

VHCC 2009-2010 Annual Report Released

VHCC celebrated its 40th year by adopting a new strategic plan, introducing new academic programs in emerging fields, welcoming a record number of students to campus, and distributing more than \$6 million in financial aid to those enrolled.

Each of the accomplishments is outlined in the VHCC 2009-2010 Annual Report that was approved by the College Board on Sept. 9. The theme of the report, Taking Root, represents the new gardens on campus and the many new programs and services that have been established in recent months.

"Before he retired as VHCC president, Dr. F. David Wilkin dedicated 15 years of distinguished service to VHCC," said Dr. Ron Proffitt, who was chosen to replace Wilkin as VHCC president following a nationwide search. "He built a strong foundation, working hand-in-hand with many throughout our region, to ensure VHCC truly is the community's college. I am thankful for his many contributions and proud to continue that good work."

Among the highlights included in the report are:

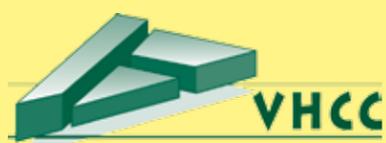
- Enrollment of 3,813 full-time and part-time students. This is a new record and represents a 6 percent increase over the previous year.
- Distribution of \$6 million in financial aid through a variety of federal, state and local sources including Pell Grants, the Work-Study Program, Veteran's Benefits, Virginia Tobacco Scholarships, and Foundation Scholarships established with private donations.
- Adoption of a 2010-2015 Strategic Plan that focuses on improving course offerings, student success, funding, facilities and staffing.
- Construction of a new conifer garden that improves the VHCC landscape and will serve as an outdoor laboratory for biology and horticulture students.
- Implementation of new programs in Energy Technology and Electronic Health Records Technology. Both programs are designed to prepare graduates for the emerging job market.
- Recognition of Assistant Biology Professor Kevin Hamed, who was named the 2009 Virginia Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.
- Continuation of the Virginia Appalachian Tricollage Nursing Program's Part-Time Evening and Weekend program, thanks to a \$450,000 contribution from Mountain State Health Alliance.
- Adoption of the VHCC Wolves as the campus mascot. The new mascot embraces the history of Abingdon, which was formerly known as Wolf Hills.

These and many other highlights are included in the report, which is available online or by contacting the VHCC Office of Public Relations at (276) 739-2456.

Remembering September 11



(Top) Community members gathered in the Wolves' Den on Sept. 11 to remember the victims of the 2001 terrorist bombings with a candlelight vigil. (Above) Members of the campus community spent Friday, Sept. 10 performing community service projects at more than a dozen locations. (At left) students bag pasta for food bags distributed by Faith in Action and (right) make blankets as part of Project Linus, an organization that provides security blankets to children that are seriously ill or traumatized.



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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APPALACHIAN IDENTITY: Myths and Realities

Artist D.R. Mullins was on campus on Sept. 30 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of his mural, *Appalachian Identity: Myths and Realities*, which hangs in the Wolves' Den. After a one-hour talk to explain the imagery within the mural that took him 10 months to create, he took time to autograph posters of his work.



Harassment Policy Outlined

VHCC and the Commonwealth of Virginia strictly prohibit harassment of any employee, applicant for employment, vendor, contractor or volunteer, on the basis of an individual's race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. VHCC and the Commonwealth will not tolerate any form of retaliation directed against an employee or third party who either complains about harassment or who participates in any investigation concerning harassment.

Workplace harassment is defined as any unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct that either denigrates or shows hostility or aversion towards a person on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, political affiliation or disability that: (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment; (2) has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an employee's work performance; or (3) affects an employee's employment opportunities or compensation.

Employees and third parties are encouraged to report incidents of workplace harassment as soon as possible after the incident occurs. Complaints may be filed with Human Resources, the President, the Vice-Presidents or the employee's supervisor. Individuals alleging harassment are never required to file a complaint with the alleged harasser.

If you have questions or concerns or would like more information, please contact the Human Resource Office.



SGA Launches Interview Closet, Seeks Donations

An "Interview Closet" has been created at Virginia Highlands Community College to store donated suits, ties, skirts, shirts and other clothing that is appropriate for motivated students who are preparing for an important job interview.

The project is being spearheaded by the VHCC Student Government Association to help students who don't have the clothing they need to make the right first impression, said Kaitlynn Clark, SGA Publicity Officer.

"Being prepared for a job interview includes having the right clothes," she said. "Sometimes this is a real issue for our students and it could prevent them from getting a great job. We hope to collect both men's and women's suits, plus all the accessories that are needed to help our students make a great impression."

In order to qualify to receive clothing from the closet, students must first undergo career readiness assistance in the VHCC Career Development Center.

The center helps students develop interview skills, create a professional resume, search for jobs that match their qualifications, and other resources that help them make the transition from the classroom to the workplace.

Those interested in donating items to the VHCC Interview Closet may drop them off in the Career Development Center, which is located in the Instruction & Student Center (ISC) on the VHCC campus, or email SGA President Phillip Blevins at plb2014@email.vccs.edu to arrange for pickup. Items will be collected throughout the year.

VHCC is State's First StormReady Site

Virginia Highlands Community College has been named a StormReady Supporter by the National Weather Service, a designation that indicates the College has a comprehensive plan for monitoring and responding to severe weather.



There are more than 1,600 StormReady sites nationwide, but VHCC is the first entity in Virginia to achieve this designation.

"We have worked very closely with officials from the National Weather Service in recent months to develop a plan that will allow us to be more aware of weather conditions and respond quickly in the event of an emergency," said Patty Thompson, VHCC's Emergency Planning Officer. "This is an important step in our ongoing efforts to enhance campus safety."

In order to become a StormReady Supporter, VHCC was required to:

- establish an emergency operations center
- provide redundant communication methods to receive severe weather forecasts and to alert the public
- establish a system for monitoring weather conditions
- promote the importance of public readiness
- develop a formal response plan.

The National Weather Service estimates that Americans each year are affected by 10,000 thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, 1,000 tornadoes, and an average of 2 hurricanes that make landfall. StormReady was created in 1999 to help community leaders and emergency managers create response plans to save lives and property.

Tim Troutman of the National Weather Service and William Richardson of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management will officially recognize VHCC as a StormReady Supporter on Oct. 7. The 2 p.m. ceremony will be held in front of the Administration Building.

For additional information, please contact Thompson at (276) 739-2582 or pthompson@vhcc.edu.



We the People

Local Historian David Winship led the campus community to a Constitution Day celebration that included a talk about the Overmountain Victory March, a turning point in the Revolutionary War, and an opportunity to sign a replica of the historic document signed in September 1787.

Campus Clubs Take a Stand

Members of the VHCC Law Enforcement Club, Rotaract, and IMPACT Club have joined forces to take a stand against domestic abuse and violence, as well as issues that often plague the relationships of college students.

Beginning in October, the Law Enforcement Club will begin putting red flags up across campus as part of the National Red Flag Campaign that urges people to say something when they see a red flag in a friend's relationship. The campaign draws attention to issues like jealousy, stalking, coercion, isolation, and emotional abuse.

Then, on Oct. 28 at 5:30 p.m., the Law Enforcement Club will join Rotaract and IMPACT for Take Back the Night, an event designed to raise awareness of sexual violence and abuse. The event will include the distribution of information, guest speakers, and a march across campus to identify areas that present safety concerns.

