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MEDIA CONTACT:
Jeffrey Kraus
Asst. Vice Chancellor for
Strategic Communications
(804) 592-6767
jkraus@vccs.edu

State Board Committee Certifies Three Finalists for Virginia Highlands Community College Presidency

RICHMOND – The State Board for Community Colleges has certified three finalists for the position of president at Virginia Highlands Community College. The finalists were among nearly 70 applicants from across the nation.



Dr. Marcia Conston



Dr. Adam C. Hutchison



Dr. Herbert H.J. Riedel

The three finalists, in alphabetical order, are **Dr. Marcia Conston** of Charlotte, North Carolina; **Dr. Adam C. Hutchison** of Elm Mott, Texas; and **Dr. Herbert H.J. Riedel** of Andalusia, Alabama.

“This presidential search is attracting an impressive breadth and depth of talented candidates and that’s no surprise,” said Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia’s Community Colleges. “Virginia Highlands Community College is poised for tremendous progress. The college has a top-quality faculty and staff and it serves a dynamic rural community. I’m excited about what the future has in store for VHCC.”

Dr. Marcia Conston has worked in higher education for more than 30 years. She began her career as the director of Institutional Research at Jackson State University, in Mississippi in 1987. She went to Benedict College, in Columbia, South Carolina in 1994 to become the vice president for Institutional Effectiveness. In 2001, she became the vice president for Enrollment and Student Success Services at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina – the position at which she currently works. Conston has also taught throughout her career, serving as a part-time associate professor at Benedict College in 1995-1996, and as an adjunct instructor at Wingate University for two years beginning in 2012. As an evaluator for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), Conston has evaluated 14 institutions for reaccreditation, including two Virginia community colleges. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Jackson State University in Mississippi; a master's degree from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, North Carolina; and a doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Dr. Adam C. Hutchison has nearly 20 years of higher education experience. He spent most of his early career at Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Harlingen, Texas, where he served as an Aviation Maintenance Technology senior instructor and department chair (2000); associate vice president of its Corporate College (2006); the college's chief of staff (2009); and its provost and vice president for Student Learning (2011). Hutchison moved to the TSTC in Waco, Texas in 2014 where he worked as the college's provost and vice president for Student Learning for eight months before transferring to the TSTC System Office to become the associate vice chancellor for Student Learning. In 2016, he returned to TSTC Waco to be the college's provost. Hutchison holds an associate and bachelor's degree from Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina; a master's degree from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia; and a doctorate from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

Dr. Herbert H.J. Riedel has worked in higher education for 35 years. He began as a lecturer at Bowling Green State University, in Ohio, in 1984. A year later, he became an assistant professor at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1992 Riedel became a faculty member at Trident Technical College in Charleston. He moved to Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton, South Carolina where he became a department head in 1998 and a division chair in 2000. Riedel moved to the University of Central Florida, in Orlando, Florida, in 2004 to become the deputy director of the Nanoscience Technology Center. In 2005, he became the vice president for Instruction and Student Development at Northeast Texas Community College in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. He became the president of Lurleen B. Wallace Community College in Andalusia, Alabama in 2009– the position from which he recently retired. Riedel holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Pretoria in Pretoria, South Africa; and a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada.

The three finalists seek to become the college's seventh permanent president, and will succeed Dr. Charlie White, who has served as the college's interim president for nearly a year.

The finalists will each visit the college in in the coming weeks to meet with faculty, staff, students and community members.

Virginia Highlands Community College provides high-quality education and related services for residents throughout its Southwest Virginia region, which includes the city of Bristol, Virginia; Washington County and the western part of Smyth County. VHCC is committed to teaching, learning & community building, and serves more than 2500 students, offering more than 80 academic areas of study.

About Virginia's Community Colleges: Since 1966, Virginia's Community Colleges have given everyone the opportunity to learn and develop the right skills so lives and communities are strengthened. By making higher education and workforce training available in every part of Virginia, we elevate all of Virginia. Together, Virginia's Community Colleges serve more than 241,000 students each year. For more information, please visit www.vccs.edu.

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