

Enrollment Goal: The VCCS must serve at least 16,000 new students by 2009.

In 2002, VCCS leaders set the goal to serve 16,000 new students in the VCCS by 2009, an overall enrollment system-wide of 157,319 students. In the fall of 2002, the VCCS enrollment was 141,319 students. The enrollment for the previous two academic years, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 had increased substantially. Even with the historical increases, VCCS leaders chose an additional 16,000 increase in enrollment for the Dateline 2009 goal.

Workforce Goal: The VCCS will provide workforce training programs for 225,000 individuals annually, an increase of nearly eighty percent— from 125,000 to 225,000.

Affordable Tuition Goal: VCCS tuition will not exceed half of the average cost to attend a public four-year institution in Virginia.

In 2003, after having faced historic cuts in state financial support for the VCCS, tuition at Virginia's community colleges averaged about \$1,671—less than half the cost at Virginia's public senior institutions. In response to the massive swings in tuition that had occurred over the prior decade and a half, the State Board for Community Colleges adopted a plan to avert future tuition spikes. They did so with the goal of keeping tuition costs affordable and stable, and keeping increases measured and modest.

Graduation, Retention and Placement Rates Goal: To expand its capacity and provide greater economic opportunity, the VCCS will rank in the top ten percent in the nation with respect to graduation, retention and job placement rates.

The Dateline 2009 goal charged the VCCS colleges to increase retention and graduation rates whereby the VCCS will rank in the top 10 percent in the nation by 2009. In an analysis of over 200 peer institutions, the average VCCS retention rate exceeded the peer average by 3 percent: 59 percent to 56 percent respectively. But that is not yet good enough.

Transfer to 4-Year Colleges and Universities Goal: The VCCS will triple the number of graduates who successfully transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

In 2002, 5,038 students enrolled in transfer degree programs graduated from the VCCS. Of those students, 2,530 transferred to a four-year institution in the Commonwealth in the fall of 2003, representing 50.2 percent of those students enrolled in transfer degree programs.

Historically in the VCCS, transfer agreements had been negotiated by the colleges with the four-year institution in their service area. It was not until Dateline 2009 was developed and the transfer goal defined that the VCCS began to develop uniform, system-wide agreements with four-year institutions in the Commonwealth.

Dual Enrollment with High Schools Goal: The VCCS will triple the number of high school students who take college courses and receive college credits, raising the number from 14,000 to 45,000.

In the fall of 2002, the in-state headcount for the Virginia Community College System was 141,319. Of that number, 15,553 Virginia high school students were enrolled in dual enrollment coursework. Efforts were undertaken to increase dual enrollment at all VCCS colleges, especially those who had a small dual enrollment population as compared to the overall enrollment of the college.

Private Funding Goal: The VCCS will become more proactive in securing private support to ensure its capacity to respond to the needs of the Commonwealth. Collectively, the VCCS foundations will double their holdings, moving from \$75 million to \$150 million.

Virginia's community colleges have made tremendous progress securing private investment and attracting highly skilled professionals to their ranks. It was not too long ago when total assets were only \$15 million and there was a massive turnover in development officers across the state.