

LAUREL RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES NO. 262
April 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER		
Board Chair Michael Wenger convened a regular meeting of the Laurel Ridge Community College Board at 12:08 p.m., Thursday, April 6, 2023, at the Fauquier campus.		
Members Present	Kimberly P. Blosser Edwin C. Daley Krista Farris Benjamin C. Freakley Brad A. Hodgson Kimberly Jenkins Paul Johnson Michael A. Lake James Wells Michael Wenger	Laurel Ridge Community College Warren County City of Winchester Shenandoah County City of Winchester Fauquier County Page County Frederick County Warren County Rappahannock County
Members Attending Virtually	No members attending virtually. <i>Members attending virtually have received prior approval from the College Board chair in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2 and the Laurel Ridge Community College Board Policy 60003.</i>	
Members Absent	Renard Carlos Andrew C. Keller Brandon Monk Maryam Tabatabai	Fauquier County Shenandoah County Frederick County Clarke County
Others Present	Chris Coutts, vice president of communications and planning; Fauquier campus provost Anne Davis, vice president of academic and student affairs Liv Heggoy, associate vice president of development; executive director of Laurel Ridge Educational Foundation Cory Thompson, vice president of financial and administrative services	
Approval of Minutes No. 261	On a motion made by Mike Lake, seconded by Kim Jenkins, Minutes No. 261 were unanimously approved.	

NEW BUSINESS	
Introduction of Laurel Ridge Vice President of Financial and Administrative Services, Cory Thompson (Information Item)	<p>Laurel Ridge President Kim Blosser introduced to board members the college's new vice president of financial and administrative services, Cory Thompson, who begin serving in this role on March 10.</p> <p>Cory formerly served as the associate vice president of administration at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), overseeing auxiliary services, parking services, facilities planning, warehouse services and procurement for NVCC's six campuses. He has served in various roles for the VCCS for nearly 20 years including director of auxiliary and parking services and business manager.</p> <p>This was an information item and required no further action.</p>
Laurel Ridge Institutional Priorities AY 2022-23 progress report (Information Item)	<p>Laurel Ridge President Kim Blosser guided board members through a review the Institutional Priorities AY 2022-23 progress report (Attachment No. 1) and highlighted numerous goal progress areas.</p> <p>A link to the president's performance evaluation electronic survey will be emailed to all board members. All survey responses remain anonymous. Survey responses will be tabulated by the college's institutional effectiveness unit and provided to the board chair for review and inclusion in the president's evaluation letter to the Chancellor. The board chair will draft a letter of evaluation for board review. Upon board consensus, the evaluation letter will be sent to the Chancellor's Office in early May.</p> <p>This was an information item and required no further action.</p> <p>(Attachment No. 1; 7 pages)</p>
Laurel Ridge Center for Excellence and Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CEITL) (Information Item)	<p>Anne Davis provided the following overview of the establishment of the Center for Excellence and Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CEITL) at Laurel Ridge.</p> <p>The primary focus of the CEITL is as resource for faculty and staff in developing engaging and innovative practices in teaching and learning, curricular and instructional design, educational technology, and best practices in distance learning that lead to equitable outcomes for all students. The Center also serves as an organizational hub for other areas and units of the college engaged in professional and community learning through a loosely coupled system.</p> <p>CEITL directly aligns with and supports Laurel Ridge's strategic vision of being an inclusive community focused on achieving equity in access and success for all students; delivering an innovative learner-centered educational experience; and increasing persistence, completion, and success for all students.</p>

	<p>The purpose of the center is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Promote excellence and innovation in teaching and learning by providing comprehensive, collaborative, and evidence-based programming that supports:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. engaging and high impact learning experiences for students,b. integration of innovative educational technologies, andc. leading practices in distance learning modalities.2. Promote professional growth of faculty and staff by providing a rich collection of resources, information, and expertise that supports:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Advancing faculty and staff scholarship in teaching and learning,b. Mentoring through structured peer-to-peer and consultancy approaches, andc. Fostering leadership among faculty and staff in teaching and learning.3. Advance online learning by providing instructional design and educational technology expertise that supports:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Delivery of a high-quality online learning experience that is responsive to the diverse needs of students,b. Integration of innovative tools and technologies for instruction and student support in the virtual environment, andc. Compliance with Department of Education regulations and accreditation standards for distance education.4. Serve as a campus hub for teaching and learning resources and training by maintaining physical and virtual spaces that foster:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Communication among and within campus units and departments who are stakeholders in professional development and learning,b. Shared, cross-curricular knowledge exchange and engagement among faculty and staff, andc. Partnerships with other centers and institutions to expand learning opportunities. <p>The Center will have the capacity to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Establish and maintain long-term, sustainable, mutually transformative partnerships across the campus and potentially between the campus and the broader community2. Leverage campus and state collaborations for teaching and learning3. Provide seamless instructional technology support between and among student and academic service areas, productively involving both staff and faculty in these areas4. Expand into new, relevant programming areas5. Connect systematically with related initiatives on campus (such as general education, distance education, enrollment, assessment, and data)
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	<p>6. Collaborate with faculty, staff, students, and community members, on programs engaged in related forms of experiential, community-college teaching, learning, and scholarship, thereby helping to strengthen such efforts, and generating new models for effective curricular engagement across a range of venues (e.g., internships, undergraduate research, learning communities, etc.)</p> <p>7. Garner external funding in support of the teaching, learning, and scholarship activities associated with curricular engagement</p> <p>CEITL will be a powerful resource for engaging faculty and staff in learning that expands their scholarship of teaching and learning and enriches the student learning experience toward the aim of enhancing student success, while also serving as an organizational hub that allows the college to leverage resources and create synergies for learning within the college and our community.</p> <p>This was an information item and required no further action.</p>
<p>Recommendation to approve May 31, 2023 College Board meeting date (Action Item)</p>	<p>Board Chair Mike Wenger recommended to board members to reschedule the June 1, 2023 College Board meeting to May 31, 2023 due to a scheduling conflict with a recently-scheduled VCCS engagement that requires President Blosser's attendance. The meeting will still be held at the Luray-Page County Center and begin at 12 Noon.</p> <p>On a motion made by Ed Daley, seconded by Krista Farris, the recommendation was unanimously approved.</p>
<p>Recommendation to approve AY 2023-24 College Board meeting dates (Action Item)</p>	<p>Board Vice Chair Mike Wenger reviewed with board members the proposed Laurel Ridge Community College Board meeting dates for the 2023-24 academic year (Attachment No. 2).</p> <p>On a motion made by Krista Farris, seconded by Michael Lake, the recommendation was unanimously approved.</p> <p>(Attachment No. 2; 1 page)</p>
<p>Recommendation to approve Laurel Ridge President Executive Compensation FY 2023 (Action Item)</p>	<p>Liv Heggoy reviewed with board members that the VCCS policy on executive compensation permits the college's foundation to supplement the president's salary in the form of a housing allowance up to \$25,000 per year.</p> <p>The Laurel Ridge Foundation Board and executive committee has allocated \$20,000 in the Foundation budget that can be used to supplement the president's salary annually. Authorization for the president to receive this benefit must be recommended by the local college board, funded by the foundation, and approved by the chancellor.</p>

On a motion by Ed Daley, seconded by Brad Hodgson, the Recommendation was unanimously approved.			
(Attachment No. 3; 1 page)			
REPORT OF THE COLLEGE BOARD CHAIR			
College Board Chair Mike Wenger discussed a recent experience of providing accommodations for a German exchange student.			
REPORT OF THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD REPRESENTATIVE			
Brad Hodgson, Educational Foundation Board Representative, reported on the following:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the April Foundation Board meeting, Caroline Wood, assistant vice president of student services, provided an overview of the college's Freshman Focus program. The Foundation Board is discussing expansion of the Fauquier County Trail to access the Fauquier campus property. The Foundation owned Catlett property is currently listed for sale. 			
REPORTS OF THE COLLEGE			
(Attachment No. 4; 8 pages)			
REPORTS OF THE COLLEGE			
Date	Activity	Time	Location
Friday, April 14, 2023	Laurel Ridge Educational Foundation Appreciation Luncheon	12:00 p.m.	Middletown Campus, Corron Community Development Center, Carl & Emily Thompson Conference Center
Tuesday, May 2, 2023	Chancellor David Doré's Listening Tour visit to Middletown campus	11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Middletown Campus, Corron Community Development Center, Carl & Emily Thompson Conference Center
Tuesday, May 9, 2023	Fauquier Student Academic Awards Ceremony	6:30 p.m.	Fauquier Campus, Hazel Hall, Barkman Conference Center
Wednesday, May 10, 2023	Laurel Ridge Medallion and Emeriti Recognition Ceremony	2:00 p.m.	Middletown Campus, Corron Community Development Center, Carl & Emily Thompson Conference Center
Wednesday, May 10, 2023	Middletown Student Academic Awards Ceremony	5:00 p.m.	Middletown Campus, Corron Community Development Center, Carl & Emily Thompson Conference Center
Thursday, May 11, 2023	Laurel Ridge Health Professions Commencement	2:00 p.m.; <i>board members should arrive by 1:15 p.m.</i>	Middletown Campus
Thursday, May 11, 2023	Nursing Pinning Ceremony	4:00 p.m.	Middletown Campus

Friday, May 12, 2023	Laurel Ridge Commencement	2:00 p.m.; <i>board members should arrive by 1:15 p.m.</i>	Middletown Campus
Monday, May 15, 2023	Employee Awards and Recognition Program <i>(includes luncheon)</i>	10:30 a.m.	Middletown Campus, Corron Community Development Center, Carl & Emily Thompson Conference Center
Wednesday, May 31, 2023 <i>(pending board approval on 4/6/23)</i>	College Board meeting	12:00 p.m.; <i>lunch served at 11:30 a.m.</i>	Luray-Page County Center

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Mike Wenger declared the meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:



Kimberly P. Blosser
President, Laurel Ridge Community College;
Secretary, Laurel Ridge Community College Board

APPROVED BY:



Michael S Wenger
Chair, Laurel Ridge Community College Board

Copy + Attachments to: All College Board Members and College Senior Leadership members.

Copy of Approved MINUTES NO. 261 (February 2, 2023) filed with Dr. David Doré, Chancellor, Virginia Community College System.



INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

—2022-23—

PROGRESS UPDATE, MARCH 2023





1

Remove barriers to student onboarding and enrollment

Why is this a priority?

Historically, community colleges, including Laurel Ridge, have put much of the burden of completing each step of the enrollment process on students and have not invested in technology or human resources to track students' progress. For many of our students, time is the enemy, and they are often confused by the different steps in applying, enrolling, or obtaining financial assistance, which results in lost enrollments. The college must devise new onboarding processes to address these challenges our students face.

Strategies to address this priority

- At least three new student coaches/navigators will be hired who will connect with students at least 24 hours from time of application.
- Student coaches/navigators will work with students on all parts of the onboarding process, from application to financial aid and payment, to selection of their program, to enrollment, and then connecting with their academic program advisor.
- Students will have an advising appointment within 48 hours of enrollment.
- Technology will be leveraged to seamlessly move students from interest to enrollment, thereby allowing front-facing student services employees to work directly with students.
- Required financial aid forms for Workforce Solutions students will be moved online to remove barriers.

Outcomes achieved

- ✓ Three new student coaches have been hired and trained in all aspects of student onboarding, including financial aid.
- ✓ All students who submit an application are assigned to a coach.
- ✓ Technology has been leveraged to allow students to schedule an advising appointment within 48 hours.
- ✓ The college has implemented a Live Chat feature to allow easy access for students to ask questions. Since August 2022, there have been 2,205 individual chat sessions.

Outcomes in progress

- ➡ Student coaches are working on a new "Freshman Focus" program, which involves partnering with high school career coaches to get seniors enrolled prior to high school graduation. The stretch goal is to have 350 students enrolled by the end of April.
- ➡ Salesforce (a customer relations management program) will be implemented this calendar year, replacing our in-house student tracking system. This program will provide more sophisticated tracking and analytics.
- ➡ The financial aid forms for G3 and FANTIC are being moved online. This would have already been completed, but the VCCS requested to partner with our Workforce unit to do this process for all colleges, which has caused some delays. This will be completed in the next couple of months.



2

Increase inquiries and applications to the college and the net enrollment yield

Why is this a priority?

While there is some similarity to Goal 1, the college must also focus on the top of the funnel, where students show interest in our programs. Until now, outreach employees have been unable to track students prior to application, and it is a large gap in our knowledge base. The college's Workforce Solutions unit has utilized a customer relations software program, which has improved their ability to nurture leads from interest to enrollment. However, they also feel the need to improve their processes. In order to improve enrollment and ensure our business community has the trained employees they need, we must have a more robust system for outreach, engagement and inquiry tracking.

Strategies to address this priority

- Increase use of customer relations management software to expand how we track and create momentum for students and help move them along a path to enrollment.
- Workforce Solutions will identify and proactively suggest enrollment opportunities, utilizing four initiatives:
 - 60-year pathway development
 - Companion class enrollment recommendation
 - Level-Up strategies and outreach
 - Open seat inventory selling
- Workforce Solutions will pilot a Corporate Training "fast-pass" series of business and professional development in-person classes.
- Workforce Solutions will identify the leading measures to increase enrollments through three identified strategies:
 - 50 self-generated leads & 50 systems generated leads – 100 per week
 - 20% leads to enrollment conversion – 20 per week
 - Developing visual metric for monitoring weekly outcomes

Outcomes achieved

- ✓ Added an inquiry form to pathway pages utilizing software called Genoo that allows students to inquire about a program and receive a response from an outreach specialist. There are now "eyes" on every part of the process, from interest, to application, to enrollment.
- ✓ Developed a nurturing sequence, which sends out four

emails to students who have inquired about a program and allows an outreach specialist to contact each student.

- ✓ Workforce Solutions developed a "Power Skills" five-part series based on employer demand. The first class, "Emotional Intelligence," began on Feb. 14 with 32 students. Four more classes are scheduled through mid-April. Each class is \$199, and the entire bundle is \$850.
- ✓ Workforce Solutions developed a "level-up" strategy, which has shown a great deal of early success. Enrollment and financial aid staff attend the last night of a class to assist students in enrolling in the next "level" of the class (i.e. students in Electrical level 1 can get enrolled in Electrical level 2).
- ✓ Applications to the college (credit programs) were up 373 in 2022, compared to 2021.

373
more
applications
received in
2022

Outcomes in progress

- ↻ Student Coaches have implemented a comprehensive tracking system to break down student steps from application to enrollment. Coaches are tracking the following on each degree/certificate seeking student:

• Application	• Advisor Meeting
• Holds	• Enrollment in courses
• New Student Orientation	• Payment
• Financial Aid application	
- ↻ As a result, coaches will be able to identify points of progression and stop gaps such that we can enhance personalized student services that remove barriers to increase application to enrollment.
- ↻ Salesforce (a customer relations management program) will be implemented this calendar year, which will replace Genoo and our in-house student tracking system. This program will provide more sophisticated tracking and analytics.
- ↻ Workforce Solutions has developed the operating procedures for identifying the leading measures of enrollment rather than the lagging measures. Work on this will continue through next year.

3

Assess student success and course-level data to identify disparities and develop strategies to address gaps

Why is this a priority?

The college's ultimate goal is student success. Using national research from community colleges, we know there are gateway courses that are important for student completion. We also know that how well students perform in their first courses at a community college also have an impact on their ultimate success. To identify where students are and are not being successful, the college must take a deeper look at course-level data. Historically, our data shows disparities among demographic groups in retention, completion, and course-level success. Therefore, it will be important to fully disaggregate the data to ensure students from all demographics are succeeding equally and where this is not occurring, to develop strategies to address those gaps.

Strategies to address this priority

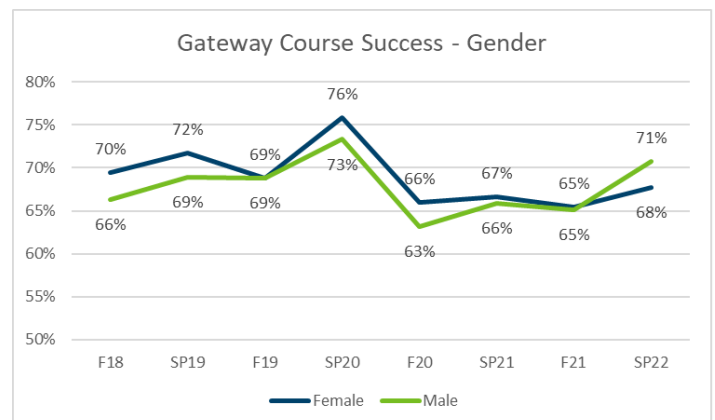
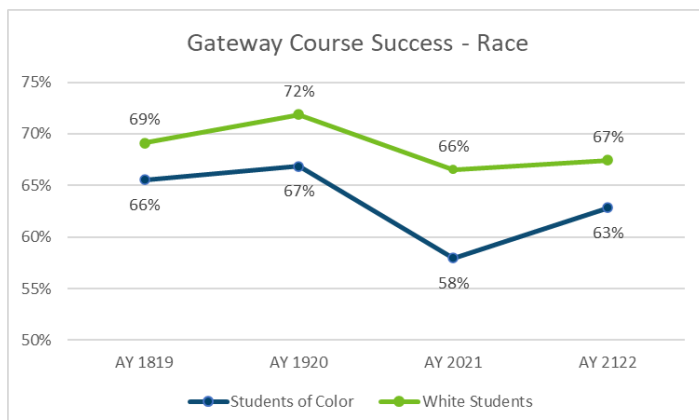
- Hold meetings with faculty to review course-level data.
- Identify gateway courses that are having a greater impact on retention and completion.
- Develop a 'road map' that engages faculty in conversations around what factors impact mindset, motivation, and success of students from targeted demographic groups and then identify and implement strategies.
- The Advising and Student Support Teams will develop a plan to communicate with, support, and follow up with students in targeted demographic groups to ensure they are supported and communicated with at crucial points during the semester.

Outcomes achieved

- ✓ Disaggregated course-level data has been generated and shared with academic and student affairs deans and the vice president.
- ✓ A meeting with all faculty is scheduled for April 7, to share data and develop strategies to address gaps.
- ✓ A set of 19 gateway courses has been identified, and disaggregated data pulled to assess student success based on race and gender.

Outcomes in progress

- ↻ Faculty and disciplines will set instructional goals based on course-level data discussion, and retention will be measured over the coming semesters to assess progress.
- ↻ Academic advising developed a pilot program to provide more intrusive advising to students in the underrepresented demographic. The retention rates and GPAs of the students in the pilot program were compared to students in the general population and found to be higher. Advisors will continue the pilot program to determine if proactive advising results in more success for underrepresented students.
- ↻ The outreach and advising teams created events targeting the underrepresented student populations. This will continue through the spring semester.



4

Seek innovative and inclusive approaches to scale facilities to meet the needs of instructional programs and student support services

Why is this a priority?

Many people in our community need training programs that will lead to careers with a life-sustaining wage, and businesses in our region are desperate for more skilled workers. The college recognizes the need for more customized learning spaces, particularly those designed for career and technical education. In addition, we are living and learning in a post-COVID environment, and we must look at facilities and technology through a new lens. Classrooms and office spaces require superior ventilation. We must also continue to explore innovative approaches for online learning and virtual student support services.

Strategies to address this priority

- Implement hyflex classrooms at all three locations and ensure faculty are trained in how to provide instruction to multiple locations.
- Support the Laurel Ridge Foundation's Building the Future Fund to expand career and technical education programs at the Fauquier Campus.
- Complete construction and occupancy of the Center for Skilled Trades at the Fauquier campus before the end of June 2023.
- Work collaboratively with Valley Health to determine a pathway for additional funding to support the expansion of health care programs.
- Investigate the expansion or repurposing of space to offer additional health care programs at the Fauquier campus.
- Renovation of the Harvey Pearson Student Success Suite at the Fauquier campus to provide more inclusive student support.
- Renovate downstairs classrooms in Wolk Hall at the Fauquier campus to provide more innovative teaching and learning environments.

Outcomes achieved

- ✓ \$1.05 million has been raised for the expansion of career and technical education programs at the Fauquier Campus.
- ✓ HyFlex classrooms are complete at the Middletown Campus and Luray-Page County Center.
- ✓ A new Technology Academy has been created and will be offered for Fauquier County and Rappahannock County public school students beginning in fall 2023 in Hazel Hall on our Fauquier Campus.
- ✓ A Lab School planning grant was awarded to Laurel Ridge and Germanna community colleges; Orange, Rappahannock, Culpeper, and Madison counties' public schools; and James Madison University for the purpose of developing a teacher education-focused lab school.
- ✓ Construction in Wolk Hall to provide a more welcoming student services area for students and a more functional workspace for employees will be completed by May 2023.
- ✓ All air quality and HVAC systems have been improved.

Outcomes in progress

- ↻ HyFlex classrooms are being completed at the Fauquier Campus, and those in the renovated classrooms in Wolk Hall will be finished by summer 2023.
- ↻ The Skilled Trades Building construction at the Fauquier Campus is underway and scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2023.
- ↻ A Trades Academy is being envisioned for Fauquier County and Rappahannock County public school students, with the intention to begin no later than fall 2024.
- ↻ The Lab School planning is ongoing with the intention of beginning the Teacher Education Academy in fall 2024.
- ↻ Renovation of classrooms in Wolk Hall is underway and will be completed in May 2023.
- ↻ Renovation of the old bookstore and storage space in Wolk Hall will allow Mountain Vista Governor's School to move out of the modulares and have office and classroom space inside the building at the Fauquier Campus. This construction will be complete during summer 2023, and MVGS will move before their fall 2023 start.



5

Support our One College mission by redefining programs through the lens of career training or college transfer

Why is this a priority?

Over the past eighteen months, the college has engaged in a re-branding effort and has gathered a tremendous amount of information from current and prospective students, employers, business leaders, alumni, and community members. During this process, we learned that Laurel Ridge is highly regarded and is considered an asset to our communities and our students. The feedback has been extremely positive. However, one area that has emerged as an opportunity for improvement is our alignment between our academic and Workforce Solutions units. As our marketing experts tell us, when you confuse, you lose. There is confusion surrounding some of our terminology, which has led the college to focus on this priority this year to ensure some of the areas of misunderstanding are addressed.

Strategies to address this priority

- Academic Affairs and Workforce Solutions will work collaboratively to classify all of our program offerings based on defined career pathways. During that process, both divisions will:
 - Review the career pathway categories to identify areas of overlap.
 - Remove duplicative areas or identify unique and specific target audiences to ensure best use of the college's existing resources.
 - Establish student pathways between academic and workforce career training programs.
- Define processes for collaboration when identifying and implementing new college programs.

- Identify better ways to communicate the pathways to prospective students utilizing both the website and publications.
- Work with academic deans to clarify program outcomes for career and transfer programs for inclusion in public facing program information.

Outcomes achieved

- ✓ Academic Affairs and Workforce Solutions have been meeting monthly since June 2022 to review all college-wide programs. Multiple programs that were found to be duplicative were discontinued, while those that have overlap were more clearly defined.
- ✓ College website and marketing materials have been updated to reflect better defined program pathways.
- ✓ New business processes have been developed to collaborate college-wide on new program planning. One example is the current collaboration between Workforce and Academic Affairs on a possible cannabis program.
- ✓ All credit programs have established a listing of student learning outcomes that will be published in the 2023-24 college catalog.

Outcomes in progress

- ➡ Currently in the process of a re-organization of programs based on career pathways and time to completion that will be reflected on the college website and in the Viewbook.





LAUREL RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

2023-24 Calendar of Scheduled Meetings

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
September 7, 2023	12:00 p.m.	Middletown Campus, Student Union Building, Room 118/119
November 9, 2023	12:00 p.m.	Middletown Campus, Student Union Building, Room 118/119
February 1, 2024	12:00 p.m.	Middletown Campus, Student Union Building, Room 118/119
April 4, 2024	12:00 p.m.	Fauquier Campus, Hazel Hall, Barkman Conference Center
June 7, 2024	12:00 p.m.	Luray-Page County Center

Note: All College Board meetings are scheduled to begin at 12:00 p.m.; a light lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. Dates, times and meeting locations are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

LAUREL RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Middletown | Fauquier | Luray-Page | Vint Hill

RECOMMENDATION FOR COLLEGE BOARD

TO: Laurel Ridge Community College Board
FROM: Liv Heggoy, executive director, Laurel Ridge Educational Foundation
DATE: February 2023
SUBJECT: Item Recommendation for College Board Agenda

The following item is recommended for the Agenda of the next College Board meeting:

Information Item: ☐ or Action Item: ☒

Item Title for Agenda: Laurel Ridge President Executive Compensation FY 2023

Initiating Administrator's Recommendation (if funding is involved, please indicate appropriate budget line-item number and title): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

On February 2, 2023, the Laurel Ridge Foundation Board approved allocating \$20,000 from the Foundation's 2023 operating budget for an executive compensation/housing allowance for President Kim Blosser during the 2023-2024 contract year. The Foundation will also cover the additional FICA taxes applied to the \$20,000.

For many years, the executive compensation plan outlined in the VCCS policy manual has permitted a college foundation to supplement the college president's salary with a housing allowance. In 2013, the Virginia State Board for Community Colleges amended the executive compensation policy and increased the housing allowance limit to \$25,000, noting that the change was consistent with the increased priority that Virginia community college presidents are expected to place on foundation work, with fundraising in particular.

Authorization for a president to receive this benefit must be recommended by the local college board, funded by the college's foundation, and approved by the chancellor.

Attachments (list supporting documents):

Reports of the College

Laurel Ridge Community College Board Meeting No. 262

April 6, 2023

a. **President** – Kim Blosser

State Budget

- As of March 30, there is still no news regarding agreement among the budget conferees; however, there is news that they are now meeting.
- By midnight on March 27, the Governor had to sign the 819 bills passed by the legislature, submit amendments, or indicate he would veto.
- The General Assembly is scheduled to return to Richmond on Wednesday, April 12 for the “veto” session.
- We expect the Governor to announce a special session for the Legislature to reconvene and approve a revised state budget. Because Virginia passes a biennial budget and that was passed in June 2022 (for 2022-2024), if no budget or budget amendments are adopted this year, the state will continue to operate under year 2 of the biennial budget.

State Board for Community Colleges

- The State Board voted on March 16 to post a potential tuition increase effective Fall 2023 in the range between 0% - 4.7%.
- The State Board will vote on any tuition and fee increases at the May 18 meeting.
- The State Board, along with all public higher education institutions in Virginia, adopted a shared statement that prioritizes the advancement of free expression on our campuses. That statement approved by the State Board is copied here:
 - As presidents of Virginia’s public colleges and universities, we unequivocally support free expression and viewpoint diversity on our campuses. Free expression is the fundamental basis for both academic freedom and for effective teaching and learning inside and outside the classroom. Our member universities and colleges are bound to uphold the First Amendment. We are committed to promoting this constitutional freedom through robust statements and policies that are formulated through shared governance processes and through actions that reflect and reinforce this core foundation of education. We value a scholarly environment that is supported by a diversity of research and intellectual perspectives among our faculty and staff. We pledge to promote and uphold inclusivity, academic freedom, free expression, and an environment that promotes civil discourse across differences. We will protect these principles when others seek to restrict them.

New VCCS Chancellor, Dr. David Doré

- Chancellor Doré’s visit to Laurel Ridge has been confirmed for Tuesday, May 2 from approximately 8:30 am – 1 pm. His visit will consist of a listening session with

faculty/staff and with students; showcase of two Workforce/CTE programs; and an open forum with community members and other key stakeholders in our service region.

- The Chancellor has scheduled a Retreat for all College Presidents on June 1-2.

College Engagements

- President Blosser has been attending numerous board and council meetings, on which she serves or is a member of, including the United Way of the Northern Shenandoah Valley, Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, GO Virginia Region 8 and 9 Councils, and Winchester Rotary Club.
- President Blosser attended the February 9 Warren County Board of Supervisors meeting to present on the community impact of Laurel Ridge in conjunction with the college's contribution request to Warren County.
- President Blosser attended the Winchester Regional Airport's "Airport Terminal of the Future" groundbreaking ceremony on March 1.
- The president held open houses with college new hires at both campuses in March.
- President Blosser attended Reynold's Community College 50th Anniversary event with guest speaker Arthur Levine, author of *The Great Upheaval: Higher Education's Past, Present, and Uncertain Future*, and a revealing discussion on the evolution of higher education.
- On March 28, President Blosser hosted a "Pizza with the Prez" event which provided an opportunity to meet and discuss with current students.
- President Blosser attended the VCCS New Horizons Conference on March 29-30.

b. **Workforce Solutions**, Jeanian Clark, vice president of Workforce Solutions

Laurel Ridge Awarded \$320,000 in G3 Innovation Funding for the Fauquier Trades Building

- Grant funds will be used to outfit the furniture, fixtures, and instructional equipment in the new 8,000 sq. Ft Center for Skilled Trades offering Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, HEO, Welding, and Carpentry Programs.

Laurel Ridge Workforce Solutions partners with Germanna & wins Consortium G3 Grant

- GCC & Laurel Ridge will partner to expand the Heavy Equipment Operator program scope and scale. Laurel Ridge Workforce will receive \$415,000 to add flexibility and additional capabilities to expand the program with new "live" equipment areas such as backhoe loaders and mini excavators. The college will purchase a truck, trailer, and mobile simulator lab to be able to deliver programs to more populations of the service region.

c. **Communications and Planning; Fauquier Campus**; Chris Coutts, vice president of communications and planning, Fauquier campus provost

Grants

- Awarded grant in partnership with Germanna from the G3 Innovation Consortium grant that will provide us with \$425,000 (total grant was \$850,000) for Heavy Equipment Operation.

- Awarded \$320,000 from the G3 Innovation grant (single institution application) toward furniture, fixtures, and equipment at the Trades Building in Fauquier.
- Awarded grant in partnership with Germanna and JMU that will provide us \$52,000 (total grant was \$200,000) for Lab School Planning.
- Submitted request to PATH Flexible Funding for \$75,000 for TimelyCare.
- Submitted \$24,000 request to Small-Rural-Tribal Body-Worn Camera Microgrant for Laurel Ridge Community College Police Department.
- Submitted \$10,000 grant request to United Way for internet connectivity (i.e., hotspots, broadband, and internet payments).
- Stanley Black & Decker sent boxes of new tools as a supplement to our grant.
- Submitted \$250,000 Congressionally Directed Spending Request to Senators Kaine/Warner for LAPSIM ST (virtual reality training for Surgical Technologists and Surgical Assistants).
- Submitted Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Partner Impact and Innovation Grant for \$968.57 (shelving, totes, etc.).
- Submitted \$48,000 grant request to Department of Criminal Justice Services ARPA opportunity for Laurel Ridge Community College Police Department.
- The Grants Office has also been assisting with the Adult Education program grants, SACSCOC writing, and other grants/writing supports to staff.

Fauquier Campus

- Renovation of first floor classrooms remains on schedule to be completed by June 1st, leaving sufficient time for setting up the spaces for the start of the Fall '23 semester.
- Renovation of the Harvey Pearson Student Success Suite, Campus Police and Bookstore remains on schedule to be completed by May 1st. Once the new Bookstore is complete and moved to the Loeb Center, the vacated Bookstore space will be renovate and occupied by Mountain Vista Governors School.
- The Trades Building completion date has shifted slightly by a month; completion is now set for July 1st. We need to be moved out of Vint Hill by June 30th. Different units of the College are working together to establish a plan for moving and transition onto the Fauquier Campus.
- Installation of HyFlex equipment in Hazel Hall and Wolk Hall by CTSI continues and should be wrapping up soon.
- Trail Network Master Plan being worked on to connect the College Foundation property to the Greenway Trail in Warrenton.

Marketing

- Fall Recruitment Campaigns Launched
- March 2023 through August 2023
 - Collegewide and targeted efforts will be reaching prospective student audiences and community leads with digital advertising, direct mail, and live/streaming radio. Highlights include:
 - Engineering Programs Information Sessions (March 27 and March 30)
 - Fall 2023 Viewbook Mailing (April 1 and May 1).
 - Direct mail postcards focused on transfer programs and saving money with the college (April 15 and May 15).

- WSCE Spring Summer Course Catalog Mailing (April 1 and May 1) and Fall Course Catalog (July 1 and August 1).
- Fauquier Trades Programs Campaign - May – August to support the opening of the new trades facility.
- Targeted Fast-Track Program Information Sessions – IT Certifications, Healthcare, Trades, and Project Management.

Public Relations

- Commencement Planning is Underway. Details can be viewed at <https://laurelridge.edu/commencement/>.
- Here is a list of some outside groups that the college has served as a facility sponsor between January and March.
 - United Way Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet
 - Fauquier County Public Schools Principal Meetings
 - Department of Aging and Rehabilitation
 - Luray-Page Non-Profit Council
 - NAACP Meetings
 - Cedar Creek Commissions
 - Future Farmers of America (FFA) Rally – 250 High School Students
 - Northwestern Community Services Board – Strengthening Families Seminars
 - VA-10 Veterans Mobile Office Hours – Military and Veterans Affairs Manager, Rep. Jennifer Wexton (VA10)
 - Federal Aviation Administration - Inspector Authorization Seminar
 - Fauquier County School Security Officer Basic Class
 - Fauquier County Public Schools Leadership Meeting
 - Page County TRIAD/SALT Council Senior Citizen Coalition
 - Fauquier County Republican Committee Meetings

d. Academic and Student Affairs, Anne Davis, vice president of academic and student affairs

Academic Accomplishments

- NASA RockOn Program. Laurel Ridge Community College has been selected to participate in the RockOn 2023 workshop, held at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, located on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The amount of interest this year was overwhelming. Over 40 applications were received from across the country! The RockOn 2023 workshop will run from Friday, June 16, 2023, to Wednesday, June 21, 2023, and will culminate with the RockOn sounding rocket launch on Thursday, June 22, 2023. (In the event of inclement weather or a launch delay, the back-up launch date is June 23, 2023.)
- Laurel Ridge is Finalist for AUVSI XCELLENCE Award. The AUVSI XCELLENCE Awards honor individuals and organizations that are innovators in the uncrewed systems industry, with a demonstrated commitment to advancing autonomy, leading and promoting safe adoption of uncrewed systems, and developing programs that use these technologies to save lives and improve society.

Laurel Ridge's drone program was selected as one of 5 finalists in the Workforce Development category. The award was based on community outreach, being a CTI, the two drone programs, grants received, research with VT, pathways from K12 to Workforce, work with industry, and other educational institutions and other drone non-profits. While the award recognizes Craig Santicola and Melissa Stange, it is a college honor. Winners will be announced at AUVSI XPONENTIAL 2023 on May 8-11 at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, CO.

- The Drones Program was also recognized in a Jan 2023 whitepaper by the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation on "Virginia's Advanced Air Mobility Future." Dr. Santicola presented at Shenandoah University on the college's role in the development of Advanced Air Mobility in the region. This was in connection with the Winchester Airport's groundbreaking event.
- Cybersecurity Students. On Feb 24th and Feb 25th the college's cybersecurity team of 8 students traveled to Virginia Military Institute to participate in the 6th Annual Commonwealth Cyber Fusion Capture the Flag Competition. They earned 2nd place in the commonwealth in the community college category, only missing 1st place by 8 points. The team was coached by Full-time faculty member Darrell Andrews and adjunct faculty member Mark Sunderlin.
- Surg Tech Event. The college hosted the state assembly of surgical technologists at the Barkman Event Center in Hazel Hall. There were over 100 participants from all over the state (and several people from other states) for the meeting. There were presentations, equipment demos, and tours of the surgical technology suite.

Faculty Accomplishments

- The English Department's Ruth Holmes successfully defended her dissertation in March. Dr. Holmes now has her PhD in English from ODU.
- Assistant Professor of Sociology and Human Services Larry Friedenberg has accepted an invitation to attend SafeTalk Training for Trainers on May 24-May 25.
- English Professor Jessi Lewis, in concert with the Peter Bullough Foundation, has brought professional writers to Laurel Ridge Community College to speak to faculty and ENG 112 students about Writing in the Field. Jessi also had a short story accepted into the 2023 Best Mystery Stories of the Year Anthology, which has been edited by Amor Towles.

Student Services

- Freshman Focus. To be in alignment with VCCS onboarding expectations, reducing time between application and enrollment and to strengthen our collaborations with our High School Career Coaches, this spring the enrollment team has introduced the Freshman Focus Program. Incoming freshmen are receiving a pre-planned schedule. Students involved in our Freshman Focus Program will be enrolled in their first 5 classes prior to orientation. At orientation they will be prompted to book their required new student advising appointment. At the advising appointment, the advisor will review the students' courses and assist them in making any necessary adjustments to credit load, course mode, etc. Kudos to the outreach, enrollment, and advising teams for

operationalizing this plan! Thus far, 300 students so far have been registered via Freshman Focus.

- Newly Renovated Veterans Center at Middletown. The renovation to the veteran's center in Cornerstone Hall is complete. The veteran's advisors now have private office spaces to meet with students and guide them in the enrollment process.
- Veteran's Services Event. Representative Jennifer Wexton and representatives from Veteran's Services hosted an informational session about PACT Act programs for toxic-exposed veterans at Fauquier Campus on Friday, March 31st. Veterans were also able to be evaluated for benefits at the event.

New Horizons

The VCCS annual New Horizons Conference was held in Roanoke March 28-31st. The following faculty and staff had conference sessions selected:

- Ann Simpson, *Building Classroom Community Using the Pecha Kucha Method Through High Impact Active Learning*
- Rachel Dodson, *Transitioning to Shorter Academic Terms*
- Anne Davis, *VCCS Leadership Academy – Power and Influence and Transformative Leadership*
- Zach Peterman, *Implementing Navigators – Lesson Learned in the First Year*
- Helen Fleming & Polly Nesselrodt, *Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) and A Culture of Care: The Original BFFs*

- e. **Financial and Administrative Services**, Cory Thompson, vice president of financial and administrative services

New Vice President of Financial and Administrative Services

Cory Thompson started as the new Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services on March 10th. He joins us from NOVA community college where he worked for the last 20 years.

The F&AS unit is excited for weekly team meetings with the new VP to get up to speed the major areas of responsibility:

- Enterprise Systems (RADS)
- Finance
- Police
- IT
- Facilities Planning
- Maintenance
- Material Management (Fleet, Warehouse, Receiving, Procurement)
- Auxiliary Services

Finance (Business Office)

- The Finance team continues to gather data in preparation for the fiscal year 2024 budget.
- The Tuition Refund Policy was sent for feedback. The updated version of the policy will be posted before the end of March.

Facilities Planning

- Major Construction
- Trades Lab work continues at the FC with an expected completion date in June, 2023.
- FC Bookstore construction is ongoing with a soft opening this summer and grand opening for the Fall 2023 semester.
- The Wolk Hall renovation project is expected to reach substantial completion in May, 2023.
- A project update dashboard is being developed that will provide a standardized format for communicating the status of **all** active capital and non-capital construction projects at the college.
- Developing a physical space inventory and methodology for quantifying space utilization.

Maintenance

- Maintenance and repairs were performed on the LPCC elevator. While the elevator is currently online and functioning, additional engineering assessment work is being scheduled to facilitate sustained functionality of the elevator's systems.
- Extensive work with Johnson Controls continues as the Facilities team works to modernize operations using building automation systems (BAS).

Enterprise Systems (RADS)

- The RADS team is actively supporting various college enterprise-wide systems, such as PeopleSoft AIS, SIS, WES, HCM, and Perceptive Content.
- The Application Development team of RADs continues to develop and maintain its Vision system and is excited to use the system to automate and modernize workflows throughout the college.

Police

- The police is in the early stages of planning a full test of all emergency communication systems at the college and will have more information on timeline in the coming weeks.

IT

- The Help Desk ticketing system was implemented and continues to receive great feedback. The system works and will be refined to expand and improve support services to the college community and feedback is received.
- The Hyflex Classroom optimization continues and the team expects hired contractors to resolve all outstanding functionality concerns in the coming weeks.

- f. **Development; Laurel Ridge Foundation;** Liv Heggoy, associate vice president of development

Events

- Foundation's Appreciation Luncheon, Friday, April 14, Invitation only event for donors and scholarship recipients. We will also honor:
 - Sarah Bell Williams ('11), Distinguished Alumni Award
 - Steve and Reta Rodgers, Leadership in Philanthropy Award
- Party in the Garden fundraiser, Thursday, September 14, Luray-Page County Center
- Irmengard Lewis Art Show and Reception, November 4 (Time TBD)
 - Art Show in Partnership with the Barns of Rose Hill in Berryville (November &

December). Free to attend, art for sale. Ms. Irmengard Lewis was a regionally known artist. Laurel Ridge knows her family well – Bill Lewis (son, retired Laurel Ridge engineering faculty), Kim Lewis (daughter-in-law, Laurel Ridge English faculty), and Jessi Lewis (granddaughter, Laurel Ridge English faculty).

- Grand Opening of the Skilled Trades Building at the Fauquier Campus, date TBD

New Endowed Scholarship

We are pleased to have a new scholarship – Anna Phelan Dawson Endowed Scholarship. Criteria include a preference for first generation students, those with financial need, and residence in Page, Warren or Shenandoah counties.

Axalta Bright Futures Scholarship

For the second year in a row, Axalta (with a plant in Front Royal) is making a generous donation to support scholarships. Their 2023 gift is \$20,000.

Building the Future Fund: Middletown Campus

In partnership with Workforce Solutions, the Foundation is raising funds to sustain and expand workforce training programs and offer new programs at the Middletown Campus. To encourage corporate giving, we will feature logos in two sizes on a donor recognition wall in the recently expanded and renovated Workforce Solutions Wing of Alson Smith Hall. The size of the donor recognition will depend on the level of giving (tier one - \$5,000, tier two - \$15,000). The donor wall will showcase our region's world-class business and industry partners, as well as recognize their investment in Laurel Ridge.

Property for Sale

In 2013, the Foundation received a donation of 6 acres of property in Catlett, Virginia. We have recently listed it for sale:

<https://www.longandfoster.com/warrenton-va-realty/landlots-for-sale/Tenerife-Road-Catlett-VA-20119-342539746>