

THE INAUGURATION OF

Dr. Laura J. Freanor

AS FIFTH PRESIDENT OF
VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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September 25, 2026

Jefferson Center
Roanoke, Virginia

VIRGINIA
WESTERN

ORDER OF CEREMONY

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Beth A. Quinn

*Chair, Virginia Western Community
College Local Advisory Board*

PROCESSIONAL

Jean Sibelius

*Symphony No. 2 in D Major,
Op. 43: Finale (Allegro moderato)*

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Crystal Williams

WELCOME

Dr. Beth A. Quinn

REFLECTIONS ON LEADERSHIP

Dr. Charles R. Johnson

President, Vincennes University

GREETINGS FROM THE COMMUNITY

The Honorable Rev. Dr. Joseph L. Cobb

Mayor, City of Roanoke, Virginia

GREETINGS FROM THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

David Dantzler

*Chair, Scholarship & Foundation
Grants Committee, Virginia Western
Community College Educational
Foundation Board of Directors*

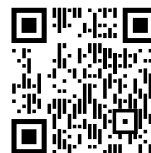
SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS

*Bobbie Moulton, VQAS
Delila Spradlin, RID, CT*

CLOSED CAPTIONING

*Closed Captioning is available through mobile devices.
Scan the code or visit virginiawestern.edu/ceremony
to view captions in English and Spanish.*



**GREETINGS FROM
THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Hagar Atef Youssef

*Virginia Western Alumna, Class of 2026
& Current Student at Radford University*

Anna Goltz

*Corporate Training Administrative
Assistant & Chair of Staff Senate,
Virginia Western Community College*

Dr. Jordan Tucker

*Program Head and Professor,
Physical Therapist Assistant &
Chair of Administrative Faculty Senate,
Virginia Western Community College*

Jenifer Kurtz

*Program Head, General Studies,
Associate Professor, English, &
Past President of Faculty Senate,
Virginia Western Community College*

**REMARKS FROM THE VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**

Dr. David Doré

Chancellor, Virginia Community College System

**INVESTITURE
OF THE PRESIDENT**

Dr. David Doré

**INTRODUCTION
OF THE PRESIDENT**

Richard C. “Dick” Treanor

Father of Dr. Treanor

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Dr. Laura J. Treanor

President, Virginia Western Community College

CLOSING

Dr. Beth A. Quinn

RECESSIONAL

Antonín Dvořák

Carnival Overture, Op. 92

BIOGRAPHY OF DR. LAURA J. TREANOR

Dr. Laura J. Treanor became the fifth president of Virginia Western Community College on July 1, 2025. Throughout more than three decades in higher education, she has dedicated her career to advancing educational excellence through innovation, collaboration, and partnerships that strengthen students and the communities they serve.

A passionate advocate for student success, instructional quality, and employee development, Dr. Treanor is recognized for bringing people together around a shared vision and leading thoughtful, collaborative change. To her, leadership is defined not by title or position, but by the willingness to create opportunity for others. She believes everyone has the capacity to lead from where they are, and that colleges have both the opportunity and responsibility to transform lives while serving as catalysts for regional growth and prosperity.

Before joining Virginia Western, Dr. Treanor served as Provost and Senior Vice President for Instructional Services at Vincennes University. Earlier, she held senior academic leadership roles at

Baker College and faculty appointments at Roanoke College, West Virginia University, and Barton College.

An active leader in higher education and the community, Dr. Treanor serves on several national and regional executive boards and contributes to organizations advancing economic development, innovation, workforce development, and community collaboration. She is the recipient of the Distinguished Woman Leader Award from the American Council on Education Women's Network of Indiana.

Dr. Treanor holds bachelor's and doctoral degrees from Virginia Tech and a master's degree from The Ohio State University. She and her husband, Brian, live in Roanoke, where they enjoy exploring Virginia, taking day trips, playing board and card games, and watching documentaries.

She believes a college's greatest legacy is measured not by the credentials it awards, but by the opportunities it creates for individuals, families, employers, and the communities it serves, a belief that continues to shape her presidency at Virginia Western Community College.



DELEGATES FROM INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

WILLIAM & MARY, 1693
William H. Payne, II, *Alumnus*

**WASHINGTON AND LEE
UNIVERSITY, 1749**
Cassie Hunt, *Executive Director
of Strategic Analysis*

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, 1819
Dr. Stephen Levine, *Associate Dean
for Academic Affairs, School of
Continuing and Professional Studies*

HOLLINS UNIVERSITY, 1842
Dr. Mary Dana Hinton, *President*

ROANOKE COLLEGE, 1842
Dr. Frank Shushok, Jr., *President*

**VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY, 1872**
Dr. Ron Fricker, *Vice Provost for
Faculty Affairs*

RANDOLPH COLLEGE, 1891
Dr. Andrew Moore, *Associate Provost*

UNIVERSITY OF LYNCHBURG, 1903
Dr. Chip Walton, *Interim Chief
Academic Officer and Vice President
of Academics & Strategic Operations*

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY, 1908
Kelly N. Ball, *Associate Vice President
for Access & Enrollment and Director
of Admissions*

RADFORD UNIVERSITY, 1910
Dr. Bret Danilowicz, *President*

FERRUM COLLEGE, 1913
Dr. Mirta Martin, *President*

**NEW RIVER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1959**
Dr. Robert Brandon, *President*

**CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT
UNIVERSITY, 1960**
Curtis Davidson, *Director of
Undergraduate Admission*

**MOUNTAIN GATEWAY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1962**
Dr. John J. Rainone, *President*

**PATRICK & HENRY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1962**
Dr. J. Gregory Hodges, *President*

**WYTHEVILLE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1963**
Dr. Dean Sprinkle, *President*

**CENTRAL VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1966**
Dr. John Capps, *President*

**DANVILLE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1966**
Dr. Cornelius Johnson, *President*

**BLUE RIDGE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1967**
Dr. John A. Downey, *President*

**BRIGHTPOINT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1967**
Dr. William Fiege, *President*

**VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1967**
Dr. Adam Hutchison, *President*

**VIRGINIA PENINSULA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1967**
Dr. Towuanna Porter Brannon,
President

**SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1968**
Dr. Clinton Hayes, *President*

**TIDEWATER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1968**
Dr. Marcia Conston, *President*

**GERMANNA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1970**
Dr. Tashika Griffith, *President*

**LAUREL RIDGE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1970**
Amy Judd, *Associate Vice President,
Planning and Institutional Effectiveness*

**PAUL D. CAMP
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1970**
Dr. Justin M. Oliver, *Vice President
of Academics & Student Services*

**RAPPAHANNOCK
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1970**
Dr. Shannon L. Kennedy, *President*

**SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1970**
Dr. Quentin Johnson, *President*

**EASTERN SHORE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1971**
Dr. Daryl Minus, *President*

**J. SARGEANT REYNOLDS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1972**
Dr. Timothy W. Merrill, *Associate
Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness*

**MOUNTAIN EMPIRE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1972**
Dr. Kristen Westover, *President*

**PIEDMONT VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1972**
Dr. Jean Runyon, *President*

INSTITUTIONS SENDING GREETINGS

BATTEN UNIVERSITY
Dr. Scott Miller, *President*

BLUEFIELD UNIVERSITY
Dr. Steve Peterson, *President*

EASTERN MENNONITE
UNIVERSITY
Dr. Shannon Dycus, *President*

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE
Dr. Larry Stimpert, *President*

HAMPTON UNIVERSITY
Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Darrell K. Williams,
President

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
Dr. Dondi Costin, *President*

NORTHERN VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Dr. Anne Kress, *President*

PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE
Jack Haye, *President*

RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE
Dr. Michael Hill, *President*

SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY
Dr. Tracy Fitzsimmons, *President*

UNIVERSITY OF MARY
WASHINGTON
Dr. Troy Paino, *President*

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
Dr. Kevin Hallock, *President*

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA'S
COLLEGE AT WISE
Dr. Donna Henry, *President*

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH
UNIVERSITY
Dr. Michael Rao, *President*

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE
Lt. Gen. (Ret.) David Furness,
Superintendent



ABOUT VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Virginia Western Community College is a two-year public institution of higher education operating under the Virginia Community College System. The College, established in 1966, is located on a 70-acre campus in Roanoke, Virginia, with a service region that covers Roanoke, Salem, Roanoke County, Craig County, Franklin County, and southern Botetourt County.

Nearly 90 full-time faculty and more than 180 full-time staff members and administrators, along with approximately 250

part-time faculty and 150 part-time staff, serve Virginia Western's students. Virginia Western also offers outreach and coursework at several off-campus sites: the Roanoke EnVision Center; the Claude Moore Education Complex at the Roanoke Higher Education Center; the Greenfield Education & Training Center; and the Franklin Center for Advanced Learning & Enterprise.

The College has grown from an initial enrollment of 1,352 to its current annual





enrollment of over 9,000 students in credit courses and more than 1,900 enrollments in fast-track workforce and continuing education courses. More than 100 programs are administered within four schools: Business, Technology & Trades; Health Professions; Liberal Arts & Social Sciences; and Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics.

Along with scholarships and the Student Emergency Fund, the Virginia Western Educational Foundation administers the Community College Access Program (CCAP). Founded in 2008, this public-private partnership provides qualifying high school graduates from this service region tuition

for up to two years. Through 2025–26, CCAP has provided \$13.2 million in tuition assistance to 5,217 students, who have volunteered 42,823 hours as part of the program's community service component.

Virginia Western Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate degrees. Virginia Western Community College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. The College operates under the policies established by the State Board for Community Colleges and the Virginia Western Community College Local Advisory Board.





COLLEGE LEADERSHIP

Dr. Laura J. Treanor
President

Bernadette Battle
Vice President, Student Affairs

Dr. Jolene Hamm
*Associate Vice President,
Institutional Effectiveness*

Marilyn Herbert-Ashton
*Vice President, Institutional
Advancement and Strategic
Initiatives*

Jennifer Pittman
*Associate Vice President,
Human Resources*

Lisa Ridpath
*Vice President, Financial
and Administrative Services*

Dr. Elizabeth Wilmer
*Vice President, Academic
and Workforce Solutions*





VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THE FRALIN
CENTER

FOR SCIENCE AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONS





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Jamal Millner

A photograph of a garden in autumn. In the foreground, there is a large bush of bright pink flowers. A gravel path leads from the bottom right towards a wooden bench. The bench is positioned under a trellis structure covered with green and yellowing vines. The background is filled with trees showing vibrant autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

**PAST PRESIDENTS
OF VIRGINIA WESTERN**



TRAVIS M. MCKENZIE
1966 – 1968

HAROLD H. HOPPER
1968 – 1980

CHARLES L. DOWNS
1981 – 2001

ROBERT H. SANDEL
2001 – 2025

REGALIA & MACE

ACADEMIC REGALIA

Academic regalia has historic significance, with ranks in education following the tradition of guilds or trades in medieval Europe. In the United States, a group of universities created the Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume in 1895, and the American Council on Education standardized details into the Academic Costume Code in 1935.

Caps used today stem from two styles that were popular during the 11th and 12th centuries: the square cap, a biretta, and the round cap, a pileus. Most degree holders today wear a square mortarboard cap, while doctoral degree holders may wear a six- or eight-sided velvet tam.

Academic gowns vary in design according to degree. Associate and bachelor's gowns are simple in cut and shape. The master's gown has long flowing sleeves, which were once an indication of teaching. The doctoral gown has the fullest cut with a fitted cuff on the sleeve, velvet panels on the front and three bars on the sleeve, which may be black or the color representing the attained degree. Many academic institutions today design doctoral gowns with the color or symbolism of the institution.

The academic hood is worn over the gown. The border is made of velvet with the color representing the academic degree. The inner design, known as a chevron, is made up of two colors representing the institution granting the degree. The length of the hood varies with the degree. Each successive highest degree carries with it a longer and more full hood.

PRESIDENTIAL REGALIA

The regalia worn by President Treanor represents Virginia Western with shades of blue accented by gold on the robe and hood. Presidential gowns are distinctive for their sleeves' fourth bar, reserved for leaders of an academic institution. Velvet panels feature the Virginia Western seal.

PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System presents the Presidential Medallion to a new president to represent the authority and responsibilities vested by the Chancellor and the State Board for Community Colleges. Worn on ceremonial occasions, the Presidential Medallion features the VCCS seal.

MACE

The mace traditionally symbolizes academic dignity and authority invested by an institution's governing body, often carried at the head of academic processions. The new College mace, first used at Commencement in May 2026, represents a cross-departmental vision crafted in Virginia Western's Fab Lab with support from community partners. Its design honors the College's first 60 years with an eye toward the future. Made of sapele wood, a sustainably harvested cousin of mahogany, the mace's lantern-style head contains engraved disks with the College seal on four faces. The upper portion of the shaft features five aluminum rings, saltwater-etched with the signatures of the College's five presidents. The lower portion of the shaft contains six narrower bands to symbolize each decade of the College.

AGRICULTURE, *maize*

ARTS, LETTERS, HUMANITIES, *white*

COMMERCE, ACCOUNTANCY,
BUSINESS, *drab*

DENTISTRY, *lilac*

ECONOMICS, *copper*

EDUCATION, *light blue*

ENGINEERING, *orange*

FINE ARTS, ARCHITECTURE, *brown*

FORESTRY, *russet*

JOURNALISM, *crimson*

LAW, *purple*

LIBRARY SCIENCE, *lemon*

MEDICINE, *green*

MUSIC, *pink*

NURSING, *apricot*

ORATORY SPEECH, *silver gray*

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, *ink*

PHARMACY, *olive green*

PHILOSOPHY, *dark blue*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, *sage green*

PHYSICAL THERAPY, *teal*

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION,
FOREIGN SERVICE, *peacock blue*

PUBLIC HEALTH, *salmon pink*

SCIENCE, *golden yellow*

SOCIAL WORK, *citron*

THEOLOGY, *scarlet*

VETERINARY SCIENCE, *gray*

**SPECIAL THANKS TO
THE MEMBERS OF
THE INAUGURATION
STEERING COMMITTEE**

AMY BALZER

JOE BEAR

KATELYN BURTON

CARRIE DUCKWALL

ANNA GOLTZ

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VIRGINIA
WESTERN