Dear Friends,

Leading the Virginia Western Educational Foundation Board of Directors in 2012 proved to be an exciting endeavor. As I glance back on the last year, I join you in celebrating the success of the College and the Educational Foundation. As I look ahead, I focus on the fact that the role our Board plays in making Virginia Western an economic engine for the Roanoke Valley requires community support and shared vision.

The partnership forged with Advance Auto Parts to support the Community College Access Program (CCAP) and the expansion of CCAP to include Botetourt, Craig and Roanoke Counties were major accomplishments that will change lives for generations to come. Continued support from Salem City, Roanoke City, Roanoke City Public Schools and the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission guarantee the continued participation of Salem and Roanoke Cities and Franklin County in the program. CCAP will now provide access to higher education for students across the College’s entire service region.

Virginia Western’s Community College Access Program makes college possible for students who would not otherwise be able to pursue higher education. CCAP provides two years at Virginia Western tuition-free for local high school graduates who meet program guidelines as long as funds are available for the program. Support from community members significantly changes students’ lives and allows the College to continue providing affordable and accessible education.

Thanks to generous community donors such as the Foundation for Roanoke Valley, the Horace G. Fralin Charitable Trust and Friendship Retirement Community, the Roanoke Valley has a new appreciation for Virginia Western as a vital link to our future success.

Offering scholarships for students, both traditional and non-traditional, donors emphasize the importance of investing in education. Virginia Western is educating tomorrow’s workforce, and opening the classroom means opening the doors to a better future for the entire Roanoke Valley.

The Educational Foundation is committed to building on its successes and making college possible for people across the region. CCAP must not only be a viable program, but a sustainable one, and the Board of Directors looks forward to providing guidance to guarantee its success. Recognizing the importance of private support for higher education, we will also continue to create opportunities for donors and sponsors to engage with the students their gifts impact.

As you read the successes of the last year for Virginia Western, and consider how today’s students are tomorrow’s leaders, please remember college is possible because you make it possible!

Best regards,

Edwin C. Hall, President, Virginia Western Educational Foundation, Inc.
Board of Directors

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Dr. Angela Falconetti joins Virginia Western Community College

Dr. Angela M. Garcia Falconetti is the Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Virginia Western Community College. Institutional Advancement encompasses the departments of the Educational Foundation, Grants and Special Projects, and Marketing and Strategic Communications.

Prior to serving Virginia Western, Angela was Vice President for Planning, Development, and Institutional Effectiveness at Daytona State College. Angela also served as Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Daytona State College Foundation, adjunct faculty teaching leadership and entrepreneurship at Daytona State College, and higher education doctoral faculty at Florida Atlantic University.

Angela completed an endowed post-doctoral fellowship with The University of Texas at Austin’s Community College Leadership Program and worked as research associate for the Community College Survey of Student Engagement. Angela also completed a post-doctoral fellowship with the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C., serving as special assistant for the first Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges and facilitating international community college forums for former U.S. Secretary Margaret Spellings.

Angela serves as editorial board member for the Community College Journal of Research and Practice and served as Associate Editor for The Journal of College Orientation and Transition. Angela’s publications include a New Directions for Community Colleges issue, a Community College Journal for Research and Practice issue, and a book chapter on the community college baccalaureate. Additional refereed articles regard 2+2 articulation agreements, student engagement, and higher education state and local governance.

Angela received the 2007 national research award from the National Orientation Directors Association, the University of North Florida’s 2007 Outstanding Dissertation Award, and the 2003 Outstanding Orientation Directors Association, the University of North Florida’s Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Advisor Award. Formerly, Angela was faculty of the humanities department at Florida State College at Jacksonville and Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of North Florida.
Dear Friends,

Always striving for excellence in service and providing education opportunities across the Roanoke Valley, Virginia Western Community College reached new heights in 2012.

State-of-the-art construction on campus and increased visibility across the community displays the College as a jewel in the region. Opportunities abound every day for Virginia Western students to succeed in the classroom, gain experience in the workforce and make a difference in the lives of others.

Academically, Virginia Western students continue to excel, being recognized statewide as successful scholars. Virginia Western’s dual enrollment program is now cost-free to high school students in the College’s service region. The dual enrollment program is committed to providing local high school students—like Olyvia Christely, who now works as a legislative aide for Congressman Bob Goodlatte—with the opportunity to complete college level classes while finishing their junior and senior years. Additionally, the extensive career and technical education programs allow students to go to work immediately after completing required training.

The addition of an athletic and activities coordinator and a volunteer and recruitment coordinator create new campus engagement opportunities for students. The Men’s Soccer team captured its first Virginia Community College System Men’s Soccer Championship, and the College is proud of our students’ many endeavors.

Virginia Western alumni continue to excel across the region, state and country. We regularly receive news about exceptional accomplishments of our graduates. Engaging alumni in activities on campus and in the community continues to be a priority for the College. Who else could motivate and challenge today’s students better than yesterday’s graduates?

With students at the center of everything we do, the unfortunate truth is that not everyone has access to the opportunities offered through Virginia Western. Realizing the vital role private dollars play in making college affordable and accessible to everyone, Virginia Western is thankful for the great extent of community support provided our students. Supporting learning creates the strong foundation for today’s students to lead in future business and community roles.

The generosity of business and community leaders in the Roanoke Valley perpetuates the tradition of academic excellence for today’s students, tomorrow’s graduates and the future members of our region’s workforce. With continued support, the College will be able to continue this strong tradition.

Warmest gratitude,

Robert H. Sandel, President
Virginia Western Community College
The Center for Science and Health Professions to Open Fall 2013

Students will begin taking classes in The Center for Science and Health Professions on Aug. 21, 2013.

Sitting on the corner of Colonial Ave. and McNeil Dr., the Center will serve as the gateway onto Virginia Western’s campus.

The cutting-edge facility includes a new dental hygiene clinic with 12 fully outfitted dental hygiene areas, state-of-the-art radiography equipment, lab space for science and health programs, and multipurpose space.

Chancellor’s Award

Steve Huff, associate professor of communication design, was announced as the recipient of the 2011 Chancellor’s Award for Teaching Excellence. Chancellor Glenn DuBois selects one outstanding faculty member throughout the 23 Virginia Community College System schools for the award annually. Steve was recognized at the 2011 State Board Annual Meeting in Charlottesville, VA. He also received a $5,000 award and a stole to wear at graduation. After joining the faculty of Virginia Western in 1997, Steve used his industry experience to build a degree program to meet the needs of the business community while fashioning a positive and enjoyable learning environment for students.

National Science Foundation Grant

Virginia Western was awarded a $198,259 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) Advanced Technology Education (ATE) program to streamline a career pathway for mechatronics students. Engineering of Engineering Technicians (E2T) is designed to build synergy between industry, community college faculty and local secondary career and technical education (CTE) entities.

Men’s Soccer Team

The Virginia Western Community College Men’s Soccer team captured its first Virginia Community College System Men’s Soccer Championship by defeating Tidewater Community College 3-1. “I’m really proud of the effort of our team and their willingness to develop as a team each day,” said Virginia Western coach Chris Dowdy. The Blue Stars finished the season 9-3, 6-1 in the VCCS. Virginia Western placed four players on the All-VCCS first team.

Faculty Exchange

Tilly Peters from the Netherlands and Prince Menzo from Ghana visited the College in fall 2012. The visiting professors are participants in the VACie-VCCS international faculty exchange program between the VCCS and comparable institutions of higher education throughout the world.

Dr. Phil Ayers

Dr. Phil Ayers, philosophy and physical education adjunct faculty member, published a book titled In Jail Once, Imprisoned for Life, which deals with anger management. He used the literature in the anger management classes at the Southwest Regional Jail.

Nelson Harris

Nelson Harris, religion adjunct faculty member, authored Roanoke Valley: Then and Now by Arcadia Publishing. The book was published on behalf of the Historical Society of Western Virginia.

VCCA Awards

The College received the most awards out of 17 schools and agencies at the 2012 Virginia Community College Association (VCCA) Excellence in Communications Competition. Marketing and Educational Foundation staff members, including Josh Meyer, Tara Nepper, Joe Collins and Ruth Cassell, received 10 awards in seven categories.
Advance Auto Parts, headquartered in Roanoke, VA, is driven by a commitment to service. Carrying the company vow to the community, Advance Auto Parts makes significant investments in education and provides opportunities for students to fulfill their potential.

In 2012, Virginia Western Community College and Advance Auto Parts announced a major partnership to further support the Community College Access Program (CCAP). Committing $125,000 as part of an ongoing partnership, Advance Auto Parts put its mission into practice.

“We believe everyone has the right to pursue a higher education, despite their financial situation, and we are committed to bringing these opportunities to our community. Together with our community partners, we will make college possible for local students,” said Advance Auto Parts President and Chief Executive Officer Darren R. Jackson.

Jackson joined Virginia Western President Robert H. Sandel to make the announcement in front of an audience of students, faculty, staff, and business and community leaders on the College’s campus.

“Through this partnership, we truly see how we are bringing our Promise—Service is our Best Part—to life. We believe that by supporting the communities in which we operate, we all win,” Jackson said.

CCAP is available region-wide beginning in fall 2013, and high school graduates from Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke Counties and the Cities of Roanoke and Salem have the opportunity to attend Virginia Western at no cost.

Launch in 2008, CCAP is a series of public and private partnerships administered by the Virginia Western Community College Educational Foundation. The program covers the cost of tuition for two years at Virginia Western for students who meet program guidelines.

Dr. Sandel reiterated the vital role CCAP plays in developing a robust workforce. CCAP encourages local high school graduates to successfully complete high school, apply to graduate college with a degree or certificate and be prepared to transfer to a four-year institution or directly enter the workforce.

“By investing in CCAP, Advance Auto Parts is investing in the next generation of local business leaders. Financial shortcomings will not prevent students from acquiring the higher education they need to be competitive in this changing economy,” Dr. Sandel said. “The Virginia Community College System and Virginia Western recognize the significance of this investment.”

Jackson joined Sandel, Educational Foundation President Edwin C. Hall and Vice President Katherine Elliott in Richmond to accept the 2012 Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy from the Virginia Community College System. Chancellor Glenn DuBois announced the statewide recognition, which has honored the leading philanthropists from each of Virginia’s 23 community colleges for the past seven years.
First- and second-year CCAP students participated in the 2012 CCAP Goal-Setting Workshop at the Patrick Henry Ballroom. Students participated in break-out sessions focused on transfer and career readiness, goal-setting, CCAP success and teamwork. Vice President of Trane North America Jason Bingham, a Virginia Western Educational Foundation Board member who was instrumental in establishing CCAP in Roanoke City, addressed the group as the keynote speaker.

Trane Music Festival to benefit CCAP

High school concert bands from the localities that were currently participating in CCAP—Patrick Henry, William Fleming, Salem and Franklin County—participated in the first annual Trane Music Festival to benefit CCAP at the Roanoke Performing Arts Theatre. Sponsored by Trane, the event raised over $23,000 for the Community College Access Program, which now serves the entire Virginia Western service region including Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke Counties and Roanoke and Salem Cities.

As a VCCS leader in philanthropy, Advance Auto Parts had a scholarship named in its honor—the Advance Auto Parts Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship. The scholarship recipient, Greg Whiting of Buchanan, was one of 44 Virginia community college students honored at a ceremony highlighting their scholastic achievement and success.

Whiting graduated from James River High School in 2012 and is attending Virginia Western to study for an eventual degree in industrial design or marine biology. He works part-time, and lives with his parents and younger brother.

“I would like to say thank you because the scholarship is a humongous help, and it is so generous for them to offer up donations in order to help me get through school,” he said.
Lindsey Narmour, a second-year student from Ferrum, sees her education at Virginia Western Community College as more than a chance to expand her own horizons. A 2013 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship recipient, Lindsey is setting the standard for community college students.

“Lindsey has been a true inspiration to her fellow students and a joy for our faculty and staff,” said Dr. Robert H. Sandel, President of Virginia Western. “Her great achievements have been a result of hard work and tremendous dedication, and we can’t wait to see where she goes from here.”

In addition to the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, Lindsey was honored as one of only 50 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholars in the nation. She also was the first Virginia Western student to be named a Valley Proteins Fellow by the Virginia Community College System, and she earned the Judy Hackworth Memorial Annual Scholarship from the Virginia Western Educational Foundation.

She plans to carry her passion for impacting the lives of others, by sharing her love of writing and literacy with local children, into her undergraduate work.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Program, the largest private scholarship for community college transfer students in the country, provides up to $30,000 per year for up to three years to community college students who are nominated by their schools based on a number of factors, including academic excellence and financial need.

Lindsey was one of only two recipients from Virginia, the other hailing from Northern Virginia Community College, and she is the first ever from Virginia Western. Narmour, who was the student speaker at Virginia Western’s 47th Commencement Ceremony on May 10, plans to attend Hollins University to pursue her Bachelor’s Degree.

Her previous selection to the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program, sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, provided a $1,500 scholarship for her education at Virginia Western.

Lindsey was one of approximately 1,800 students from across the nation nominated for the award. Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society administers the program and recognizes the scholars during All-State Community College Academic Team Recognition ceremonies held in 38 states.

“When I found out that I was named a Coca-Cola Community College scholar, it was a little bit overwhelming. I knew I had been nominated, but never assumed I would be honored,” she said. “It is a tremendous recognition, and I am very appreciative to receive it.”

In a deserved series of recognitions, Lindsey was also one of 10 recipients of the prestigious Valley Proteins Fellowship, sponsored by Valley Proteins, Inc. The fellowship provides a full year of tuition and fees plus access to leadership opportunities for Virginia community college students.

She said her selection by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education as a Valley Proteins Fellow provided a way for her to share something she began envisioning as a high school student. The fellowship requires a community service project and volunteer work, and Lindsey’s “Classics and Costumes” children’s literacy outreach program at the Rescue Mission of Roanoke began taking shape as soon as she learned of her selection. She began the live-action literacy program once a month beginning September 2012 and continued
through April 2013. She will receive a $3,000 grant in summer 2013 to help complete the project.

“I’m really passionate about literacy, and I feel there’s a home for an outreach program in the Roanoke Valley,” the student said.

Lindsey came to Virginia Western to pursue an associate degree in liberal arts. She hopes to teach English at the collegiate level, and realizes she can achieve anything she sets her mind to. While at Virginia Western, Lindsey was a Student Ambassador and served as President of Virginia Western’s Honors Institute and Vice President of Scholarship for Phi Theta Kappa.

She said the opportunities provided through Virginia Western helped her realize her potential and define her dreams.

“It’s given me opportunities to stretch my boundaries. I’ve had time to explore creative writing and the things I love,” she said. “Through the literacy program, Roanoke children are able to experience some of the things I’ve been able to experience.”

Lindsey Narmour spoke at the 47th annual Virginia Western Community College Commencement. She plans to attend Hollins University on the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship.

Newly Established Scholarships and/or Funds
1/1/2011 through 6/4/2013

Adams Construction Company Endowed Scholarship
Barbara McKinney Watts Endowed Scholarship benefiting CCAP
Bingham Family Endowed Scholarship benefiting CCAP for Roanoke City Beverly and Leon Harris Teaching and Nursing Annual Scholarship Beverly and Leon Harris Occupational/Technical Annual Scholarship Colonel William Preston, DAR History Annual Scholarship Dennis Spaulding Memorial Developmental Scholarship Don Kinzer Marketing Fund Friendship Retirement Community Gordon C. and Jean Willis Memorial Endowed Scholarship Horace G. Fralin Endowed Fund Hunting Hills Garden Club Annual Endowed Scholarship Kathy & Chris Tucker and John Hall Honorary Endowed Scholarship Kiwanis Club of Botetourt County Endowed Scholarship Non-Credit Scholarship Fund Refugee and Immigrant Services Annual Scholarship Registered Nursing Scholarship Smith Mountain Lake Garden Club Annual Scholarship
Mr. W. Heywood Fralin speaks to crowd at Virginia Western’s Whitman Theater to announce the $5 million gift from the Horace G. Fralin Charitable Trust to benefit STEM-H scholarships at the College.
Mr. W. Heywood Fralin and Mr. William H. Fralin, Jr., well-known and respected local philanthropists and businessmen, believe in the power of education.

Committing $5 million over five years from the Horace G. Fralin Charitable Trust, which was established in the name of the late Horace G. Fralin, to Virginia Western Community College reflects the family’s commitment to supporting higher education. At Heywood and William Fralin’s request, at least 75 percent of the funding will be used for scholarships in the areas of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and healthcare (STEM-H).

“This is just the tip of the iceberg. The need for scholarships at Virginia Western is far greater than this gift, and it’s important for others to step up and fund scholarships for the College,” said Heywood Fralin, Co-Trustee of the Fralin Charitable Trust.

“To the extent that we can educate young people, we can make them very productive citizens and make this a better place for everyone.”

For the significant investment in Virginia Western and the future of students in the Commonwealth, the Fralin family was recognized by Virginia’s Community Colleges with the 2013 Chancellor’s Award in Leadership in Philanthropy (see page 13).

“It is important to give our youth the tools to make rational decisions,” said Heywood Fralin, Chairman of Medical Facilities of America, which is now operated by his son, William. “We need creative and educated thinkers. In our workplace, we encourage creative thinking. When we only make decisions based on what one person believes is best, the decisions will be poor. Every business should look at all possibilities as pointed out by creative thinkers and reach the best company decisions. Our community colleges instill this creative thinking.”

The eldest Fralin brother, Horace, was 14 years older than Heywood. As Co-Trustee, Heywood Fralin said his brother wanted to provide Roanoke Valley citizens with significant educational opportunities, fund lasting projects that benefit everyone in the Valley, and truly make a difference.

“Like all communities, the economic future of the Roanoke Valley is dependent on the steps taken to ensure success. The approach to economic development should be changed. Our country no longer has an energy-based economy. The economy is knowledge-based, and therefore, a focus on a more skilled and educated workforce is a must,” said Heywood Fralin, who was a major influence on Virginia’s Top Jobs legislation as Chairman of the Virginia Business Higher Education Council.

“To enhance economic development, the focus should be on areas where clusters of business activity already exist,” he said. “In the Roanoke Valley, we have a healthcare cluster, and a major component of Virginia Western’s courses provides quality education in healthcare fields.”

Heywood Fralin also served as rector of the University of Virginia’s Board of Visitors and Virginia Tech’s Board of Visitors. He said allowing students to complete higher education without the burden of debt requires private investment.

The Fralin family’s long-time involvement with higher education across the Commonwealth stems from the interests of Horace G. Fralin—Co-Founder of Fralin and Waldron Inc. and a graduate of Virginia Tech. At his death, he provided significant gifts to Virginia Tech. The endowment in the Charitable Trust he created has provided numerous gifts to many charities throughout the Roanoke Valley.

Heywood and Cynthia Fralin’s three children—Katherine Fralin Walker, founding director of the Batten Leadership Institute at Hollins University; Robert Fralin, a contractor in Christiansburg; and William H. Fralin, Jr., Co-Trustee of the family trust and President and Chief Executive Officer of Medical Facilities of America—carry on the family’s tradition of leadership and philanthropy.
William Fralin also served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 2004-10, and is director emeritus of the Virginia Western Educational Foundation Board of Directors.

“With our new century well under way, there is nothing that is a more important differentiator for western Virginia than an educated workforce ready to accept the employment opportunities of tomorrow,” William Fralin said. “Horace always believed in quality higher education and wanted to do big things for the Valley. We think this gift fulfills both goals.”

The Horace G. Fralin Charitable Trust’s $5 million gift to Virginia Western is the largest ever made to the Virginia Western Educational Foundation, nearly doubling its assets to $10.9 million. The gift single-handedly moves the Educational Foundation from the 16th-largest foundation among the 24 in the Virginia Community College System to fourth. This is the largest donation dedicated to scholarships in the history of the Virginia Community College System and one of the largest for community college scholarships in the country.

The unprecedented increase in scholarships, which will double according to Virginia Western Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dr. Angela M. Garcia Falconetti, will help more students prepare for rapidly growing career fields and enhance the local workforce.

“The support of the Fralins is an endorsement of Virginia Western’s growing importance in our region,” Falconetti said. “The College impacts the lives of nearly 13,000 students annually, paving a pathway to lifelong success through higher education.”

Virginia Western trains the Roanoke Valley’s future workforce. As is the nationwide trend, the Roanoke Valley is experiencing growth in jobs that require additional education and technical training after high school. Virginia Western addresses the needs of the local workforce by providing associate degree and certificate programs in all the region’s most sought-after fields. Associate degree students have guaranteed admission transfer options to more than 33 in-state four-year colleges and universities.

Maintaining the second-largest enrollment, second only to Virginia Tech, of postsecondary institutions in the Roanoke region, 85 percent of Virginia Western’s graduates remain in the Roanoke area. Of the current student body, 65 percent are enrolled in programs that fill the workforce needs of the region.

“University officials have often stated that transfer students generally perform better than students who enroll on a first-year basis, mainly because they are frequently more motivated,” Heywood Fralin said. “Virginia Western Community College does a great job of educating students who transfer to four-year universities. Those who go through its rigorous programs will be able to secure employment in the Roanoke Valley and will be future leaders.”
The 2013 Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy recipients from each of Virginia’s 23 community colleges are recognized at a luncheon hosted by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE).

Mr. William H. Fralin, Jr. attended the luncheon to honor the Horace G. Fralin Charitable Trust gift of $5 million to Virginia Western Community College supporting STEM-H scholarships.

Joining Fralin at the luncheon were Virginia Western President Dr. Robert H. Sandel, Virginia Western Educational Foundation Board of Directors President Edwin Hall, Vice President Katherine Elliott, Secretary Ken Randolph, Immediate Past President James Arend, Virginia Western Vice President of Institutional Advancement Dr. Angela M. Garcia Falconetti and her staff.

The Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy is in its eighth year, and the current class of distinguished philanthropy leaders contributed a combined total of more than $17 million to Virginia’s Community Colleges.

“The generosity of the two dozen philanthropy leaders we honor represents a brilliant collection of individuals, foundations and employers who believe in the sheer beauty of transformation,” VCCS Chancellor Glenn DuBois said. “They believe in the knowledge and skills that Virginia’s Community Colleges offer to every Virginian. We thank them deeply for the partnerships that demonstrate the brilliance of philanthropy.”
Virginia Western Community College participated in the U.S. Department of Education’s third annual back-to-school bus tour.

A town hall meeting was held at Virginia Western’s Whitman Theatre, and the discussion focused on college and career readiness. The Virginia Western stop kicked off the final day of the back-to-school bus tour, culminating a journey that crossed the country over a two-week period following the start of fall classes.

The town hall meeting panel included: Virginia Western Educational Foundation Director Emeritus John Williamson, President and CEO of RGC Resources and Virginia Western alumnus; Virginia Western English Faculty Brenda Ashcraft, leader of the Virginia’s Community Colleges Achieve 2015 effort for Developmental English Redesign; U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, focusing on the theme that Education Drives America; and Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education Brenda Dann-Messier; and was facilitated by Virginia Western’s President, Dr. Robert H. Sandel.

“What employers are looking for, what this college can do for students and what students can do for themselves, is to remember that in terms of getting a job and being successful, technical skills are important but it’s really about being able to communicate,” Williamson said.

“I think the employers in this region really respect this institution,” he said. “Really, in the last eight or ten years since Dr. Sandel came, this community college has gone from a quiet little secret to a jewel asset.”

Secretary Duncan and Assistant Secretary Dann-Messier announced the release of the “Adult College Completion Toolkit.” The toolkit includes resources meant to link state administrators and local authorities to the Education Department’s work in the area of adult education. It focuses on three key areas: access, quality, and completion. Target student populations include veterans, adult learners, incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals, and immigrants.

At a roundtable discussion earlier in the day, 30 Virginia Western adult education students joined Dann-Messier and other senior Department of Education officials to discuss their experiences at the College and in the community as adult learners. Students highlighted the support services that allow them to successfully transition to postsecondary education and careers.

Virginia Western Mechatronics students led Assistant Secretary Dann-Messier on a tour of the College’s cutting-edge Mechatronics Lab. Interim Dean of the School of Business, Engineering and Technology Debbie Yancey (pictured)—a Virginia Western alumna—and Mechatronics faculty Dan Horine joined the tour and highlighted the College’s commitment to providing career pathways.
Bill Flint, a 1971 graduate of Virginia Western, was born and raised in Pulaski. During his career he worked for Libby Owens Ford Glass, AEP Industries, W.R. Grace Co., Flambeau Corp., and the J B Poindexter Co. He published The Journey to Competitive Advantage through Servant Leadership in 2011. The book has received acclaim, being reviewed by entrepreneurial magazines and websites. He said the goal of his book “is to help leaders and organizations understand it is truly possible to build the company every person dreams of working for and every president has a vision of leading.” Learn more at www.servantleaders.org.

Olyvia Christley attended Virginia Western as a home-school student at the age of 15 through the dual enrollment program. She graduated in 2009, completing her high school requirements and earning an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts at the College. Through the Educational Foundation, Olyvia received scholarships that provided her with three years of education at no cost. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia. After working as an intern for the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office in Charlottesville, Olyvia returned to the Roanoke area. She now works as a legislative aide in Congressman Bob Goodlatte’s Roanoke office. While at Virginia Western, Olyvia was a member of the Honors Institute, completing 18 hours of honors coursework over two years and volunteering a minimum of 15 hours a semester.

Lori Mier completed a degree in Human Services in 2011 and now works at Virginia Western as the Volunteer Center Coordinator, an Educational Foundation Innovation Grant funded position. While at Virginia Western, Lori supplemented her Human Services education by serving as president of the Virginia Western Community Action Network. Lori was also a member of Phi Theta Kappa and serves as president of the Honors Institute.

For Your Benefit

The Virginia Western Alumni Association has partnered with Meyer and Associates to offer a suite of products that includes Health, Life, Long-Term Care, Travel, and Pet insurance. Most products are available to alumni, students, faculty, and staff, as well as their spouses, domestic partners, parents, children, and siblings. Revenue generated from the program supports alumni relations programs.

M&A seeks to inform and educate alumni—not simply sell policies—and has products available for every stage of life. To learn more about the various products, run free quotes, and purchase some products online, visit http://meyerandassoc.com/vwcc.

We hope you’ll take advantage of this terrific program, as it’s one of the benefits of being a Virginia Western alum!
“Jerry” Pace

Gerald Michael (Jerry) Pace, Sr., served on the Virginia Western Educational Foundation Board of Directors beginning in 2007, volunteering on the Development Committee and finding his way into the hearts and lives of everyone in the Virginia Western community. Born in Pulaski, Virginia on January 7, 1934 to the late Willard Harvey Pace and Blanche Hinson Pace, he passed away April 18, 2012, at his home in Salem.

At the time of his death, Jerry was president of Pace Management Systems, Inc., a machine tool manufacturing sales consulting company. Jerry served on the Salem School Board for 15 years from its inception, and one term on Salem City Council. In addition to his service on the Virginia Western Educational Foundation board, he also served on the Board of Trustees of Virginia Intermont College in Bristol.

As an Educational Foundation board member, Jerry committed his time and resources to the establishment of the Community College Access Program (CCAP) for Salem City in 2008. As the legacy of Jerry’s work, CCAP has now expanded to cover Virginia Western’s entire service region.

Always seeking a new challenge, he began teaching courses in the School of Business, Engineering, and Technology in 2010, allowing students to learn from an individual with an extensive background in private industry.

“Chip” Woodrum


The grandson of Congressman Clifton A. Woodrum, Chip was a member of the Roanoke City Young Democrat Club from 1960-1972, chairman of the 6th District Democratic Committee from 1972-1976, and a delegate to the 1972 Democratic National Convention in Miami, Fla. He was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1979 and served through 2003. He represented the 16th House District, which included Roanoke City and Roanoke County.

In 2004, he was appointed to the board of the Library of Virginia, serving as chairman from 2011-2012. He served on the board of trustees of the Virginia Historical Society. In addition to the Virginia Western Community College Educational Foundation Board of Directors, he also served on the Board of HomeTown Bank.
Friendship Retirement Community Names RN Nursing Lab and RN Simulation Lab in New Building

Friendship Retirement Community announced its support of Virginia Western by agreeing to name the RN Nursing Lab and RN Simulation Lab in the Center for Science and Health Professions. The center is scheduled to open for student access at the onset of the fall 2013 semester, and houses classroom and lab space.

“Virginia Western and the nursing program are the perfect partner for Friendship Retirement Community,” said Russ Barksdale, Friendship Retirement Community President and CEO. “The students educated in the new Center for Science and Health Professions today will be the nurses we’re hiring tomorrow.”

The naming of the two nursing labs is the first to be granted by the Virginia Western Educational Foundation for the $26 million center currently under construction. The Educational Foundation works with community organizations and businesses interested in investing in the College and the Roanoke Valley by supporting students through a variety of tuition-assistance programs.

“An investment like that by Friendship Retirement creates additional learning opportunities for students from the entire service region,” said Dr. Robert Sandel, President of Virginia Western Community College.

Foundation for Roanoke Valley

The Foundation for Roanoke Valley announced its support of Virginia Western’s Community College Access Program (CCAP) through a $50,000 grant from its Community Catalyst Funds. Foundation for Roanoke Valley and Virginia Western share the same aspirations for the Roanoke area—to meet current and future community needs for an educated and prepared workforce, to create opportunities for students throughout the Roanoke Valley region, and to shape a healthy, caring community.

“Supporting educational programs is one of our priority focus areas, and this major grant to CCAP further demonstrates our commitment to providing leadership, resources and inspiration for philanthropy throughout the communities we serve in western Virginia,” said FRV Executive Director Alan Ronk.

Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission

The Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission awarded the Educational Foundation a $75,000 grant to support CCAP for Franklin County, which was an increase of $25,000 over the 2011 grant.
SCHOLAR SOCIETY
$350 - $749
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