HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITIES ARE DEPENDING ON OUR SUPPORT.
THOUSANDS OF EMPLOYERS ARE DEPENDING ON OUR SUPPORT.
SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND STUDENTS ARE DEPENDING ON OUR SUPPORT.

Can Virginia’s Community Colleges depend on your support?
The VCCS 2013 legislative agenda prioritizes the needs of the students, employers and communities Virginia’s Community Colleges serve. It advances proven and effective strategies aligned with the mission statement of Virginia’s Community Colleges; Achieve 2015, our six-year strategic plan; and the goals of the Top Jobs for the 21st Century law.

Protect Affordable Access to Higher Education

Tuition and fees at Virginia’s Community Colleges are about one-third of comparable rates at Virginia’s public universities. We want to help Virginia families continue on an affordable pathway to a bachelor’s degree by:

- Opening the Two-Year College Transfer Grant to hundreds more middle-income students;
- Expanding the Virginia Education Wizard to help more veterans translate their in-duty service to academic credit and civilian career fields; and
- Encouraging more private investment in STEM-H scholarships and equipment by creating a tax credit.

Support the Infrastructure 21st Century Higher Education Requires

Virginia's Community Colleges are now serving more than 405,000 Virginians in academic and non-credit workforce training programs. Expanding and modernizing the facilities and equipment they are taught on is critical to the value of their education. Virginia’s Community Colleges are seeking to advance the 12 projects approved for planning and pre-planning funding in 2012. In addition to moving other projects along in that process, VCCS workforce development programs should be eligible for Virginia's Equipment Trust Fund, up to a total of $4 million, ensuring that up-to-date gear supports employer-driven training programs.

Fully Fund the Operations of Virginia’s Community Colleges

As the leading provider of higher education in Virginia, the VCCS is seeking parity in state funding. Currently, at least half a dozen public universities receive full funding (or more) under the legislative base adequacy formula. The VCCS lags behind, nearly last among public higher education, at 92 percent. Further, the VCCS is also seeking help in recruiting and retaining high-quality full-time faculty members with an additional two percent salary raise for teaching faculty. This is especially important in the high-demand teaching areas of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and allied health.