You may think that my daily activities center around such tools as a computer, personal data assistant (PDA) and other electronic equipment. And you would be correct. However, this past year, I was given the privilege to grab a shovel and break some ground!

It all began last September, when LFCC employees and students, College and Foundation Board members and local community leaders gathered together to break ground for the Science and Health Professions Building on the Middletown Campus. What an exciting time and celebration! Faculty and staff are especially looking forward to the completion of the project and the additional classroom and laboratory space that the new facility will offer.

One nursing student testified to the excellence of the nursing program and congratulated the College on moving forward with the new facility:

“LFCC has made it possible for me to further my education. It is affordable, and I am getting the same education, if not a better education, than I would get from attending a large university. In addition to furthering my education, I have gained self confidence. I have set a good example for my daughter by showing her that obtaining a college education is very important and that you can obtain an excellent education from a community college. I have also shown by example that one is never too old to start a new career or attain an education.”

In addition to the literal ground-breaking ceremony, the College broke new ground—figuratively—in a variety of areas. Enrollment continues to increase. In 2005-06, LFCC’s total headcount reached 7,683 students, an increase of approximately 3 percent compared to the previous year.

Another momentous ground breaking took place when the Luray-Page County Center opened in January 2006. This new LFCC location is dedicated to providing residents in Page County, eastern Rappahannock County, southern Shenandoah County and southern Warren County with an opportunity to further their education closer to home. During its first semester of operation, the Center offered 26 courses to more than 180 students.

Looking back over the past year, I’m proud to say that the College’s employees have gladly grabbed shovels and enthusiastically dug in to furthering LFCC’s mission.

John J. “Ski” Sygielski
President
Lord Fairfax Community College
To strategically position LFCC as an institution of exceptional quality, a variety of goals have been developed. The following pages outline the four main categories and goals for each area, including highlighted activities from the previous year that address the goals.

Teaching and Learning

LFCC is committed to (1) meeting the needs of students by increasing academic offerings, convenient class locations and partnerships with business, industry and senior educational institutions and (2) providing professional development for all employees.

- **Professional development activities** for LFCC employees this past year included workshops on such topics as leading effective meetings, employee rewards programs and harassment and discrimination; monthly supervisor forums; computer-related programs; performance evaluation training; and conferences about finances, administrative assistants, human resources, teaching and nursing. A number of the training programs were delivered by the Office of Workforce Solutions and Continuing Education.

- Construction on the **Science and Health Professions Building** began in October 2005. During the excavation process, between 30 and 35 Civil War artifacts were uncovered. A thorough archaeological evaluation of the site was conducted, and a report was filed with the Commonwealth of Virginia before permission was granted on April 11, 2006, for LFCC to resume construction. The new facility is scheduled for completion in August 2007.

- LFCC’s **Tech Prep Program** received $135,000 in grant funds to 1) realign the information technology program; 2) provide extensive professional development for post-secondary and secondary instructors; 3) develop career pathways between educational programs and apprenticeships within the manufacturing area (electricity and industrial maintenance); and 4) establish a career center at LFCC to develop and coordinate work-based learning experiences for students, such as job shadowing, mentorship, internships and employment readiness training.

- The College received $50,000 from a federal **Perkins Postsecondary grant** to provide professional development for nursing faculty; modernization and expansion of the English
as a Second Language (ESL) Academy through the purchases of laptop computers and specific software for non-English speaking students; and modernization and expansion of distance learning opportunities through the purchase of additional equipment.

- The **Associate Degree Nursing Program (ADN)** recently purchased a “Sim Baby,” a computerized mannequin that can replicate most anything a “real” baby does. The Sim Baby enables nursing and emergency medical technician students to practice clinical skills in the area of pediatrics in a non-life-threatening environment. This $29,000 piece of equipment was purchased with money from a federal Perkins Postsecondary Supplementary Funds grant.

- An additional **10 new nursing students were admitted to the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to ADN Transition Program** due to a successful alternative clinical experience that utilized the Sim Man technology. A factor limiting enrollment in the nursing program is the capacity of local healthcare facilities to accommodate students’ clinical requirements. Having acquired the computerized adult mannequin Sim Man the previous year, LFCC nursing faculty proposed that half of the required clinical experience would take place in the campus laboratory using the simulation technology and the other half would take place in a healthcare facility. This enabled the program to accept the additional students.

- **LFCC was one of six Virginia Community College System (VCCS) institutions to receive funding from a National Governor’s Association grant** to hire a part-time career coach for the 2006-07 academic year. Marie Rutz was hired as LFCC’s career coach for James Wood High School in Frederick County. Rutz will help students plan for college, assist them with selecting a career field or pathway of interest and inform them about the programs and services available at LFCC.

- LFCC experienced a **20-percent increase in the Dual Enrollment Program** from fall 2004 to fall 2005, with approximately 1,400 students participating in the program in fall 2005.
2005. These students collectively earned over 6,500 credits, with the three top courses being college composition, United States history and statistics. LFCC currently has students attending from 27 different high schools, including many home-schooled students and those attending local academies. One of the major advantages of the program is that students earn college credit while still in high school, thus saving them time and money.

- The College’s library usage increased due to an effort to keep its collections current and encouragement from faculty of student usage of the libraries and related resources. In 2003, the libraries at both campuses combined to circulate 41,124 items. In 2005, that figure increased to 49,137 items. In addition, the Middletown Campus’ gate count for number of entries to the library increased from 179,189 in 2003 to 184,817 in 2005. At the Fauquier Campus, the gate count rose from 56,326 in 2003 to 66,976 in 2005.

- The Luray-Page County Center began offering classes in its new location in January 2006 thanks to the support of the Town of Luray and Page County. A total of 180 students were served through 26 classes. Five students worked in internships with area employers, obtaining professional skills.

The Luray-Page County Center makes it possible for residents of LFCC’s southernmost service region locality to pursue a degree close to home.
and knowledge. In addition, 46 individuals participated in professional development courses at the Center offered by the Office of Workforce Solutions and Continuing Education in response to the training needs of local employers.

• LFCC continues to expand its distance learning options. From fall 2004 to fall 2005, LFCC added eight online courses and enrollment in online courses grew from 882 students in fall 2004 to 1,060 students in fall 2005.

Student Success

LFCC is committed to increasing student retention, graduation and transfer rates by providing students with a variety of academic, cultural and wellness activities and services to enhance their educational experience at the College.

Enrollment increased by approximately 3 percent in 2005-06. The total annual headcount for the year was 7,683, an increase of 222 students from 2004-05.

• Overall financial aid awards increased by approximately $250,000, a 10-percent increase over 2004-05. Over 1,218 students were awarded financial aid in the form of grants and scholarships, an increase of 8 percent over 2004-05.

• Scholarship aid increased by 9 percent to $127,653 in 2005-06 from $116,900 in 2004-05. The number of students served by scholarships increased by 20 percent, with 136 students served in 2005-06 compared to 108 students in 2004-05.

• A New Student Orientation program was launched at the Middletown Campus, serving approximately 1,200 students prior to the start of the fall 2006 semester. The day-long program offered students a chance to learn about programs and services, meet with faculty in a variety of disciplines, connect with staff, meet with academic advisors and register for classes. This successful program will be adopted by the Fauquier Campus and Luray-Page County Center in 2007.

• The Student Learning Center was created to offer a central location for enhanced support through math, reading, writing, English as a second language and foreign language laboratories, tutoring services and

“I love seeing the results that tutoring and assistance make in students’ lives. This has made me come to love the ideals and goals that LFCC and the Virginia Community College System stand for—especially the focus on student success.”

— Joe Pitsonbarger, LFCC 2006 graduate who worked as a tutor for the Student Learning Center and a mentor for TRIO Student Support Services while attending the College
organized study groups. The services provided by the Student Learning Center are designed to increase a student’s chances for success.

- To provide greater opportunities for students, transfer articulation agreements were signed with Art Institute of Washington (art), Frederick County Public Schools (building technologies), George Washington University (pharmacogenomics), James Madison University (education) and Shenandoah University (collegewide).

**Partnerships and Outreach**

*LFCC is committed to meeting the training and educational needs of businesses and individuals in the area, in addition to addressing the needs of an expanding minority and retiree community.*

- By aggressively marketing the services and classes offered through the Office of Workforce Solutions and Continuing Education, open enrollment class participation served 8,584 students, an increase of 14 percent over 2004-05. These classes resulted in 1,369 students receiving a state licensure or recognized credential, compared to 523 students who received industry certifications in 2004-05.

- **Other successes from the year** included the partnership of 446 companies who sent their employees to LFCC for training and another 55 companies who worked with the Office of Workforce Solutions and Continuing Education to hold customized training programs at their facilities.

- **Thirty-three individuals completed the apprenticeship program,** almost doubling the number of participants from the previous year. The top three programs in terms of completers and enrollment were electrical, cosmetology and plumbing. Apprentices complete a specified number of hours in the classroom and on the job with an employer. Upon completion, individuals receive a journeyman license or other state credential.

- In October, the Office of Workforce Solutions and Continuing Education was awarded a grant by Ford Motor Company to provide training for the employees and their family members at the Ford
Distribution Center in Winchester. Every month, approximately 30 participants are learning both life and technical skills for their personal and professional development.

• In May, the Office of Workforce Solutions and Continuing Education held its first-ever Trainingfest, offering three professional development seminars. Approximately 60 individuals attended the following seminars:

  • Human Resources for the Non-HR Manager - essential skills for all workforce leaders
  • The Indispensable Assistant - sharpening the skills of administrative professionals
  • Keeping the Good Ones - key strategies for retaining and motivating employees

• More than a half dozen intercultural seminars were conducted for over 200 participants from at least 15 companies interested in attracting and retaining minority employees.

“Attending college gives people the opportunity to learn to respect – even to celebrate – the diverse opinions of others.”

— Anne Legge, LFCC professor who retired in summer 2005 after teaching at LFCC for over 30 years

Resource Development and Public Relations

LFCC is committed to (1) keeping the public informed about the programs and services available at the College and (2) coordinating fund raising for scholarships, facilities upgrades, faculty and program development.

• Between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006, approximately $510,000 was raised for the Foundation. (Please note that the Foundation’s fiscal year is Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, so July 1 through June 30 is not reflective of the Foundation’s fiscal year). This total includes 13 contributions of at least $10,000. Also, this total includes $20,000 in grant funds. Grant funds were raised to support the nursing program and scholarships for students. In addition, more than $151,000 in governmental grants was secured by the College.

“I’m really looking forward to this opportunity of serving on the Foundation Board to better prepare me for my career, as well as the chance that this is giving me to develop my skills in leadership and teamwork.”

— Marielle Racey, student and LFCC Educational Foundation Board member
An **LFCC Educational Foundation Web site** was created and now includes frequently asked questions, information about ways to contribute to the Foundation and fundraising projects to support. The address is http://www.lfcc.edu/foundation/.

In 2005-06, **22 scholarship funds** were established. The scholarship section of the LFCC Web site was enhanced to better meet the needs of scholarship recipients and donors: http://www.lfcc.edu/scholarships/.

Between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006, several new LFCC Educational Foundation Board members were recruited. The new Board members are **Charles E. Day Jr.**, owner, Charles Day Insurance, representing Shenandoah County; **Mark E. Pangle**, owner, Pangle Real Estate and Auction Company, representing Shenandoah County; **Marielle K. Racey**, LFCC student, representing Shenandoah County; **Charlie C. Spiro**, assistant professor of electronics technology and information systems technology, LFCC, representing Shenandoah County; and **James C. Youngblood**, CEO, The Marathon Bank, representing Frederick County.

An **LFCC graduate and her husband included the College in their wills** as a beneficiary. The $600,000 bequest will be used to establish an endowment to benefit the LFCC nursing program. Also, a longtime donor named the College as the **beneficiary of an annuity** valued at more than $300,000.

The **2005 LFCC alumni reunion reception** was held October 2005 at the Middletown Campus. More than 200 people attended, including individuals from as far away as Philadelphia, Pa. Also, the alumni section of the LFCC Web site was enhanced: http://www.lfcc.edu/Alumni/Index.shtm. It includes information about the LFCC Alumni Advisory Council, special events and fundraising projects.

**More than 120 news releases were written and distributed**—double the number of the previous year. These news releases directly resulted in more than 300 stories in newspapers across the service region, a 230-percent increase over the previous year.

“Winchester and the surrounding areas are so lucky to have LFCC. Many of the traditional and nontraditional students would not have the ability to receive a quality education if it were not for LFCC. In addition, the College resources available to the community are phenomenal and utilized by many who are not students but are looking for ways and means to continue mind enrichment.”

— Linda Russell,
LFCC donor who, along with her family, established the Monford D. and Lucy L. Custer Nursing Scholarship Fund.
The College’s first-ever, comprehensive advertising plan was developed and executed to promote the three registration periods each year. President John J “Ski” Sygielski recorded a 30-second radio ad, which was broadcast on seven stations throughout the area, resulting in a total of 1,033 ads during the course of the year. In addition, 54 newspaper ads ran in nine local newspapers.

The new Luray-Page County Center was marketed by coordinating an open house celebration, producing an eight-page insert in the Page News and Courier and distributing five news releases and three public service announcements about the Center and its programs and events.

Four issues of LFCC Connections, the College’s new quarterly newsletter, were distributed to approximately 8,500 alumni, donors, elected officials and friends of the College.

The College’s first crisis communication plan was developed to ensure that information is disseminated to internal and external stakeholders quickly and accurately in the event of an emergency.

Additional information about LFCC Educational Foundation accomplishments will be featured in the 2006 Foundation annual report, which will be distributed in early 2007.

“The transition from home-schooling to a community college was very smooth and felt like a natural step up in my academic career. It is nice that I can still live at home and go to college at a much more convenient price for two years before I transfer to a four-year university.”

— Julie Gaven, LFCC student
Aisha Khan graduated from LFCC on May 12, 2006, with an associate’s degree in liberal arts with a communications specialization, an associate’s degree in liberal arts with a fine arts specialization and career studies certificates in photography and nature and outdoor photography.

Transplanted from Prince George’s County, Md., Khan graduated from high school in 2002 and then took a year off for her husband to determine where he would be transferred for his residency in family practice. In 2003, Khan and her husband moved to Winchester. Khan then eagerly began looking for a college where she could continue her education. After discovering LFCC, she enrolled and began exploring her love for photography.

“Photography gives you the ability to communicate your opinions about life through images,” 21-year-old Khan said. “I really enjoy black-and-white photography and working in the dark room. It is so much more personal and gives you more avenues to creatively express yourself.”

In addition to focusing on her studies and maintaining a 3.9 grade point average, Khan entrenched herself in the life of the College. During her three years at LFCC, Khan participated in Forensics, a drama and public speaking competitive club; served as vice president of the Fine and Performing Arts Club; represented Forensics and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) on the Student Government Association; and served as historian (2004-05) and president (2005-06) of the Middletown Campus’ Alpha Beta Omega Chapter of PTK, the national honor society for two-year colleges. Khan also volunteers at Children’s Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Based on her academic performance and community service, Khan was chosen as one of 10 students to be named to the PTK “First Virginia Team” in April 2006. She was selected out of 63 nominations from the 23 colleges in the Virginia Community College System. Khan was also recognized on a national level by being chosen for the All-USA Academic Team, which is made up of the top 60 students across the country. PTK, USA TODAY and the American Association of Community Colleges sponsor the All-USA Academic Team program annually.

Khan also worked part time as a student employee for Ann Currie, assistant professor of
art at LFCC, and a mentor/tutor for TRIO Student Support Services, which provides first generation and low income students and/or students with a disability with special services and activities to ensure their academic success. “Working for TRIO gave me so many opportunities to give back to others. I especially liked the fact that I could help people that I was going to school with,” Khan said. “So many people encouraged me while attending LFCC, like Ann Currie, Professor Brent Kendrick and the TRIO staff. I wanted to give to others what I had received.”

Khan’s educational journey is now continuing at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, where she is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in photography. But she doesn’t plan to stop there. Khan wants to obtain master’s and doctoral degrees in photojournalism. Her ultimate goal is to work for the United Nations or National Geographic. She plans to work as a freelance photographer until she reaches that goal.
Glenn Burdick, a Winchester resident in his mid-50s, has already obtained bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees during his educational career. Now, he wants to add one more degree to his list—an associate’s degree in nursing.

“I am an advocate of life-long learning and have preached it for many years,” Burdick said. “I have always been interested in medicine as a possible career. I’m too old for medical school, and since there is a severe shortage of nurses, it seemed a natural fit to contribute to the medical field by becoming a nurse.”

Interested in geriatrics or general nursing in a hospital setting, Burdick got his first taste for the field while caring for his father for eight months before he passed away in August 2005. After this experience, Burdick enrolled at LFCC and began taking classes in fall 2005. “I wanted the technical experience that a community college education would give me,” he said. “This seemed like the perfect opportunity to come back to school and pursue a second career. And the variety of experiences and age groups of students at LFCC really enriches the experience.”

Burdick, who retired in 2001 as superintendent of Winchester Public Schools, spent his career working as a mathematics teacher, a high school principal, a public school administrator and university professor of education. After being on the other side of the classroom for many years, Burdick is enjoying this role reversal.

“My math background is helpful, because medicine is a problem-solving area. I’m enjoying the technical aspects of my courses,” said Burdick, who often finds himself assisting other classmates. “I lean on them for help with clinical experience, and they lean on me for help with math. We rely on and learn from each other. It is a very healthy environment.”

Burdick’s association with LFCC extends beyond the classroom. Burdick is in his fourth year of service on the College Board. “As a Board member and student, I see how LFCC caters to all ages and backgrounds more than any other educational institution in the area. The faculty and staff are truly interested in each student. Through support and encouragement, they have created a mechanism for success,” Burdick said. “The nursing curriculum is not easy, but I’m retired. I am continually amazed and impressed with my classmates as they juggle jobs, families and children. They
deserve a lot of credit, and the College recognizes and celebrates that.”

With the growing number of baby boomers returning to school, Burdick observes that he is not surrounded by just young people. “My advice for someone my age wanting to come to LFCC is don’t be afraid. It is becoming the norm rather than the exception. My experience thus far has been a very positive, enriching and invigorating one. Don’t put it off!”

When Burdick graduates from LFCC in May 2007 and passes the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses (NCLEX-RN®), he will be the second person in his family to serve as a nurse. His mother, who passed away in February 2004, worked as a licensed practical nurse until the age of 80. Not only is Burdick honoring his mother’s memory by becoming a registered nurse, but he is also doing so by having established the Margaret T. Burdick Memorial Nursing Scholarship at LFCC in her memory.


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In a pledge to become world-class by 2009, Virginia’s community colleges will respond to the Commonwealth’s most pressing needs in the areas of access to higher education, workforce development and economic opportunity. The Virginia Community College System (VCCS) is committed to reaching the following seven goals:

• **Enrollment** – The VCCS must serve at least 16,000 new students by 2009.

• **Workforce Training** – The VCCS will provide workforce training programs for 225,000 individuals annually, an increase of nearly 80 percent—from 125,000 to 225,000.

• **Graduation, Retention, Placement Rates** – To expand its capacity and provide greater economic opportunity, by 2009, the VCCS will rank in the top 10 percent in the nation with respect to graduation rates, retention and job placement.

• **Transfer to Four-Year Colleges and Universities** – The VCCS will triple the number of graduates who successfully transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

• **Affordable Tuition** – VCCS tuition will not exceed half of the average cost to attend a public four-year institution in the Commonwealth.

• **Dual Enrollment with High Schools** – 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.

• **Private Funding** – 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 to $150 million.

LFCC’s strategic plan addresses each of the above goals outlined by the VCCS. As the College continues to shape its future, it will focus on Dateline 2009 and meeting the needs of the community.
Lord Fairfax Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, political affiliation or disability in its programs or activities.