



### Leonard's Corner



Welcome to the third edition of the College of William & Mary's Economic Development newsletter - **CONNECTIVITY**. Much has happened at William & Mary since the last edition of the newsletter.

For starters, I am pleased to be the Director of the Office of Economic Development. I look forward to continuing to work with Jim Golden in his role of Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and the entire William & Mary Community. I am extremely thankful for Jim's leadership and guidance since I came to William & Mary. I also look forward to continuing to work with our many public and private partners to identify new ways William & Mary can contribute to the growth of the local, regional, and state-wide economies.

Each school year at William & Mary formally begins with the [Opening Convocation ceremony](#). During this year's ceremony, William & Mary senior, Mallory Johnson received the President's Award for Service to the Community. Mallory received the student award for "helping with Hurricane Katrina reconstruction, working with the Phoenix Project and creating the student group William & Mary in Petersburg".

Mallory is one of many William & Mary students who excel academically and in civic engagement work that has a positive impact on the [five major economic development projects](#) that leverage the unique strengths of William & Mary: [1\) Greater Williamsburg](#), [2\) Chesapeake Bay](#), [3\) Hampton Roads Technology Clusters](#), [4\) City of Portsmouth - World Class Maritime Center](#), and [5\) The Petersburg Partnership](#).

We hope you enjoy reading **CONNECTIVITY**. To find out more about William & Mary Economic Development and discuss ways we can work with your organization please, complete our [contact card](#). We look forward to hearing from you!

Thanks,

Leonard Sledge  
Director - Office of Economic Development

# [Connectivity]

## • **Algae Initiative Aims to Produce Fuel While Helping the Environment**

[The College of William & Mary](#) and its [Virginia Institute of Marine Science](#) have formed a collaborative research initiative to investigate a promising new technology to produce biofuel from algae growing naturally in rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. The enterprise, called Ch-AP—the Chesapeake Algae Project—is an integrated research approach to algae-based energy production and environmental remediation. It includes a number of corporate partners, notably Statoil Hydro, a Norwegian energy company.

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## • **2009 Hampton Roads Warehousing and Distribution Forum**

[The College of William & Mary Office of Economic Development](#), in conjunction with the Virginia Modeling Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC) and the Hampton Roads Research Partnership, hosted the 2009 Hampton Roads Warehousing and Distribution Forum on Friday, September 20, 2009. The purpose of the forum was to assemble representatives from the Warehousing and Distribution industry in Hampton Roads to hear research on Supply Chains in Hampton Roads, the impact of federal stimulus funding on the Hampton Roads transportation network, and business capabilities of companies in the region. [READ MORE](#)



## • **Design Unveiled for New Student Retail and Housing Project**

The [William & Mary Real Estate Foundation](#) unveiled an architectural drawing Friday for the planned project for College-operated student housing and new retail options on a site near campus on Richmond Road. This is a project designed to address two significant issues—a lack of student-specific retail near campus and a lack of College-operated student housing," said William & Mary President [Taylor Reveley](#). [READ MORE](#)



## • **Study Shows Major Economic Impact of Higher Education**

A new study conducted by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia provides an unprecedented look at the large impact of Virginia's public colleges, universities, and community colleges on Virginia's economic output, job creation, and state tax revenues. The study demonstrates that for every dollar the state spends on the public higher education system, it generates \$13.31 of economic activity and \$1.39 in increased tax revenues that flow back to the State. [READ MORE](#)



## • **Who's in the Office of Economic Development**

Get to know [Leonard Sledge](#), Director of the Office of Economic Development at the College of William & Mary. Favorite Movie - [The Color Purple](#); Favorite Meal - [Anything I Can Cook on the Grill!](#); Best Vacation - Cruise with my family to [Cozumel](#); Favorite Quote - "Life is what you make it...choose to make it GREAT!"

