COLLEGE BOARD MEETING

***

Wednesday, September 2, 2015
4 PM
W. A. Pace Jr. Board Room
PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

Agenda

September 2, 2015
4 p.m.
W. A. Pace Jr. Board Room

Ava Pippin, Presiding

1. Welcome and Call to Order

2. Approval of May 6, 2015 and July 7, 2015 minutes (attachment #1, for action)

3. Public Comment

4. Introduction of New Faculty (Dr. Donnelly)

5. President’s Report
   A. Introduction of College Representatives
   B. Budget/VCCS/PVCC Updates
   C. College Updates (Dr. Donnelly, Dr. Ross, Dr. Hamm, Ms. Haas, Mr. McManus)

6. Committee Reports
   A. Budget and Finance Committee
      1. Right of Easement, Michie Tavern Water Main Replacement (attachment #2, for action)

7. Chair’s Report
   A. 2014-15 Performance Report (attachment #3)
   B. 2015-16 Committee Assignments (attachment #4)
   C. Chancellor’s Planning Retreat, October 13-14, Roanoke, VA (replaces VCCS Annual Meeting)
   D. Next College Board Meeting, November 4, 2015, 4 p.m.

8. Other

9. Information Items (attachment #5)
   A. Board Membership List
   B. Terms of Office
   C. College Board Calendar
   D. State Board for Community Colleges Membership/Liaison
   E. Summer Media Highlights
Meeting number two hundred fifty-four of the Piedmont Virginia Community College Board was held Monday, July 20, 2015, at the Jefferson School African-American Heritage Center.

**College Board Members Present:** Stephen Davis, Bruce Dotson, Debbi Goodman, Robert Hodous, Peter Kleeman, Sean Moynihan, Thomas Proulx, Joseph Scruggs

**Educational Foundation Board Members Present:** Bobbie Bruner, Robert Capon, Al Colville, Alison DeTunng, Peggy Echols, Adrian Felts, Richard Howard-Smith, Philip Sparks, Cynthia Stultz, John Young

**Others:** Frank Friedman, Pat Buck, Sue Haas, Jolene Hamm, Steve Parker, James Ross

**Welcome**

Dr. Friedman welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. The College Board chair unexpectedly was unable to attend due to family medical issues. Foundation President Capon welcomed everyone to the site, noting the summer joint meeting is a great idea to get the Boards together to think about the future of the College.

Dr. Friedman asked that both the short and long-term future of the College be discussed. The discussion today will focus on the “next level” and what it means for PVCC.

Introductions were made by each attendee stating why they were on the Board and/or talked about what the College means to them. Many have had direct ties to the College themselves as students, or through family members who have attended. PVCC has provided great opportunities and second chances for many. The statements heard at the meeting reaffirmed the strong commitment of the Board members to the College.

Attendees broke into groups, with members from each Board and a President’s Staff member represented in each. The groups were tasked with talking about their vision for PVCC in 5-10 years, where the resources to make them happen should come from (i.e., federal, state, private) and the role of the Boards and the College in acquiring the resources. Specific strategizing should be discussed on how to get from where we are to where we need to be to bring in resources for the Student Success Center. Each group appointed a spokesperson for reporting out.

The following represents highlights of the group reports as presented by the spokespersons*. Screenshots of the flip chart notes for each group are attached as part of this summary.

**Group 1:** Bobbie Bruner, Adrian Felts, Sean Moynihan*, Phil Sparks, Joe Scruggs (with Jim Ross)

**Distance learning**—
- opportunity to expand and provide services especially to those not in the vicinity of the campus; not great transportation
- computer access – have them via broadband to locations
- less expensive than other educational institutions
- opportunity to recruit new faculty
PVCC Board  
Meeting No. 254  
Page Two

- faculty need training in new pedagogy  
- need mentors  
- applicable to certificate program

Resources not meeting needs –  
- especially full-time faculty  
- declining state support  
- political challenge

Student Success Center – ($25 million to fund)  
- out of space  
- Delegate Landes indicated 25% private funding could help the case with legislators  
- crowd sourcing for alumni (leading the campaign, social media, shows the legislators the students are leading the case  
- virtual tour based on white paper of what the center would be, attract more interest, maybe done by a student and funded by a $2-5,000 grant done by a student

**Group 2:** Rob Capon, Peggy Echols, Debbi Goodman, Peter Kleeman*, Richard Howard-Smith (with Steve Parker)

Vision of college: opportunity-access- excellence.  
- affordable and free if possible  
- barriers to meeting the goal – child care, finances, distance learning, cost of text books  
- part-time students could become full time with barriers removed  
- expand culinary arts program to include food trucks  
- resources: public policy campaign to increase funding for community colleges  
- public policy at the federal level  
- naming gifts

**Group 3:** Bruce Dotson*, Rob Hodous, John Young, Alison DeTuncq, (with Frank Friedman and Sue Haas)

Workforce  
- expand certificate programs for job-ready skills  
- CATEC partnership  
- how link certificates with associate degrees? Link with NVCC cybersecurity for example  
- how: establish partnerships, understand what’s needed, make use of shared services  
- master plan needed (need parking). Probably 6 month process  
- enhance college life and experiences, i.e., soft skills  
- expand footprint of college to all jurisdictions  
- resources: capital campaign, naming of building and centers within a building; workforce development fund to rapidly deploy program
PVCC Board
Meeting No. 254
Page Three

Group 4: Al Colville, Stephen Davis*, Tom Proulx, Cynthia Stultz (with Jolene Hamm)

Student success center
- need to get in the governor’s budget and need to figure out how to do it. Is this the priority? If so, who on the Boards has ways to reach the Governor? There is a potential donor this year which could provide leverage with the Governor’s budget – there is urgency to get it done.
- limit barriers such as child care, broadband, nimble response for training needs.
- prepare for changes such as free tuition
- how can we better engage those already served and get them to support us going forward

Mr. Capon stated we can be passive or start now to start raising the 25% for the Student Success Center and take that information to political leaders. Board members are free agents with less stringent constraints than the College; both Boards can help with financial and political resources.

Dr. Friedman affirmed local and private fundraising is the impetus to get state funding. He meets with Delegate Toscano next week and will seek his support to garner the Chancellor’s and the Governor’s support for priority funding. And if Board members can help with this initiative, let Dr. Friedman know so it can be a coordinated effort.

Delegate Landes, serving on the House Appropriations Committee, is a valuable supporter in the General Assembly. The game plans that he would come the first week or two of classes with Tony Maggio, staff for the committee, to tour campus buildings to see the crowding issues. In the meantime, the College will start on the silent phase of the campaign to get lead gifts as we move forward.

Ms. Stultz asked if the two Boards will have the opportunity to meet together again to ensure everyone is on the same page—not just in terms of donating, but networking with contacts, even making the ask or get assistance with it. Both Boards need to take individual responsibility for this.

Mr. Capon asked that the flip chart notes be distributed prior to the dissemination of official proceedings.

The Boards adjourned to a reception and further conversation.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Friedman
President and Secretary to the Board

APPROVAL

Ava A. Pippin
Chair
Distance learning?

- Serves those w/o transport.
- Computer access
- Less exp. than major U's.
- App. to recruit new faculty
- All faculty need training in new pedagogy
- Need mentors.
- Applicable to cert. programs (e.g. project mgmt).
Resources not meeting needs

* esp. FT Faculty
  - declining state support
  - political challenge

FT Faculty related to student success,
Student Success Center

- out of space
- landess - 25% private
- would drop pledges push state?
- crowd source alumni?
- invest in concept drawings

Group 1, page 3
• virtual tour based on white paper
  • could students build model?
  • engage students w/ crowd sourcing

[Find grant to kick-start this $2.5m?]

Naming Gift: $2.5 m?
IDEAS - VISION

- Community College to be Affordable and Accessible for all students who want an education
- Free Community College in the Commonwealth
- Student Success Center at VRCC: Success Resources
- Accessibility through more online programs
- Accessibility through lower cost textbooks
- Ability to meet growing demand with investment in technology
- "On ramp" Courses
  Flexibility with enhancement of programs to provide job/career opportunities within 2 years
More options for students to go full-time as well as part-time - scholarship for full time
Reducing barriers - child care/transportation and food
Increase tuition revenue by helping the parents who can and want to pay for their children's education realize the value - promote PVCC more!
Expand culinary arts programs to include food trucks
Resources

- Public policy campaign to increase funding for community colleges (TN) at state level
- Public policy at the federal level
- Fundraising: high net worth individuals, corporations, foundations
- More outreach to employers to share cost for workforce development
- Partnerships with non-profits, e.g. Feeds, subsidized childcare, etc.

* Land naming gift
* Match gift with Foundation gift
* Start quiet campaign for individual donors
* Gain political support for government funding
Expand Certificates for Job Ready Skills
Current and Future (3-5 yrs)
CATEC - H.S. or Continuing
- Job Ready Skills
- Continuous improvement - Evaluate what's still needed or should be (deleted?)
- What are these?
- Where? 3-5 year Cycle

- How do we tie in Associate Degrees to needed costs?
  - Academic Track - Supports Bachelor's in Areas

- Adjusting what we do -
  - Serve "Experienced/Skilled Workers" RE-tooling/Degreed people
How?

1. Establish joint partnerships w/ community businesses & organizations; local industry
   - What are skillsets needed?

2. Understand what is needed
   - Transactional
   - "Problemsolvers"
   - "Leaders/Managers"
   - "Soft Skills"

3. Make use of "Shared Services" when it makes good sense and is a value add for PUCASTudents.
Establish a New Master Plan - 3

Does our physical layout/buildings and campus facilities support our needs and vision of "next level"?

- Expand College Life & Experience at PVCC - Use Student Success Center to facilitate a better life/class/educational experience

- Expand "footprint" of PVCC - a facility in every county we serve

- Concept of Service Center (kiosks, etc. to connect to PVCC)

- Student Center - Enhance continued learning success, provide collaborative learning, peer-to-peer mentoring areas/pockets of spaces for teams
Resources?

Buildings:
- Contents - Naming opportunities (method, etc.)
- Building Name

Funds:
- Work Force Development?
- Watch Companies - Growth; Transplant (BioTech?)
- Assessment of expanded Fund Raising opportunities in surrounding counties

Be able to communicate and facilitate a "Value Proposition"
- Brand - Marketing
- Orientation - Diest in PKC
Student Success Center

1. Board Advocacy to Service Region
   - In Governor's Budget (direct)
   - To Region (1 mil)
   - Make sure to touch all delegates/senators

2. Board Responsibilities
   - Raise Awareness
   - Breakfast with President
   - Raise Money
   - Both College + Foundation Board (Major Capital Campaign)
   - Commitment to outreach to contacts/network

3. Marketing Materials

Is this "The Priority"?

- How do we get it on the Governor's Budget from the Board members in the Room?
- Low Cost Child Care - on campus
- Lower barriers to access
  - Transportation
  - Child Care
  - Remote Classes in Service Region
- Rural Wi-Fi Needs PVCC Support

College will continue to study present and future programmatic needs and adapt quickly to the needs of the community.
Continue to be the place the community turns to for skill development and job placement.

Viticulture - Do the wineries give back?

All programs - who are they working for and are the employers approached?

What's the plan for growth in light of "free tuition" for CC?
  - What are the things we should be thinking about?
Awareness

- Raise awareness ab. community investment
  - start with students
  - @ graduation
  - as alumni
    - need a strong alumni association
  - Parents of alumni
PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

Board Meeting No. 253

May 6, 2015

Meeting number two hundred fifty-three of the Piedmont Virginia Community College Board was held Wednesday, May 6, 2015, in the W. A. Pace Jr. Board Room.

Present

Bruce Dotson         Sean Michael McCord
Alvin Edwards        Ava Pippin
Frank Gallo          Thomas Proulx
Robert Hodous        Fred Richardson
Peter Kleeman        Joseph Scruggs

Absent

Stephen Davis
Debbi Goodman
Sean Moynihan

Others

Frank Friedman, President
Pat Buck, Assistant to the President & Special Events Coordinator
John Donnelly, Vice President for Instruction & Student Services
Sue Haas, Chief Information Officer
Jolene Hamm, Director of Institutional Research, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness
Hee Yun Joo, Student Government Association
Leigh-Anne Lawrence, Director of Marketing & Media Relations
Colm Leckey, College Senate Chair (2015-16)
Steve Parker, Vice President of Finance & Administrative Services
Jeannie Perutelli, PASS President
James Ross, Vice President for Institutional Advancement & Development

Welcome and Call to Order

Ms. Pippin welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The proceedings of the March 4, 2015, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Dr. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Proulx, after noting Mr. McCord’s abstention from the vote for the recipient of the Board Community Service Award. The proceedings have been amended as noted.

Public Comment

None
President's Report

Budget/VCCS/PVCC Updates. Since the last Board meeting the Governor has finalized the budget, resulting in good and bad news. The budget cut to the state appropriation will affect the College somewhat, but since enrollment has increased it helps with our appropriation. The appropriation will be about $100,000 less. Faculty and staff will receive salary increases. Two percent has been authorized for full-time faculty with authority granted to go higher; the State Board for Community Colleges has received a recommendation from the Chancellor and presidents to grant 3% increases. Full-time classified staff will receive 2% increases and a longevity increase of $65/year for those with 5-30 years of service. Unfortunately, no increases were included for adjunct or hourly employees in the budget, but the Chancellor and Presidents recommended to the SBCC they receive college-funded increases. The SBCC will also address a tuition increase in the $4-8 per credit hour range. The General Assembly authorizes salary increases but does not provide full funding; tuition increases support salary and benefit expenditures.

The dedication of The Theodore E. and Patt Hart Keats Science Building was held April 30 with a nice attendance. Patt Keats and her family certainly enjoyed the celebration with the faculty, staff, students and guests in attendance.

A series of culinary practicum lunches was held at the Jefferson School. The food was wonderful and the culinary arts students were involved in every step of the activity. Almost all of the graduates have been hired where they interned. The kitchen is phenomenal, thanks to a $500,000 anonymous donation from a local foundation.

The CATEC initiative continues to move forward; they have hired two new leaders. Along with Dr. Friedman, the Charlottesville and Albemarle County school superintendents gave a presentation at a Chamber of Commerce board meeting last month and received strong endorsement from them for a seamless pathway to jobs via CATEC to PVCC.

College Updates

Dr. Ross
- Leigh-Anne Lawrence, director of marketing and media relations was introduced. A community college graduate, she holds a master’s degree with extensive experience in using social media to benefit community colleges.
- The Foundation expects to increase donations by 40% over last year and by 60% for the annual campaign.
- The planned giving committee continues its work; contacts are welcome for follow up to help bring in planned gifts that are both beneficial to the donor and the College.
- While not typically done at the community college level, they are exploring options for endowing programs at the College. It would take about $1 million to endow a program.

Dr. Hamm
- Current enrollment for spring is 2,526 FTE, a 2% decrease, and headcount is 5,195, just under a 2% decrease over last spring. The VCCS has been experiencing a decline in both HC (-3.36%) and FTE (-3.59%) for spring. FTE for summer is trending positively with an FTE of 675.9 that represents an
increase of 1.2% over last year at this point in time. Fall enrollment is trending positively at this point as well.

- Non-credit enrollment, as well as a breakdown of the various degrees and certificates, will be provided at the end of the spring semester. Dr. Friedman noted that non-credit revenue is expected to be higher than last year.
- PVCC hosted a three-member SACSCOC committee March 31-April 2. We have not received the official report, but the exit meeting was positive. The off-site locations and the work of our coordinator for dual enrollment and off-site programs were praised for the teamwork and collaborative relationship that PVCC has with the area high schools.
- Work continues with key members of the leadership team on the SACSCOC 5th Year Interim Report which is due in September, covering 17 comprehensive standards.
- The 9th Community Colleges Survey of Student Engagement was conducted recently; preliminary results will be received and analyzed in June. Results from previous surveys have been used to document improvements in our Quality Enhancement Plan, strengthen grant proposals with information about our students, and helped to identify and justify the need for proactive advising. The CCSSE will be an important tool as we assess the impact of our QEP and continue to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and services on student engagement and success. Research shows that the more actively engaged students are—with college faculty and staff, with other students, and with the subject matter being learned—the more likely they are to persist in their college studies and to achieve at higher levels. Identifying what our students do in and out of the classroom, knowing their goals, and understanding their external responsibilities can help us create an environment that can enhance student learning, development and retention.

Mr. Parker

- The College’s police officers were sworn in by the courts today; the department is fully functioning.
- Options to reduce sound issues in the Bolick Center are being explored.
- A new third-party contract for grounds maintenance is working out well, and the grounds are looking great. Dr. Kleemar inquired if there is kudzu on College property and what can be done to get rid of it, suggesting seeking an environmentally and ecologically friendly way to do so.

Ms. Haas

- Equipment trust fund purchases have been made and discussions for next year’s purchases by the Information Technology Committee have been completed. Once the College receives its technology fund allocation from the System Office, the spending plan will be submitted by July 1. Working with Vice President Donnelly, ETF funds are designated equally for equipment purchases and instructional use; software purchases are not allowed. Spending guidelines are very prescriptive and funds cannot be carried forward.
- A monthly budget review of expenses helped replace 30 laptops by being conservative with spending; more VDI licenses will be purchased for next year.
- The IT strategic plan will be completed at the end of this month.
- We will be going to the Cloud and will be changing over to Office 365 from Microsoft Exchange. There are lots of networking changes taking place, including shared services for networking and security with the VCCS.
Dr. Donnelly

- Final exams conclude on Monday, followed by Thursday's graduation ceremony. There are 766 graduates from the summer, fall and spring semesters; 200-300 students are expected to participate. Sixteen inmates of the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women will graduate at a ceremony at the prison.
- Our students are recognized in The Daily Progress' National Nurses Week tribute.
- The College has received a SNAP grant for food stamp recipients. Its focus is on training programs where there are jobs.
- Taking over the adult learning center is still in negotiations but likely will be delayed due to the grant cycle. There will be open competition for the grant this coming year. The delay provides more time to work on getting it implemented.
- Two faculty members were recognized at the New Horizons Conference for the fully implemented collegewide writing curriculum. They were awarded an excellence award for best practices in the teaching and learning category.
- The book for the One Book project has been selected and there will be a variety of activities involving the College community. He is glad to provide the book to those interested.
- Dr. Dotson was a judge for the Fall Line publication. He spoke highly of the publication and noted it was a great opportunity to get to know students.
- Dr. Donnelly reiterated that the SACSCOC visiting committee particularly cited the great relationship the College has with the high schools to create a good educational experience for their students.
- Dr. Kleeman inquired if further thought has been given about including fall semester syllabi in the course schedule to provide additional information on the course to help students choose classes as well as faculty. Dr. Donnelly noted there is already a short description of courses online; perhaps content summary could be included. Faculty have different policies, assignments, etc. included in their syllabi and that is too much information to include for each course. The curriculum committee is hoping to find a middle ground.

Curriculum Advisory Committee Appointments. For all associate and certificate degrees that are job focused, curriculum advisory committees are established to advise on curricula and employment needed. The academic deans select members in a variety of ways including recommendations from current committee members and employers. Ms. Pippin noted that greater diversity and representation from all service areas needs attention and asked how the Board can assist. Dr. Donnelly welcomes recommendations. On a motion by Dr. Dotson, seconded by Dr. Edwards, the appointments as presented were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee. Dr. Richardson, chair, reported on behalf of the Curriculum Committee. Following a discussion and review of the provided documentation, the committee recommended:

Discontinuance of dance specialization in the associate of arts, fine arts degree due to low enrollments over the past five years and extremely low graduation rates. Any students currently enrolled in the program have a teach-out plan; dance courses will still be offered. On a motion by Mr. Hodous, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the motion was unanimously approved.

Addition of a Career Studies Certificate in Health Sciences Preparation. The curricular content already exists so there is no additional cost; it will provide a formalized, structured pre-admission plan to help students and the
College be recognized for completion of health science program admission requirements. Should students not be admitted into competitive admission health science programs, they have earned a CSC which could help with entry level jobs. On a motion by Dr. Richardson, seconded by Dr. Dotson, the motion was unanimously approved.

Addition of a Career Studies Certificate in Cyber Security/Network Security, designed to meet employer demand. It is targeted for those already in the field and will lead to certification. On a motion by Dr. Kleeman, seconded by Mr. McCord, the motion was unanimously approved.

Addition of a Career Studies Certificate in Construction Management, designed to meet employer demand. Six new courses will be offered and no new full-time faculty are needed; successful completion can lead to a certification. It could serve as a pathway to an AAS degree in management. On a motion by Dr. Dotson and seconded by Mr. Hodous, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Scruggs inquired how the information on these new programs will get to the schools. Board members can provide high school contacts to Dr. Donnelly who will make concerted efforts to get the word out. Ms. Pippin is also interested in helping get the word out. The curriculum advisory committee will also spread the word.

Dr. Friedman noted there is a trend to offer short skill-based training programs specifically tied to jobs in the community and industry certifications; employers want those certifications. He expects a demand for more for the adult target market. The enrollment management committee and our marketing staff need to get out in the community to spread the word. There are also non-credit programs through Workforce Services, i.e. Go Driver, very short term, very specific programs for specific local job openings.

Budget and Finance Committee. Mr. Proulx reported on behalf of the committee. The 2015-16 local funds budget was reviewed briefly. Bookstore revenue has decreased. The College is working on helping to decrease costs to students by offering more online and used books. We are in the middle of the three-year student activity fee plan; each year there is a fifty cents/credit hour increase that goes into escrow funds specifically for the new student center; after construction of the center all future funds generated by the increase will be used to support student activities. The fee will be $2.90/credit hour effective fall 2015; this fee is significantly lower than most of the other community colleges. Both the Student Government Association and the College Senate unanimously approved these yearly increases. On a motion by Mr. Hodous to approve the presented local funds budget, seconded by Mr. Proulx, the motion was unanimously approved. On a motion by Mr. Hodous to approve the third year increase of fifty cents/credit hour for the student activity fee, the motion was unanimously approved. The request for the increase will be submitted to the SBCC for approval.

Chair’s Report

Ms. Pippin thanked board members for attending the student awards convocation and the Keats Building dedication.

Awards and Recognition Ceremony and Reception. Celebrating retirements, promotions and more, the Board is invited to attend the event on May 8 at 4 p.m. in the main building auditorium. Peter will make the College Board certificate of appreciation presentations to retirees.
**Commencement Events.** Board members are welcome to attend any pinning ceremonies. The schedule includes: Radiography Technology Pinning, 6 p.m., May 12, Dickinson Theater; Sonography Pinning, 6 p.m., May 13, Dickinson Theater; Nursing Pinning Ceremony, 1 p.m., May 14, JPJ Arena. Commencement takes place at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 14, JPJ Arena, with Secretary of Education Anne Holton serving as commencement speaker. Board members are asked to arrive at 5:30 for robing. Directions and parking information will be forthcoming.

**Next College Board Meeting.** The next meeting of the College Board is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2015, at 4 p.m. at PVCC.

**Summer Planning Session.** A suggestion was made to have a joint summer retreat with the Educational Foundation Board which was met with enthusiasm. Both boards will be polled to determine possible dates. Topics could include the student success center and Board/College issues that cut across both boards.

**Other**

Board members interested in participating at the high school awards ceremonies to present scholarship awards are welcome to contact Dr. Ross or Ms. Buck.

The faculty are commended on the excellent display and interaction of the students with their science projects.

**Information Items**

The following information items were provided: College Board Calendar and March-April Media Highlights.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Frank Friedman
President and Secretary to the Board

APPROVAL

Ava A. Pippin
Chair
TITLE: PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
UTILITY EASEMENT to ALBEMARLE COUNTY SERVICE AUTHORITY
DEED OF EASEMENT

BACKGROUND:

Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) requests approval to grant a utility easement to the Albemarle County Service Authority (ACSA). The purpose of the easement is to extend the existing water line which currently ends on the PVCC campus at the Stultz Center for Workforce Development. The water line extension will cross route 20 and service additional customers across the highway.

The extension of the water line is of great benefit to PVCC’s campus, especially the Stultz building. Currently, the existing line terminates at this building, which creates taste and sediment issues in the water. By extending the line to other customers, the volume of water passing by the Stultz building should improve our situation immensely. The work described above shall be performed at no cost to either the college or VCCS.

A right of way letter was issued to the utility company and fully executed in July, 2015.

Following approval by the State Board for Community Colleges and prior to execution, the utility easement will be submitted for approval as to form by the Virginia Community College System Legal Services Office.

LOCAL BOARD RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL:

The local College Board will review this easement request at its next scheduled meeting on September 2, 2015. The State Board will be apprised of any concerns raised by the Local Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

In accordance with the Virginia Community College Policy Manual, § 10.4.0.2 it is recommended that the State Board for Community Colleges approve the conveyance of the easement to the Albemarle County Service Authority (ACSA) for the installation, operation and maintenance of underground utility line to serve ACSA customers. This authorization is contingent upon satisfying all applicable requirements of the State Board Policy and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

RESOURCE PERSONS:

Dr. Frank Friedman, President
Piedmont Virginia Community College
(434) 961-5200
ffriedman@pvcc.edu

Mr. Robert B. Jones, RA, CBO, VCCO
Associate Vice Chancellor for
Facilities Management Services
Virginia Community College System
(804) 819-4917
bjones@vccs.edu
July 27, 2015

Mr. Gary O’Connell
Executive Director
Albemarle County Service Authority
168 Spotnap Road
Charlottesville VA 22911

RE: Piedmont Virginia Community College
The Michie Tavern Water Main Replacement Project (ACSA’s Project No. 2013-05)

Dear Mr. O’Connell:

Permission is hereby granted by the Virginia Community College System, for itself, the State Board for Community Colleges and Piedmont Virginia Community College (collectively, "VCCS") to the Albemarle County Service Authority ("Company"), and its agents, contractors, and subcontractors, to immediately enter upon those portions of land of the Commonwealth of Virginia located at 501 College Drive in Charlottesville, Virginia, as more particularly described as and shown on the attached Exhibit A (the "VCCS Property"), to proceed with installation of underground facilities in The Stultz Center parking lot, located on VCCS Property (see Description of Project attached as Exhibit B).

In granting this permission, it is our understanding that the work described above shall be performed at no cost to VCCS. To the extent that there are costs for document preparation and review by the Company, its employees or contractors, including, for instance, costs borne by outside consultants, contractors and counsel, those costs shall be borne by the Company. We further understand that VCCS and the Company contemplate that the Project will ultimately involve a recorded deed of easement granting the Company certain rights to the VCCS Property.

This grant is made only to the extent reasonably necessary for the Company to enter the VCCS Property and adjacent sites for purposes of planning, design, construction and development of the Project.

Specifically, it is understood and agreed that this permission is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. This Right of Entry is granted solely to plan, design, construct and develop the Project. The permission granted hereunder is granted only to the extent reasonably necessary for the Company, and / or its agents, contractors, and subcontractors to perform the Project work, as described in Exhibit B. The Company shall coordinate work and entry onto the VCCS Property with Dennis Weir at Piedmont Community College (tel. no. (434)-961-5447) or
his/her successor or designee, and will advise him/her in advance of the schedule for the Project. Physical access, if otherwise not available, shall be provided by VCCS or Piedmont Virginia Community College employees, who may remain present during all work performed hereunder.

2. The permission granted by this Right of Entry shall be temporary in nature and shall terminate upon the earlier of: i) the completion of the Project; or ii) the recordation of a Deed of Easement consummating the proposed formal permanent easement between the VCCS and the Company; but in no event later than December 30, 2015. The Right of Entry granted hereunder shall extend to the Company and its agents, employees and contractors, but only to the extent reasonably necessary to carry out the Project. Acquisition of any permits required by the Company, the Commonwealth of Virginia or any other entity shall be the responsibility of the Company.

3. The Company agrees, to the extent permitted by law, to indemnify, protect and hold harmless the VCCS, its employees and officers, successors and assigns from and against any and all costs, liability, suits, expenses, claims, demands and actions in respect to such loss, injury or damages caused by or growing out of this letter, saving and excepting such costs, liability, suits, expenses, claims, demands and/or actions as were caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the VCCS.

4. In connection with the Right of Entry granted by this letter, the Company has and shall cause its contractors to keep in force at its own expense, as long as this Right of Entry remains in effect, a broad form liability insurance policy in the amount of One Million Dollars ($1,000,000) per occurrence, protecting the Virginia Community College System, the Commonwealth of Virginia, State Board for Community Colleges, and Piedmont Virginia Community College against all claims for damage to person or property or loss of life or property occurring on or about the VCCS Property. The Company shall furnish the VCCS with insurance certificates of such contractor’s insurance policy and the Company’s insurance policy at least fifteen (15) days prior to beginning work on VCCS Property.

The VCCS reserves the right to terminate this Right of Entry upon ten (10) days’ prior written notice to the Company if the Company is unwilling or unable within a reasonable period of time to cure any breach of the terms set forth in this letter to the satisfaction of the VCCS.

Please sign in the space below to acknowledge acceptance of the terms of this letter, and return a countersigned original to me.

Sincerely yours,

VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

[Signature]

Robert B. Jones, RA, CBO, VCCO
Associate Vice Chancellor
Facilities Management Services
Agreed to and acknowledged this ___ day of ________, 2015

COMPANY: Albemarle County Service Authority

By: [Signature]
Gary O'Connell
Executive Director

copy: Stephen Parker - Vice President, Piedmont Virginia Community College
Monica Melville - VCCS
EXHIBIT B

Description of Project

The Michle Tavern Water Main Replacement Project (Project No. 2013-05) was added to the ACSA's FY 2014 CIP to replace the existing water main currently serving Michle Tavern that has been in service approximately 70 years. Over the past few years, this water main that extends from the City of Charlottesville water system and crosses under I-64 has been experiencing an increasing number of leak repairs. The new water main will connect to the existing water main serving the Stultz Center, cross under Route 20 and extend through the former Blue Ridge Hospital site. The crossing under Route 20 will be completed using a directional drilling process.
Leadership:

- Be effective liaisons between the leaders in appointing jurisdictions and the College.
  
  ✓ Board members arranged meetings with President Friedman and members of their respective local governing boards and/or school systems.

- When possible, participate with students, faculty and staff in the life of the College through events, social activities, and instructional offerings.
  
  ✓ Board members attended a number of events at the College including spring recognition, commencement exercises, Dickinson events, the Keats Building dedication and culinary arts practicum lunches at Jefferson School; the Board Chair provided welcoming remarks to convocations.

- Use these opportunities to introduce the College to colleagues and acquaintances who may not be familiar with its breadth of benefits to the community.
  
  ✓ Board members took advantage of comp tickets for Dickinson events.

- Demonstrate commitment of total College leadership by 100% participation in the Educational Foundation annual fund.
  
  ✓ 8 of 13 Board members participated in the 2013-14 Annual Fund (unrestricted)
  
  ✓ 10 of 13 Board members gave to the PVCC Educational Foundation in 2013-14 (unrestricted and restricted)

- Participate in the development and subsequent support of the VCCS legislative priorities.
  
  ✓ Board members participated in the visits to the General Assembly along with students to deliver the PVCC message.

Stewardship:

- Diligently and actively participate in all matters that properly come before the Board and its committees.
  
  ✓ Carried out throughout the year.

- Monitor the College’s achievement of the Strategic Plan initiatives and participate in the strategic planning process.
  
  ✓ Board members received updates.

- Convene at least one joint board meeting off campus on a rotational schedule with local boards of the College’s service area.
  
  ✓ The Board met with representatives of Nelson County at the May meeting.

- Actively participate in the SACS reaffirmation process as required or appropriate.
  
  ✓ Not applicable for 2013-14.
Initiative:

- Work with the President or designee in seeking new off-campus class and/or workforce development offerings.
  - Board members have been advocates for the Greene County site, the Jefferson School and workforce offerings throughout the service region.
- Honor and recognize excellence in faculty, staff, and students. (e.g.: College Board Award for Service.)
  - Lauren Housel was presented with the College Board Service Award at the spring Academic and Leadership Awards Convocation.
- Assist as appropriate in seizing timely new opportunities. (e.g.: the acquisition and use of the former Visitor Center, introduction of potential benefactors or collaborations that may benefit our communities.)
  - Board members provided numerous ideas and "leads" to President Friedman.

Opportunity * Access * Excellence
PVCC BOARD
2015-16 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Community Relations Committee: The Community Relations Committee shall consider matters external to the college which may influence the ability of the college to fulfill its mission. The Community Relations Committee shall consist of the following subcommittees, each of which shall have a chair: Business and Industry Relations, High School Relations, Legislative Relations, University of Virginia Relations

Peter Kleeman (Chair)
Stephen Davis
Sean McCord
Joseph Scruggs
Ava Pippin (ex officio)
Frank Friedman (ex officio)
James Ross (Staff Liaison)

Curriculum Committee: The Curriculum Committee shall consider matters pertaining to the college’s instructional programs.

Bruce Dotson
Frank Gallo
Debbi Goodman
Fred Richardson (Chair)
Ava Pippin (ex officio)
Frank Friedman (ex officio)
John Donnelly (Staff Liaison)

Finance and Building Committee: The Finance and Building Committee shall consider matters pertaining to the local funds budget, the state M & O budget, and capital outlay (building) projects.

Sean Moynihan (Chair)
Alvin Edwards
Robert Hodous
Thomas Proulx
Ava Pippin (ex officio)
Frank Friedman (ex officio)
Kim McManus (Staff Liaison)

PVCC Educational Foundation Liaison: Stephen Davis

Real Estate Foundation Liaison: Robert Hodous
### 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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<td>Stephen Davis</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Dotson</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debbi Goodman</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean J. Moynihan</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>Joseph J. Scruggs</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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<td><strong>City of Charlottesville</strong></td>
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<td>Peter T. Kleeman</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>Sean McCord</td>
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<td>Frank J. Gallo</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>Ava Pippin</td>
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<td>Thomas Proulx</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>2017</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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<td>JUL</td>
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<td>Joint Boards Summer Retreat 4-7 pm Jefferson School Heritage Center</td>
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<td>15-16</td>
<td>SBCC Meeting*</td>
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<td>SEPT</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>award process begins</td>
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<td>Chancellor’s Planning Retreat, Richmond</td>
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<td>budget review</td>
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<td>18-19</td>
<td>SBCC Meeting*</td>
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<tr>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>UVA Legislative Forum</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>BOS/City Council Annual Update</td>
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<td>JAN</td>
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<td>27-28</td>
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<td>BOS/City Council Annual Update</td>
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<td>FEB</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>VCCS Legislative Reception, Richmond Time TBA</td>
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<td>PVCC Visit to General Assembly</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>BOS/City Council Annual Update</td>
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<td>MAR</td>
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<td>vote on board award recipients</td>
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<td>APR</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Academic &amp; Leadership Awards Convocation 4 pm, Dickinson Theater</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>BOS/City Council Annual Update</td>
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<td>MAY</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Board Meeting 4 pm Pace Board Room</td>
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<td>13 (Friday)</td>
<td>Commencement 6 pm/Nursing Pinning 1 pm JPJ A'ena</td>
<td>approve local funds budgets</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>College Awards and Recognition Ceremony</td>
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*State Board for Community Colleges meetings: for information only
** Date subject to change (Richmond Ballet)
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Cuthbertson</td>
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<td>Mountain Empire</td>
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<td>Schewel</td>
<td>J. Sargeant Reynolds</td>
<td>Sullenberger</td>
<td>Blue Ridge</td>
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<td>Hall</td>
<td>John Tyler</td>
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<td>Dabney Lancaster</td>
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<td>Fernandez</td>
<td>Northern Virginia</td>
<td>Berkowitz</td>
<td>Germanna</td>
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<td>Byas</td>
<td>Lord Fairfax</td>
<td>Ellis</td>
<td>Tidewater</td>
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<td>Thomas Nelson</td>
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<td>Conner</td>
<td>Southside Virginia</td>
<td>Nutter</td>
<td>New River</td>
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<td>Virginia Highlands</td>
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<td>Wytheville</td>
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<td>Doug Garcia</td>
<td>Piedmont</td>
<td>Saslaw</td>
<td>Patrick Henry</td>
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<td>Rappahannock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catherine Reynolds</td>
<td>Eastern Shore</td>
<td>Zajur</td>
<td>Central Virginia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Paul D. Camp</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*See back of page for additional information on the role of a community college liaison.*
ROLE OF A COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIAISON

1. First and foremost, serve as a goodwill ambassador of the VCCS reinforcing the adopted strategic goals of the State Board.

2. To be in attendance at special functions (i.e. building dedications, graduations, workforce partnership meetings or kick-offs) at the college or sponsored by the college elsewhere within their service region.

3. To attend some local board meetings to get a first-hand feel of College Board activities.

4. To be a recognized supporter of the community college in your liaison regions by participating in city-wide events, which provides a voice or presence for the community college.

5. To market and speak well of the VCCS wherever your travels take you, always with a mind for fund/friend raising.

6. To be vocal and knowledgeable about VCCS initiatives and take the opportunity to present these initiatives to college stakeholders.

7. To get to know the College President and Local Board Chair of your assigned colleges.

8. To contact each President at least once before each State Board meeting.

9. Report your liaison experiences at State Board meetings.
Idalia Fernandez, Chair
Centreville

James Cuthbertson, vice chair
Glen Allen

Carolyn Berkowitz
Burke

Thomas Brewster
Falls Mills

Benita Thompson Byas
Reston

Darren Conner.
Callands

LaVonne Ellis
Chesapeake

Douglas M. Garcia
Fairfax

William C. Hall, Jr.
Richmond

David Nutter
Blacksburg

Catherine B. Reynolds
McLean

Eleanor Saslaw
Springfield

Michael J. Schewel
Richmond

Robin Sullenberger
Harrisonburg

Michel Zajur
Midlothian

- Sept. 16-17, 2015
- Nov. 18-19, 2015
- Jan. 27-28, 2016
- May 18-19, 2016

Board Docs
Board Agenda Management System
Responding to growing local industry, PVCC now offers certificate program in craft beer brewing

BY RYAN BLACKWELL rblackwell@dailypress.com | 964-5473

In a serendipitous turn of events, Levi Duncan and Hunter Smith of Champion Brewing Company met taking classes on brewing beer at Piedmont Virginia Community College. Now they not only run a successful brewery in Charlottesville, but also teach the classes that in some ways launched their careers.

"There's a real time-and-place component," Smith said.

"These two stories will never happen again," Duncan said.

Duncan, Champion's lead brewer, lectured knowledgeably and casually about German wheat beer in front of a small group of students at a table in Champion's tap room on a recent evening. The class is one of nine being offered by PVCC in its certificate of craft brewing program. The certificate is new in 2015, but classes have been offered for six years. Duncan and Smith, Champion's owner and head brewer, were among the first students in those classes.

Smith said taking the classes was important in deciding whether to make the leap into professional brewing.

"The certificate program prepares you to decide whether it's for you, and gives you a leg up" when looking for work in the industry.

Duncan was blunt about why he took the classes after losing his job.

"I was there because I wanted a job in the industry," he said.

It was a good place to start. According to Greg Rosko, program manager for workforce services at Piedmont, those early classes were taught by Jason Oliver (Devils Backbone Brewing Company), Mark Thompson (Starr Hill Brewery) and Taylor Snack (Blue Mountain Brewery) — some of the biggest names in Virginia brewing.
Duncan took Thompson’s class twice to try to get the brewer’s attention. His tenacity finally paid off with a job that led to his attending the American Brewers Guild and becoming a brewer in his own right.

Smith said of the classes, “It was a good step in the process, to see if it was for me. It was a key first step before going to Siebel [Institute of Technology].”

Reflecting on those early decisions, Smith remembered thinking, “I can’t fall out of love with this.”

He said he feared he would make the commitment of time and money only to find that brewing wasn’t for him.

Those fears appear to be unwarranted, as Champion is now in its third year of brewing beer.

Now that Duncan and Smith teach the majority of the program’s classes, it appears that everything has come full circle. The two brewers see teaching the program as a chance to give back.

“I feel like I got to where I did because of the program,” Smith said.

He sees it as an “opportunity to point someone in the right direction.”

Rosko said the program is designed to fill a need in the industry.

“The intent of workforce services is to provide a trained workforce for local industries,” he said.

Rosko said PVCC’s wine program is a perfect example.

“There was a need for a trained workforce” in the local wine industry that the Piedmont program filled. According to Rosko, there are 15 wineries in the state owned or operated by former students of PVCC’s wine program.
Stay sharp: Six ways to keep the wheels turning this summer

Kids
Laura Ingles
5/28/15 at 11:11 AM
We love swim team and beach trips and even the occasional lazy day at home just as much as the next person, but it can be all too easy to let your kids’ brains go into hibernation mode during the summer months. Luckily for kids (and parents) in the area, schools and organizations in Charlottesville and the surrounding counties are gearing up for summer programs that will strike the perfect balance between entertaining and educational. Some of these may be so much fun that your kids won’t even notice they’re learning things—don’t worry, we won’t tell them.

KidsCollege@PVCC

Every summer, Piedmont Virginia Community College offers a full schedule of week-long camps and academies for kids in third to ninth grade. Whether your son or daughter is into fashion design, app development or physics, there’s bound to be at least one PVCC camp that keeps their heads from filling with cobwebs. Here’s just a snapshot of what’s available:

For third to sixth graders: Minecraft designers, LEGO and stop action films; jewelry making

For sixth to ninth graders: French adventures, architecture, dance, music, geometry and algebra

For more information, visit pvcc.edu/kidscollogene.
PVCC Dean Running For City School Board
06/04/2015 in Charlottesville City, Election, Local

A city resident with a doctorate in education administration wants to join the Charlottesville School Board next January. Adam Hastings is circulating petitions to run for a seat on the school board this fall.

Hastings (pictured) is a past director of CATEC, the technical education center for the city and county. He became one of the deans at Piedmont Virginia Community College last August.

Hastings joins Amy Laufer and Jennifer McKeever as announced candidates for the City School Board.
PVCC's Kids College at Fluvanna Summer Camp Underway

Posted: Jun 10, 2015 12:11 PM EDT Updated: Jun 24, 2015 1:34 PM EDT

FLUVANNA COUNTY, Va (WVIR) - Students in Fluvanna are getting a taste of the college experience for the first time. The Kids College at Fluvanna educational summer camp is possible thanks to a new partnership.

The Fluvanna Parks and Recreation Department, Fluvanna Public Schools and Piedmont Virginia Community College have joined forces to offer this program at Fluvanna High School. It's a week-long summer camp for rising 3rd to 8th graders, focused on STEM subjects: science, technology, engineering, math, and the arts.

Students are using 3-D printers, learning about computer coding, anatomy, sign language, and theater.

Kids College has been hosted for years on campus at PVCC, but many families aren't able to get their students back and forth to Charlottesville each day. The county parks and rec department has made sure it's as convenient as possible in Fluvanna, offering early and late care so parents can drop their kids off around their work schedule.

The program is funded by grants and offers scholarships too.

This is the last week of the camp in Fluvanna. Kids College is happening throughout the summer at PVCC and in Greene County in July. Click here for more information.
New Program at PVCC Graduates Four Students from China

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA
(NEWSPLEX) -- A new program helped four students graduate from Piedmont Virginia Community College this year. Each student came to Charlottesville in 2012 as a part of the University Bridge Program. It is a new program for PVCC to give students a chance to bridge their education to a higher university in the United States.

"My parents heard it from a friend in China," said Ruifeng 'Ron' Sun, graduating from PVCC this summer. "And they thought it might be a good idea to come here. He is from Dalian, China.

The program gave Sun a different way to apply for an education in the United States, and allowed him to get a different kind of transition into the University of Virginia.

"It's kind of hard to apply that way, because it's very competitive," said Sun.

"It was a natural opportunity for them to choose PVCC," said John Donnelly, vice president of instruction and student services. "Come here, and make their way to the University of Virginia."

They all had to work just as hard as the other students.

"There were a number of students that went through the organization that sponsored them, and they had to meet all the same requirements," said Donnelly.

Each of the students has called PVCC their home over the past two years, and they've all been pretty successful, graduating with a GPA of 3.81 or higher.

Sun was one of four to be graduating, and he's applying for UVa's graphic design program in 2016.

When he started in 2012, he knew very little English, but has come a long way and can speak fluently. The University Bridge Program involved the students in a lot of activities that immersed them into American society.

More than 50 percent of PVCC students are residents of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, and more than 90 percent come from the area if you include all of Piedmont Virginia.

Donnelly says that it is a great experience for the students from China, but also the local students to learn about a different culture.
Juneteenth Celebration Kicks Off in Charlottesville

Updated: Mon 1:16 PM, Jun 15, 2015

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA (NEWSPLEX) --

Dozens showed up to the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center on Sunday afternoon to kick off the week-long celebration of Juneteenth in Charlottesville.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the first Juneteenth in 1865.

The day originated in Galveston, Texas and is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

"The story goes that on that day, June 19, 1865, slaves in Galveston first learned that they were free," said retired Piedmont Virginia Community College faculty member Tamyra Turner.

The UVa Center for Politics is teaming up with PVCC to host Charlottesville's 15th annual community Juneteenth celebration.

Advocates say keeping up with these types of activities is important because interest in the holiday is beginning to wane.

"They still have Juneteenth celebrations but the numbers of people participating have dropped," said administrative assistant at the Center for Politics, Danelia Robinson. "That's one of the things I'm hoping to find out here today is why is it waning, what can we do to stop it and to increase it."

Organizers said events like those being held at PVCC this weekend will help reignite interest in Juneteenth especially in the younger generation.

A variety of opportunities to participate will be available to the public including performances, workshops, discussions and competitions.

"It's just a time to reflect on who we are, how we got here and what the threads are that continue through that history," said Turner. "How we can learn from that history so as not to repeat the negatives but also be enriched by the cultural legacy."

That culture is something Robinson said African-Americans should proudly represent.

"I'm who I am and I think that Juneteenth is one of those activities that allows us to stand together and remember who we are and where we came from," she said.

The celebration continues this weekend with a cultural event at 6 p.m. Friday and an all-day celebration from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Both events will be held at PVCC and are free and open to the public.
Philanthropic effort leads to nursing scholarship at PVCC

Posted, Monday, June 15, 2015 0:04 pm
Daily Progress staff reports

Thanks to the generosity of a Nelson County woman, Piedmont Virginia Community College has a new endowed scholarship for nursing students.

The two-year Smyth Scholarship for Nursing was made possible by the philanthropic efforts of Mary Beth Smyth and her late husband, Gordon. The scholarship will be provided through an endowed fund from the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mary Beth Smyth
Innovators come to Capitol Hill to share creative solutions to real-world problems

Meet Community College Innovation Challenge winners from across the country

CCIC winning teams will be in Washington, D.C., for NSF and AACC's Innovation Boot Camp, June 15-18.
Credit and Larger Version

June 15, 2015

The National Science Foundation (NSF) earlier this year invited students at community colleges from across the country to participate in the CCIC. Specifically, they were called to identify perplexing problems and propose innovative, STEM-based solutions in potentially impactful areas such as big data, infrastructure security, sustainability and broadening participation in STEM. Winning teams offered a broad range of innovative projects and detailed creative approaches with tremendous potential for solving some of America's most daunting challenges.

This week, the competition's top teams have come to Washington, D.C., to participate in a three-day innovation "boot camp" sponsored by NSF and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The event on June 17 will be a highlight to their visit to the nation's capital; they will display their innovations and interact with visitors.

Water Health as assessed by surveying protists, PVCC Water Health, Piedmont Virginia Community College (Va.) - A demo of the Open Science Framework, a free, online tool to promote the collaboration and sharing of data on critical issues such as water health.
PVCC's winning student team: (from left) Stephen Haze, Candice Tomlinson, and Maya Fraser-Butler.

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, Va (WVIR) - News Release from Piedmont Virginia Community College, Office of Marketing and Media Relations:

PVCC student team named one of top 10 winners in national science competition

(Charlottesville, Va.) – 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 Haze; 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 protozoa, 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, created by the Center for Open Science. Use of this tool allows research to be shared between numerous groups and will ultimately help improve freshwater quality as researchers collaborate to find solutions for ongoing issues.

To learn more about the CCIC competition, or view videos from community college winners, visit www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/communitycollege.
PVCC adds career certificate programs in construction management, cybersecurity

Posted: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 6:34 pm
Piedmont Virginia Community College will offer career certificates in construction management and cybersecurity starting this fall. Both programs can be completed in two years or less.

The construction management certificate is 23 credits and prepares students to plan and direct construction projects. Training for managers in specialized fields such as plumbing and carpentry also will be available.

The cybersecurity certificate is 28 credits and prepares students to work as network specialists. The program follows standards set forth by the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education and will help prepare students for several certification exams, including Security+, SSCP, CISM and ISSP. More information is available at www.pvcc.edu/programs.
Performance Signs earning statewide accolades

Posted: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 7:07 pm
BY KANE KASHOUTY Record Staff Writer

A Greene County sign shop recently was recognized on the state level for being a business to watch. Performance Signs in Ruckersville was one of the five businesses recognized as "Ones to Watch," by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, a business mentoring initiative run by the U.S. Senate Productivity and Quality Award Program for Virginia.

Katherine Morris, who owns and operates the business along with her husband, Robbie, said all the recognition makes her feel more accountable. "It's one thing to just run a business," Katherine Morris said. "But now that I know people are watching ... We need to make sure we are living up to all the hype." In addition, the business was also featured in a recent mid-Atlantic newsletter for lenders of small-business loans, Robbie Morris said the recent recognitions have helped build Performance Sign's reputation.

"The great thing is that we've been doing this for so long now and finally — it's just clicked," Robbie Morris said. "People are recognizing and catching on to what we are doing now — and that's exciting."

Performance Signs creates business decals for fleet vehicles — commercial, law enforcement, emergency, and fire and rescue. The business also creates banners, indoor and outdoor signs and highway signs. Robbie Morris, now director of business development, began Performance Signs in 1996 as a way to help his brother decorate his racing car. Morris, who was born and raised in Greene County, said his interest in creating decals was piqued while he was an engineering student at Virginia Tech.

"My brother was racing stock cars," Robbie Morris said. "So I bought the equipment to make decals for his car." Morris said he landed a job at NGIC through Virginia Tech's co-op program, but quickly realized he preferred making decals in the afternoons following work than his actual day job.

"That's when I decided to focus on decals and not pursue further schooling," Morris said, noting at the time his brother was racing at what is now the Motor Mile Speedway in Radford. Morris began his business working out of the bedroom in his house, but has made several moves before landing in the current location at 18 Commerce Drive. In 2004, Katherine Morris took over business ownership. "Women business owners are in the minority," Katherine Morris said, noting the change in leadership was a push to help change that.

With his wife running the business, Robbie Morris said he could concentrate on the behind-the-scenes work. "I'm good with the creative, but not as good with the day-to-day," Robbie Morris said. "Katherine really brought the business mind to the table. When she came on is when [Performance Sign's] growth really started."

**The Morries have leaned on training from Piedmont Virginia Community College at the Eugene Giuseppe Center Stanardsville campus to help educate themselves and their employees.**

"We are dedicated to the furthering of our education of our employees," he said, noting Performance Sign Employees have taken classes in communication, conflict resolution, team building and emotional intelligence, to name a few. "Some employees have also pursued individual technical and academic interests as well. It seems like our staff has really embraced the workforce training." The Morries also underwent the training along with their staff. "I have to admit it was a bit painful," Katherine Morris said. "It was honest and open — which, of course, made it very successful. But sometimes you just aren't prepared for that."

"I guess I found it painful at times because you learn the truth about things you thought might be working, but really aren't. Which can be hard to hear," she said. "On the other hand, so much growth comes from that honest and open dialogue." Robbie Morris said he hopes the future continues to look bright for Performance Signs with additional growth to come. "We will continue to try and grow our commercial business as well as add more equipment and hire more positions as we expand," he said. "We are also planning on growing in our highway signs arena."

"We will continue to be intentional with the blessings that we have and keep fostering relationships with our clients and community," Katherine Morris added. "We want to ensure we are carrying out God's will and doing what we are called to do."

Director of Economic Development for Greene County Alan Yost said Performance Signs is the type of small business Greene County wants to support.

"They have truly taken a small business to a larger scale with entrepreneurial spirit," he said. "Performance Signs has been recognized by the state and has created jobs here in Greene County filling a void with good-paying positions, with more opening on the horizon."

Yost noted that 80 percent of new jobs are created by small businesses each year. And in April, Performance Signs became the first recipient of a small-business investment grant awarded by the Greene County Supervisors in the amount of $6,492 (calculated in a formula based on assessed value of new investment over a period of time).

"Greene County supports small businesses" Yost said. "We want to attract and continue to foster the growth of small businesses here in the county."
Chamber supports CATEC strategic plan

| Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 12:01 a.m. |

(Charlottesville, Virginia – June 25) – The Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce today announced that, the Chamber Board of Directors approved a Chamber Resolution in support of the Charlottesville – Albemarle Technical Education Center strategic plan, partnership with Piedmont Virginia Community College; “innovative development of career pathways;” and, “a comprehensive review of the facilities needed to support the career pathways to include consideration of a joint use CATEC-PVCC technical education center.

A copy of the Chamber Board of Directors’ resolution, approved on Tuesday, is attached.

The Chamber support comes after nearly 18-months of involvement with the CATEC strategic planning process; review of by the Chamber Economic & Government Affairs Committee; presentations by Albemarle Schools Superintendent Dr. Pamela Moran and Charlottesville Schools Superintendent Dr. Rosa Atkins, to both the Committee and Chamber Board; and, discussions with several Albemarle County Supervisors and Charlottesville City Counselors. Kristina Hofmann, Esq. of Payne & Hodous, Vice Chairwoman for Economic Vitality of the Chamber Board also serves as Chairwoman of the Chamber Economic & Government Affairs Committee.

The Chamber resolution noted that the “Chamber Code of Public Policies” states: “It is essential that governments and schools work cooperatively with employers, particularly businesses, to provide programs that support workforce development and better prepare students for career-ladder employment. (and) “a strong education system and the availability of technically skilled people are vital to our region’s future prosperity and quality of life.”

The Chamber resolution further noted that: “CATEC is poised for modern governance structure and educational programs realignment with the needs of a 21st Century global, diverse, competitive and technically agile workforce,” and, “has developed an innovative strategic plan to guide its future development.”

The Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to representing private enterprise, promoting business, and enhancing the quality of life in our Greater Charlottesville communities. The more than 1,200 Chamber member and affiliate member enterprises employ more than 45,000 people in our community, generating a total payroll of more than $1.75 billion each year.
PVCC and CATEC Join Efforts to Strengthen VA Workforce

Posted: Jun 29, 2015 4:57 PM EDT Updated: Jul 13, 2015 4:57 PM EDT

Richard Voss/FILE

Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Training Center

ALDEMARLE COUNTY, Va (WVIR) - Piedmont Virginia Community College and Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center are teaming up to offer new joint programs.

PVCC and CATEC plan to focus mostly on healthcare, cyber security, engineering and manufacturing in this venture.

PVCC says in the semesters to come, students can expect to see an alignment of curricula, more credits that will transfer from CATEC and a more efficient, cost-effective education.

"It is a game changer. It's an opportunity to move current technical education, vocational education, credentialed post-secondary education into where our locality our region and Virginia need it. And I think in the next year or two, you're going to find that we are in the driver's seat," says Academic Dean of PVCC, Adam Hastings.

"This is a historic time for CATEC because of its long history in Charlottesville and central Virginia and its ability to be flexible and meet the needs of the community," says Catherine Lee, strategic planning officer for CATEC.

PVCC and CATEC say by working together, they hope to create a more seamless transition from K-12 to continued education.

The two schools say that even though they are collaborating with their curriculums, right now they plan to keep classes at their respective schools.

But that could change depending on demand.

The Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce also hopes the new venture will strengthen the workforce and better the quality of life for more people in central Virginia.
Pioneer Bank donates funds to PVCC Educational Foundation

Officials at Piedmont Virginia Community College announced last month that Pioneer Bank recently donated $2,500 to the PVCC Annual Campaign.

"We commend Pioneer Bank for their community minded leadership," said James Ross, vice president of institutional advancement and development at PVCC. "We greatly value the partnership PVCC and Pioneer Bank have established that benefits our students and our college."

Established in 1909, Pioneer Bank provides a broad range of banking activities and products. An independent, locally owned institution, Pioneer Bank has locations in Stanardsville, Stanley, Shenandoah, Luray, Harrisonburg and Charlottesville.

Pioneer Bank’s goal is to continue providing the convenience, quality service, commitment, assistance, kindness and respect its customers deserve long into the future.

PVCC’s Educational Foundation was established in 1982 to cultivate and provide financial and in-kind support for Piedmont Virginia Community College.

The Educational Foundation is governed by a board of directors comprised of representatives from the business, financial and professional areas in the communities served by the college and of administrative and faculty personnel from the college.

To learn more about the Educational Foundation, or donor opportunities, visit www.pvcc.edu/donors.

To learn more about Pioneer Bank, visit www.pioneerbks.com.
CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va (WVIR) -

Charlottesville’s Growing Opportunities (GO) Driver Program graduated eight students Monday morning.

The students went through a rigorous five-week training course to become commercially licensed bus drivers with Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) and JAUNT.

The GO Driver Program is a partnership between the city, CAT, JAUNT, and Piedmont Virginia Community College.

Students in the program have earned customer service skills and a commercial driver’s license learner’s permit, as well as a new job.

"I'm looking forward to becoming more successful. Just starting my career pretty much," said Keedra Terrell, GO Driver graduate.

"This is an extremely important program because it directly ties training with jobs. So, it's not just training for the sake of training, but at the end if you successfully complete, then you are in line with one of the transit agencies here in Charlottesville," said Hollie Lee, chief of workforce strategies.

The graduates start work one week from Monday.
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA (NEWSPLEX) -- Piedmont Virginia Community College and the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center have always worked hand-in-hand, but the two schools have remained just short of integration until now.

'What we're going to try to do now is really integrate such that, to an individual, it almost looks like we're just one institution,' said PVCC President Frank Friedman. "So that we create what I've been calling one community, clear-path way that will take a young person through high school, through community college, into a job."

The new integration is a result of CATEC's new strategic plan.

A clear-cut curriculum will flow from CATEC through PVCC, allowing students to follow one path for starting a particular career.

In the fall of 2016, four initial programs will kick off the integrated curriculum effort.

They will include courses in health information management, pharmacy technician, advanced manufacturing, and networking and cybersecurity.

The fields of health care and information technology are two Craig Smith, the dean of academics at CATEC, said are in high demand in today's workforce.

"Charlottesville is a hot bed for both areas and that's really a huge thing to be providing to the industry, those skilled workers," said Smith. "Sometimes, we see more and more people who are graduating college with bachelors and master's degrees and are sitting unemployed but meanwhile we look at the industry, we look at a lot of areas of the community and they are desperate for new employees with good technical skills."

Friedman said the ultimate goal would be to roll out a curriculum for all programs between the two schools.

"We're going to have to show the people in our community that these are viable career paths and very attractive career paths," he said.

The Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce will be supporting the program and providing employers a way to serve on advisory committees for each programming.

Friedman said employers will be able to give insight on what skills are needed most within the local work force.
GO Driver program provides path to careers

Posted: Sunday, July 12, 2015 6:30 pm
by Lauren Berg

Shelley Brown's 3-year-old son, Azarias, raced through aisles of chairs, giggling with delight. Smiling, Brown looked toward her son and accepted the certificates that would allow her to begin the path to her new career as a Charlottesville Area Transit bus driver.

After five weeks of intense training and tests, eight women graduated Monday from GO Driver, a workforce training program that prepared them for careers as commercially licensed bus drivers with CAT, JAUNT and University Transit Service. The graduates earned a commercial driver's license learner's permit, the Community Transportation Association of America passenger service and safety certification and other certifications.

The program is unique because Piedmont Virginia Community College and the Charlottesville Office of Economic Development and PVCC created it after asking local employers which job skills they wanted to see in their potential employees, Hollie Lee, of Charlottesville's economic development office, said.

"It used to be just train people, and hopefully, they'll find a job," she said. "Now, you start with the employer, find out what they need, develop curriculum based on that need and then you train people," she added. "Then, they're in line to be competitive in the workforce for those jobs."

Instead of focusing on how to drive a bus, GO Driver officials also wanted to teach students customer service skills, appropriate work behavior and how to properly assess and resolve problems on the job, Valerie Palamountain, dean of workforce services at PVCC, said.

"Charlottesville Area Transit told us they can teach someone to drive a bus, but they can't teach someone how to be nice to someone riding the bus," she said. "In this program, they are learning technical skills, but they are also developing customer service skills."

With both technical skill training and more focus placed on workplace etiquette — customer service, positive workplace attitude — workforce service training programs at PVCC hope to help more people keep their place on their career path, Palamountain said.

"We looked at it from how people need to behave in the office," she said. "So we hired somebody who taught theater to teach these people how to act in stressful situations. Learning how to act is also learning how to portray their own character."

"Poverty creates stress, depression, feelings of worthlessness, and we were trying to break those barriers with this program," she continued. "We were using acting as a way of breaking through those barriers. We showed these women they were important and capable of doing this job. That's a fundamental tenant of the entire program."

PVCC President Frank Friedman cited a recent study stating that one out of four families in Charlottesville lives below financial sufficiency, saying local families are unable to afford basic necessities, like food, clothing and shelter.

"As a society, as a city, as a commonwealth, as a nation, we spend an awful lot of money helping people survive poverty or survive when they're not at self-sufficiency," Friedman said. "There are all sorts of programs helping people survive in those conditions, but comparatively, we spend very little time, money and effort helping people get out of poverty. That's what this program does."

PVCC currently is working or similar programs for different job areas, including electrician training and nurses assistants. This summer, Workforce Services entered a partnership with local company Design Electric to offer a six-week course to prepare entry-level workers for jobs as electricians. The students who graduate later this month will go on to work at Design Electric as electrician assistants and will have the opportunity to seek apprenticeships that could lead to becoming fully qualified electricians.

Promising job growth

The job market in Charlottesville has grown remarkably in the last decade, according to a report by the Virginia Employment Commission. The region added 1,392 jobs in 2013 over 2012, which helped push the total number of jobs to its highest point in
the last decade and exceed prerecession levels. In 2003, the Charlottesville region had 101,907 jobs, but that grew by 12.7 percent to 114,911 jobs in 2013, the year with the most recent data available.

To keep up that steady growth in jobs, Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce President Timothy Hulbert said it is important to have a properly trained and prepared workforce. Workforce training, like the programs offered at PVCC, is one of the keys to helping people get and keep a good job, he said.

"The challenge for the last decade has been, 'Are we preparing the high school graduate for the jobs that are in the marketplace?" Hulbert said. "Not everybody wants to go to college — some want to go straight to work. Are they prepared? I think the answer to that is, 'Not as prepared as they could be.'"

Chamber members want more focus to be placed on technical jobs, Hulbert said. Most jobs in this day and age require some knowledge of computers, Hubert said, so potential employees need access to technical classes, like those offered at the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center.

"CATEC hasn't been able to shine as bright as it should," Hulbert said. "We need to better prepare [high school] graduates for the jobs of today and tomorrow. Jobs in human services or production are very different than what they were 15 to 20 years ago."

Albemarle County and the University of Virginia led the region's job rate growth from 2003 to 2013, adding 7,923 jobs. On the other hand, the city of Charlottesville had the weakest performance in the region, adding just 1,189 jobs in those 10 years.

"There's no one reason for that; there are several things at work," Hulbert said. "Larger businesses that are expanding typically look for more space than cities can provide. It's not unique to Charlottesville or Albemarle. We would see it in any city.

"The most sizable job loss for the city has been the relocation of Martha Jefferson Hospital to the county," he continued. "This data is based on where the job is located, not where the employee lives, so you have to keep that in mind."

A new chance

Brown said she saw the GO Driver program as an opportunity to set her new career path and find financial security for her young son. To earn her certifications, Brown and her classmates had to pass three tests — one about general driving knowledge, one about air brakes and one about passenger safety.

"My goal is just to better myself and be able to provide everything that's necessary and not really have to struggle," Brown said. "I feel great. I'm glad — it was stressful — but I took the three tests at one time and passed them. That was an overwhelming time, and I'm ready to start working."

Brown will begin working for JAUNT this month, where she will receive additional training geared toward obtaining a permanent commercial driver's license. When her son is older, Brown said she hopes to show him how far someone can go with hard work and dedication.

Brown's fellow graduate, Karen Scott, has been enamored with big rigs for most of her life. While her dream of becoming a truck driver never really panned out, Scott said she is excited to being working as a CAT bus driver.

"I've always wanted to be a truck driver," Scott said. "I saw this opportunity and I was like, 'Yes!' So, this is more of a personal thing for me, as opposed to a job thing."

While Scott's motivation to finish the program reflected her personal dreams, she also said she was excited to give back to her community as a bus driver.

"For anybody that wants to do this, just go out and do it," she said. "It's not impossible. Just stick with it and go for it."
Though advanced degrees sought more and more, local hospitals scooping up PVCC nursing grads

Job prospects for nursing graduates in the Charlottesville area remain strong, but employers are looking for more candidates with advanced degrees.

About 90 percent of those who graduated from Piedmont Virginia Community College's nursing program last year found work, more than half of them at the University of Virginia Medical Center or Martha Jefferson Hospital. That's about even with the trend line over the past five years — and it should continue to grow, said Kathy Hudson, dean of Health and Life Sciences at PVCC.

"A lot of the nursing workforce is getting ready to retire," Hudson said. "We were expecting that bump to happen five years ago, but the recession came along. ... We're going to need more graduates to fill those spots."

The expected wave of retirements — the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects about 525,000 nationally by 2022 — is just one factor contributing to the increase. As baby boomers retire, the need for nurses will grow, said Hudson. The bureau has projected another 526,000 new positions, which would represent a 19 percent increase in the nursing workforce.

"I think nursing is always a great area to go into, especially if you have a passion for [it]," said Jody Goellner, a recruiter for the UVa Health System. "There's always going to be an opportunity for people who want to get into that line of work."

But the local hospitals filling those spots are demanding more training from job applicants. An associate's degree is the minimum requirement for nurses, but both Martha Jefferson Hospital and UVa Medical Center are trying to keep their hospitals staffed with nurses who have bachelor's degrees.

Both have received recognition as "Magnet hospitals," awarded by the American Nurses Credentialing Center to hospitals that maintain a high standard of care. One of the criteria is that 80 percent of the nursing staff must have at least a bachelor's degree.

There are several advantages to staffing nurses with more advanced degrees, Goellner said. The bachelor's programs go beyond basic nursing skills and teach students to understand the latest research trends and incorporate it into their practice. They also learn about health policy, so that they can keep up with changes in regulations and proposed legislation that could affect their work.

"You always want to foster an environment where you're keeping up with the latest trends and education fosters that," Goellner said.

Nurses with this type of training are usually in a better position to move into leadership roles later in their careers. They're also qualified to take on more specialized roles, Goellner said.

Hudson said she doesn't expect the latest trend to cut into PVCC's job placement rates. Many of its graduates sign contracts with their new employers agreeing to go back to school within five years to get bachelor's degrees. UVa has a program that pays for its nurses to get their bachelor's degrees at the
university’s School of Nursing while working part-time, she said. UVa accepts about four or five PVCC graduates per year.

Although the hospitals probably would like to recruit nurses who already have advanced training, “there’s just not enough of them to fulfill both UVa and Martha Jefferson’s needs,” Hudson said. PVCC students also tend to be from the Charlottesville-Albemarle area, she said, meaning they’re less likely to leave their positions once they are hired.

Goellner said she doesn’t expect UVa’s relationship with the community college to change.

“Our preference is always going to be hiring bachelor’s-prepared nurses,” she said. “But we make those avenues available to anyone who doesn’t have a BSN.”

Mary Katherine Thurman, a nurse in UVa’s Transitional Care Hospital, took the associate’s-to-bachelor’s degree route. Thurman graduated from PVCC in 2013 and worked for UVa’s Health System part-time while studying in the School of Nursing.

Thurman said Piedmont gave her a foundation and practical skills, while UVa gave her more in-depth training and opened her up to new possibilities. She graduated from UVa in May, but trying to study while working in her first nursing job was “a struggle,” she said. At one point, Thurman said, she worked late shifts at the hospital for three straight weeks while trying to keep up with her coursework.

“There were periods when I questioned whether or not I made the right decision in becoming a nurse,” she said. “But something will happen — you’ll make a patient smile — and you’ll realize you did make the right decision.”
Opinion/Letter: Student, a new citizen, is role model

Here at Piedmont Virginia Community College, we were thrilled to see one of our former students, Gaisu Yari, featured in the Monticello naturalization ceremony article published in The Daily Progress on July 5 ("Struggles turn to joy at Monticello naturalization ceremony" online).

Gaisu’s story is one of courage, persistence and the belief in the value of education. She not only survived a child marriage to a warlord’s son in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, but continually pursued her education despite enormous obstacles. While in Afghanistan, the only way she could learn was by taking classes in secret with other girls in her village. This decision paved the way for her to secure a position as a radio reporter — a male-dominated profession in which few women were permitted — before leaving Afghanistan for the United States in 2007.

Once in the U.S., she continued studying and learning, enrolling as a liberal arts major at PVCC in 2011. She told us that she chose the liberal arts program because she felt it would provide her with a broader world perspective. She knew when she came here that she wanted to pursue journalism and her growing passion for women’s rights.

After graduating from PVCC in 2013, she followed the pathway that almost 3,000 PVCC students have taken: she transferred to UVA to complete her bachelor’s degree. The PVCC-UVA pathway to a bachelor’s degree provides an opportunity for hundreds each year who otherwise would not have been admitted to the University of Virginia — including many international students like Gaisu.

Gaisu earned not one, but two degrees: one in Middle Eastern studies and one in women’s studies, and is currently considering an offer to continue her education in Columbia University’s Human Rights Studies Graduate Program.

Gaisu is a role model for our community. She has overcome great odds to pursue her education and to become an advocate for women’s rights in Afghanistan and beyond. We are extremely proud of Gaisu and all that she has accomplished. To her, we extend our best wishes and look forward to her future successes.

Thanks to The Daily Progress for taking the time to profile such an outstanding individual.

Frank Friedman
Albermarle County

Frank Friedman is president of Piedmont Virginia Community College.
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA (NEWSPLEX) -- Four Piedmont Virginia Community College students have been given scholarships, thanks to the Albemarle County Rotary Club.

Micaela Drayer of Scottsville got a $1,000 scholarship to help pay for the upcoming fall semester.

Stephanie Hart of Wingina and Sarah Dolan of New Canton each got $4,500 for the fall semester.

Karen Scott of Charlottesville got $1,500 to help her complete the GO Driver program, a training program offered through PVCC's Workforce Services Division that prepares students to be commercially licensed bus drivers.

The rotary club awards scholarships every year to support vocational success.

It also helps high school students with funds for Rotary or school sponsored camps and educational trips.

PVCC recently recognized the ACRC as a $50,000 lifetime donor.

The funds may be used for tuition, fees, books or school supplies.
CityArts Mosaic Mural displays the history of Lynchburg

NOTE: The Mosaic Mural project was completed in 2012. What follows is a recent story about the mural. The story mentions PVCC Professor of Art Beryl Sola, the project's director.

August 6, 20153:13 AM MST

Walk through the history of Lynchburg at the CityArts Mosaic Mural project. The mural is displayed on a concrete wall at the corner of 9th and Jefferson streets, across from Amazement Square, Lynchburg's award-winning children's museum.

Sandy Wallace

The public art project, part of Amazement Square's CityArts Mentoring Program, was completed over a seven year period, beginning in 2005. Over 2,800 participants from local schools, companies and non-profits have worked with youth, art educators and professional artists to complete the 4,800 square foot masterpiece.

As a Lynchburg transplant, it's been truly amazing to watch Lynchburg history pieced together with tiny shreds of broken tile. The mosaic mural project has become one of the largest ceramic tile murals in Virginia under the direction of Beryl Sola, nationally-known mosaic artist and chairperson of the art department at Charlottesville's Piedmont Virginia Community College.

Begin your walk through history at the CityArts Mosaic Mural's first panel -- depicting a time before human inhabitants when deer and buffalo roamed throughout Central Virginia with the Blue Ridge Mountains as their backdrop. The James River flows through the entire mural, illustrating the river's importance to Lynchburg.

Continue your stroll through Lynchburg history and see the Monacan Indians and farmers tending their crops and fishing in the James River. Note the first homes of Lynchburg and see the flat-bottom batteaux transporting goods on the river. Pick out the first bridge to Lynchburg, the old Courthouse, factories and warehouses, the Miller-Claytor House, the Allied Arts Building, Riverside Park, Lynchburg Community Market, the James River fountain, Riverfront Park, Amazement Square, Riverfront Skate Park, the Blackwater Creek Trail and other local landmarks.

Look for trains, office buildings, trees, flowers, people tubing on the James River and strolling through downtown -- all painstakingly created with tiny pieces of tile in every color of the rainbow.

The last panels of the mural represent Lynchburg's present and future. The plaque hanging at the end of the panel represents a who's who of Lynchburg families. The CityArts Mosaic Mural is the perfect way to introduce children to the history of Lynchburg and it's also fun for adults. Take a stroll through history and enjoy seeing Lynchburg spring to life in a new way.

Whether you're on foot or driving in downtown Lynchburg, the mural is easily accessible. On your next trip to downtown Lynchburg, park your car in one of the Jefferson Street parking areas and walk to the parking lot, located below the Lynchburg Social Services building and across from Amazement Square.
Opinion/Letter: Scholarships help MJH nurses continue education

Posted: Friday, August 7, 2015 6:00 pm

We appreciated The Daily Progress story “Though advanced degrees sought more and more, local hospitals scooping up PVCC nursing grads” (July 19), which outlined how Piedmont Virginia Community College was continuing to provide local nurses to the University of Virginia and Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital through its associate’s degree RN program.

Over the past five years, 60 percent of new nursing graduates hired at Martha Jefferson have come from PVCC. As the story pointed out, these students are “of” our community, and PVCC, which has an excellent program, is the avenue for many local students to enter nursing through a high quality and affordable manner.

PVCC also partners with our local hospitals in helping its graduates understand that they are not “done” with their learning and encouraging nurses to seek their bachelor’s degree in nursing.

Bachelor’s degree nurses, as the story points out, are in high demand. The Institute of Medicine reported in 2009 that the evidence and research pointed to a connection between higher educational achievement and better patient outcomes. Martha Jefferson has adopted this guidance and plans that 80 percent of our nurses will have a BSN or higher by 2020.

We embraced this plan through the development of the Haden Institute for Nursing Excellence and Innovation. Newly hired PVCC graduates (and other new nurses without their BSN) commit to attaining their BSN within five years of employment, with 90 percent of the cost being provided through philanthropy-supported scholarships.

That means that community generosity is providing nearly $300,000 each year to more than 50 Martha Jefferson nurses who are working and also attending school. One generous and thoughtful local philanthropist has created an endowment to scholarship community members to attend PVCC nursing school, and a second endowment for many of those nurses to pursue their BSN through their employment at Martha Jefferson.

We appreciate and acknowledge the generosity of our community in supporting this work through the Haden Institute for Nursing Excellence and Innovation.

Jonathan S. Davis
Amelia S. Black
Nancy Maloy
Albemarle County

Jonathan S. Davis is president of Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital, Amelia S. Black is chief operating officer, and Nancy Maloy is chief nurse executive.
Piedmont Virginia Community College unveils busy, diverse performing arts season schedule

Posted: Friday, August 14, 2015 6:00 pm
The Daily Progress staff reports

Piedmont Virginia Community College's 2015-2016 performing arts season will open with Mark Nizer's blend of juggling, comedy and technology at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 5 and fill the calendar with dance, films, music and an art experience that moves out of the gallery into the Belmont neighborhood.

Many of the performances will be in the college's V. Earl Dickinson Building, Let There Be Light, an annual outdoor installation of light-centered art, will illuminate the surrounding grounds from 6 to 3 p.m. Dec. 11.

Among the offerings coming up in the new season:

» Red Crooked Sky will share traditional and contemporary American Indian music and dance at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14.

» "Yard Dreams: A Weekend of Artists Playing in the Neighborhood" will present end-of-summer art installations in Belmont neighbors' yards from Sept. 18 to Sept. 20; look for a block party from 3 to 9 p.m. Sept. 19.

» Lesole's Dance Project presents "Dancing Through South Africa" at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 16, 2016.

» Horace Scruggs will trace the history of gospel music in "The History of Gospel: The Not So Straight and Narrow," a concert set for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20.

» At 7:30 p.m. March 26, William & Mary Middle Eastern Music Ensemble will share Arab, Turkish, Greek, Armenian and Persian music.

» The Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra is back at 3 p.m. Oct. 4 to share the sounds of Russia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

» One Mic Stand, a popular free series for all kinds of spoken-word artists, is back for a new season starting at 7 p.m. Sept. 10.

» PVCC Theatre opens its season by resuming its popular Fourth Fridays Improv series at 6 p.m. Sept. 25. Veterans' Story Theatre, set for 7:30 p.m. Nov. 13, will be an improvised performance based on stories shared by veterans in the audience. Also on tap are PVCC Theatre's production of "The Hocky Horror Show" from Dec. 3 to Dec. 5 and William Shakespeare's "The Tempest" from March 31 to April 2.

» The Free Movie Fridays series resumes screenings of current and recent favorites with a showing of "Inside Out" at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 18.

Other returning favorites include Charlottesville Municipal Band, Richmond Ballet, spring and fall PVCC Ccrus concerts and the PVCC Music Faculty Recital.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.pvcc.edu/performingarts, in person at Sidetracks, Greenberry's Coffee in Barracks Road Shopping Center and the PVCC cashier's office during normal business hours a month before each event; and by phone at (434) 961-5376. Major credit cards are accepted.

To view the full schedule, visit www.pvcc.edu/performingarts.