Leonard’s Corner

Welcome to the seventh edition of the College of William & Mary’s Office of Economic Development newsletter - CONNNECTIVITY.

In a few short weeks the semester will end, commencement will be held, and William & Mary will continue its preparations to welcome another talented Freshman Class to the Tribe Family. In the midst of all the excitement, the Office of Economic Development continues its work as part of the Historic Triangle Collaborative Economic Diversity Task Force. The Task Force published a report in 2010 that highlighted opportunities to diversify and strengthen the economy of the Historic Triangle (City of Williamsburg, James City County, and York County).

One area highlighted in the report is the need to grow and encourage more entrepreneurialism in the region. I am glad to report that William & Mary has made great strides in this area. Over the past twelve months, the College’s Technology and Business Center assumed management responsibility for the James City County Business and Technology Incubator and attracted eight companies to it.

The work we have done with the Historic Triangle Economic Diversification Task Force is consistent with the focus of our five major economic development projects: 1) Greater Williamsburg, 2) Chesapeake Bay, 3) Hampton Roads Technology Clusters, 4) City of Portsmouth - World Class Maritime Center, and 5) The Petersburg Partnership. Our continued participation in worthwhile endeavors like these help build stronger communities and a stronger William & Mary.

We hope you enjoy reading CONNECTIVITY. We are also interested in hearing your feedback about this newsletter and on ways the Office of Economic Development and Technology & Business Center can better serve you. Fill out our contact card to let us know your thoughts. We look forward to hearing from you and have a fantastic spring season!

Thanks,

Leonard Sledge
Director
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[Connectivity]

W&M Plays Large Role in Economic Diversification Report

William & Mary played a significant role in the Historic Triangle Collaborative’s Economic Diversity Task Force, which released a report of its recommendations after a year of research and discussion. The report seeks to find mutually beneficial ways in which James City County, Williamsburg, York County and other major institutions can work together to diversify the Historic Triangle’s regional economy while also strengthening the tourism industry.

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Whipping the SciClone

Combining the power of 159 computers and 475 individual processors, SciClone, William & Mary’s scientific computing complex, is an important resource for the College and a unique feature for a campus this size. SciClone is available to anyone on campus who needs it. The biggest users have been the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Applied Science and the Physics Department.

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Zero to Co-Authorship in Under Three Years

William & Mary’s first freshman phage lab has demonstrated what possibly is the straightest learning curve known to science: zero to co-authorship in a peer-reviewed journal in under three years. Along the way, there was discovery of a form of life previously unknown to science—an organism which is now being examined as a possible biological tool to combat tuberculosis.

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PIPS and CIA Present Crisis Simulation Competition

The Central Intelligence Agency joined forces with William & Mary’s Project on International Peace and Security (PIPS) to conduct the first-ever Crisis Simulation Competition, described as “a Model U.N. for the intelligence community.” A number of CIA personnel came to campus for the Feb. 7th event, as well as participants from Norfolk State, Sweetbriar College, the University of Mary Washington, the University of Richmond, Washington College, Old Dominion University and Virginia Tech.

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Conference Educated, Inspired Next Generation of Social Innovators

More than 150 students, faculty and community partners from Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland and New Jersey converged upon William & Mary for the inaugural Active Citizens Conference, the first of its kind held at the College.

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Who’s in the Office of Economic Development?

Get to know Sheila Dugan, Graduate Assistant in the Office of Economic Development. Sheila is completing her second semester of graduate studies in the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy. Sheila spent three years working in marketing in the D.C. metro area before returning to school. Favorite Movie – Good Will Hunting; Favorite Magazine – The New Yorker; Favorite Book - Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë.

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