This is my RCC

2011-2013 RCC College and Foundation Report
Partnering for Prosperity
RCC uses educational resources to improve the region’s economic health.

People in the business world often talk about ROI—return on investment. They want to know what they will get for money they invest. Rappahannock Community College believes it should show its investors—students who pay tuition, government agencies that provide grants and donors who make gifts to the college—how their money is working for them.

Rather than showing up as interest in a bank account, the ROI that RCC provides is evident in its educational programs and its partnerships with community organizations.

Through its educational partnerships, RCC has been able to achieve one of the goals Dr. Elizabeth Crowther set when she became president ten years ago: To make it possible for someone to go as far as they wish in higher education without having to leave home. Today RCC’s associate degree graduates can continue studies at the RCC campuses to pursue a baccalaureate, master’s, and even a doctoral degree.

RCC is well positioned to be a leader in promoting prosperity in the region. Renovations begun in 2009 at both the Glenns and Warsaw campuses are now complete. Since 2010 the college has opened three new sites to bring education and workforce development opportunities closer to the people we serve:

- The Kilmarnock Center is a “workforce campus” where students can enroll in programs such as nursing, emergency medical services, culinary arts, and business.
- In New Kent, RCC is part of the Bridging Communities consortium, which has established a new STEM Academy (science, technology, engineering, and math) for high-school students.
- Our marine trades center at Gwynn’s Island offers students a chance to learn the skills they need to land a job in the shipbuilding industry.

“You could not ask for a better partner for improving the quality of life and economic health of this region,” says Middlesex County Administrator Matt Walker.

“RCC provides educational access for people who might not otherwise be able to attend college or participate in training programs for high-demand jobs. The college also has the ability to partner with local business to solve problems quickly. Whether businesses require short-term training for employees or a long-term program to supply an ongoing labor force, RCC is always ready to respond to their needs.”

Elizabeth Hinton Crowther
President, Rappahannock Community College
Secretary, RCC Educational Foundation, Inc.
Partnering with school districts to offer dual credit programs has been another way RCC is bringing higher education into the community. Students are earning college credit while still in high school, giving them a head start in completing requirements for an associate or baccalaureate degree. In 2012-13 more than 2,000 high-schoolers took advantage of this program.

A strong partnership with King William County School District is benefiting that county’s youth and the community as a whole, says Superintendent Dr. Mark Jones. “In 2013 RCC began offering courses in the evening at our high school, making it more convenient for King William residents to begin or continue their college education. Forty King William County students attend the Governor’s School for Marine and Environmental Science on RCC’s Glenns Campus. Others are enrolled at our new Bridging Communities STEM Academy.”

RCC also has a strong presence in King George, the northernmost county in its service area. Ruby Brabo, a member of the county’s board of supervisors, says the college has been a great partner, “willing to tailor programs to meet our county’s needs.” RCC offers dual credit programs to high-school students, and college-level coursework in the evenings on-site at the King George High School, a location more convenient for King George residents than the campuses at Glenns and Warsaw.

Finally, there are real, direct economic benefits to communities as a result of RCC’s many activities. Its nearly 350 professional employees earn good salaries and pay local taxes. Its students bring dollars into the area in the form of government grants. The college purchases goods and services from local merchants.

RCC is using the power of education to improve the region’s economic health. Every dollar RCC takes in is invested back into the community, making the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula a better place to live and work. That’s quite a return on your investment.

What economic impact does RCC have on the region?

Salaries paid by RCC, taxes paid by its employees, the state’s contribution to students’ education, the financial aid granted to local students, and money spent on supplies and services—these all add up. Here’s how much RCC contributed, fiscal year 2012-2013, to the economy of each of the counties it serves.
Bashir Abdul-Malik, graduate of RCC’s Transfer Associate Degree program.

Aryah Hudgins, student in RCC’s Nursing program.

This is my RCC
For many people, earning a degree is often the first step toward a better future for themselves and their families. Providing that opportunity has been RCC’s mission since the college opened its doors in 1971.

Basheer Abdul-Malik had that dream when he moved to the Northern Neck from Philadelphia, where he was born and raised. “I graduated from high school in 2003 and began attending Philadelphia Community College, but I discovered that working full-time while trying to attend college in the city wasn’t working out. I had visited relatives in this part of Virginia earlier and knew that I would find life there less stressful,” he says.

What he did not realize was that he could pursue his educational goals in this idyllic setting. In his view, the experience at RCC has been nothing short of amazing. “RCC gave me a chance to start over with my education. The classes are small and everybody knows you. The faculty and staff gave me the help I needed to complete my associate’s degree and set myself up to go on for a bachelor’s degree.”

Now enrolled in Old Dominion University’s program in finance offered at RCC’s Kilmarnock Center, Malik is not sure what career he’ll pursue when he earns his bachelor’s degree. Eventually, though, he plans to own his own business. Meanwhile, he’s working part-time at RCC’s Kilmarnock Center, which he considers a great career and personal opportunity. “RCC has given me a chance to impact others’ lives and help them achieve the same dream I had when I first enrolled.”

Aryah Hudgins enrolled at RCC immediately after graduating from Mathews High School in 2011. Now a second-year student in the Associate Degree in Nursing program, Hudgins says choosing RCC was a no-brainer. “I received a number of scholarship offers from RCC, and I knew the college had an outstanding nursing program, so the decision to attend was easy,” she says.

As a youngster, Hudgins dreamed of going into musical theater, but, she explains, “When I was ten, I developed scleroderma, a disease that causes the body to produce excess white cells. I had to undergo low-dose chemotherapy, and while I was in treatment I got to see how important nurses were. Becoming a nurse is one way I can give back to the community that supported me when I needed help.”

Hudgins is already planning to pursue a bachelor’s degree in nursing. When she graduates from RCC in 2014, she will enroll in Old Dominion’s nursing program—and take classes online. “As a graduate of RCC, I’m guaranteed admission to ODU’s program, so I plan to take advantage of this opportunity.”

Hudgins credits the RCC faculty with much of her academic success. “I’ve learned so much from my teachers here,” she says. “They bring a wealth of diversified experience to the classroom—and they are really interested in helping us succeed academically and professionally.”
Tracy Porter, graduate of RCC's Certificate in Welding program.

Noel Woolard, instructor, Autism Career Studies.
Tracy Porter of West Point knows first-hand how workforce development can improve a person’s skill set. Porter retired from the military and now runs Morning Glory Farm. “I had some ideas for creating farm implements not available through commercial outlets, and I wanted to repair my own equipment,” he says. “So I decided to enroll in RCC’s welding program to develop the skills I needed.”

Porter, who received his certificate in 2012, believes he got more than he had expected. “The entire experience was terrific. I received extensive training not just in techniques of welding but in metallurgy as well. Our instructors were quite knowledgeable and eager to pass along techniques they had mastered. Anyone finishing this course can step right into a job as a welder. And the certificate is recognized by the American Welding Society, so employers will be eager to hire people who complete the program.”

Noel Woolard of White Stone has seen how rapidly RCC can respond to the community’s needs. In 2007 Woolard, a graduate of the University of Maryland and Rutgers University’s master’s program in special education, was teaching special education students on the Northern Neck. Her work made her realize that there was a need for a program to prepare teachers to interact with students with autism.

Woolard spoke to several four-year colleges and universities and got a lukewarm response. But at RCC her idea was received enthusiastically, and the following year the college began offering its Autism Career Studies certificate.

“Our introductory course draws many teachers who want to learn more about autism,” Woolard says. Enrollment in the other two courses consists largely of special education teachers. “We’re also seeing more paraprofessionals enrolling, since the state now requires specialized training for those assisting in classrooms where students with autism are learning.” RCC’s program is fully endorsed by the Virginia Autism Council and is the only one offered at a Virginia community college.

Woolard says, “RCC’s willingness to respond to local needs is one of the reasons I consider the college a great asset.”
Lisa Tuckey, instructor of biology.
Dr. Dave Keel, academic advisor.

This is my RCC
Engineers of Change

At the heart of RCC’s effort to transform the lives of students and the economic health of the community through education are its dedicated faculty and staff.

Lisa Tuckey joined the faculty at RCC in 2010 after having taught part-time at Thomas Nelson Community College for seven years. “I found I loved teaching and when the chance to become part of the RCC community came along, I jumped at it,” she says. Now the Arts and Sciences program head, Tuckey interacts with students and faculty across a number of disciplines.

“I am continually impressed with the dedication of my colleagues,” she says. “Faculty go out of their way to make themselves available to students. Whether it’s a face-to-face conversation or an e-mail exchange, students know that their instructors care about their progress and want to help them succeed.”

Because she teaches both two-semester sequences in general biology and anatomy and physiology, Tuckey is able to interact with many students over the course of their academic career at RCC. “It’s wonderful to see them mature academically and emotionally,” she says. “The greatest joy you can have as a teacher is to see students who suddenly realize how they can apply the principles they are learning in class to situations in real life. That moment makes all we do worthwhile.”

Professional counselor and assistant professor Dr. Dave Keel began working at RCC in January 2012 after spending six years in the Counseling Center at Christopher Newport University. At RCC he provides academic advice to students and teaches a course in college success skills.

Keel believes that because it is becoming harder for many people to afford college, RCC plays a crucial role in helping people achieve their educational goals. But students can succeed only if they understand how higher education works and learn to take advantage of opportunities available to them.

“No one in their family can guide them through the process of enrolling, choosing a major, learning to study, and balancing academics with the other activities that demand their attention. That’s why I see one of my primary roles as providing ‘college knowledge.’”

Students come to Keel for help in negotiating their way through the labyrinth of college academic and administrative requirements, but he says it is sometimes hard to separate personal issues from ones directly related to academic study. “My greatest thrill comes from watching students develop confidence that they can succeed academically and reach their educational goals,” he says.
Creating a Legacy for their Community
Children of Charles and Elizabeth Ryland establish endowed scholarship.

Charles and Elizabeth Ryland raised six children in Warsaw. Charles, a practicing attorney for more than sixty years, served on the Virginia State Library Board and the Board at his alma mater, the University of Richmond, and was a director at Northern Neck State Bank for sixty-five years. After raising her children, Elizabeth, a Vassar College alumna, taught Latin in Richmond and Westmoreland counties and was active at the Richmond County Museum, the Northern Neck Historical Society and the Garden Club. Both were devoted members of Warsaw Baptist Church. Charles served as president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

When these prominent citizens passed away, Elizabeth in 2008 and Charles a year later, the six Ryland children came into an unexpected inheritance. “We were taught to be self-sufficient and care for others,” says the Rylands’ daughter Catharine Moser of Richmond, who is serving as spokesperson for her siblings in announcing the establishment of the Charles and Elizabeth Ryland Memorial Scholarship at RCC.

The Rylands donated $50,000 to create an endowment; earnings from this endowment will fund an annual scholarship of $2,500 for a full-time student. While preference is given to students from Richmond and King and Queen counties, everyone in RCC’s service area is eligible. “We asked that the college try to find someone focusing his or her studies in history, since that was our father’s strong interest,” Moser says.

Why establish this scholarship at RCC? “Warsaw was an ideal place to grow up,” Moser explains. “My mother and father were lifelong supporters of higher education, so we decided to combine their interest with our desire to give back to our Richmond County neighbors by making it possible for others to pursue their dreams.”

The Virginia Community College System will recognize the Ryland family’s generosity in April 2014 when the family will receive the Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy after being nominated by the RCC Educational Foundation. This annual award recognizes outstanding contributions made to each Virginia community college and their respective foundations.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipient(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Martha Tallent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Martha and Steven Tallent</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Barbara and Marty Bowling</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Nettie Lokey Wiley and Charles S. Wiley Foundation</td>
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<td>Janet and Richard Steelman</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>George W. and Cornelia M. Verlander Memorial Foundation</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Union First Market Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>William R. Martin and family</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Children of Elizabeth and Charles Ryland</td>
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Increase in the number of associate of arts and sciences transfer degrees awarded during the past five years: 75%
“RCC is continually evolving to meet the changing needs of its students and the community.”

Elizabeth Hinton Crowther, RCC President

A
Renovations enhancing learning and work spaces have been completed in the testing center, WC maintenance building inside and out, WC workforce, welding lab, and WC gym. Parking lots were repaved.

B
Student Development purchased Financial Aid TV (FATV) to provide online access to financial aid information for students, potential students, and parents. It went live July 1, 2013.

C
The newly renovated libraries at RCC’s Glenns and Warsaw campuses are state-of-the-art information centers where students have access to dozens of online databases. Dictionaries, scientific abstracts, historical newspapers, and vital information on health sciences can be accessed with a click of a mouse pad or a tap on a mobile device.

D
Among first-time test takers, 100% of the 2011, 2012, and 2013 Associate Degree in Nursing graduates passed the NCLEX, the professional examination conducted by the National Council of Nursing. Successful completion of NCLEX is required for nursing students to receive their license as a Registered Nurse.
In 2013 eight students graduating from high school received a total of 15 Governor’s Medallions for earning an associate degree through RCC’s dual enrollment program while still enrolled in high school. These students can enroll with junior-level standing at many of Virginia’s public colleges and universities.

Since the creation of the marine training initiative, a partnership with the Southeastern Maritime and Transportation Center (SMART), Newport News Shipbuilding, and Tidewater Community College, forty students have received training at RCC’s Gwynn’s Island facility and immediately gone into full-time jobs at the Newport News shipyard.

Over 2,000 area high-school students were enrolled in dual credit courses last year at RCC.

There were 662 degrees/certificates awarded in 2012-13 to 507 students (263 degrees, 230 certificates, and 169 career studies certificates). This is double the number earned in 2008-2009 and triple the number of awards earned just five years ago.

“RCC is continually evolving to meet the changing needs of its students and the community.”

Elizabeth Hinton Crowther, RCC President
Message From the Board

I am delighted to serve on the board of an institution that is helping transform the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. RCC has long provided access to higher education for many who may not otherwise be able to attend college. Some do not realize, however, how much the college is doing for the community at large. Through RCC’s aggressive workforce development initiative and its many partnerships with educational institutions, government agencies, and business, RCC has become a leader in promoting economic prosperity in the region.

Gerald B. Roane
Chair, RCC College Board

College Financial Report

Rappahannock Community College continues to work aggressively to be a good steward of its financial resources. Despite difficulties posed by a sluggish economy that has made it increasingly difficult for potential students to pursue higher education and for outside funding sources to maintain support at prior levels, during the past two years RCC has managed to expand outreach operations within its service area and institute several new programs that provide much-needed workforce training.

When compared to public and private four-year institutions in Virginia, RCC remains remarkably affordable. In 2012-2013, annual tuition and fees for full-time students averaged $4,056. By comparison, tuition at Virginia Commonwealth University is approximately $10,200, at Virginia Tech, $11,500. When one adds in the cost of room and board at these schools, it is easy to calculate that attending college close to home allows students to realize significant savings.

Nevertheless, many students simply cannot afford even the modest costs of attending RCC. As a result, the number of students eligible for financial aid during the past three years, and the amounts awarded to these students, has increased notably. During the 2012-2013 academic year, 58 percent of eligible RCC students received assistance in some form. The amount awarded by RCC’s Office of Financial Aid totaled $4,519,963, up from $1,658,800 eight years ago. The average award was $3,102.

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 RCC Revenue

- VA General Funds: 39.7%
- Tuition & Fees: 40.8%
- Grants: 15.4%
- Other Non-General Funds: 3.7%
- County Contributions: .4%

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 RCC Operating Expenditures

- Total Personnel: 76.9%
- Maintenance & Operation: 23.1%

Total 2012-2014 RCC Annual Operating Budget: $18,683,695

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Message from the Foundation

We all know that getting a good education is the key to long-term employment, which in turn leads to economic security for individuals and to healthy, stable communities. However, paying for education is not always easy, even at community colleges, which are traditionally more affordable than other postsecondary institutions. That is why the Rappahannock Community College Educational Foundation is proud to offer scholarships to hundreds of students who need financial help. Thanks to the generosity of our many donors, our neighbors can complete educational programs that will make them more productive members of the communities RCC serves.

Robert V. Gates
President, RCC Educational Foundation Board

RCC Educational Foundation, Inc. Board

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Report of RCC Educational Foundation, Inc.

The decline in state support continues to place a growing burden on students and families to pay for higher education. Federal and state grants are still not sufficient to allow many students to attend RCC.

Fortunately, the foundation has been able to increase scholarship support to help fill the gap between costs of education and funding available through grants. In the past three years the foundation has awarded nearly $1 million in scholarships to nearly 1,000 students. Recurring fundraising events such as our Preakness Party and annual campaign continue to receive strong support and generate funds needed to support scholarship awards. In the past year two donors have each given $50,000 to establish new endowed scholarships. The foundation has also been deeded a house worth $200,000. RCC is catching the eye of more donors who are making large gifts; that is a welcome trend.

Equally heartening is the steady increase in the foundation’s total assets: $6.6 million in June 2013, a jump of more than $4.5 million since 2005. This significant growth is a testament not only to prudent management of existing assets, but also to the generosity of donors who have chosen to support RCC because they believe in the college’s mission and want to help their neighbors benefit from easy access to higher education and job training.

RCC’s Lifelong Learning Program Exceeds Expectations

What started out as a way to help senior citizens explore topics of interest has burgeoned into one of RCC’s most successful programs. A program of the RCC Educational Foundation, the Rappahannock Institute for Lifelong Learning (RILL) now offers short courses open to everyone in subjects ranging from colonial history to wine tasting. Enrollment has been so strong that the foundation has been able to establish two $500 RILL scholarships, awarded to students requiring financial assistance to continue college studies.
RCC total enrollment for 2012-2013 topped 5,000:

5,023
Increase in the dollar amount of Financial Aid awarded to RCC students since 2005:

169%
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Ms. Susan J. Lewis
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Little River Seafood, Inc.
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Mr. John A. Willey
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Woman’s Club of Essex County
Ms. Freedy H. Wood
Dr. Warren H. Woolley
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Yancey, Jr.
Ms. Cyanne P. Yates
Mr. & Mrs. Warren M. Yeatman
Mr. & Mrs. William D. Young
Dr. James P. Zeigler

* Deceased
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