



## State Board Sets Tuition

The State Board for Community Colleges, in a unanimous vote, set the 2010-2011 in-state tuition and mandatory fee rate at \$109.50 per credit hour. Further, the board voted to use federal stimulus money to offset that fee by \$2.00 per credit hour.

As a result of those actions, in-state students will pay an additional \$7.50 per credit hour beginning in the fall for a total of \$107.50 per credit hour. A full-time in-state student, taking a total of 30 credit hours, will pay an additional \$225 for the academic year.

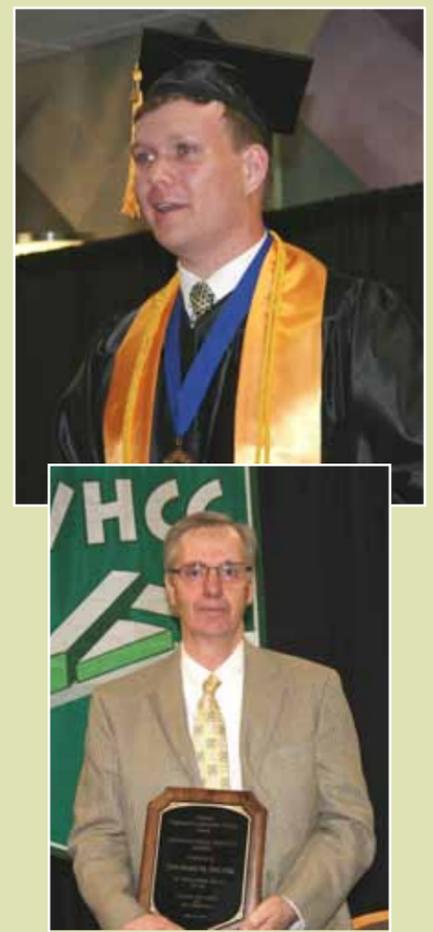
Board members say the increase is essential to serving the record-setting number of traditional students and laid-off workers who are turning to Virginia's Community Colleges at a time when the colleges are enduring record state budget cuts. More than 22,000 new students began attending a Virginia Community College over the last two years. Enrollment during the recently concluded spring semester was unusually high, up 13.7 percent from spring 2009, according to preliminary estimates. That trend is expected to continue during the summer.

"The federal stimulus money Virginia's 23 community colleges are receiving from the General Assembly is allowing us to keep tuition affordable for Virginia families while ensuring our community colleges are able to meet their needs," said Jeffery K. Mitchell, chair of the board's budget & finance committee. "Without that federal money, higher tuition would have been needed just to keep the lights on and instructors in the classrooms to serve these students."

Managing record state budget cuts State funding has decreased for Virginia's Community Colleges by \$64 million through FY2010. That is mitigated, in part, by \$52.6 million directed to Virginia's Community Colleges under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. By the end of the next biennium, Virginia's Community Colleges will have lost a total of \$105 million in state funding.

The board's tuition decision is in accord with Achieve 2015, the new VCCS six-year strategic plan that calls for keeping community college tuition and fee rates at one-half or less than that of the comparable rates at Virginia's four-year universities.

Currently, mandatory tuition and fees at Virginia's Community Colleges are approximately one-third of the comparable average tuition and fees charged by four-year institutions. The tuition and fee increase of \$225 for a full-time student is just over one quarter of the comparable average tuition and fee increase of \$838 for a full-time student at Virginia's four-year schools.



(Left) VHCC President David Wilkin and Congressman Rick Boucher, (top right) student speaker Michael Doss and (bottom right) Tom Hicok, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

## Boucher Receives Honorary Degree *Congressman Encourages Life of Public Service*

U. S. Rep. Rick Boucher accepted the first honorary degree ever presented by Virginia Highlands Community College, then challenged the VHCC Class of 2010 to invest in a life of passionate public service.

"Be passionate about something," the veteran lawmaker said. "Decide what you want to care about and then decide to care a great deal. ... Whatever you choose to do, however much time you choose to devote, I assure you that your lives will be richer for the service that you provide to others."

Upon the recommendation of the VHCC Board and with the approval of the Virginia State Board for Community Colleges, Boucher was presented the Associate of Humane Letters on May 14 for his many contributions to the growth and development of VHCC. He accepted his diploma and congratulated the 260 graduates who comprised the Class of 2010 "for a job that is truly well done."

An Abingdon native, Boucher began his political career as a member of the Virginia State Senate in 1974 and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1983. During his 14-term tenure as a federal lawmaker, he has been instrumental in drafting federal policy regarding informational technology and the internet. Through his Showcasing Southwest Virginia Program, Boucher has helped bring more than 4,800 technology related jobs to the region.

He noted that tough financial time and cynicism toward elected leaders might

discourage some from becoming involved in public service.

"There could probably not be a more difficult time to challenge you to public service, but neither can there be a more important time to issue that call. ... Don't ever underestimate the power of a single individual guided by purpose and committed to serving others," he said.

Boucher shared the podium with student speaker Michael Doss, who received an Associate of Arts & Sciences Degree in Liberal Arts. Michael focused his comments on how much he benefitted from the personal assistance he received in the classroom and as a member of student organizations. He also thanked the VHCC Educational Foundation and the Washington County Family of Moose for the scholarships he received during his two years on campus.

The Distinguished Service Award, the highest non-academic award presented by the College, was awarded to Tom Hicok for his many contributions to VHCC and the community. A founding member of the VHCC Educational Foundation, Hicok has served as treasurer of the organization for more than two decades. He has also served as a member of the VHCC Business Curriculum Advisory Committee, the VHCC Arts Advisory Committee, and as an Adjunct Accounting Instructor. In recent months, he also served on the search committee charged with choosing a new College president.



VHCC News is produced each month by Anne Dunham of the Office of Institutional Advancement. If you would like to suggest information for the newsletter, please send your ideas to [adunham@vhcc.edu](mailto:adunham@vhcc.edu) or contact her by phone at 276-739-2456. VHCC is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.

Virginia Highlands  
Community College

[www.vhcc.edu](http://www.vhcc.edu)

or call  
276-739-2400

Para la ayuda en español, llama por favor

(276) 739-2436

# Emergency Procedures Outlined

Do you know what to do if an emergency occurs on campus?

The information is at your fingertips on the college's web site under the Faculty & Staff tab -- Campus Police/Policies and Procedures. It is also available in the Emergency Flipcharts hanging in the hallways of each building. Both resources contain a variety of information for handling emergencies including the phone numbers for on-campus and off-campus assistance including Campus Police, Buildings & Grounds, Local Police, Virginia State Police and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

In addition to these listings, each campus phone should have a sticker containing the cell phone numbers for Campus Police and Buildings & Grounds for quick access. If your phone is missing this sticker, please contact Campus Police for a replacement.

These resources also provide instructions for handling a variety of situations including the college Evacuation Plan; Accidents and Sickness; Aircraft Disasters; Bomb Threats; Disruptive Students; Fire; Tornado/ Severe Weather; Violent Attacks; and Suspicious Envelopes or Packages.

Each member of the college community is encouraged to take a few minutes to review this important information to improve emergency preparedness on campus. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, contact the Emergency Planning Officer, Campus Police or the Vice President of Administration.

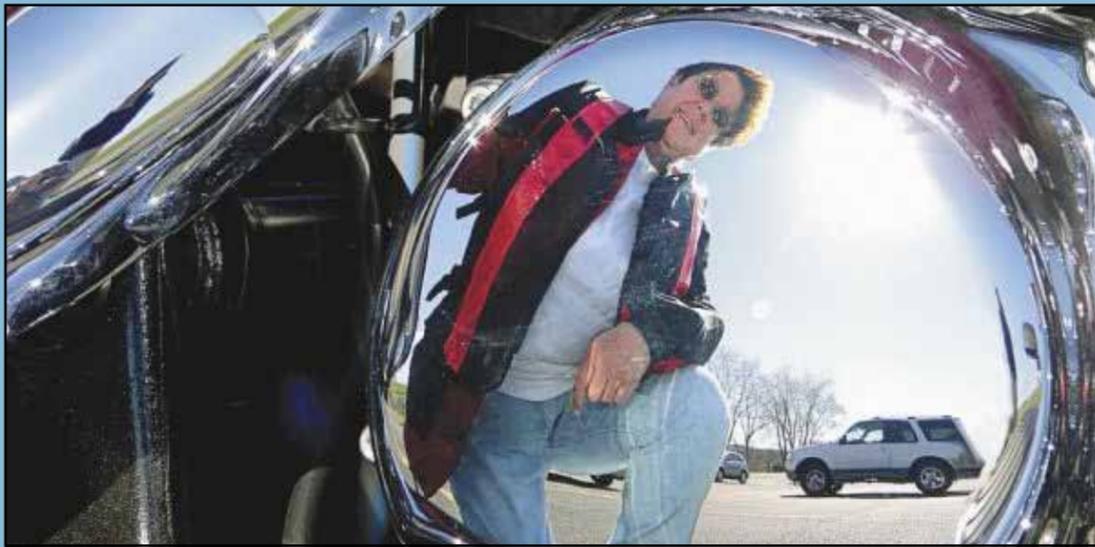


## VHCC Community Takes Back the Night

More than 50 campus and community members marched across campus chanting "Shatter the Silence, Stop the Violence, Take Back the Night" as part of a nationwide observance to combat sexual abuse and violence and recognize agencies dedicated to serving victims.

Sponsored by the VHCC Rotaract and Impact Clubs, the Take Back the Night event included a candlelight vigil and march to survey potential safety hazards on the VHCC campus. Concerns will be addressed by campus leaders and include overgrown shrubbery, a non-functioning emergency phone, and unlit areas, said event organizer Michael McBride.

Those participating in the event included the Crisis Center of Bristol, Highlands Community Services' Center for Behavioral Health, Abingdon Police Department, Washington County Sheriff's Office, VHCC Campus Police, VHCC Law Enforcement Club, YWCA, the ETSU Take Back the Night Committee, and the Bristol/Washington County Sexual Assault Response Team.



Wherever interesting things are happening, students are gathering for a special campus event, or cake is being served, ace photographer Jerry Musick is lurking in the corner, camera in hand, ready to document the moment for future generations to enjoy. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* recognized his talents recently and published this photo in its April 25 edition. Jerry was cruising the parking lot, his camera strapped firmly around his neck and the battery fully charged, when he snapped this photo of Motorcycle Safety Instructor Pat Hunter preparing for class. Congrats to Jerry and, by the way, thanks for all the photos you've shared over the years!

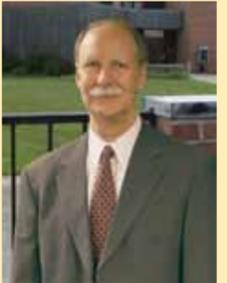


## Wilkin Scholarship Currently Accepting Online Contributions

Online contributions to the F. David Wilkin Scholarship Fund are currently being accepted at

[www.vhcc.edu/wilkinscholarship](http://www.vhcc.edu/wilkinscholarship).

Established to honor VHCC's retiring president, the scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in engineering or another technical field. Contributions can be made using a PayPal account or credit card. Those who prefer to contribute by check may mail their gift to:



**VHCC Educational Foundation Inc.  
Wilkin Scholarship Fund  
P.O. Box 828  
Abingdon, VA, 24212-0828**

All contributions are tax deductible.

Dr. Wilkin is retiring on June 30, following 15 years as VHCC President. He will be honored during a retirement reception in the VHCC Library on Thursday, June 17, from 4:30-6 p.m.



# PARTY!

Retroville entertained a crowd of more than 400 with sounds of classic rock and roll as family and friends of the VHCC Class of 2010 gathered on the Campus Commons for a graduation bash.

The annual event is sponsored by the VHCC Educational Foundation and the Alumni Association to celebrate the hard work of graduates and recognize the support provided by friends and family members. Once graduation practice was over, the guests of honor headed outside to enjoy a meal catered by Chick-Fil-A and visit with the VHCC faculty and staff.

**Upcoming Events:**  
VHCC Night at the Saltville Wave Pool - June 18, 6 p.m.  
Alumni Night with the Bristol White Sox - July 23, 7 p.m.  
email [adunham@vhcc.edu](mailto:adunham@vhcc.edu) for more information

