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“Regional Cooperation in Higher Education”
Background

The Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education (VTC) was established by the Virginia State Legislature in 1973 as one of six regional consortia in the state. Membership in the Virginia Tidewater Consortium has increased from the original eight full member institutions to thirteen, including four community colleges, four public colleges and universities, four private institutions and a National Defense University. In addition, there are two associate members and two affiliate members. The Virginia Tidewater Consortium helps develop and share ideas, information, programs and resources to achieve its goals, which include promoting cooperation and collaboration among its member institutions to serve the people of the Tidewater region through higher education and related services. The VTC functions independently of any one institution to serve all its members.

Goals of the Consortium

- To determine the need for higher education programs and to provide increased educational opportunities for area residents.
- To encourage cooperative projects among the institutions of higher education to better serve the citizens of the Tidewater region.
- To establish linkages between the member institutions and business, industry, government, and the military.
- To enrich existing academic opportunities exchange and articulation programs.
- To work cooperatively with the local school divisions to serve the educational needs of teachers and administrators.
- To develop the use of technology to enhance the teaching and learning process.
- To enhance the economic development of the region by providing an opportunity for the development of a highly trained workforce.

Articulation Agreements. Four-year Consortium institutions recognize A.A. and A.S. degrees from community colleges as fulfilling lower-division academic requirements.

Certificate on College Teaching. A program for graduate students, part-time faculty and full-time faculty who want to learn more about teaching at the college level or improve their teaching skills.

Cooperative Degree Programs. Designated degree programs offered cooperatively by two or more Consortium institutions.

Co-Sponsorship of Grants. The Consortium applies for state and federal grants of mutual benefit to member institutions.

Cross-Registration. Students may register on a credit or audit basis for courses offered by any Consortium institution.

Educational Opportunity Center. Since 1979, the Consortium sponsors the federally funded Educational Opportunity Center; a program that provides academic, career and financial aid information to adults seeking to participate in higher education.

Faculty Development Programs. The Consortium offers Faculty Programs throughout the year for the improvement of teaching and learning.

Higher Education Digital Cable Channel – 106 (VTC-TV). The Consortium operates a full-time cable television channel which reaches over 425,000 homes to the citizens of the Tidewater region.

Interlibrary Borrowing. Students and faculty may check out library materials from any member institution’s library by using the Consortium’s borrowing card.

International Programs Committee. The institutions of the Consortium work together to promote international education and study abroad programs.

Liaison with the Military and the Community. The Consortium is actively involved in promoting higher educational opportunities through participation with local communities, boards, and by serving the military through its on-base information offices.

Public Relations & Communications Committee. The Public Relations & Communications Committee works collaboratively to promote our member institutions of higher education in the Hampton Roads region. This Committee shares information about the ways in which they can enhance their visibility through many forms of multi-media and promotional materials produced jointly.

Security and Emergency Preparedness Committee. Consortium institutions share emergency plans and are developing ways to share resources in the event of a natural disaster or other incidents.

Service Learning and Civic Engagement Committee. Representatives from our member institutions are working collaboratively to promote active, service-focused, community-based, mutually beneficial, learning opportunities for students, building and enhancing their commitment to academics, personal and professional development, and civic responsibility.

Substance Abuse Prevention Committee. The Consortium is involved in sharing, gathering, and disseminating information about substance abuse.

Summer Institute on College Teaching. Since 1978, the Consortium has operated the Institute which focuses on the improvement of college teaching and learning.

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