subsidies on a sliding scale based on financial need, with up to 85% of the cost of child care provided (in addition to the 20% discount provided by the YMCA). Children from birth to five years will receive fully licensed full-time care and children from 3-12 years can receive evening child watch. Children of students, veterans or others enrolled in a certificate or degree program with 6 credits will be eligible to benefit from the grant. The primary goal of the grant is to increase student retention and graduation completion, a portion of the grant will provide for additional student advising and counseling. The expectation is that the grant will serve 0-20 students starting with the spring semester.

A stipulation of the grant requires that the provider has or must acquire national accreditation and the YMCA has initiated the process. PVCC will eventually provide an associate degree in this field.

Chair's Report

2013-14 Committee Assignments: With the resignation of Mr. Otis, Dr. Bare appointed Mr. Hodous to serve as the liaison to the Real Estate Foundation and Mr. Moynihan to serve as chair of the Finance and Building Committee.

VCCS Annual Meeting. The November 19-20 meeting takes place at the Marriott Downtown Richmond. Attending will be Drs. Bare, Dotson and Kleeman.

Next College Board Meeting. The next meeting of the College Board is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8 at the College.

Other

Dr. Bare commented that Dr. Friedman is well spoken and enthusiastic about the College during his media interviews, and his enthusiasm seems to permeate the campus. The College takes on the personality of its leader and it appears that everyone loves what they are doing to support the students.

Information Items

The following items were provided for information: Board Membership, Board Committees, College Board Calendar and September-October Media Highlights.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Frank Friedman  
President and Secretary to the Board

APPROVAL

Laila B. Bare  
Chair
REGION 18
PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2013-14 BOARD MEMBERS

Albemarle County

Dr. A. Bruce Dotson
860 King William Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901
434-973-4176  Home
dotson@virginia.edu

Ms. Debbi Goodman
75 Roslyn Forest Lane
Charlottesville, VA 22901
434-973-2046  Home/Business
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debb33@aol.com

Mr. Sean J. Moynihan
3974 Deepwoods Road
Earlysville, VA 22936
434-973-4464  Home
434-962-3886  Business
sjmoynihan@comcast.net

Mr. Stephen Davis
3958 Deepwoods Road
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stephencdavis@gmail.com

Buckingham County

Ms. Vera Cooke-Merritt
14301 S. James Madison Highway
P. O. Box 252
Dillwyn, VA 23936
434-983-3786  Home
vcmerritt@centurylink.net

City of Charlottesville

Dr. Alvin Edwards
614 Beechwood Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901
434-971-8616  Home
434-293-3212  Business
pastor@mtzionabc.com

Mr. Robert P. Hodous
Payne & Hodous, LLP
414 E. Jefferson St.
Charlottesville, VA 22902
434-296-7474  Home
434-977-4507  Business
434-977-6574  FAX
bobhodous@paynehodous.com
City of Charlottesville (cont'd)

Dr. Peter T. Kleeman 434-296-6208 Home
407 Hedge Street peter.kleeman@gmail.com
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Mr. Sean Michael McCord 434-882-2241 Home
721 Shamrock Road sean@mccord.net
Charlottesville, VA 22903

434-243-0209 Business

Fluvanna County

Mr. Leonard F. Gardner 434-589-3074 Home
3 Cove Circle lfgardner@hotmail.com
Palmyra, VA 22963

Greene County

Dr. Laila B. Bare (Chair) 434-990-2025 Home
2802 Fredericksburg Road lailajb@gmail.com
Ruckersville, VA 22968

Louisa County

Ms. Ava Pippin (Vice Chair) 540-894-5824 Home
P. O. Box 312 avery@firstva.com
Mineral, VA 23117

Nelson County

VACANT
### PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD
### TERMS OF OFFICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Original Appt.</th>
<th>Reappointment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Davis</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>Bruce Dotson</td>
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<td>Debbi Goodman</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<td>Sean J. Moynihan</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<td><strong>Buckingham County</strong></td>
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<td>Vera Cooke-Merritt</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<td>Robert P. Hodous</td>
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<td>Peter T. Kleeman</td>
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<td>Leonard F. Gardner</td>
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<td>Laila B. Bare</td>
<td>2004</td>
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<td><strong>Louisa County</strong></td>
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<td>Ava Pippin</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>Russell B. Otis</td>
<td>2012</td>
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* Ineligible for reappointment; served two four-year terms.
** Eligible for reappointment at end of first four-year term.
*** Filled unexpired term; eligible for appointment to first or reappointment to second four-year term.
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<th>Month</th>
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<th>Committee 2</th>
<th>Committee 3</th>
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<td>AUG</td>
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<td>Board Summer Retreat 3-7 pm Dickinson Stage</td>
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<td>SEPT</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Board Meeting 4 pm Pace Board Room</td>
<td>Award process begins</td>
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<td>18-19</td>
<td>SBCC Meeting*</td>
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<td>NOV</td>
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<td>Board Meeting 4 pm Pace Board Room</td>
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<td>budget review</td>
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<td>VCCS Annual Meeting, Richmond Marriott</td>
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<td>20-21</td>
<td>SBCC Meeting*</td>
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<td>Louisa Co. BOS Annual Update, 6 pm</td>
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<td>UVA Legislative Forum, 12-1 pm, Rotunda Dome Room</td>
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<td>JAN</td>
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<td>City Council Annual Update, 7 p.m. (tentative)</td>
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<td>9**</td>
<td>Board Meeting 4 pm Pace Board Room</td>
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<td>PVCC Visit to General Assembly</td>
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<td>Buckingham Co. BOS Annual Update, 7 pm</td>
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<td>22-23</td>
<td>SBCC Meeting*</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Nelson Co. BOS Annual Update, 7 pm</td>
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<td>FEB</td>
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<td>PVCC Visit to General Assembly</td>
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<td>VCCS Legislative Reception, Jefferson Hotel, Richmond (time tba)</td>
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<td>MAR</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Board Meeting Buckingham County Time/Location TBA</td>
<td>vote on board award recipients</td>
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<td>19-20</td>
<td>SBCC*</td>
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<td>APR</td>
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<td>Academic &amp; Leadership Awards Convocation</td>
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<td>4 pm, Dickinson Theater</td>
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<td>MAY</td>
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<td>Board Meeting 4 pm Pace Board Room</td>
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<td>approve local funds budgets</td>
<td>approve Curriculum Advisory Committees</td>
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<td>15 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Commencement 6 pm JPJ Arena (Pinning at JPJ)</td>
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<td>21-22</td>
<td>SBCC Meeting*</td>
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*State Board for Community Colleges meetings: for information only
** Second Wednesday
Immigrant students sue for in-state tuition rate eligibility

Ramiro Vazquez is one of seven immigrant students who are suing the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

Ramiro Vazquez has lived in the Charlottesville area since he was 10 — a graduate of Monticello High School, he's continuing his education in Piedmont Virginia Community College's culinary arts program.

But Vazquez pays nearly $200 more per credit hour than most of his peers. Although he's been granted the right to work and stay in the country, he's considered an out-of-state student by Virginia's higher education officials.

Right now, he can only afford to go to school part-time, which could stretch his two-year program out to three-and-a-half years. He spends much of his time working.

"It's harder for me," he said. "I have to work extra hours just to cover out-of-state tuition."

Vazquez is one of seven immigrant students suing the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia for the right to pay in-state rates. All seven were allowed to stay and work in the U.S. for at least the next two years under an order issued by Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano — Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals — in 2012.

But like many immigrant students around the country, they don't qualify for lower resident tuition rates in the states where they graduated from high school.
Virginia grants in-state status to people who have lived in the state for at least 12 continuous months prior to enrollment and show "an intent to remain in Virginia indefinitely to establish domicile in Virginia," according to the state council's website.

Intent can be established in many ways, including sources of financial support, ownership or property, military record, driver's license and motor vehicle registration.

Tim Freilich, legal director of the Immigrant Advocacy Program, part of the Charlottesville-based Legal Aid Justice Center, said the students should qualify as in-state students. Most of them have lived in Virginia for years, he said, and most intend to stay. He points out that immigrants applying for asylum are eligible for in-state tuition.

"Under existing law, these students should be eligible for in-state tuition," Freilich said.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals grants temporary relief for undocumented immigrants who arrived in the country as minors, have stayed out of trouble with the law and have graduated from high school or served in the military.

According to the complaint by the Immigrant Advocacy Program, the council sent out emails to colleges around the state saying the 7,000 people granted relief under Deferred Action are not eligible for in-state tuition.

"Technically, nothing has changed in the legal status for these individuals," read the email. "This will allow qualifying students to work and go to school without fear, but it does not change their lawful status or their domicile."

Freilich said the council is misreading the law. The students have been granted temporary status, he said, which allows them to work, get driver's licenses and Social Security numbers. The status runs out after two years, but it can be renewed indefinitely.

Essentially, people covered by Deferred Action could keep renewing their status and stay in the state for years, he said.

"What they're not realizing is it's indefinitely renewable two years at a time," Freilich said.

Spokeswoman Kirsten Nelson said the state council does not comment on pending legal matters.

Other states are struggling with this issue, as well. According to the National Immigration Law Center, a pro-immigration think tank, 15 states — including Texas, New York and California — have adopted laws or policies granting immigrant students access to in-state rates.

Deferred Action students exist in a gray area in much of the rest of the country, said Tanya Broder, a staff attorney with the center.

"The rules vary quite a bit by state law," she said. "And the rules can vary from institution to institution."

The debate has sparked internal conflict in Arizona, where state Attorney General Tom Horne is suing several community colleges for granting in-state tuition status to immigrants covered under the Deferred Action policy.

Broder said students covered by the policy should qualify for Virginia's in-state tuition. The spirit of the policy is to give a break to people who are in the state legally, have lived there for an extended period of time and intend to stay, she said.

"They've already shown that they live in the U.S. The question is, do they live in Virginia?" she said. "There's nothing in federal law that precludes them from establishing their home here."
Industries › Education

Community college measures its impact on Charlottesville area

December 13, 2013 |

Sixth-five percent of Charlottesville-area employers have current or former Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) students on their payrolls, according to a recent state jobs report.

The study also found that 18 percent of all employed workers in the Charlottesville area attended PVCC in the past five years.

To gauge its employment impact, the college examined the state report to find the current employment status of PVCC students living in Virginia who have been enrolled at any time in the past five years and were employed in January-June 2013 in the Charlottesville area. The area includes Charlottesville plus Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene and Nelson counties.

PVCC found that 16,626 or 18 percent of people employed in the region are current or former PVCC students.

According to the jobs report, the Central Virginia industries employing PVCC students and alumni include health care, hospitality and culinary services, retail, and professional, scientific and technical services. Among the region's top 10 employers are the County of Albemarle, Martha Jefferson Hospital, Walmart, State Farm Insurance, the city of Charlottesville and Northrop Grumman Corp.

PVCC enrolled 7,876 students in credit classes during its 2012-13 academic year and ranks 10th in enrollment among the 23 colleges in the Virginia Community College System. Currently, 5,632 students taking credit classes in the fall 2013 semester at PVCC.

Since the college opened in 1972, more than 200,000 students have taken credit and noncredit classes.
Interactive exhibit back to illuminate

BY JANE DUNLAP NORRIS
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Forget what you've heard about art openings being static events filled with wine, cheese and boring grownups using big words. It's time to shine a little light on old stereotypes.

"Let There Be Light," which makes its seventh appearance at Piedmont Virginia Community College from 6 to 9 tonight, fills the inky pre-solstice outdoors with a one-time only glow. Many pieces in the ephemeral installation are interactive, giving visitors hands-on opportunities to influence how the works behave. There will be dance, sound, music, plenty of flashlights and creative interpretations of the organizers' request that visitors come decked out as 'enlightened beings' decorated in light.'

Attendance at last year's event, which fell on the warmest evening to date, was about 2,400, curator James Yates said. "It was like Woodstock; people were parking far away and walking," Yates said. "We can only guesstimate [the final attendance number]. We can only guess by how our apple cider and hot chocolate go."

Move over, wine and cheese; this crowd's on the lookout for hot cocoa and banana bread. And there doesn't seem to be a typical fan. Since its first year, the event has been a hit with singles, couples, children and families.

"People were saying, 'It's a CHARLOTTESVILLE tradition,' and that was after the first year," Yates said. "Some people say it's just magical. They like to meet people in the dark, and it changes their whole perspective. There is something magical about light in the darkness."

The theme resonates with artists who already enjoy exploring the properties of light.

"Some artists have returned over the years, and they always do something different," Yates said.

Last year, for instance, Jarn Heil's "Circular Logic" was a big hit with visitors who enjoyed watching circles of light spin over their heads in response to notes they played on tubular bells. The year before, Heil's "Rich Tarbell's "Hoop Dreams" is one of the light-centric works in Piedmont's "Let There Be Light" installation."
Light
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entry was a collection of beings that resembled sea anemones.

Tonight's contribution is Heil's "Symmetry Dance," in which the viewer's movements determine the paths that geometric shapes overhead will

Harriet Arthur's "Sacred Ground," in which lanterns hang from the branches of an unusual grouping of trees, was inspired by "Stained Glass Fence," her 2011 entry. The works honor the important place that a seemingly barren winter landscape holds in the cycle of life, death and rebirth.

Reverence also shines in Beryl Solla's "Divine Photo Op," while sharing a seat with whimsy.

Solla honors her grandmother's faith by creating a life-size standing portrait of the Virgin of Guadalupe, whose feast day was Thursday. Rich Tarbell's "Hoop Dreams Vol. II" blends dance moves with hoops of light that cast a distinctive glow. "Byron's Telescope in the Aka-shik Field," an audience participation fueled work by William Bennett and Joseph Schepps, gives people an opportunity to step into a telescope and take a ride.

Of course, there's music; composer and instrument builder Troy Rogers and dancer and choreographer Katie Schetlick have teamed up to present "Neocybernetic Carols," a work for dancer and musical robots. Keep an eye out for Mark Edwards' "Organumunagro," with its luminous forms on stems, and Peter Krebs' "20," which offers what organizers call "a journey through space and time to a moment and a place we've all been before."

Don't forget your flashlight, and have some fun with the request for "enlightened beings" attire. Your look can have the subtlety of glow-in-the-dark shoelaces or the Santa-can't-miss-me swagger of a battery-operated Christmas sweater. Hey, it'll be dark out there.
Minor chemical spill leads to evacuation at PVCC

A section of Piedmont Virginia Community College was briefly evacuated Thursday morning following a small chemical spill.

Anita Showers, PVCC spokeswoman, said a science class in the technology wing of the college’s main campus had a minor spill.

She said the wing was evacuated and the fire department’s hazardous materials team was called. She said that as of late Thursday afternoon, the wing had re-opened except for the classroom where the spill happened, a physics lab.

Students who have class in that room will be relocated, Showers said. No other classrooms were affected, she said.

She said the college sent an email to students and faculty with information about the spill.
PVCC president hopes for expanded transfer grants

The upcoming legislative session has officials at Piedmont Virginia Community College hopeful about a proposal that could boost enrollment.

At a meeting of the college's governing board Wednesday afternoon, PVCC president Frank Friedman said community colleges should be advocating a proposal to expand Virginia's Two-Year College Transfer Grants. The proposal is part of the State Council for Higher Education's upcoming biennia budget request to the General Assembly.

The expansion would allow students who transfer into four-year institutions from community colleges to continue paying community college rates; the state would cover the difference.

"Obviously, it would be tremendously helpful to many of our students," Friedman said. "We need to be pushing hard for this."

Friedman said it would lead to a huge enrollment boost for PVCC, which has seen its numbers drop off since the end of the recession. Board member Stephen Davis said he wondered whether community colleges would be able to keep up with the growth.

"That would obviously have repercussions for the size of all the community colleges," Davis said.

Friedman responded: "That would be a problem we would welcome."

PVCC's enrollment has dropped nearly 2 percent this fall, which is in line with the average for community
colleges across the state. Enrollments spiked during the recession, said Jolene Hamm, the college's director of institutional research, planning and institutional effectiveness.

As the economy recovers, fewer and fewer people are going back to school, she said.

Most community college officials were expecting the decline; board member Bruce Dotson said he preferred to think of the trend as "normalizing."

"It's going back [down] from that peak," Dotson said.

Hamm said fewer students at PVCC are enrolled in remedial courses. The percentage of students taking at least one developmental course dropped from 13 percent in 2012 to 7 percent this year.

PVCC has made efforts to help place students in classes most suited to their needs and to prepare new students for college coursework through a new first-year orientation program. Hamm said it seems to be working.

"We're getting them to college readiness faster," Hamm said.

Hamm also presented the result of a study the college conducted with the Virginia Employment Commission, which shows that 18 percent of the workforce in the Charlottesville area has attended PVCC in the past five years. About 65 percent of employers in the area employ someone who has attended PVCC.

Friedman said the numbers would be useful in illustrating the value of community colleges.

"We've always felt — but never quantified — the impact we had on the workforce," Friedman said. "Really, it speaks to what the college is all about."
PVCC Program Aims to Lead Students Beyond a GED

Posted: Dec 13, 2013 5:27 PM EST
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Piedmont Virginia Community College is offering a new program geared toward helping GED graduates continue their education.

The Emerging Scholars program will give 15 students a package of resources including a scholarship for two classes during the spring semester and one-on-one academic coaching. The school wants to support those students who may be intimidated by the idea of college.

"We know that if you drop out, the chances of coming back are diminished. So we want these students to come directly to us to continue their studies and ultimately get a certificate or degree which is going to position them better for high-paying jobs in the area," said John Donnelly, vice president for instruction and student services at PVCC.

Applications for the program are available online and three different locations in Charlottesville.

They will be considered until all scholarship funds have been awarded or until January 10.
ARTS Pick: Let There Be Light

Brighten up the early darkness at PVCC's annual winter tradition Let There Be Light. Rainbow swirls in the dark night air; illuminated clouds of color against the evening sky—expect these visual delights and more at Let There Be Light, an outdoor art and dance exhibition that celebrates the winter solstice.

Nineteen local artists create mesmerizing light-based eye candy across the landscape of the PVCC campus, and light refreshments, including warm cider and hot chocolate, are available inside. Bundle up, break out the glow sticks, and bring a flashlight to take a self-guided tour of the spectacular, enlightening installations.

Friday 12/13. Free, 6pm. PVCC Campus, 501 College Dr. 977-6918.
Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce announces PVCC grant at centennial dinner

Former Florida Gov. and U.S. Sen. Bob Graham was the keynote speaker during the 100th annual Charlottesville Chamber of Commerce dinner Thursday at the Boar's Head Pavilion in Albemarle County. The 2013 Paul Goodloe McIntire Citizenship Award was presented to former Charlottesville City Manager Cole Hendrix.

Chamber Chairwoman Valerie Long said the board members could think of no better gift to give in honor of the chamber's centennial than providing for higher education.

"There are not many places like Charlottesville, and there are not many 100-year anniversary dinners held by chambers of commerce," she said.

The chamber also officially presented its Paul Goodloe McIntire citizenship award to former Charlottesville City Manager Cole Hendrix and heard from former Florida Sen. Bob Graham, a Democrat who served as the state's governor from 1979 to 1987 and senator from 1987 to 2005.

Graham said Virginia's per capita income, once on parity with Florida's, has expanded in the past 20 years to be more than five percent higher than his home state.

"I think the thing that has contributed most to Virginia's economic success is people like you and the commitment the state of Virginia has made in higher education such as in Piedmont Virginia Community College and that small college that Thomas Jefferson founded," Graham quipped.

The chamber announced earlier this month that Hendrix, the 79-year-old long-time public servant, spent 25 years at the city's helm included the creation of the Downtown Mall, had won the McIntire award.
Greater PVCC-CATEC collaboration eyed

Like many vocational schools, the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center is in transition.

The demand for skilled trade workers is growing, while people without college degrees or skills struggle with unemployment or underemployment, said Adam Hastings, director of CATEC. That leaves the school and Piedmont Virginia Community College, the area’s key vocational training institutions, with the daunting task of training students to fill that demand.

“We’re all trying to crack that nut,” Hastings said.

The “skills gap” — the discrepancy between job openings and individuals with the skills to fill those jobs — is a major problem in some fields. For example, the National Association of Manufacturers estimates about 600,000 advanced manufacturing positions are going unfilled.

The question is how best to utilize vocational training to meet the need.

City Councilor Kristin Szakos and Councilor-elect Bob Fenwick, both Democrats, ran on a platform that included the creation of 250 jobs in Charlottesville.

Fenwick said he thinks CATEC and Piedmont could help train students in a trade to start their own businesses. The University of Virginia has focused on entrepreneurship in recent years, he said, and he said he believes trade schools should do something similar for their students.

“I think that’s a critical piece of the puzzle that people are not looking at,” Fenwick said.

Hastings said he’s interested in the idea, but CATEC couldn’t do it alone. It would require a partnership with Piedmont, which could teach trade school students the business side of the work, he said.

“I can train you to be a handyman, but we don’t offer a class on how to balance the books, or the regulations in the industry,” Hastings said. “That’s where Piedmont could help.”

PVCC President Frank Friedman said the college already has credit transfer agreements with CATEC and is working to start an entrepreneurship certificate program, but he’s open to new ideas for collaboration.
Diantha McKeel, an Albemarle County School Board member elected to the county Board of Supervisors as an independent earlier this month, said she’d like the two schools to share a campus.

McKeel — who sits on CATEC’s board — said she wants the school to move to Piedmont’s main campus for two reasons. First, she said, CATEC’s current campus, on East Rio Road, is too far from Western Albemarle High School. That makes it difficult for those students to juggle their academic courses at the high school with their vocational courses, she said.

“If you spend an hour transporting yourself back and forth, you lose a whole period every day,” McKeel said, adding that PVCC is in a more central location in the county.

The move also would encourage more vocational students to move on to college by exposing more of them to Piedmont, she said. Streamlining the curricula of the two schools and eliminating any disconnects in course requirements would make the transition easier, McKeel added.

McKeel said she sees CATEC becoming a sort of “farm team” for Piedmont.

CATEC is in the middle of a strategic planning process, and Hastings said it’s too early to talk about moving the campus — although that is a possibility. Now, the board is focusing on ways to update the curriculum, integrating its coursework better with what PVCC offers and forming apprenticeship programs with area businesses.

“When we do that, then let’s figure out the buildings,” Hastings said.

Szakos said directing students to the fields with the most job growth is important. The schools need to work on outreach so students are making choices that line up with the needs of the job market, she said.

“We have too many cosmetologists,” Szakos said. “We have to be looking at it in the broader picture of the local economy.”

Hastings said it’s often a cultural problem — young people follow parents and friends into professions without being aware of their options. Giving more students the chance to tour CATEC and look at their options could change that, he said.

“The challenge isn’t that kids are making bad choices,” he said. “The challenge is kids don’t know their choices.”
Community colleges, including PVCC, see strong future

Community college enrollments across the state are down for the first time since the beginning of the recession, but officials say they’re not worried about the drop.

Statewide enrollment in the Virginia Community College System is down 2 percent, or about 4,300 students, from last fall, according to VCCS numbers. The decrease comes after enrollment grew by more than 20,000 — about 11 percent — between the 2008-09 school year and last year.

The head count at Piedmont Virginia Community College is down 1 percent this fall, while the number of full-time equivalents is down 1.7 percent. But enrollment grew 13 percent during the recession.

PVCC President Frank Friedman said that’s typical for patterns in community college enrollment. Colleges see growth during economic downturns, and that growth tapers off as the economy recovers.

"Enrollment is greatly impacted by the economy," Friedman said. "During the downturn, people may say to themselves, 'maybe it’s time to go back to school.'"

Enrollment has an impact on a college’s tuition revenues. Friedman said he and the staff expected the decline and budgeted for a decrease of 3 percent to 4 percent. The drop was not as steep as predicted, he said.

Jeff Kaus, a spokesman for VCCS, said the decline has not hit many institutions hard because it followed a boom. Many colleges, he said, struggled to meet the need because state appropriations fell by $105 million during the recession, even as enrollments soared.

Now both of those trends are reversing, Kaus said, which could have a stabilizing effect on the system. Still, he believes the system could serve more students. Careers in fields such as manufacturing are becoming more technical and require more training, he said. That niche will be filled by community colleges, he said.

"We’re elevating the conversation and reinforcing the need that a high school diploma is no longer a finish line," Kaus said. "It’s no longer a ticket to middle class life in America."

But community colleges aren’t the only ones that want to attract those students. Friedman said colleges are competing for the same pool of students as are for-profit institutions like the University of Phoenix and Massive Open Online Courses.

Friedman said he believes community colleges are on the verge of a revival, as long as they can keep competitors at bay.

"My personal belief is they will not greatly impact community colleges, but we’ll have to monitor that," he said.

Kaus said VCCS is working on a marketing campaign to reach those students — the ones who may be unaware of the career and technical training available at community colleges. The individual institutions all do this, but Kaus said it’s never been done on a system-wide basis.

A system-wide approach might help, as online courses and transfer agreements have broken down the barriers between institutions, he said. The system wants to advertise the ability for students to take classes at multiple colleges at once.

"It’s not out of the realm for PVCC student to be taking three classes in person, two (at Northern Virginia Community College) online," Kaus said. "For them, it’s seamless — they’re not enrolled in NOVA, they’re just Piedmont students."

Northern Virginia Community College is taking a different approach, said George E. Gabriel, the college’s vice president for institutional research, planning and assessment. Administrators there believe the key is getting current students to take more credits. Gabriel said the college will begin calling part-time students whom administrators believe could be converted to full-time students.
Study Shows PVCC Grads are Landing Jobs in Central VA

Posted: Nov 06, 2013 4:24 PM EST
Updated: Nov 20, 2013 6:26 PM EST

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va (WVIR) - For any college student investing time and money into an education, they want to know that eventually it's going to pay off.

Recent reports show students at Piedmont Virginia Community College are landing jobs throughout central Virginia. The report from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) shows nearly 20 percent of area workers recently attended PVCC.

PVCC President Frank Friedman says that is the benefit of developing programs that directly address workforce needs.

"At PVCC we often say that we prepare local people for local jobs," said Friedman.

Friedman says PVCC always believed their programs were benefiting central Virginia's economy, but until now, they didn't have the numbers to show just how much.

"And that really verified for us what we always felt was true that we really are preparing large numbers of people to work here," said Friedman.

PVCC did a study with the VEC which showed that 18 percent of people working in the city of Charlottesville and surrounding counties attended PVCC within the past five years the equivalent of more than 17,000 people.

Nathaniel Ricca and Granton Clem are studying business and say seeing this kind of track record is reassuring for them.

"I think it reflects really well on the school and gives a lot of hope to the students because these times are tough with the economy and the job market." "It is a great motivation for me to know that the Charlottesville community the city I have grown up and loved hires directly from PVCC and students from Piedmont."

The healthcare industry has the highest number of employed PVCC students, but they have a strong presence in other fields including culinary services and technical fields.

"We're here to serve the community and part of that service is to create a workforce that meets the needs of the employers in the area," said Friedman.

The report also shows that 65 percent of employers within the area have hired current or former PVCC students.
Nov. 11, 2013

Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) marked Veterans Day honoring students and staff who have served in the military. The school also recognizes their service year-round through groups and events.

PVCC has more than 600 students who are veterans, active duty military, or military-relatives and was recently designated one of the nation's top military-friendly school. Veterans who attend PVCC say the school makes an extra effort to take care of veterans and military-related students.

"It's kind of just a close knit community. We stick together, we help each other study. We just go out of our way for each other. It's a really cool little community," said former United States Marine and treasurer of the PVCC Veterans Club Cody Marshall.

The school held a ceremony and breakfast on Monday. Veterans spoke about the importance of helping service members and their families especially as they transition from active duty military life to civilian life.

Staff says the students appreciate how much the school reaches out to them year-round through the events and groups like Veterans Club.

"I spoke to a student the other day and he said this feels like home. That the students are able to connect with the instructors and that staff at the school. It's just very comfortable," said Military and Veterans Advisor Jacquelyn Fisher.

Fisher says she, and others at PVCC, help veterans with the transition back into school and see them through their time at PVCC.
PVCC Hosts Veterans Resource Fair

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Updated: Nov 20, 2013 5:16 PM EST

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, Va (WVIR) - Piedmont Virginia Community College held its first Veterans Resource Fair Tuesday. The event gave PVCC students who are also veterans a chance to network with organizations and learn more about resources available to them.

One student says having outside support makes it easier to transition back into civilian life.

"For a veteran it's coming as a change to be back in school, so it's very important to not be only involved in an environment where you have that support system from others who understand where you're coming from, but also just to help with the adjustment in general," said Jenny Zheng Marren, PVCC student and veteran.

The Department of Veterans Services and the Red Cross were among the organizations who participated. PVCC hopes to make this an annual event.