



2009

ANNUAL FUND HIGHLIGHTS

*"Securing Brighter Futures"
Since 1952*



VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

Since 1952, the VFIC has been raising money to strengthen the 15 leading private colleges in the Commonwealth and has helped to ensure that access to private higher education in Virginia remains an affordable option for students from all backgrounds and levels of financial need. Through the 2009 Annual Campaign for Academic Excellence, **the VFIC secured more than \$3.3 million** as a result of the generosity of the VFIC's corporate, foundation and individual partners. On average, **the VFIC distributed \$132,000 to each of the Member Colleges** to be used for scholarships, educational student and faculty programs, capital improvements, library enhancements and so much more. To see first-hand how charitable allocations to the VFIC are being put to use, we have provided some highlights from the 2009 campaign.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Through the generous support of donors interested in providing financial aid for need-based students, the VFIC this year provided over **\$1 million in scholarships to 604 students**, nearly 3% of all students in the VFIC consortium. For many of these students, an education at a private college such as those in the VFIC would not be an option without financial aid, so our donors can take pride in having a tangible impact on so many deserving students.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Fifteen students were provided summer science research fellowships through the VFIC, enabling each of these young men and women to work one-on-one with a faculty mentor on a significant scientific research project. The projects included topics like "Examination of Microorganisms Obtained from Soda Fountain Machines" to "The Affect that HIV-TAT, THC and Cytokines have on Chemokine Expression from Macrophages."

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

The VFIC distributed grants to 15 faculty members to pursue scholarly research in their respective fields of study. Projects ranged from the "Race, Class and Power: Analysis of 19th Century Archaeological Sites in Virginia" to "The Investigation of Y Branches Formed in Single Wall Carbon Nanotubes." These projects are very important to the faculty members and to the colleges, as the projects reinvigorate faculty about their field of study – and this excitement (and new knowledge) is transmitted back to the classroom, so students are the ultimate beneficiaries.

MINORITY STUDENT ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

Through our New Horizons program, the VFIC works closely with high school "college prep" programs such as Richmond's *Partnership for the Future*, to provide access to our colleges. Currently, **18 PFF Graduates are attending VFIC institutions and receiving scholarship support** as a result of VFIC partners.



TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

More than \$220,000 was distributed to the member colleges to help with technology and capital improvements. The majority of the projects focused on renovations to existing buildings and providing new equipment for students to succeed in the digital age.



LIBRARY ENHANCEMENTS

Each of the 15 member colleges received VFIC grants to provide library acquisitions and enhancements. These dollars represent an investment in providing quality educational resources for the campus libraries which serve students, faculty and the general public.

ETHICS BOWL

More than 175 students, faculty, business and civic leaders and special guests attended the 10th Anniversary of the Ethics Bowl held at Washington and Lee University. Seventy-five students represented all fifteen member institutions on teams to discuss case studies based on current-day ethical dilemmas centered on the topic of Journalism. (February 14-15, 2010, the Ethics Bowl will return to the inaugural host site at the University of Richmond. The theme will be "Ethics and Education.")



CAREER WORKFORCE

Since the official launch date in January 2008, CAREER15 has become the best way for Corporate HR recruiters to reach students at the VFIC's 15 private liberal arts colleges. Central to the program is the website through which HR recruiters can connect with students about internships and full-time jobs, and coordinate events for students to meet employers. This past year, the VFIC awarded grants to each of the 15 member colleges to aid their Career Development offices. At the end of FY09, more than 2,185 students and 65 companies had registered on the CAREER15 website: www.career15.com.



THE MISSION OF THE VFIC

The mission of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges (VFIC) is to advance the distinctive values and strengths of 15 small, private undergraduate liberal arts colleges in Virginia. We do this by securing financial support from the private sector, increasing visibility, facilitating innovative and collaborative initiatives between the colleges, and supporting initiatives which ensure that this personalized educational experience remains an affordable choice for tomorrow's citizen-leaders.

MEMBER COLLEGES

Bridgewater College
Emory & Henry College
Hampden-Sydney College
Hollins University
Lynchburg College

Mary Baldwin College
Marymount University
Randolph College
Randolph-Macon College
Roanoke College

Shenandoah University
Sweet Briar College
University of Richmond
Virginia Wesleyan College
Washington and Lee University