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COLLEGE REMAINS THE PERFECT FIT

Virginia Highlands Community College in 2010-2011 added a new Nursing Simulation Laboratory to its campus, secured a national award for a 1970s alum, served a record number of students, balanced its \$16.9 million budget, and provided more than \$6.5 million in financial aid.

The accomplishments are outlined in "The Perfect Fit," VHCC's 2010-2011 Annual Report, which was produced by the Office of Public Relations and recently approved by the College Board.

"Each year our campus welcomes new students from all walks of life, each of them with a unique story and reason for choosing Virginia Highlands Community College," said VHCC President Ron Proffitt in his message to the community. "We respond to these community members by delivering the programs and services that make VHCC the perfect fit for each of them. Because we take this responsibility so seriously, we spent much of the 2010-2011 academic year revising and enhancing our academic offerings to ensure those who earn degrees on our campus also earn the skills needed to successfully transition into the workforce."

Highlights of the report include:

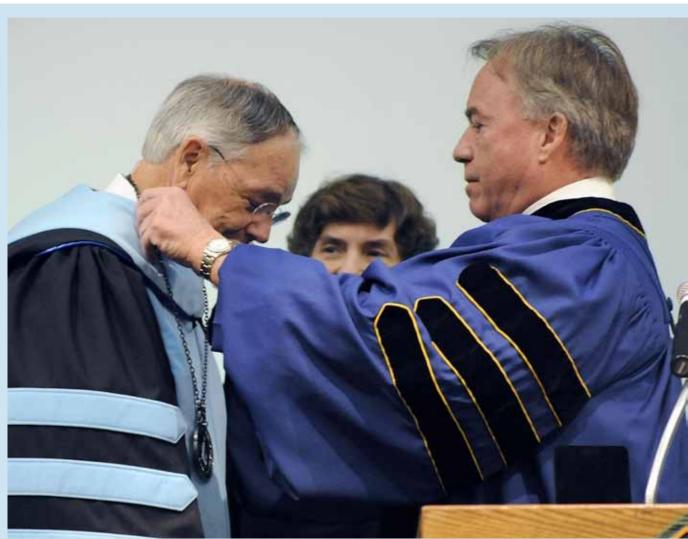
- The addition of a Nursing Simulation Lab, thanks to a \$1.9 million grant from the U.S.
 Department of Health and Human Services.
 The state-of-the-art lab allows nursing faculty to simulate medical emergencies and gauge student response using high fidelity mannequins.
- A 2011 Outstanding Alumni Award from the American Association of Community Colleges for Grammy Award winning songwriter Richard Leigh. Leigh began his career in country music

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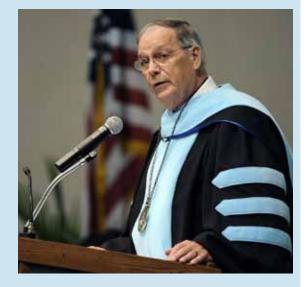


VHCC News is produced each month by Anne Dunham of the Office of Institutional Advancement. If you would like to suggest information for the newsletter, please send your ideas to adunham@yhcc.edu or contact her by phone at 276-739-2456. VHCC is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.

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I believe in the value of the Human Spirit! Throughout history, great nations, great people and great colleges have risen to the challenge before them. ... I believe that if we have the will and if we rise to the challenge —then wonderful things are still in store for Virginia Highlands Community College.



PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION 2011

With his wife by his side and more than 300 friends and family members watching, Dr. Ron Proffitt on September 9 accepted the medallion symbolizing his official installation as Virginia Highlands Community College's fifth president.

The medallion is an official token of his new leadership position, said Chancellor Glenn DuBois of Virginia's Community Colleges, but Dr. Proffitt's heart, humor and hard work will be more valuable assets during his VHCC tenure. Already he has demonstrated that he is a "dynamic" leader, Dr. DuBois said, who is ready for the challenges that lie ahead.

The Inauguration Ceremony came one year after Dr. Proffitt was chosen to replace Dr. F. David Wilkin, who retired after 15 years as VHCC president. During his short tenure on the job, Dr. Proffitt said he has

developed a keen appreciation for the important partnership that exists between the College and the community.

"In the early days, community leaders helped build our campus on 100 acres of scenic property that is still breathtakingly beautiful and strategically located within our service region," he said during his Inaugural Address. "Community members provided valuable input as we recruited faculty members with expert knowledge and a passion for our mission. Business leaders within our community helped develop and shape our academic programs ... And throughout the years, community employers have hired our graduates, helping them build careers, raise their families, and remain right here – in our community."

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A TASTE OF APPALACHIA

The annual Appalachian Fall Festival is set for Wednesday, Oct. 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Campus Commons. Come enjoy food, music and a little of the culture that makes our region such a great place to live and learn.

Sponsored by the Student Success Center



HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

Join the Law Enforcement Club for another crazy Halloween Celebration at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 27, in the Wolves' Den. Wear your best costume and take part in this annual event, which includes all kinds of creepy fun!



Pictured above are simulation manikins Noelle and her newborn, Ernest T. Hunley, born Sept. 12 and named in honor of a valued VHCC employee. The two make their home in the new Nursing Simulation Laboratory made possible through grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Virginia Tobacco Commission.

COMMUNITY TOURS NEW NURSING SIMULATION LAB

Community members recently toured the new state-of-the-art Nursing Simulation Laboratory on the campus of Virginia Highlands Community College that will greatly enhance training opportunities and patient care throughout Southwest Virginia.

The lab will be used by students enrolled in the Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program (VATNP) and other allied health programs at VHCC, Mountain Empire Community College, and Southwest Virginia Community College. Hospitals and other healthcare agencies also are invited to use the lab to provide continuing education opportunities for their employees.

"We have equipped the lab with the latest in technology and staffed it with a team of experts who are dedicated to providing rich learning opportunities," said VATNP Director Kathy Mitchell. "This laboratory and the advanced equipment in it will allow us to create medical emergencies and teach our students how to properly respond."

The U.S. Health and Human Service
Administration last year provided a \$1.9 million
grant to integrate technology into the Nursing
Program, while the Virginia Tobacco Commission
provided \$100,000 for construction. The funds
were used to renovate existing space on the
VHCC campus and purchase high fidelity
manikins and medical equipment needed to
create a realistic hospital setting. In fact, Mitchell
said, the manikins are so realistic that they
appear to breathe and have beating hearts, and
will react when care is administered.

"If a nursing student gives him a medication he is allergic to, his throat may begin to swell or he may complain that he can't breathe," Mitchell explained. "He may even go into cardiac arrest. These are very realistic manikins, and this lab will allow us to create situations that will ultimately create better nurses."

VATNP students currently complete clinical training in hospitals throughout the region, and that will continue to be an important component of the program, Mitchell said. The simulation lab

will enhance this training by allowing students to simultaneously care for multiple computerized patients who require different levels of care.

"In a hospital setting we obviously can't allow our students to administer the wrong medication or to care for critically ill patients independently," Mitchell said. "They may complete their clinical training without ever treating a heart attack patient or a burn victim. We can create these situations in our simulation lab and allow our student nurses to learn from their mistakes."

Pam Hartgrove, coordinator of the simulation lab, explained that students always know what simulation is planned and are given material to read and review prior to arriving at the lab. During the simulation, faculty members remain in the control booth, observing and videotaping students as they administer care to their computerized patient. Following the simulation, they gather in the debriefing area for a thorough review of the experience. "We are able to bookmark sections of the video so that we can go back and discuss what happened during the simulation and how students reacted," Hartgrove said. "This is where the real learning takes place."

Students working in the lab are assigned an iPod equipped with medical reference materials and a laptop for keeping electronic medical records. Together these tools provide students with immediate access to information while at the patient's bedside, she said. Students working in the lab also use an automated medication dispenser to retrieve simulated medication, which is another tool for familiarizing them with today's technology-rich healthcare industry, she added.

There are currently 480 students enrolled in VATNP and each of them will complete a portion of their clinical training within the simulation lab before graduating. Hospitals and other healthcare agencies also are invited to use the lab to provide continuing education opportunities for their employees.



In commemoration of Domestic Violence Awareness Week, the VHCC Rotaract Club has planned a series of activities.

Monday, Oct. 24 - Domestic Violence Awareness ribbons will be sold for 10 cents each

Tuesday, Oct. 25 - Wear something purple to bring awareness to Domestic Violence

Wednesday, Oct. 26 - Donate Cleaning Supplies to women who are starting over in an abuse-free environment Thursday, Oct. 27- Bake sale to raise money for Abuse Alternatives, followed by information tables, speakers and TAKE BACK THE NIGHT, a march for domestic violence at 7 p.m.

FIELDS NAMED NEW VP



Christine Fields of Abingdon has joined the College as the new Vice President of Administrative and Financial Services.

Chris holds a bachelor's degree in government from the University of Virginia's College at Wise and a master's degree in higher education from the University of Virginia. She currently is the Director of Budget and Finance for the Southwest Virginia Higher Education

Center, and also serves as Vice President of Finance for the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center Foundation.

The VHCC position has been vacant since Dr. Paul Conco accepted the presidency at Virginia's Paul D. Camp Community College last year.

"We are delighted that our nationwide search for a new vice president ended with the selection of a talented professional right here in our community," said VHCC President Ron Proffitt. "Chris will bring many great qualities to our campus as she steps into this key position."

As Vice President of Financial and Administrative Services, Chris will oversee the campus budget and business office, human resources and payroll, campus safety, and maintenance of buildings and grounds.

INAUGURATION - Continued from Page 1

Now that he is acclimated and familiar with the needs of the campus, Dr. Proffitt said he is focused on developing programs and services that will meet the ever-changing needs of the community.

"The road to success for Virginia Highlands Community College does not need to be complex or complicated," he said. "It does not require a matrix filled with a hundred processes leading in all directions. What we must communicate and fully understand --if we want long-term success and meaningful outcomes-- is that our core value is to serve our community. Serving our community in turn serves the larger society."

Dr. Proffitt began his career as a radiography technician in a local hospital, and worked in that field for more than a decade before joining Southwest Virginia Community College as an instructor. While at Southwest, he returned to the classroom himself, earning advanced degrees and moving up the ranks to become Dean of Math, Science and Health Technology.

He was named Vice President of Instruction and Student Development at Wytheville Community College in 2007 and, last year, following a search that invited campus and community input, became VHCC's new president.

The inauguration ceremony was held at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education and included greetings from Delegate Joe Johnson, State Board Chairman Jeff Mitchell, VHCC Board Chair Kimberly Clark, Faculty Senate President Susan Fleming, Classified Staff President Anne Dunham, Alumni Representative Laura Lee, and Community Representative Rachel Fowlkes.

Dr. Debbi Clear, vice president of Instruction and Student Services, presided over the ceremony.

PERFECT FIT - Continued from Page 1

soon after his 1973 graduation from VHCC, ultimately earning a Grammy for "Don't it Make My Brown Eyes Blue" and topping the charts for various other hits.

- Record enrollment of 3,851 full-time and part-time students during 2010-2011. This represents a 10 percent increase over the previous year.
- New programs in the high-growth industries of Hospitality & Tourism, Electronic Health Records, and Energy Technology. The College also produced its first graduates in the Engineering program offered in partnership with the University of Virginia.
- Served 2,243 students and 152 local businesses through the Division of Workforce Training & Continuing Education.
- Distributed more than \$6.5 million in financial aid in the form of grants and scholarships to qualified students.

Printed copies are available by contacting the VHCC Office of Public Relations/Marketing at (276) 739-2456 or adunham@vhcc.edu. The full report is also available online at www.vhcc.edu/ThePerfectFit.