



Virginia's Community Colleges
Onward & Upward * 2023 Diversity Calendar



FRESH LOOK: Five of Virginia's Community Colleges adopted new names in 2022 after being engaged in an extensive process of research and reflection. **Top left:** President John Rainone unveils a podium's new signage for Mountain Gateway Community College. **Top right:** Fauquier Campus Provost/Vice President of Communications and Planning Chris Coutts, Student Ambassador Jessica Bagby and Associate Vice President of Student Services and Academic Support Caroline Wood unveil the new sign for Laurel Ridge Community College. **Photo credit:** Kaitlyn Lambert **Bottom left:** Brightpoint hosts block parties at their campuses to kick off the new year, allowing students to meet each other, play games, enjoy music, and meet with faculty, staff and others who set up tables. **Photo credit:** Clem Britt. **Bottom right:** Virginia Peninsula trucks in new signage to mark its new name. The fifth college became Patrick and Henry Community College.

January

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2 Holiday observed	3	4 World Braille Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Makar Sankranti (Hindu)
15 World Religion Day	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17 National Day of Racial Healing	18 VCCS State Board Meeting	19	20	21
22 Lunar New Year	23	24	25	26	27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day	28
29	30	31				
Learning Moments	World Religion Day reminds us of the need for harmony, understanding among world's 4,200 religions	Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2023 theme: "Together We Can Be THE Dream"	National Day of Racial Healing: Launched Jan. 17, 2017, the day focuses shared humanity. For conversation guides, activities & more in your workplace, visit this website: https://healourcommunities.org/2023-action-kits/#community-events		Lunar New Year: Celebrated by many Asian nationalities across the world	International Holocaust Remembrance Day remembers annihilation of 6 million European Jews. Learn more at ushmm.org



SPRING FLING: Reynolds Community College hosts its inaugural Spring Fling, which featured face painting, the three egg hunts, and special appearances of Flying Squirrels Nutzy and Nutasha. Held on the Parham Road campus, the free event also featured food trucks and safety awareness presentations.

February

2023

Black History Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 National Freedom Day VCCS Technology Council through Feb. 2	2	3	4 Rosa Parks Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day Advisory Council of Presidents through Feb. 15	15 Nirvana Day (Buddhist)	16	17	18 Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
19 Presidents Day World Day of Social Justice	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday (Christian)	23	24	25
26	27	28				
LEARNING MOMENTS	Black History Month uplifts achievements, contributions of African Americans. Learn more at nmaahc.si.edu	Black History Month founder Carter G. Woodson was born in 1875 in New Canton, Virginia	National Freedom Day marks signing of the 13 th Amendment, which abolished slavery in the U.S.	Nirvana Day recognizes the death of Buddha & his reaching Nirvana, a state of no suffering and complete understanding	Ash Wednesday begins 40-day Lenten period of fasting, prayer, almsgiving	World Day of Social Justice established by United Nations to encourage actions that lead to socially just world



DROPPIN' KNOWLEDGE: Experts from near and far bring knowledge to students and employees of Virginia's Community Colleges at multiple conferences. **Top left:** Speaker Hoan Do motivates more than 200 attendees at the Student Leadership Conference. During the Coaching and Advising Institute, Dr. Christine Barrow of Education Strategy Group (**top right**) shares strategies for working with adult learners and "The Adult-Ready Playbook," while scholar Dr. J. Luke Wood (**bottom right**) of San Diego State University emphasizes how engaged, culturally affirming student services professionals aid student success. **Bottom right:** Dr. Kevin Snyder tells Hire Education conference attendees that thriving organizations realize that growth is impossible without experiencing change. **Photo credit:** Clem Britt

March

2023

Women's History Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Codd, WDAC, ASAC meets March 1-3	2	3	4
5	6 Purim (Jewish)	7 Holi (Hindu)	8 International Women's Day	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 VCCS State Board meets through March 16	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19	20	21 Naw Ruz (Baha'i) International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	22 VCCS Technology Council meets through March 23 Ramadan (Islam) begins	23	24	25 International Remembrance Day for Victims of Slavery, Transatlantic Slave Trade
26	27	28	29 New Horizons Conference, March 29-31	30	31 Cesar Chavez Day International Transgender Day of Visibility	
LEARNING MOMENTS	Purim starts night of March 6 & celebrates salvation of Jewish people in ancient Persia	Holi is a widely celebrated Hindu festival. Find a toolkit at hinduamerican.org	Naw Ruz , the Baha'i and Persian New Year, observed by millions, focuses on fresh start.	Ramadan is one of five pillars of Islam. Muslims fast from food, drink during daylight hours	New Horizons meets in Roanoke. Find details at newhorizons.vccs.edu	Cesar Chavez , Mexican American United Farm Workers labor leader, civil rights activist



ART CHOPS: Dental hygiene students Summer Blevins, Taylor Moser, Kiah Hall, and Emma Pallotti (left to right) stand by their winning artistry at Virginia Western's sidewalk chalk art show. Creations of about a dozen student clubs as well as faculty and staff departments were judged by a panel. **Photo credit:** Jason Reid.

April

2023

Arab American Heritage Month * Celebrate Diversity Month * Autism Awareness Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 April Fool's Day
2 World Autism Awareness Day Palm Sunday (Christian)	3	4	5 Passover (Jewish)	6	7 Good Friday (Christian)	8
9 Easter (Christian)	10	11	12	13	14 National Day of Silence for LGBTQ+	15
16	17 Yom HaShoah (Jewish) begins at sundown, ends April 18 nightfall	18 Advisory Council of Presidents Tax Day	19	20	21 Eid al-Fitr (Islam) First Day of Ridvan (Bahai)	22 Earth Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	LEARNING MOMENTS	World Autism Day spreads awareness for the rights of people with autism	Passover , from sundown April 5 through nightfall April 13	Good Friday remembers crucifixion of Jesus Christ, Easter celebrates the resurrection of Christ	Eid al-Fitr celebrated worldwide by Muslims, marks end of Ramadan	Ridvan marks holiest festival of Baha'i faith, celebrated April 21-May 2.



CHEF'S DELIGHT: Student Samara Ray, Chef Kevin Phelps, an adjunct faculty member, and Student Sameria Jones make a mirepoix for a soup. They are part of Central Virginia's Culinary Arts and Management Program, which was launched in 2011 and has graduated more than 100 students. **Photo credit:** Amy Pearman

May

2023

Asian American-Pacific Islander Heritage Month * Mental Health Awareness Month * Older Americans Month * Jewish American Heritage Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 National Day of Prayer	5 Cinco de Mayo	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17 International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, Biphobia	18	19	20
21	22 Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)	23	24	25 Shavuot (Jewish)	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			
LEARNING MOMENTS	National Day of Prayer , created in 1952, invites people to pray for the United States.	Cinco de Mayo celebrates 1862 victory of Mexican soldiers over French empire.	Mother's Day , a national holiday since 1914. White carnations are the official flower.	International Day against Homophobia raises awareness about rights violations of LGBTQ people	Declaration of the Bab , a Baha'i holiday. Learn more about the faith at www.bahai.us	Memorial Day mourns U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the armed forces.



POWER UP: Matthew Lundy prepares for class at Wytheville Community College's Power Line Worker Training Program. Lundy, who graduated in October 2022, was part of WCC's Tenth Graduating Class of Power Line Workers since the program's inception in 2017. **Photo Credit:** Deanna Bradberry

June

2023

LGBTQ Pride Month * Immigrant Heritage Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 WDAC/ASAC meeting	2 Indian Citizenship Act of 1924	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Race Unity Day	12 Loving Day	13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17
18 Father's Day	19 Juneteenth	20 World Refugee Day Advisory Council of Presidents through June 21	21 Summer Solstice	22	23	24
25	26 The Hajj: Pilgrimage to Mecca (Islam)	27	28 Eid al-Adha	29	30	
LEARNING MOMENTS	Indian Citizenship Act granted U.S. citizenship to indigenous people born in this nation	Loving Day marks U.S. Supreme court decision on interracial marriage. See lovingday.org	Flag Day marks adoption of U.S. flag in 1777. Since then, there have been 27 versions.	Juneteenth celebrates emancipation of enslaved people in the U.S., state and federal holiday	World Refugee Day focuses on improving lives of millions of refugees, who have been displaced. Learn more about the challenge at un.org	The Hajj , mandatory religious duty for Muslims, making a pilgrimage to Mecca once in lifetime.



NATURE'S GARDEN: Tidewater students Desiray Martinez and Chad Hargro, members of the Biology Club, work on a butterfly garden to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day in 2022. More than a dozen students, faculty, and staff also planted trees, making a Japanese maple tree the garden's centerpiece, at Tidewater's Chesapeake Campus, which is a Certified Monarch Way Station. **Photo credit:** Laura J. Sanford

July

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 International Non-Binary People's Day	15
16	17	18 International Nelson Mandela Day	19 Al-Hijri New Year (Islam)	20	21	22
23	24 Pioneer Day (Latter-day Saints)	25	26 National Disability Independence Day	27	28	29
30 International Day of Friendship	31	LEARNING MOMENTS	Pioneer Day celebrates the arrival of the first Latter-day Saint pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847	International Non-Binary People's Day discusses gender. Learn more at https://nglcc.org/blog/internationalnonbinaryday/	Al-Hijri celebrates New Year by Muslims worldwide (based on lunar calendar)	National Disability Independence Day marks 1990 signing of Americans with Disabilities Act . Learn more at ada.gov



GORGEOUS GOWNS: As part of its celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Blue Ridge's Fine Arts Center Kinetic Gallery showcases seven exquisite quinceañera gowns belonging to Edilza Alfaro Díaz of Edilza's Party Zone and holds a celebratory reception featuring authentic cuisine from El Paisano. A quinceañera celebrates a girl's 15th birthday, marking her passage from girlhood to womanhood. Hispanic Heritage Month is observed Sept. 15 through Oct. 15. **Photo credit:** Lance Foster

August

2023

DIVERSITY AWARENESS MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Women's Equality Day gain right to vote in 1920
27	28	29	30	31		
LEARNING MOMENTS	The U.N. encourages protection of rights for indigenous people worldwide each Aug. 9.	Learn more about indigenous people in the U.S. and beyond at americanindian.si.edu	Women's Equality Day marks the day the 19 th Amendment was certified.	Find resources for Women's Equality Day at nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org	This year's Women's Equality Day theme, "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories"	Visit an online women's museum at www.womenshistory.org



SOCCER FEAT: Members of Patrick & Henry's NJCAA Region X Division II Men's soccer team get a little footwork practice in before the homecoming pep rally. **Photo credit:** Randy Ferguson

September

2023

National Hispanic Heritage Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 9.11 Patriot Day	12	13	14	15 Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) through Sept. 17	16 Mexican Independence Day
17	18	19	20 HeForShe, U.N. promotion of gender equality	21	22 Autumnal Equinox	23
24 Yom Kippur (Jewish) through Sept. 25	25	26	27	28	29 Sukkot (Jewish) through Oct. 6	30
LEARNING MOMENTS	National Hispanic Heritage Month , Sept. 15-Oct. 15, recognizes contributions of Hispanics. Learn more at hispanicheritagemonth.gov	One in five people in the U.S. is Latino/Hispanic, roughly 62.5 million in 2021	Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year	Yom Kippur , the holiest day of the year, is the Day of Atonement	Sukkot follows solemn High Holiday, celebrates time of joy, happiness	National Recovery Month focuses on substance use disorder. See samhsa.gov for resources



CHESS MATES: Rashid Exama and Fidel Guerrero congratulate one another after a grueling chess match on Eastern Shore Community College Club Day. In 1976, President Gerald Ford declared Oct. 9 National Chess Day, while International Chess Day has been celebrated on July 20 since 1966. **Photo credit:** Bill LeCato

October

2023

Global Diversity Awareness Month * National Disability Employment Awareness Month * Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Indigenous Peoples' Day Columbus Day	10 World Mental Health Day	11 National Coming Out Day	12	13	14
15	16	17 Spirit Day	18 International Pronouns Day	19	20	21
22 International Stuttering Awareness Day	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween				
LEARNING MOMENTS	Disability Employment Awareness Month recommits to eliminating workplace barriers	About 26% of adults in the U.S. have a disability, but only 22% participate in workforce	Learn about Breast Cancer Awareness at cancer.org and komen.org . Wear pink!	Indigenous Peoples' Day honors the indigenous people of North America	World Mental Health Day raises awareness, mobilizes support for mental health issues	Wear purple to support LGBTQ youth, speak out against bullying on Spirit Day



CULTURALLY HEALTHY: Rappahannock Nursing student Karley Flesher shares information about the Chickahominy Indian Tribe during a culture fair. Learning about other communities of people help the students when dealing with diverse patients. **Photo credit:** Stacie Wind, AHEC Program Manager, Rappahannock Community College

November

2023

Native American Heritage Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 All Saints Day (Christian)	2 Dia de los Muertos	3	4
5	6	7 Election Day (observed in Commonwealth of Virginia)	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day
12 Diwali (Hindu)	13	14	15	16 International Day for Tolerance	17	18
19	20 Transgender Day of Remembrance	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
LEARNING MOMENTS	Veterans Day dates to 1919, honors veterans for patriotism, willingness to serve, sacrifice for good	U.S. had about 16.5 million veterans in 2021, most of whom were from Vietnam era, according to the U.S. Census	Diwali celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Buddhists. Learn even more hinduamerican.org/diwali-toolkit	Transgender Day of Remembrance honors those who killed violently. Learn more at glaad.org/tdor	International Day for Tolerance promotes awareness of the value of tolerance in society	Thanksgiving was proclaimed a national holiday by President Lincoln in 1863



CELEBRATING CYBER: Danville Community College hosts a ribbon cutting for its new CyberCenter. Aliscia Andrews, Virginia's Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security (third from right), joins college leaders, including CyberCenter Director Steven Carrigan (third from the left) and DCC President Jerry Wallace (2nd from the right). The CyberCenter offers two certificates, Cybercrime Investigations and Cybersecurity. **Photo credit:** Von Wellington Photography

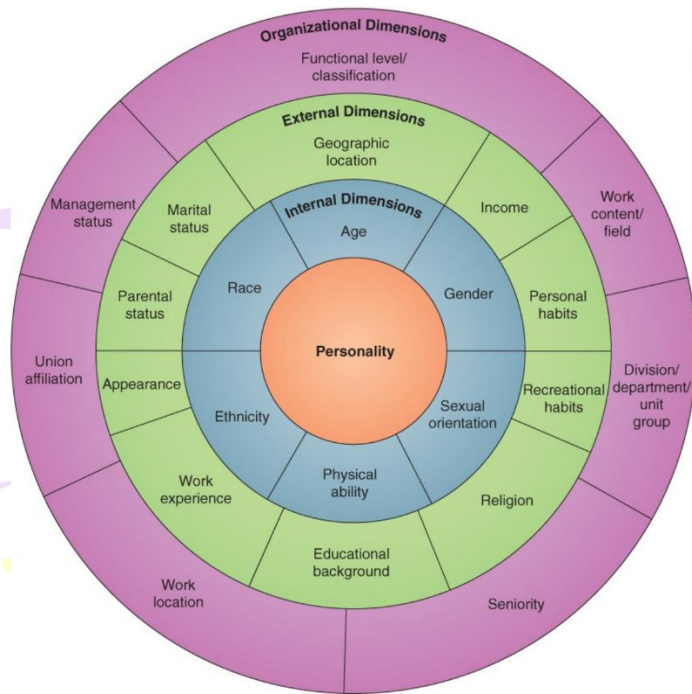
December

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 World AIDS Day	2
3 International Day for Persons with Disabilities	4	5	6	7 Hanukkah begins through Dec. 15	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Las Posadas through Dec. 24
17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice/Yule	22	23
24	25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa begins through Jan. 1	27	28	29	30
31	LEARNING MOMENTS	World AIDS Day raises awareness about HIV/AIDS epidemic, observed since 1988	Hanukkah is an 8-day Jewish holiday celebrating the rededication of the Temple	Las Posadas is a religious festival celebrated in Mexico and parts of the U.S. during Christmas	Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ in Christian religions, also is a cultural event	Learn more about Kwanzaa celebrates history, culture, values at nmaahc.si.edu/kwanzaa#



LEGO LESSONS: Students from across Virginia’s Community Colleges took the Student Leadership Conference theme “The Rebuild” seriously, literally and figuratively. Using LEGO blocks to visualize new thinking about connections, the students also built their professional and personal networks, brushed up on communication skills, polished their elevator pitches, and learned more about leadership and service. In service to others, they prepared and packed 20,000 meals for the Rise Against Hunger world food relief project. **Photo credit:** Clem Britt



Let's face it. Diversity is complicated, but we can always work to achieve more cultural competence.

Religion is one of the many aspects of diversity. Once again, we have recognized many holidays in the 2023 calendar. Some days observe the religious traditions of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and more.

To continue our own personal and professional growth, we are sharing another resource this year. The Aspen Institute offers a 15-minute primer on religious pluralism. Aspen has this to say about religious pluralism: "Religious pluralism is a vision of the world in which diverse religious communities and non-believers engage each other in beneficial ways, maintain their distinct identities, and thrive and defend one another's right to thrive. The first clause of the First Amendment encapsulates an ideal of American religious freedom amid a recognition of American religious diversity." Find the primer and many other resources to explore religion at [www. www.aspeninstitute.org/programs/religion-society-program](http://www.aspeninstitute.org/programs/religion-society-program).

If you have suggestions or concerns, please email Carla J. Kimbrough, VCCS Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer, at ckimbrough@vccs.edu

SPECIAL NOTE: Onward & Upward: The cover of 2023 VCCS Diversity Calendar features Tidewater 2022 graduate Katherine Guevara, who plans to transfer to Old Dominion University to continue her education. Each year, thousands of students from Virginia's Community Colleges take their credits and advance their educational credentials at institutions across the Commonwealth. Photo supplied by Tidewater Community College Campus Communications.

