

History of the College

LFCC is located in an historic cultural area of Virginia. The College was named for Thomas 6th Lord Fairfax who in 1747 established his residence, Greenway Court, at nearby White Post. For 34 years, Lord Fairfax managed his vast property of more than five million acres that extended from Virginia's Northern Neck to Fort Duquesne, now Pittsburgh.

Born at Leeds Castle in 1693, Lord Fairfax graduated from Oxford College and first came to America in 1735 to inspect his inheritance from his grandfather, Lord Culpeper. The Fairfax landholdings included thousands of acres in the Shenandoah Valley encompassing the present counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah and Warren, as well as a substantial portion of West Virginia.

Lord Fairfax was a respected force in the formation of the new America. He befriended many, including George Washington, his surveyor. He supported General Braddock and was known and respected by "King" Carter, William Byrd and Governors Gooch, Dinwiddie and Dunmore. Lord Fairfax died at age 88 in 1781 at Greenway Court and was buried at Christ Church in Winchester. Lord Fairfax Community College pays homage to his respected name and legacy.

LFCC opened its doors in September 1970 to 577 students. Two years later in June 1972, the College held its first Commencement ceremony at which 92 students received degrees. The College received accreditation from the Southern Association of Community and Junior Colleges on Dec. 18, 1972.

The first College president, William H. McCoy, facilitated the opening of the College and remained in this position until 1987. Marilyn C. Beck became the second president of LFCC in 1988 and served until 2003. John J. "Ski" Sygielski became the College's third president in August 2003 and served LFCC until June 2008. Cheryl Thompson-Stacy became the College's fourth president in January 2009. She oversees the administration of the educational needs of more than 7,600 unduplicated credit students and more than 10,450 individuals in professional development and business and industry courses annually.