

BY-LAWS
VIRGINIA TIDEWATER CONSORTIUM
for
HIGHER EDUCATION

- I. **NAME:** The name of this organization shall be the Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education.

- II. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this organization shall be to coordinate and facilitate higher education services in the Greater Hampton Roads area in order to provide maximum educational opportunities for the citizens of the region.

- III. **GEOGRAPHICAL AREA:** The geographical area involved in the Virginia Tidewater Consortium shall be the regional planning districts which comprise the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Franklin, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, and the counties of Accomack, Isle of Wight, James City, Northampton, Southampton, and York.

- IV. **MEMBERSHIP:** The following institutions of higher education shall be considered full members of this consortium: (1) Christopher Newport University, (2) College of William and Mary, (3) Eastern Shore Community College, (4) Eastern Virginia Medical School, (5) Hampton University, (6) Joint Forces Staff College, (7) Norfolk State University, (8) Old Dominion University, (9) Paul D. Camp Community College, (10) Regent University, (11) Thomas Nelson Community College, (12) Tidewater Community College, (13) Virginia Wesleyan College. Associate Member: ECPI University. Affiliate Members: Cox Communications and WHRO Public Media.

Any non-profit institution of higher education chartered in Virginia and regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges may be invited by the Board of Directors of the Virginia Tidewater Consortium to become a full member. Membership requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors, at its discretion, may invite other institutions or organizations involved in education to become an **Associate Member** or **Affiliate Member**.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: An institution of higher education accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities or a similar association may be invited to become an Associate Member. An Associate Member will be a non-voting member of the Board and participation in Consortium programs may be limited.

AFFILIATE MEMBER: An organization or agency that the VTC Board of Directors determines can contribute to the enhancement of higher education in the Tidewater region may be invited to become an Affiliate Member. An Affiliate Member is a non-voting member of the Board and participation in Consortium programs is limited.

- V. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** The Consortium shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of the President or his/her designated representative from each full member institution. The

Chairman of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the Board of Directors. The term of office shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall establish all policies and procedures necessary for the effective operation of the Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education.

VI. **RESPONSIBILITIES:** The responsibilities of the Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. to encourage cooperative projects among the institutions of higher education to better serve the citizens of the area.
2. to facilitate the continuing education efforts among the member institutions in order to more efficiently utilize resources.
3. to provide, in consultation with the State Council of Higher Education, maximum higher education opportunities for continuing education students.
4. to assess the needs for continuing higher education in the area.
5. to use television to make higher education more accessible to the citizens of Greater Hampton Roads through the operation of the Higher Education Cable Channel.
6. to work cooperatively with the social service agencies to serve adults from low socio-economic backgrounds to encourage them to participate in higher education.
7. to work cooperatively with the cities of Greater Hampton Roads in encouraging economic development.
8. to work cooperatively to develop grant programs to fund Consortium projects.
9. to establish cooperative information offices on military installations to serve the military students.
10. to work cooperatively with the local schools divisions to serve the educational needs of teachers and administrators.
11. to encourage through the Summer Institute on College Teaching the improvement of college teaching.
12. to work cooperatively to eliminate drug use and alcohol abuse among college students, faculty, and staff.
13. to work cooperatively with the Department of Education of Virginia in enhancing the cooperation between secondary education and higher education.

- VII. **ANNUAL DUES:** The Board of Directors will set annual dues for each member institution.
- VIII. **BUDGET:** The Board of Directors shall approve an annual budget which shall provide for the administrative costs of the Consortium.
- IX. **COMMITTEES OF THE CONSORTIUM:** The Board of Directors shall establish the following standing committees: Continuing Education, International Programs, Library Directors and Registrars, Military Education, Public Relations, Security and Emergency Planning, Substance Abuse Prevention, and when necessary, any ad hoc committee.
- X. **PRESIDENT:** The Board of Directors may appoint a President who shall serve as Chief Executive Officer of the Consortium and shall report directly to the Board of Directors. The President and Chairman of the Board shall be empowered by the Board of directors to represent the Board and to transact business on behalf of the Board.
- XI. **RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP:** All memberships in the Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education shall be automatically renewed unless the institution notifies the President of the Consortium and Chairman of the Board of Directors that it chooses to no longer participate. The letter of withdrawal must be received by February 1 of the current year of participation.
- XII. **BY-LAWS APPROVAL:** These By-laws require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board of Directors for approval.
- XIII. **BY-LAWS AMENDMENT:** These By-laws may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board of Directors. Proposed changes to the By-laws must be circulated at least two weeks prior to the meeting in which they will be acted upon.