



MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY



VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

UPDATE

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ECP GIVES STUDENTS A COMPETITIVE EDGE in the Job Search

While it's gratifying to know that our students "come from" diverse racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds, at the VFIC we're equally focused on where our students "go to" after they graduate. Our schools feel a responsibility to students not only when they are in the classroom or lab but also as they prepare to graduate with a degree in hand and head into the market in pursuit of their career.

"That's the focus of our ECP program . . . Enhancing Career Preparation," says Matt Shank, president of the VFIC. "Graduates who are first-generation, minority, low-income, new American, and Hispanic face their own obstacles when trying to launch their careers, and it is incumbent upon our schools to prepare them for success."

The six-session ECP program kicked off September 23 with a

presentation on how to manage the virtual and traditional job search. Since then, the 200 students registered for the program have had access to programs on resumes and cover letters, networking, interviewing, evaluating job offers, and professionalism in the workplace. Leading the programs were professionals from a number of organizations, including Sentara Healthcare, Deloitte, Virginia Bankers Association, and Markel.

"We're now looking to fund 'ECP 2.0,' which aims to provide these students with internship opportunities," says Shank. "Internships provide students with insight into the career of their choice. Not only that, they make students more marketable to potential employers. And that's our goal – making sure these VFIC students can secure a lucrative position in the competitive workplace."

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Congratulations to the 2022 Ethics Bowl champions from the University of Richmond. Top row from left to right includes faculty coordinator, Brannon McDaniel, Ph.D., and team member, Mason Stichter. On the bottom row from left to right are team members Annie Waters, Annie Waters, Magnolia Stuart, and Meghna Melkote.

Thomas E. Goode, Regional Private Bank Manager, Senior Vice President at Wells Fargo (center) was honored at the Ethics Bowl dinner by VFIC President, Matthew D. Shank, Ph.D., (right) and VFIC Board Chair, Gary Thomson, Thomson Consulting (left).

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND CLAIMS BATTEN TROPHY at 2022 VFIC Wells Fargo Ethics Bowl

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND student team for its championship victory at the 2022 VFIC Wells Fargo Ethics Bowl. Randolph-Macon College was the runner-up at the event, which was held at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, on January 30-31.

“Events of the past two years gave rise to this year’s topic of debate – Pandemic Ethics,” says Victor Branch, co-chair of the Ethics Bowl Committee. “Over the course of several rounds of discussion, teams from each school in our consortium competed for the highly prized Batten Trophy.”

The Ethics Bowl Dinner, held on the first day of the event, recognized Thomas E. Goode, regional private bank manager and senior vice president at Wells Fargo, for his commitment to and support of the VFIC, as well as the Ethics Bowl program.

Our colleges and universities provide a broadly pragmatic liberal arts

and sciences education in environments that value and encourage ethical leadership and responsible citizenship, and the Ethics Bowl reflects how VFIC faculty teach by initiating academic challenge.

“Through events like the Ethics Bowl, the VFIC helps students develop the habit of moral virtue,” says Branch. “The schools in our consortium have a responsibility to help students establish an ethical framework for making decisions. We contribute to that effort by providing them with opportunities to explore the ethical impact of their actions when they make decisions about right and wrong.”

On January 29-30, 2023, the VFIC will celebrate the twenty-third year of the Ethics Bowl program at Virginia Wesleyan University.

“Teaching students how to think about ethics, rather than what to think about ethics gives them the ability to make decisions for themselves and become the kind of people who can effect positive social change.” –Taylor M., Ethics Bowl Participant

ETHICS BOWL EVENT AND DINNER SPONSORS

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HOLLINS UNIVERSITY

EXPLORING WAYS TO RECRUIT Community College Students into VFIC Schools

AT THE VFIC, WE BELIEVE that students who want to earn a college degree should have the opportunity to do so.

That belief is evident in our commitment to exploring how we might build strong transfer pathways from Virginia's two-year community colleges to our four-year private, independent schools. Each year, our schools accept as many as 600 transfer students from the Virginia Community College System (VCCS).

Thanks to a grant from the Teagle Foundation this past year, the VFIC partnered with the VCCS on "Transfer Pathways," a program to help motivated, well-prepared students attending one of Virginia's two-year community colleges transition into one of the VFIC's sixteen institutions.

"We want to address the challenges these transfer students face along the pathway to a four-year school," says Matt Shank, president of the VFIC. "That means making sure those students who meet our high standards for admission are able to attend one of our schools. It also means they can bring with them many of the course credits they earned during the first two years of their college career."

From October 2021 to April 2022, we conducted four workshops,

three virtual and one in-person. Discussions addressed topics such as why colleges should recruit transfer students, what makes a great pathway from two- to four-year schools, and how students overcome challenges related to credit hours, finances, and time. Program participants were asked to assess their agreements with community colleges and what measures faculty might take to attract students into their departments.

"By cultivating relationships with VCCS schools, we can build on the educational success of our schools by helping even more motivated, well-prepared students transition into our institutions," says Shank.

What can the VFIC do to make this happen?

"Create a campus environment that encourages transfer and connect students with advisers who can ensure a smooth transfer of courses and credit hours," says Micol Hutchison, Director of Transfer, VCCS. "And, of course, help these students – many of whom are from underrepresented communities and the first in their families to attend college – access the financial resources they need to earn their four-year degree."



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

TYLER S., '22 | HOLLINS UNIVERSITY

Tyler, a VFIC Brighter Futures Scholarship recipient, was one of only six undergraduates nationally chosen for pre-law positions this past summer in the Investigative Internship Program at the Georgetown University Law Center's Criminal Justice Clinic. She contributed to pre-trial evidence gathering and defense strategy building. Previously, she interned with the Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights Under Law.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBER COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE

Bridgewater College's Master of Science in Human Resource Management will be offered in a HyFlex model to both online and in-person students starting in summer 2022.

EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE

Plans were recently announced to build apartment-style housing units by spring 2023, as well as a new Equestrian Center and Multi-Sport Complex, just off the Interstate 81 entrance to campus at Exit 26.

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE

In November, Hampden-Sydney College announced a \$3 million matching gift through the Ann K. Kirby Foundation and the Guilford Foundation for the revitalization of Kirby Field House.

HOLLINS UNIVERSITY

A \$75 million gift from an anonymous alumna, the largest donation ever for Hollins and for a women's college, will fund scholarships and undergraduate financial need. This gift is also one of the largest ever made to a college or university solely by a female donor.

MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY

MBU's new Pell+Promise Grant will award an additional \$3,000 a year to all full-time residential students who qualify for the federal Pell Grant, eliminating tuition costs for many with the greatest financial need.

MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Marymount University is offering bachelor's programs in engineering for the first time in fall 2022, with separate degree paths in biomedical and mechanical engineering.

RANDOLPH COLLEGE

Randolph College has created a new comparative philosophy major, focusing on three primary areas: mind and meaning, ethics and justice, and art and culture.

RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE

The Randolph-Macon College men's basketball team won the NCAA Division III tournament with a dominant run, finishing their historic season with a record 33 wins.

ROANOKE COLLEGE

Dr. Liz Ackley was one of only two professors at private colleges in Virginia recognized with an Outstanding Faculty Award from SCHEV at the Virginia General Assembly.

SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY

Shenandoah Conservatory launched a Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary Musicianship & Entrepreneur Development under Rod Vester, Ph.D., one of Musical America's Top 30 Professionals of the Year.

SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE

Sweet Briar surpassed its March Days of Giving goal, raising over \$2.8 million in ten days. The College will also break ground on its new water-based turf field this spring.

UNIVERSITY OF LYNCHBURG

In March, the University of Lynchburg formally acknowledged that it is located on Monacan land and announced a scholarship for incoming students who are members of the Monacan tribe.

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

The University of Richmond inaugurated Kevin F. Hallock as its 11th president in April. The community celebration included an inauguration ceremony, festive events, academic discussions, and Spider athletics.

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

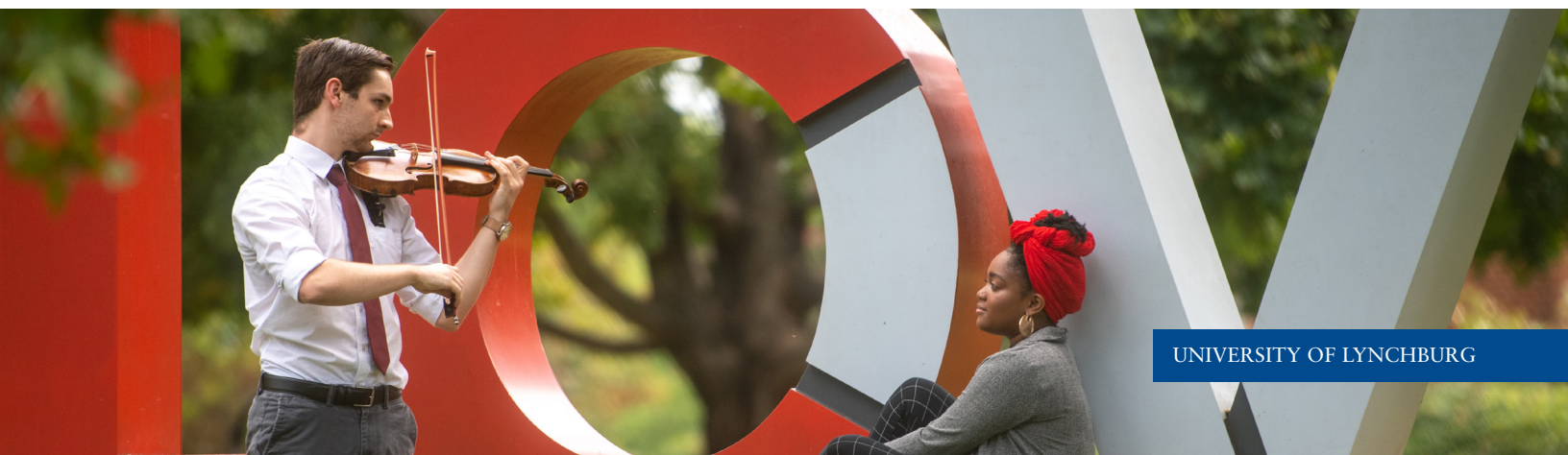
VUU's Board of Trustees approved the reestablishment of Virginia Union Academy, which was open from 1899 to 1946. The Academy will offer STEM-related programs focused on technology and innovation to Richmond-area youth.

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Complementing VWU's new Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center, the original arts building was fully renovated and named Susan T. Beverly Hall. The renovated facility features a new digital media lab and upgrades to the theater, visual arts, and ceramics studios.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

Washington and Lee University recently opened the Houston H. Harte Center for Teaching and Learning and is on the list of U.S. universities that produced the most 2021-2022 Fulbright U.S. Students.



SUPPORT VFIC STUDENTS WITH A BRIGHTER FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP

SINCE 1952, OUR GOAL AT THE VFIC has been to make sure students from all backgrounds and levels of financial need have affordable access to a liberal arts-grounded, career-focused education.

This past year alone, we secured close to \$3.02 million in gifts and pledges, including \$770,000 used to award 559 scholarships. VFIC donor partners made it possible to distribute 22 undergraduate student research fellowships and 18 faculty awards. All funds – 100 percent – raised for scholarships and fellowships go to support students.

The VFIC Brighter Futures Scholarship Program is one hallmark of our effort to provide students with financial support. Over the years, VFIC students have relied on financial support from this program to pursue a college degree.

One of the ways you can invest in our students and the promise they hold is by creating a Brighter Futures Scholarship. You have a couple options. Through the Signature Scholarship, you contribute \$16,000 or more to give a named scholarship to a deserving student on each of the 16 VFIC campuses. The Affiliate Scholarship begins at the \$5,000 level. With this scholarship, you can direct your financial aid to deserving students at the VFIC campuses of your choice.

For information on how you can provide a VFIC student with a brighter future, please contact Matt Shank, president of the VFIC, at shank@vfic.org or 804-288-6609.

WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?

THAT'S A QUESTION WORTH ASKING as you consider contributing to the VFIC Annual Fund. The answer? To educate students with experiential learning opportunities. To make higher education accessible and affordable for underrepresented students. To offer programs that develop character and leadership in students. To make sure undergraduates step into a career once they earn their degree.

As we aim to raise \$2 million in support, this newsletter tells the story of how the VFIC invested your financial support into the students on our campuses.

- Last summer, Virginia Union University officially became the sixteenth member of our consortium. The priorities of our newest member align closely with the VFIC's mission.
- Over the course of six workshops this year, the VFIC conducted the Enhancing Career Preparation program. Led by professionals from leading organizations, this program helps first-generation, minority, and low-income students better position themselves for the career of their choice.
- This past fall, we once again hosted our three-day Women's Leadership Development Summit. This dynamic, in-person forum gives women from each of our campuses the opportunity to discuss and develop leadership strategies for effecting change in the workplace and in their communities.
- Through Transfer Pathways, the VFIC partnered with the VCCS to help motivated, well-prepared students who attend a Virginia community college transition into one of the VFIC's sixteen institutions.
- On January 30-31, 2022, a team of students from the University of Richmond won the 2022 VFIC Wells Fargo Ethics Bowl. This premier event is funded through sponsorships and donor support.
- And, of course, there's financial support. Your contribution to the annual fund goes toward scholarships and fellowships for the brightest, most deserving students.

Your gift to the VFIC's Annual Fund for Academic Excellence will support these and other educational programs and experiences that distinguish not only our schools but also the students who attend them. Support for the VFIC is necessary now more than ever, so please contact Matt Shank (shank@vfic.org) about ways you can invest in the educational opportunities our schools provide.



VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

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SCHOLARSHIPS

The VFIC is profoundly grateful for the financial support provided by the following companies, philanthropists, and trusts for the 2021-2022 academic year. Their investment in today's students pays dividends for decades to our communities and our schools. If you would like to create a Brighter Futures scholarship, please contact Matt Shank at shank@vfic.org.

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