



ESCC NEWSLETTER

FOUNDATION



ESCC FOUNDATION BOARD

Jeremy McLean-President

Peter Bale

Wayne Bell, Jr.

Gordon Campbell

Jacqueline C. Chatmon

Dianne Davis

Karen Downing

Mozella Francis

Darrien Jamar

Adam James

Rachel Kellam-Vice President

Devon Mack

Roberta Newman

Barbara Parker

Marcus Riley

Calvert "Ace" Seybolt

Scott Schreiber - Treasurer

Jim Shaeffer, ESCC President-Secretary

Ray Wood - Liaison ESCC College Board

ESCC Foundation (757)789-1749

es.vccs.edu/about/escc-foundation

Patty Kellam, Executive Director

Dena Lyons, Foundation Assistant

The mission of the 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.

Update from ESCC President Dr. Jim Shaeffer



Dr. Shaeffer celebrates with ESCC's Class of 2023

Your Eastern Shore Community College plays a vital role in our community. Our dedicated faculty and staff change lives by leading with and showing compassion for all students and by working closely with them to meet their needs and help them succeed. With the lifting of the reboot in September 2022, we have forged ahead in that spirit.

Due in large part to the hard work of our Student Services team, our enrollment continues to grow. I am pleased to report:

- 8.9% increase in Full-Time Equivalent students, from Spring 2019-2023
- 9.7 % increase in Headcount, from Spring 2019-2023
- 9.1% increase in Credit Hours per student, from Spring 2019-2023
- 92% increase in academic programs offered (2019-2023) as we better align our pathways to careers

In Workforce, ESCC has doubled the number of approved FastForward programs in 2023 over 2019. We increased FastForward enrollments by 70% from 2019 - 2023YTD, and we have a 89% increase in our FastForward credential rate.

Our 2023 Oyster Roast was a great success, thanks to our generous sponsors, local vendors and supporters. Proceeds fund our scholarship program which is critical to helping students enroll and complete.

One of our goals is to make ESCC the Aerospace College of the Eastern Shore. In January, we signed a MOU with the Virginia Commercial Space Flight authority. This cements our partnership and provides an opportunity for students to hone their skills by working side-by-side with engineers and technical professionals at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport at Wallops. This MOU, along with the space act agreements we have with NASA Wallops and Goddard and the on-going support of the Wallops Contractors Association, puts us well on our way towards this ambitious goal.



CEO Ted Mercer of Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority and Dr. Shaeffer commemorate the new MOU.



Planning the Aerospace Academy Lab School

ESCC recently received a \$200,000 planning grant from the Virginia Department of Education, a huge step in moving this project forward. In cooperation with Accomack and Northampton school divisions, we are working with the Cal Ripken Foundation on a grant to stand up the Aerospace Academy to meet demand for positions in the emerging aerospace industry on the Eastern Shore.

Thanks to generous friends, new partners, and the support of ESCC Foundation, our future is bright at Your Eastern Shore Community College!

“My First Look at YES!” by Interim VP Dr. Raymond Burton

In January I was provided the honor of serving as the Interim Vice President of Academic, Student, and Workforce Education at Eastern Shore Community College. Since then, I have found a fertile and collaborative environment for student success shared by all members of the ESCC family.

ESCC is the smallest of the twenty-three schools in Virginia’s Community College System. However, my recent experiences with ESCC and the Shore community support the notion that big things do come in small packages. The fertile environment I noted, is full of promise and an eagerness from our faculty, staff, and community partners to work together to provide new opportunities, experiences, and gateways to support our students and their educational dreams.



*ESCC Interim Vice President
Dr. Raymond Burton*



Speaking with visiting middle school students on campus.

I am in awe of the dedication and pure hustle I have seen in both the workforce, academic and student affairs divisions at Your Eastern Shore Community College. Their constant vigilance in providing the best learning environment, serving industry needs, and being directly involved with our students is reflected in the consistent increase in both the Full Time Enrollment (FTE) and number of programs and students who receive Fast Forward funding and complete workforce courses and programs.



Much of the current YES structure was supported by the vital leadership of former Vice President Dr. Patrick Tompkins. I want to publicly thank Dr. Tompkins for his vision and drive and his part in making the YES culture what it is now: our culture of hospitality, accountability, inclusion and transparency that creates a premier learning environment for our students and the Eastern Shore community.

I also want to thank President Jim Shaeffer for this opportunity and his forward thinking mindset and leadership to build relationships and opportunities to support the Shore community. Your Eastern Shore Community College is without a doubt, truly an organization to celebrate and take pride in. As for me, my YES is providing servant leadership and supporting the student experience. To the ESCC family and the Shore community, thank you for being such gracious hosts.



Commencement May 2023

Profile of ESCC Alum and Donor: Mary Blodgett



Alumna Mary Blodgett supports ESCC Foundation through recurring online gifts, matched by PepsiCo

“I graduated with my Associates degree from Eastern Shore Community College in 2012, and received a full-ride through the VCCS Lifeline Scholarship to Virginia Tech,” explains Mary Blodgett of Brooklyn, NY where she now works for PepsiCo. “It was my Food Science degree from Virginia Tech that eventually led me to Pepsi as a product manager, and I have been at the company ever since. Pepsi even supported me as I completed my MBA from University of Connecticut.”

With family in Bloxom and Onley, Mary visits the Shore regularly and explains, “I attribute much of my success in my career to ESCC for such a personalized educational experience. It served as an incredible launch pad. Wanda Smith, Jerry Fluharty, and Kim Grewe stand out as professors who provided me with hours of personalized tutoring and advice that helped shaped the kind of thinker and professional I am today.”

ESCC influenced Mary through extracurricular activities as well, led by the late Robin Rich-Coates. “Robin pushed me out of my comfort zone to go on Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society field trips and eventually serve as PTK President. This was a great growing experience,” she explains.

Mary stays connected as a donor to ESCC Foundation, and PepsiCo matches her gifts. ESCC Foundation support helps eliminate barriers and financial hardships for students, as well as provide leadership opportunities through clubs and activities. “ESCC is such a critical pillar on the Eastern Shore, and I am happy I am at a point in life where I can give back. My hope is to continue to give and grow that contribution for many years to come.”

Rob Marshall’s Launch from ESCC to NASA Sounding Rockets

Rob Marshall earned his Associates degree in Electronics Engineering Technology from ESCC in 1988. He credits an internship through ESCC with helping him land his first job designing, installing, and fine-tuning computer-based production control systems. In 1999 Rob was hired by the newly-established NSROC (NASA Sounding Rockets Operations Contract). “NSROC has given me the chance to travel to New Mexico, Florida, and the Netherlands. I’ve worked on payloads that launch from all over the world.”

Rob explains, “ESCC’s electronics program gave me what I needed to get in the door and the ability to make a difference once there.” President Jim Shaeffer explains, “The timing is perfect for students to move from the college into significant careers at NASA Wallops, and we can help learners of all ages launch.”



Rob Marshall in his role at NSROC at NASA Wallops (photos by Berit Bland)

ESCC Alum Creates Kookie Momster

Inspired by the tragic loss of her infant, Carletha Ayres-Rogers explains why she created the mobile bakery business Kookie Momster, “I found comfort and diversion from our time in hospitals by visiting bake shops. Food is good medicine for the soul.” To help ease the pain of her family’s loss, she started baking cookies and sending them to school with her older children.

“I found that serving people helped me,” she said, “developing the mobile bakery business and achieving a better understanding of how to do it properly was important.” Carletha completed the ServSafe Food Manager course at Your Eastern Shore Community College last fall. Prior to that she took business classes at ESCC and received her B.S. in Business from Regent University.



Carletha Ayres-Rogers with her mobile treats

ESCC Business Solutions Officer Scott Hall explains, “The hospitality niche is a major sector on the Shore, and our ‘YES!’ culture is based on providing the training students need to assume vital roles in our local economy.” You can follow Kookie Momster on Facebook or call 757-414-7669 for special orders.

2023 Nurse Aide Graduate: Alexis Lazari

Alexis Lazari graduated from Accomack County Public Schools with honors, but was unable to continue her education after graduating due to serving as a caregiver for her family. Now a single working mom of an eleven year old son, Alexis began Healthcare Fundamentals in Fall 2022. She transitioned to Nurse Aide in Spring 2023 and recently completed Healthcare Ethics to earn her Career Studies Certificate. Nursing instructor Felicia Blake explains, “Alexis is extremely responsible, dedicates ample time to studying, and she had the highest grade point average in her classes.”



Alexis Lazari and nursing instructor Felicia Blake

Alexis lives on Chincoteague so gas cards and help with childcare from a RSVP grant, as well as Foundation scholarships for tuition, have provided critical support to continue her education. She is enrolled in two summer courses to earn college credit and will carry a full-time load in Fall 2023. Her plan is to complete the Practical Nursing program in 2024 and continue at ESCC to earn her RN credential. Her goal is to become a registered certified nurse anesthetist.

She explains, “I am so appreciative of the ESCC faculty and staff who helped me achieve my goals and the ESCC Foundation scholarships which helped me complete and impacted my mental health in a positive way. I can’t wait to continue my journey at ESCC!”

A first-generation college student, Alexis is the recipient of the Bill & June Wurtz Memorial Scholarship and the Miss Lucille Nursing Scholarship.

Project Horizons Engages Students in Grades 7-12



Seventy-eight Project Horizons students are enjoying a busy year of enrichment activities, field trips and events under Coordinator Miriam Cornwell's leadership. Project Horizons delivers academic, social, and cultural support for economically disadvantaged youth in grades 7-12. The program incentivizes students to complete high school, and it introduces post-secondary education opportunities and provides a direct pathway to ESCC where two years of free tuition is guaranteed by ESCC Foundation.

Project Horizons Students with Miriam Cornwell

Last November students toured NASA Wallops facilities to learn about careers in aerospace and engage in hands-on STEM activities. In March students enjoyed team building and leadership activities at YMCA Camp Silver Beach. In cooperation with Accomack and Northampton County Schools, Project Horizons students meet regularly to hone life skills like financial management, communication, and social and emotional learning. Miriam explains, "It has been a very full year, and I am so proud of how all of our students continue to try new things, grow, and change. Congratulations to all of our Project Horizons graduates; I can't wait to see where life takes you!" Fifteen Project Horizons seniors will enroll at ESCC in Fall 2023 and take advantage of the Foundation scholarship.

Charles Etz Bequest Continues Scholarship

Charles Etz grew up in Cheriton where his parents owned a general store and produce trucks that employed local youth. An Eagle Scout and 1957 graduate of Northampton High School, he attended Virginia Tech and graduated from Hagerstown Junior College. Mr. Etz served in the U.S. Army for 24 years earning many commendations.



Upon his retirement he established the Dorothy & Joseph Etz, Jr. Memorial Scholarship for a graduate of Northampton High School. Mr. Etz passed away in early 2023. Thanks to his generous bequest to ESCC Foundation of his home, his scholarship will support students at ESCC for generations to come.

Ratcliffe Foundation: ESCC's 2023 Leader in Philanthropy



ESCC Foundation recognized The Philip E. & Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation at the 2023 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy event. ESCC Foundation received a \$613,480 Ratcliffe Foundation grant to launch an associates in applied science degree to produce highly skilled, competent industrial technicians in STEM.

L to R: New VCCS Chancellor Dr. David Dore', ESCC Foundation Exec. Dir. Patty Kellam, Ratcliffe Foundation Board member Tina Davenport, Ratcliffe Foundation CEO Carlene Cassidy, ESCC Foundation President Jeremy McLean, and Dr. Jim Shaeffer

ESCC Foundation Oyster Roast Supports Scholarships

Many thanks to our January 2023 Oyster Roast Sponsors:

Taylor Bank
Wilbanks, Smith & Thomas Asset Management
David & Melody Landsberger
Anonymous
PNC Bank
Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital
Weichert Realtors Mason Davis & Accomack Title
Atlantic Union Bank
Davis Disposal
Eastern Shore Signs
John Fiege, CFP
LJ Kellam Construction
Northampton Hotel
Preston Ford
RRMM Architects
Seashore Eyecare
Sentinel Robotic Solutions
Seybolt Family
Willie Randall - Edward Jones Financial
WESR
Atlantic Animal Hospital
Bundick Well & Pump
Butch & Sheryl Williamson
Children's Harbor
HW Drummond Inc.
The Kellam Law Firm, PLLC
Leatherbury Broache
Neville Family—IMO Barry Neville
Ray & Julita Wood
Roberta Newman & Chuck Little
Royal Farms
Shore United Bank
Dr. Jim & Peggy Shaeffer
Jeff & Karen Tanner
William Wrobel

*Local seafood & BBQ,
live music, a silent auction,
and many generous
supporters make
our Oyster Roast
a great event!*

Stay tuned for 2024!!



Leave a Legacy for Future Students

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

Foundation scholarships are critical in helping students reach their full potential and achieve fulfilling careers.

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

We invite you to show your support by giving online or in the attached envelope to help all students access ESCC's great programs.





NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #5
EXMORE, VA
23350

Save the Date!

Saturday, Sept. 23

**ESCC's Heritage and
Homecoming Celebration
10am-3pm**

Your Eastern Shore Community College Celebrates Student Success!

See inside for details.

