Thirty-five years ago, a small group of pioneers began educating and training individuals and communities within our service region, awarding 92 degrees, diplomas and certificates at the first graduation ceremony in 1972. Today, Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC) is one of the fastest growing community colleges in its size in the country, addressing the ever-changing education and training needs within our diverse service region and awarding over 650 degrees, diplomas and certificates this past spring.

Successfully educating, training and serving our students and communities over the past 35 years were and are made possible because of the strength of its past and current employees, dedication of its board members, determination of its students, backing of its alumni and support of donors.

In fact, some of our early teaching and student support pioneers—including Frank Borleske, Denise Broy, Linda Bursey, Mike Garrand, Walt Malinowski, Roger Milburn and Nancy Penney—continue to facilitate and support teaching and learning at the College, inspiring students to realize their personal and professional goals. Students like:

- **Jennifer Davis**, a recent natural resources graduate who already held two bachelor's degrees, is now studying wildlife biology and zoology at James Cook University in Australia.
- **Justin Lee McIlwee**, the first in his family to graduate from college, is now continuing his studies at a four-year institution to become a high school teacher.
- **Lynda Miller**, a wife and mother of three whose husband is currently serving in the military in Afghanistan, has fulfilled a dream of becoming a nurse.
- **Deborah Luth Bedell**, a former lawyer with a long-time interest in design, who decided to change careers and completed a kitchen and bath design career studies certificate at LFCC.

In an effort to keep you connected to the many exciting initiatives and successes of the College, including its successful students, graduates and employees, we will publish a quarterly newsletter beginning with this inaugural issue. Each subsequent issue will feature an employee, student, alumni or donor profile and news notes that briefly highlight the College's recent accomplishments.

As always, if you want to learn more about how LFCC's moniker, Your Future. Our Focus. applies to you today, please contact me. Thank you for your continued support.

John J. “Ski” Sygielski
President
Lord Fairfax Community College
To contribute to the LFCC Educational Foundation or assist with alumni activities, please contact Linnie Carter, vice president of college advancement at LFCC, at lcarterr@lfcc.edu or (540) 868-4077. If you would like to receive periodic updates about LFCC via e-mail or if you have a change in your contact information, please send an e-mail message to connectwithlfcc@lfcc.edu.

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

This fall, LFCC will expand its academic offerings to the residents of Page County with the opening of the Page County Center, LFCC outreach site located at 320 North Hawkshill Street in Luray. The Luray Town Council and the Page County Board of Supervisors each appropriated $120,000 to construct, equip and offset the costs of the Center.

LFCC recently signed a guaranteed admissions agreement with Longwood University, stating that LFCC graduates who earn an associate in arts and sciences degree with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher will be guaranteed admission to Longwood, beginning with the spring 2006 semester.

Student Success
LFCC is committed to providing students with a variety of academic, cultural and wellness activities and services to enhance their educational experience at the College.

LFCC’s Middletown Forensics Team placed first at a competition this spring, serving as the only community college present at the drama and public speaking competition. In addition to the team award, LFCC students brought home 18 individual awards, including seven for first place.

LFCC’s Alpha Psi Iota Chapter and Alpha Beta Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa both received Five-Star Awards, the highest commendation for the two-year honor society, at the Virginia region’s annual convention this spring. Some of the projects that helped LFCC’s PTK chapters receive the Five-Star Award included raising money for cancer research and the American Cancer Society, sending care packages to U.S. troops stationed in Afghanistan, organizing clean-up days for Adams-A-Highway and donating time and money to Habitat for Humanity.

Three LFCC students were named to the Phi Theta Kappa “First Virginia Team,” which was made up of 10 top achievers from Virginia’s 23 community colleges. LFCC students selected for the award included Christopher Burrows, a 21-year-old Warrenrent resident; Yvonne Comeau, a 49-year-old Mount Jackson resident; and Hannah Hethcok, a 19-year-old Warrenrent resident.

LFCC has been awarded a continuation grant for the TRIO Student Support Program, funded through the U.S. Department of Education. The grant award totals $942,756 over the next four years, from Sept. 1, 2005 to Aug. 31, 2009. The goal of the TRIO program is to assist participants in persisting to graduation and/or transfer to senior institutions. Eligible participants must demonstrate an academic need and be a first-generation student, low-income student and/or student with a disability.

In fall 2005, the Lord Fairfax Cannons inaugural men’s and women’s soccer season will begin. Coaches include Shaun Broy, coordinator of student activities at LFCC and head coach for the men’s team; John Sharples, a physical education and health teacher with Loudoun County Public Schools and head coach for the women’s team; and David Urs, a counselor at LFCC and assistant coach for the men’s team.

Partnerships and Outreach
LFCC is committed to meeting the training and educational needs of businesses and individuals in the area.

• The Office of Workforce Services and Continuing Education has been holding “Staying a Step Ahead” meetings with companies and organizations in Clarke, Fauquier, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah and Warren counties and the City of Winchester. The goal of the meetings is for LFCC educational leaders to meet with economic developers, training and human resource managers, company owners and educators to discuss each organization’s future needs and how LFCC can be of assistance.

• In June, the Office of Workforce Services and Continuing Education, in conjunction with area sponsors, held a professional development event, “Perseverance in Leadership,” featuring baseball legend Cal Ripken Jr. and author Willie Jolley. The Summer Slammer event was attended by approximately 350 participants representing over 150 companies and organizations. In addition, area schools sent their baseball team captains, coaches, and principals to participate in the event.

• This summer, 12 students will complete the Veterinary Assiting Program offered at LFCC’s Faquier Campus, marking the completion of the first year the program was offered. Students attended six classes to become veterinary assistants, a high-need profession for local animal hospitals.

Resource Development and Public Relations
LFCC is committed to keeping the public informed about the programs and services available at the College and coordinating funding raising for scholarships, facilities upgrades, additional faculty and program development.

Seventy individuals supported LFCC’s First 5K Scholarship Run held this spring at the Middletown Campus, raising a total of $1,275 for the President’s Scholarship Fund. Amongst the runners was LFCC President John J. “Ski” Sygielski, who came in third.

LFCC’s Educational Foundation recently established seven new scholarships. The scholarships will be awarded in the fall and spring semesters to full- or part-time students to assist with the cost of tuition and fees. The scholarships are as follows:
• Horticulture Club Scholarship
• Learning Assistance Center Tutor Scholarship
• LFCC Pace Setter Endowed Scholarship
• William H. McCoy Scholarship
• John E. Owens Sr. Memorial Scholarship
• Shenandoah County Scholarship
• Woodford Rotary Club Marlin P. Krause Scholarship

The College is taking several steps to reconnect with alumni, including updating contact information for almost 8,000 alumni, planning a reunion event to be held this or next academic year and developing an alumni section on the new LFCC Web site (to debut in 2006). In addition, LFCC is establishing an alumni advisory council made up of a diverse group of alumni. The group will meet no more than four times a year to develop the strategies the College will employ to reconnect with alumni.

LFCC alumni, current LFCC employees and LFCC retirees are invited to attend the LFCC Alumni Reception on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2005, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the William H. McCoy Special Events Center located inside the Alson H. Smith, Jr. Technology Center on the Middletown Campus. For more information, contact the Office of College Advancement at (540) 868-4076.