

Strategic Plan Unveiled

VHCC Strategic Plan 2010-2015, a five-year plan that challenges the College to enhance fund-raising efforts, increase academic offerings, address staffing and facility needs, and focus on programs and services that will boost student success, has been approved and unveiled to the campus community.

An integral part of the College's institutional effectiveness process, the plan was developed with initial input from students, faculty, staff, the College Board, and community members. The preliminary comments were then explored further by a series of six task forces, who ultimately drafted a plan that includes five major goals and a long list of objectives and action plans to reach them.

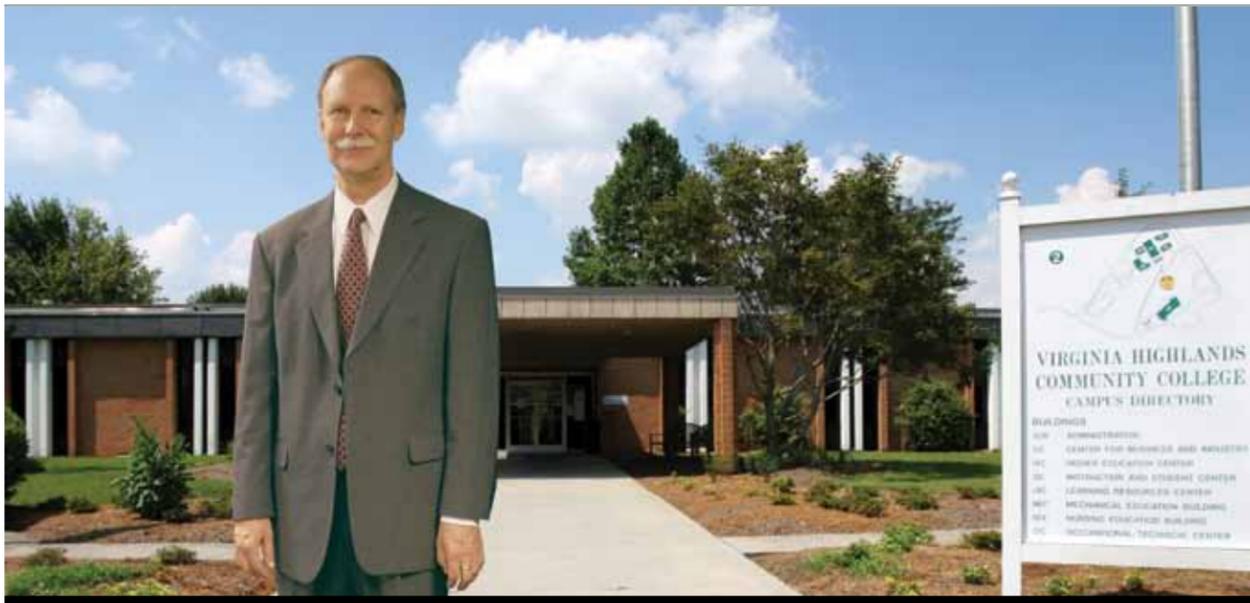
The plan provides direction for the coming years, but also is flexible enough to allow Dr. Ron Proffitt, who will replace retiring VHCC President David Wilkin on July 1, to include his ideas and vision. A specific timeline and the resources needed have been included for each of the planned actions.

- To address funding issues, the plan calls for a series of fund-raising efforts that will increase corporate donations, grant acquisitions and private gifts to the College. Additionally, Vice President David Matlock will work with the Foundation Board and staff members to prepare for a capital campaign.
- Course offerings will be evaluated and at least five new academic programs added by August 2015. A process will be developed to evaluate online courses, too, and new online and hybrid courses will be added to the schedule.
- Staffing levels will be adjusted to better meet the needs of the College and employee training needs will be evaluated and, where necessary, enhanced.
- A long list of steps has been included in the plan to boost overall student success by engaging them in out-of-class activities, and gauging and assisting their success in the workplace. Plans also are in place to increase retention and transfer rates.
- Renovation of the Learning Resource Center (LRC) and the addition of an Allied Health/Wellness facility, a Workforce Training Center, and a motorcycle riding course are included in the plan's list of facilities needs.

Each individual component of the plan is aimed at fulfilling the Mission Statement and Vision Statement drafted as part of the planning process. The Mission Statement says "Virginia Highlands Community College serves our community by providing quality and affordable education, training, and cultural activities through an array of flexible, diverse programs that enable community members to succeed today and in the future."

The Vision Statement is "Enriching lives by being a premier educational, cultural and training center in our community."

The complete plan is available online at www.vhcc.edu/strategicplan.



Campus, Community Bid Wilkin Farewell

Campus and community members gathered in the VHCC Library on June 17 to celebrate the retirement of Dr. F. David Wilkin, the West Virginia native and Harvard University graduate who led the College through 15 years of growth and progress.

City and county leaders, campus employees and retirees, past and present Board members, and others with close ties to VHCC attended the drop-in reception that was suggested by Dr. Wilkin in lieu of a more formal event. Instead of gifts, he asked that contributions be made to the recently established scholarship that bears his name.

Donations to the F. David Wilkin Scholarship will benefit students enrolled in engineering and other technical fields.

Dr. Wilkin came to VHCC on July 1, 1995 following a nationwide search to replace Dr. Dewitt Moore, who resigned in the middle of the 1994-95 academic year. Prior to his arrival in Abingdon, Dr. Wilkin served as chief executive of Marshall University's Community and Technical College.

Under his leadership, the campus grew to include

the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, the VHCC Greenhouse, a maintenance facility and the Heartwood building, which is now under construction. The Division of Workforce Training and Continuing Education was created with Dr. Wilkin's help and the College twice gained reaffirmation of accreditation.

And Dr. Wilkin also listed the academic programs and the growth of the VHCC Educational Foundation as highlights of his time on campus. Foundation assets now exceed \$1 million and are continuing to grow.

Enrollment has grown steadily, too, and more than 4,000 students earned certificates, diplomas and degrees from VHCC during Dr. Wilkin's tenure.

Dr. Wilkin and his wife, Erna, plan to remain in the Abingdon community. He will be succeeded as VHCC president by Dr. Ron Proffitt, who will arrive on campus July 1.

NOTE: Contributions to the F. David Wilkin Scholarship are being accepted online now at www.vhcc.edu/wilkinscholarship

VHCC to Receive DOL Grant Funds

VHCC will share in a \$4.75 million grant to provide training in electronic health records technology, a growing field that allows patient records to be more easily accessed by medical professionals.

The Department of Labor recently announced that VHCC, Mountain Empire, Southwest Virginia, New River, and Virginia Western community colleges will receive funds through its Community Based Jobs Training program. The new academic program will prepare students to create and maintain electronic medical records that will track immunizations, prescription medications, test results and other medical information.

A national study indicates electronic medical records will ultimately cut healthcare spending up to \$77 billion. President Obama supported the new technology during his campaign and has since pledged billions toward the new training program in an effort to make healthcare more affordable.

The grant funds will allow those who are unemployed, under employed, displaced or already working in targeted healthcare industries to train for new jobs in the emerging field. It is anticipated that the program will serve 674 individuals through the five community colleges, which serve 29 Virginia localities.



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 or contact her by phone at 276-739-2456. VHCC is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.

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Mammoth Waves

About 200 students, alumni and their family members enjoyed hotdogs and a cool dip during VHCC Night at the Saltville Wave Pool on June 18. Jackie Craft accurately captured the mood with these stellar photographs of folks having fun.



Alumni Sought for Christmas Concert

VHCC alumni with musical talents and ambitions are encouraged to join the College Choir and Madrigal Singers for a command performance of Handel's *Messiah* this Christmas.

Choir Director Beth Smith said community members enjoyed last year's performance at Abingdon United Methodist Church so much that they have urged her to perform the concert again this year. In an effort to generate more alumni and community participation this year, she has schedule both afternoon and evening rehearsal options.

Afternoon rehearsals will be held on Monday and Wednesday's from 1-2:15 p.m. beginning August 30. Evening rehearsals will be held Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the VHCC Music Studio, Room 514 of the Mechanical Engineering Building, beginning Aug. 31.

Those interested in joining the choirs for this special performance should attend rehearsal the first week for additional information. You may also contact Smith at bsmith@vhcc.edu or (276) 739-2454.

State Cuts Retirement Match in Wake of Tough Budget

As a result of legislative budgetary adjustments for the upcoming fiscal year, full-time employees who contribute to the 457 Plan (Deferred Compensation) or a 403(b) Plan (such as VALIC) will receive a maximum cash match of \$10 per pay period during the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2010.

The cash match will return to the previous level of up to \$20 per pay period with the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2011.

Go to the Retirement Planning section on the VHCC Human Resources web page or www.varetire.org for additional retirement planning information.

Student Art Showcased at William King Center

An art exhibition showcasing the work of about a dozen VHCC art students is planned at William King Museum through July 20.

VHCC Adjunct Art Instructor Val Lyle will curate the show, which features about 30 paintings and mixed media works of art from her students' advanced art portfolios. The exhibit began with an opening reception for community members on June 29.

For additional information, please contact Lyle at val@vallyle.com or go to www.williamkingmuseum.org to view the museum's website.

VHCC Night with the Bristol White Sox

Friday, July 23 at 7 p.m.
Boyce Cox Field at Devault Memorial Stadium

The entire VHCC family is invited to attend an evening at Devault Memorial Stadium for an exciting game between the Bristol White Sox and the Pulaski Mariners. Free tickets are available in the Alumni Office or by calling (276) 739-2456.

Arrive early to hear VHCC Alum Jeremy Weaver sing the National Anthem and watch as VHCC President Ron Proffitt throws out the first pitch. Free refreshments will also be available for the college community.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend!



Look what's happening ...

Camps and construction have provided plenty of excitement all month long and generated lots of great photo opportunities, too. (Left, top and bottom) Students from the WIA Camp have received a crash course in a variety of careers through demonstrations within the VHCC Nursing Lab and a visit from the Abingdon Fire Department. A Reality Store that teaches students to budget their money and make wise spending decisions is also planned. (Right, top) Tom Brake and employees from Nature's Finest Inc., an Abingdon Landscaping Co., constructed a pergola in the developing garden surrounding the Dr. Catherine Smith Labyrinth. And (right, bottom) Gil Brasswell helped Upward Bound students construct their own guitars during a class entitled "Music Makers."

