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ESCC Foundation
www.es.vccs.edu/about/escc-foundation
Patty Kellam, Executive Director
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The mission of ESCC Foundation is to make a positive difference in the lives of all Eastern Shore citizens by helping to provide the best possible learning and teaching environment.
We began our 50th Anniversary celebration in August by hosting our first face-to-face commencement in two years, thanks to Accomack County Public Schools graciously allowing us access to Nandua High School auditorium. As part of our YES! culture of inclusivity, all those who completed programs, from high school equivalency diploma to associate degrees, were part of the celebration. We were honored to have Governor Ralph Northam, an Eastern Shore native, as our commencement speaker. His inspiring remarks truly added to the celebratory atmosphere.

Our Fall 2021 classes began August 23, and unlike last year, we are very pleased to be holding classes face-to-face. While on campus, we remain dedicated to providing a safe and healthy environment by requiring that masks be worn in buildings.

Now in my third year as president, we continue to expand efforts serving our students and community. To this end, Your Eastern Shore Community College announces, Contact to Career, a program to engage vigorously with students from their first contact with the college all the way through to employment or transfer. According to research by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, more than 80% of employers highly value graduates who have completed workplace learning experiences. The mission and responsibility of Your Eastern Shore Community College is to prepare graduates who are ready to work in high need areas, and Contact to Career is another way we are ensuring a ready workforce.

Related to Contact to Career, at our 50th Anniversary Homecoming we will be strengthening our relationship with the Wallops Flight Facility by signing an MOU. Our common goal is to create a pipeline of skilled workers from ESCC to NASA, and this MOU affirms our joint missions. One of my greatest pleasures is working with our highly talented students, faculty, and staff. I have a great deal of pride in the quality of programs we offer from skilled trades to transfer programs. This summer we were delighted to learn that Eastern Shore Community College’s Practical Nursing program is ranked as one of the best in Virginia at #6! This recognition speaks to the dedication of our students and faculty.

I have nothing but great optimism for the continued growth of the college and our ability to better serve our students and the Eastern Shore community. I look forward to our continued progress and partnerships as we enter the next 50 years of service.
Major Grants Strategy by Dr. Patrick Tompkins

“We’re interested in multi-year grants in the millions, rather than grants of a few ten thousands” is how President Jim Shaefller explained ESCC’s goal to Hanover Research Solutions, which assists organizations in finding and winning grant awards.

The college currently manages recurring grants like the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which serves unemployed and underemployed, and a Ratcliffe Foundation grant, which funds students in trades programs.

Larger colleges routinely pursue sizeable multi-year grants. In 2016 ESCC received a National Science Foundation grant for our Technical Scholars Program. We contracted with Hanover Research Solutions on that effort because then, as now, we did not have anyone on staff with the expertise or capacity to pursue grants of that magnitude.

ESCC has signed a contract with Hanover to pursue grants in four areas. Our top priority is sustainable funding for Contact to Career, a new program with two-year seed funding from the Foundation and from federal CARES allocations.

Our other three grant priorities are student support, curriculum, and the expansion of dual enrollment. Vice President Patrick Tompkins said, “The most common barriers to retention for our students are issues like food and housing insecurity.”

In curriculum, ESCC aspires to expand healthcare and hospitality programs to provide businesses a pipeline of skilled employees.

In dual enrollment we need to widen the circle to a more diverse population of students through tuition support and in helping more high school teachers earn graduate credits required to teach college courses.

In these four areas Hanover will prospect numerous grants, help us identify which to pursue, and then largely write the proposals for us.

Contracting with Hanover is our strategy for ensuring the seed funding from the Foundation for Contact to Career pays off with a sustainable program. No other community college in Virginia has set as its goal to match every student with a workplace learning experience. “But,” Tompkins said, “When we are successful, other colleges will see how it can be accomplished.”
Kim Perry credits her two degrees from ESCC and paid internships along the way with helping launch her career at Virginia Space and Wallops Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS). A lifelong resident of Greenbush and 2016 Nandua High School graduate, Kim initially wanted to attend a four-year school, but after watching her sister successfully complete a nursing program through ESCC, she realized that she did not want to take on unnecessary debt while pursuing her degree.

Kim graduated from ESCC in 2018 with a degree in Business Administration and again in 2021 with a degree in Management with specialization in Information Technology. ESCC Professor Chevelle Mason helped her land an internship at Eastern Shore Post in graphic design and layout, and Success Coach Debbie Daniels helped steer Kim to an internship in 2020 in the logistics department at Virginia Space. There Kim tracked the status and location for functional components of the MARS launchpad, and today she is employed full-time with Virginia Space as a logistics specialist.

Kim credits the caring ESCC faculty that held her to a high level of accountability and the great camaraderie with students and faculty, plus activities that bring students together, like Paint the Campus Orange to help fight food insecurity. Kim’s positive outlook, willingness to learn and build her skills coupled with practical programs and hands-on experience through paid internships helped launch her career in the aerospace industry.

Every Graduate Has A Story at ESCC

(Above) Dario Cantillano is celebrating his associate’s degree and graduating debt free. He plans on continuing his studies in elementary school education this January. He recently began working as a teacher’s assistant at a local public school.

(Right) Carlens Jean enrolled in ESCC’s Adult Education program in July 2018 as an English as a Second Language student. Carlens began taking credit classes in the Fall of 2019 and graduated with his Associates of Art and Sciences in May 2021. Recently Carlens worked in a paid internship with the UVA Coastal Research Center in Oyster conducting research in seagrass meadows. He is now enrolled at VCU in pre-med coursework.
In August, Your Eastern Shore Community College announced its Contact to Career initiative. The concept is simple—engage and support every ESCC learner from their first contact with the college beyond program completion until they are working in their field or have transferred to a four-year program.

As the Contact to Career Wrap-Around Support Services Success Coach, it is my job to guide the student in choosing a program of study, identifying transfer options, registering for courses, monitoring their progress in classes and being their cheerleader.

Ask any incoming freshmen, and they will often tell you, registering for classes can be daunting. They have no clue where to begin. This is where my role as success coach begins.

The college offers a Registration Rally every month to attract students to the college and help them align their career aspirations with educational programs. Helping students determine a plan of study is one of the hardest tasks for most students. When I encounter a student who is not transferring to finish their degree at a four-year institution, I encourage them to consider their future goals. Are they interested in one of our programs that leads directly to work? Are they interested in gaining knowledge to advance in their current position?

I recall one student attending the August registration rally with her grandmother. The student was shaken after she tried on several attempts to log into her account. Unfortunately, her mom was unable to attend the rally, but mom had the password and username stored on her phone. I never left the student’s side, and I calmed her by saying, “You’re going to be fine.” This story ends with the student feeling confident, and she is now enrolled at ESCC for the fall semester.

Being a success coach is fulfilling because I help students who enter the doors of ESCC complete their journey across the stage for graduation.

Every Graduate Has A Story at ESCC (continued)

(Left) Isaiah Padgett earned his CDL credential in December of 2020 and came back to participate in graduation. Isaiah now is driving trucks all over the country, including most recently California and Oregon.

(Above) Helen Collins completed the RSVP Healthcare Fundamentals/Nurse Aide program. With her new credential, she is now employed at Citadel in Nassawadox.
Harry Crandall Scholarship

In memory of Reverend Harry Crandall and in honor of Kitty Crandall and their service to Hungars Cure Parish and the Eastern Shore community, a new endowed scholarship has been established at ESCC Foundation. The Rev. Harry W. and Mrs. Catherine D. Crandall Scholarship awards tuition and fees annually to a graduate of Northampton High School to attend ESCC full-time. Students may pursue the academic path to an associate degree or the workforce path to a career in nursing or the trades.

Reverend Harry and his wife Kitty served the Hungars Cure Parish from 1983-2002. Rev. Crandall also served a number of Eastern Shore nonprofit community organizations, including the ESCC Foundation Board from 1999-2007, where he was Foundation Board President from 2004-2007. Gifts to the scholarship are welcome as we build the fund.

YOUR ESCC Stories Commemorate 50 Years of Learning

Deonte Hope
I started at ESCC back in 2007. I spent a total of four years there figuring out what career path I wanted to embark on. Those were some of the best times. The professors were top notch. Mrs. Rich-Coates (one of my favorites) tapped into my scientific curiosity. After the first Biology class I was sold.

Francis Bailey
After graduating ESCC, Phi Theta Kappa gave me a $30,000 scholarship to attend the four-year college I had dreamed about. My journey at ESCC over 14 years ago didn’t leave me in any financial debt either. I finished with no student loans, a scholarship, and full of knowledge. I’m grateful for my journey years ago as it has helped to push me to where I am now.

Teena Haugh
I grew up in Exmore and graduated from Northampton High School ‘83. I am a financial manager at Wallops Flight Facility and have just completed 35 years of government service. I started as a student co-op in 1986. Most of my time with NASA has been in the various resources/financial organizations as a resource analyst and then a financial manager.
ESCC 50th Anniversary Events

ESCC’s 50th Anniversary Homecoming and Ribbon Cutting will be held Friday, October 22, 11:30a.m. - 2:30p.m. VCCS Chancellor Glenn DuBois and other dignitaries will celebrate our college’s history and officially welcome the community to our new facility. Activities include a corn-hole tournament, prizes and giveaways, free photo booth, music from the past 50 years, student-led tours, and more. Bricks from ESCC’s original Academic Building will be on sale to commemorate 50 years and to support the ESCC Foundation. The free event will be held indoors, outdoors, and under a large tent, with masks required in buildings.

We thank Taylor Bank for their Lead Sponsorship and thank Wilbanks Smith & Thomas for being the Major Sponsor of our 50th Anniversary events.

50th Anniversary Oyster Roast:

January 28, 2022, 5:00-9:00pm.

Join us for live music, oysters, clams, chowder, BBQ, beverages, and more to support ESCC scholarships.

You Can Make A Difference

ESCC helps make dreams come true. A gift to our Eastern Shore Fund supports scholarships and services that improve the educational experience for every student. We invite you to show your support by giving online at es.vccs.edu or in the attached envelope to help all students access the great programs we offer.

Leave A Legacy For Future ESCC Students

The ESCC Legacy Society encourages all who support the College’s mission to use their financial and estate planning to help the College maintain the affordable access and educational excellence that help our students succeed. When you include Eastern Shore Community College Foundation in your long-term planning, you are making a difference for generations to come.

If you have included Eastern Shore Community College Foundation in your estate planning, or would like information on how to do so, please contact Patty Kellam at (757)789-1749 or pkellam@es.vccs.edu. Information is also posted online at es.vccs.edu/about/escc-foundation/.

Students in Dr. Alex Foxworthy’s biology lab collaborate on a group project for Anatomy and Physiology, a prerequisite for the RN program. Foundation Scholarships are critical to helping students enroll and complete.
Eastern Shore Community College 50th Celebrations!
Homecoming and Ribbon Cutting on October 22, 2021 and
Oyster Roast on January 28, 2022

Details inside and on our website at es.vccs.edu/50years/