Welcome back!

- Quick review of VCCS origins
- Today - a look at what a “comprehensive” community college means
- Some community college criticisms
- Impacts of Virginia’s community colleges
- Higher education in Virginia today
“Comprehensive” community college

- An institution of higher education which offers instruction in:
  (as defined in General Assembly legislative language)
- Freshman and sophomore courses in arts and sciences acceptable for transfer in baccalaureate programs
- Diversified technical curricula including programs leading to the associate degree
- Vocational and technical education leading directly to employment
- Courses in general and continuing education for adults

“Comprehensive” community college

- Associate Degree programs (A.A., A.S., and AAS), Diploma Programs, Certificate Programs, and Continuing Education courses
- Special training programs for business and industry (Workforce Training)
- “Open Door” admission policy = 18 years old and “able to benefit”
- Developmental education courses (remedial math and English)
- Geographic access “...a college within commuting distance of every Virginia citizen”
- Fiscal access “...tuition rates that Virginians can afford”
“Comprehensive” community college

• An institution that welcomes (*and supports*) students from diverse educational and social backgrounds
• A place that reflects (and is responsive to) community needs and aspirations
• A school that embodies a philosophy of equal opportunity and values a willingness to learn (*at any age*)
• A community college ethos that rejects educational elitism and social privilege, and favors the “open door”
• A first chance for some, a second chance for others, and the best chance for many

Accreditation

• Initial concern and apprehension of many legislators who opposed the formation of VCCS in the 1950’s and 1960’s
• Accreditation speaks to the quality of the institution, educational programs, faculty, and facilities
• Accreditation is a *necessary condition* for the transfer of credits
• All VCCS colleges were accredited following their initial establishment
• Individual VCCS colleges maintain separate accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools - Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
An early controversy

- American Association of University Professors (AAUP) censures the Virginia Community College System
- Controversy over faculty status in early 1970’s
- Chancellor Hamel decides to abolish “tenure” at VCCS colleges in 1972 to provide more administrative flexibility for colleges
- VCCS emphasizes “teaching” faculty (...not “research” faculty)
- To be replaced with multi-year contracts for faculty
- Existing tenured faculty grandfathered
- AAUP censure status removed in 2003

Guaranteed admission

- An evolutionary process, starting with “transfer guides” in 1970’s
- Agreements to provide a gateway for VCCS students to attend a four-year college or university (36+)
- Admission to all of Virginia’s state-supported senior institutions, and many private schools
- Must complete a transfer Associate Degree (A.A. or A.S.) with a specified minimum GPA
- Contributes to “fiscal access” notion of VCCS mission, i.e., a much less expensive way to earn a Bachelor’s degree
Community college criticisms

- Graduation rates (15% - 47%, depending on how/who you count)
- Open door tolerates the notion of “...the student’s right to fail”
- “Cooling out” function (diminishing the academic expectations of some students)
- *Commuter campus* = no “residential college experience”
- Transfer is too difficult (low acceptance of credits at four-year colleges)
- Too broad a curriculum? (often lacks academic focus)
- *Stigma* of being only a “community college” student

Educational impacts of VCCS

- 234,369 annual unduplicated headcount (credit) enrollment
- 60,000 students enrolled in workforce development training
- 13,199 companies served (through workforce development)
- 40,340 high school students in dual enrollment programs
- 31,260 high school students served by VCCS career counselors

http://www.vccs.edu/about/where-we-are/impact
Economic impact of lower tuition

- **Average tuition costs** (for first two years)
  - at a 4-year university - $12,782
  - at a 2-year community college - $4,587
  - i.e., a student/family can save more than $8,000 by starting a bachelor’s degree in a community college transfer program, and then using a “guaranteed admission” option at a four-year school to finish

Economic impact of TNCC (FY 2014-15)

- **Spending impacts** (2015):
  - operations = $50 million 1,125 jobs
  - students = $17.5 million 429 jobs
  - alumni = $262.1 million 4,901 jobs
  - total spending impact = $329.6 million 6,454 jobs
- Societal value TNCC student higher earnings = $1.5 billion
- Societal social savings of TNCC students = $28.5 million
Personal impacts

• Since 1966, more than 2.5 million individuals have been served by the Virginia Community College System --- each one of them has a story

• My story (Scott) includes taking numerous data processing courses while at Blue Ridge Community College --- which led me to a career shift in the 1990’s

• My story (Richard) includes beginning my academic career at Hinds Junior College in Raymond, Mississippi

Higher education in Virginia today

• State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV)
• 23 Community Colleges
  • 40 + campuses
• 1 Junior College (Richard Bland)
• 15 public four-year universities
  • 13 offer graduate programs
  • multitude of off-campus sites
  • UVA, W&M, JMU, etc. typically ranked high among public universities in USA
• Numerous private, for-profit, and out-of-state colleges

http://www.schev.edu/index/students-and-parents/explore/virginia-institutions
Virginia higher education

• Fall 2018 headcount enrollments:
  • 4-year public (+Richard Bland) = 177,153 students
  • VCCS colleges = 161,587 students = 48% of Virginia Fall 2018 headcount
• 2017-2018 annual unduplicated headcount:
  • 4-year public (+ Richard Bland) = 253,735 students
  • VCCS colleges = 234,369 students = 48% of Virginia’s unduplicated headcount
• 2017-2018 annual full-time equivalent (FTE) students:
  • 4-year public (+ Richard Bland) = 204,999
  • VCCS colleges = 101,570 = 33% of Virginia’s annual FTE

Virginia higher education

• Largest college in Virginia = Northern Virginia Community College (50,000+ students)
• Largest 4-year public institution = George Mason University (37,000+ students)
• 32,555 degrees, diplomas, certificates awarded by VCCS in 2017-18
• VCCS Associate Degree awards 2017-18 = 17,973
• All public 4-year Bachelor Degree awards 2017-18 = 37,916
Virginia higher education

- VCCS 2017-18 E&G expenditures* = $875,737,101 = 18%
  VCCS colleges annual FTES = 101,570 = 33% of Virginia’s annual FTE
  VCCS = $8,622 per annual FTE

- Public 4-year (+ Richard Bland) 2017-18 E&G expenditures* = $3,933,822,549 = 82%
  4-year public (+ Richard Bland) annual FTES = 204,999 = 66% annual FTE
  4-year public = $19,189 per annual FTE

(*E&G expenditures do not include “non-general funds” -- primarily, the tuition revenue generated and used by the colleges)

P.S. - Lifelong learning in Virginia

- Osher Lifelong Institute at William & Mary
- Osher Lifelong Institute at University of Virginia
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at University of Richmond
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Hampton University
- Other lifelong learning programs at: GMU, JMU, Longwood, VCU, CNU, Virginia Tech, ODU
- Audit courses for free (on a space available basis) at any public college in Virginia under the “Senior Citizens Act”
Thanks for coming!

(Please complete your course evaluations)

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