

# THE EXCHANGE

GERMANNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
INFORMATION BULLETIN



## Middle College program tries to survive

As a 10th-grader at Riverbend High School in Spotsylvania County, Brandon McDowell found himself failing freshman-level classes.

"I'm going to be here for 20 years," he thought to himself.

So at 16, he dropped out. He spent his days sleeping until noon and playing video games. "It was the motivation I feel I lacked," said McDowell, 18. "Everybody at school realized I had a lot of potential, but the problem was I didn't have the motivation or drive to go."

After working various retail jobs, in July he signed up for Germanna Community College's Middle College program to get his General Education Development diploma.

He enrolled again this semester—this time as a college student working toward a general studies degree.

Without Middle College, McDowell said, he might not have gone to college.

"It's challenged me to the point where I feel like I'm ready to go to college," he said. "Basically, it really helped me [establish] my goals so I can pursue them."

### UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Middle College reaches its five-year mark in the Virginia Community College System

this year. The program is designed for 18- to 24-year-olds who don't have high school diplomas or GEDs.

It began at Southside Virginia in Keysville and J. Sargeant Reynolds in Richmond.

In 2004, it was expanded to Germanna and has helped 100 students here earn their GEDs.

But the program faces uncertainty in June, when its state funding is cut from \$170,000 to \$85,000.

The state funds pay for tuition, books and tests.

Gov. Tim Kaine announced in December an education bond package that would include community college programs and Middle College.

But Carolyn Bynum, director of Germanna's Middle College, said the college is looking at tapping private donors.

"Germanna realizes we need to...pick up the ball and run with it to continue the program," she said.

Since 2004, 184 students have enrolled in Germanna's program.

Of those, 60 percent earned GEDs, and 30 percent further enrolled at Germanna to obtain degrees.

Middle College also has a career-readiness certificate that hones students' job skills.

Students also participate in community service projects such as collecting goods for the area food bank.

*(continued, next page)*

Please submit items for publication to Cynthia Hill:

• [chill@gcc.vccs.edu](mailto:chill@gcc.vccs.edu)  
- electronic submission, PREFERRED;

— OR —

• LGC mailbox - please include your name as the source should there be questions pertaining to your submittal.

# Germanna partners with local high schools

## Schools prepare for tech careers

(The Free Lance-Star, 5 January 2008)

Six programs, including one in Stafford County, have been chosen to receive funding as Virginia's first public career and technical academies.

Stafford plans to use the \$120,000 grant to start academies at Stafford, North Stafford and Brooke Point high schools. It's the first phase of a plan officials hope will lead to a high-tech career and technical education center.

"The academies will prepare young men and women for rewarding careers while ensuring that communities have the highly skilled workers necessary to compete in the global economy," Gov. Tim Kaine said yesterday in a news release.

The academies will be partnerships among school divisions, private companies, business organizations, colleges and universities and will build on existing programs at the high school and post-secondary levels.

Each academy will get a \$20,000 planning grant, followed by \$100,000, after the state Board of Education and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia approve their programs. The National Governors Association's (NGA) Center for Best Practices provided the funding through a \$500,000 grant to boost science, technology, engineering and math education.

This fall, Stafford plans to introduce two academies: one at Stafford (focusing on computer-integrated manufacturing) and one at North Stafford (focusing on architectural engineering). An information technology academy at Brooke Point is planned for next year. Future academies are planned for Colonial Forge and Mountain View high schools.

The first three academies will serve up to 60 students, or 20 per class. Eventually, some will offer courses such as digital electronics, bio-technical engineering and aerospace engineering.

Stafford plans to partner with *Germanna Community College* and several local corporations, including Mary Washington Hospital and GEICO. All academy students will be required to complete a student-development course at *Germanna*.

Kaine spokesman Gordon Hickey has previously said that the governor decided to use the NGA money for the academies after business leaders expressed their need for a more skilled work force.

The state also is providing funding for the academies from federal Workforce Investment Act money, Kaine's office said.

## Specialty schools

(Culpeper Star-Exponent, 15 December 2007)

When Eastern View High School opens its doors next fall, half of the current Culpeper County High School student population is expected to go there.

And that goes for some of the elective programs, too.

Culpeper County High School will provide all agriculture education classes, culinary arts and building trades programs.

At Eastern View High School, students have the option of taking broadcasting, early childhood education, electronics, Marine Corp junior reserve officer training corps and nursing courses.

All students, regardless of their home school, will have the opportunity to take career and technical classes at the other school.

Other single location programs that haven't been determined include automotive technology (through *Germanna Community College*), cosmetology, (through Culpeper Human Services) and alternative education (a school-day program).

## GEICO donation helps culinary arts program

(The Free Lance-Star, 5 January 2008)

Thanks to thousands of dollars worth of donated equipment from GEICO, the George Washington Carver-Piedmont Technical School's culinary-arts program is one step closer to becoming a reality.

Carver, hopes to offer culinary-arts classes by fall.

The school also hopes to partner with *Germanna Community College* to expand the initial culinary-arts program into a hotel and restaurant management course by 2009, according to co-directors Shields and Ramon Serrato.

David Pottle, a well-known chef in Culpeper and Fauquier counties who will teach the class, said he has held talks with *Germanna* officials who like the idea.

"We could teach students how to run an operation from the kitchen to the front tables," Pottle said.

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## Middle College

(continued from page 1)

"We're looking at building a well-rounded person," Bynum said.

As well as finding ways to raise money for the program, Bynum is looking for improvements.

Keeping track of graduates, for example, is a job suited for a full-time employee, she said.

Currently, Bynum talks to some graduates but doesn't have time [to track] everyone. Students who partially complete their GEDs are especially hard to track, she said.

Of the 184 students enrolled since 2004, 40 have partially completed their GEDs. "It's hard to recapture those students because they [often become] discouraged," Bynum said.

Aside from a few success stories Bynum learned of after talking to students, it is unclear how well they do after the program.

Pablo Arana, of Spotsylvania County, is one success.

He immigrated from Belize and was told he needed three years of high school education in the U.S. to graduate. He was an 18-year-old in the tenth grade and opted to earn his GED at *Germanna's Middle College* instead.

Now, he's working toward a liberal arts degree at *Germanna* and maintains a 3.3 grade point average.

"If it wasn't for them helping me out, I doubt I would've been where I am now," Arana said.

Source: The Free Lance-Star  
4 January 2008

Related story: "Bridge to tomorrow," next page

## Bridge to tomorrow

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less travelled by,  
and that has made all the difference.*  
—“The Road Not Taken”  
by Robert Frost

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: That's the point of the Middle College program of the Virginia Community College System. Heretofore, the well-trodden path taken by high school dropouts has too frequently led to welfare dependency, to chronic underemployment, to a loss of potential, and, in some cases, to despair. Middle College tries to change that.

The program targets young people ages 18 to 24 who have neither a high-school diploma nor a GED.

By providing counseling, classes, personal attention, and workplace readiness training, Middle College helps young people obtain their GEDs

*Every high school dropout who finds a second chance in the Middle College is a life recaptured, a productive citizen in the making.*

and go on to postsecondary learning.

By the time they reach Middle College, these former dropouts are often ready for a change. They've tried the low-paying jobs, tried making it without an education. The realities of life have hit them smack in the face; finding that there's hope for a better future is a huge relief. “I thought I had screwed this up forever” is a typical response to the hope discovered once a student finds the Middle College program, says the VCCS's director of educational career transitional programs, Gloria Westerman. A survey of 505 students who remained with the program after one month found that 468 went on to obtain their GEDs; more than

50 percent of those who earn GEDs eventually go on to postsecondary education.

One young Richmond woman known to Ms. Westerman is a case in point. The high-school dropout, mother of three children, entered the Middle College program at J. Sargeant

Reynolds Community College. She earned her GED, went on to postsecondary work, and now has a full-time job with benefits. “I'm the first one in my family whose children have a pediatrician,” the young woman, overjoyed at the level of care she now can provide, told program staffers. “My three kids will not drop out.”

Her comments prompt Ms. Westerman to note that ***Middle College “is [having] a generational impact.” Not only is the program helping current students—it will help their children aim higher and achieve more.***

Carolyn Bynum, director of the Middle College program at Germanna, says that about 190 young people have enrolled since the program began in 2004.

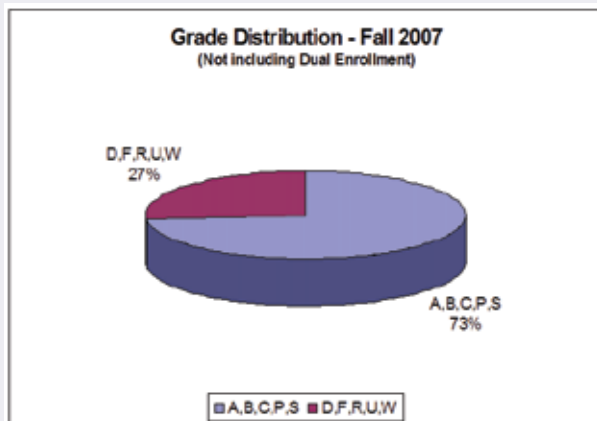
Staffers work with those young people to help them establish goals, see beyond their GEDs, and find a path to a sustainable future.

Ms. Bynum notes that funds to support the existing program and possibly expand it are in Gov. Kaine's budget.

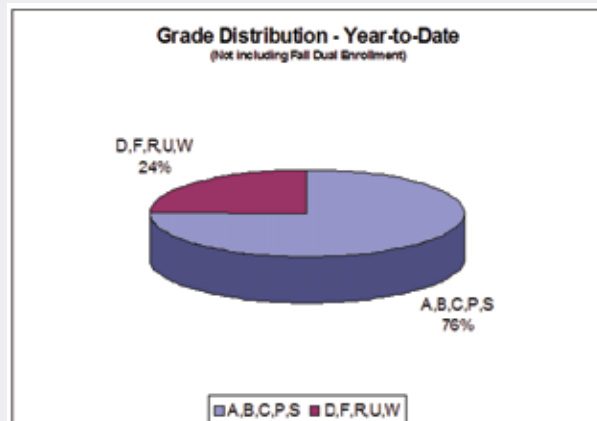
Certainly the Middle College program costs money, but the hope it provides is priceless.

Source: *The Free Lance-Star*  
13 January 2008

## College Success: Benchmark #2 - Student Success



Fall 2007 grades almost met the criteria for the College-wide bonus (75% of students will successfully complete their course with an A, B, C, P, or S). However, this data is incomplete until all dual enrollment grades have been entered.



Fall and summer combined passing grades meet the criteria for the College-wide bonus.

Source: Ashley Finelli

# Germanna growth rate is fastest in Virginia

According to a report by the Virginia Community College System, Germanna Community College has the fastest growth rate of the state's 23 community colleges.

Germanna's enrollment increased by 14.2 percent in fall 2007 compared with fall 2006 enrollment. New River Community College in Dublin followed with a 13.6-percent increase, and John Tyler Community College ranked third with a 12.8 percent increase.

By sheer numbers, Northern Virginia Community College is the fastest-growing school, with an increase of more than 3,000 students this fall.

Statewide, student enrollment in community colleges increased by 7,973 students, or 5 percent, according to the report, bringing the total to 167,175.

A Germanna spokesman said the rapid increase is due to population growth. Germanna serves more than 6,000 students and is discussing opening a center in Stafford County.

Gov. Tim Kaine proposed a higher-education bond package last week that includes \$23 million for a third building at Germanna's campus in the Massaponax area.

*Source: The Free Lance-Star  
22 December 2007*

## State budget news

On December 17, 2007, Governor Kaine presented his 2008-10 biennial budget to the General Assembly money committees. The operating budget proposal continues the 5% budget reduction from Fiscal Year 2007-08 but provides an additional 2% in new general fund appropriations each year. Additionally, new appropriations are earmarked for Middle College, Career Coaches, the Community College Transfer Grant, and

student financial aid. Funding for the equipment trust fund program has been continued as well. Unfortunately, the Governor has not proposed any additional funds for campus safety and security or for operating costs of new buildings scheduled to be completed. The Governor is proposing one faculty and staff pay increase for the biennium. The 3% increase would be effective July 1, 2009.

The Governor's budget proposal is one that the House of Delegates and the Senate will consider; however, both the Senate Finance and the House Appropriations committees will also propose budget bills. The ultimate budget bill passed by the General Assembly will certainly differ from the Governor's, but it is too early to determine in which areas it will differ. We will continue to provide updates on the progress of the budget and other relevant legislation as the General Assembly session progresses.

*Source: Rick Brehm*

## State general obligation bonds

On December 13, Governor Kaine announced a proposal for funding higher education construction costs with a \$1.65 billion general obligation bond package. The General Obligation Bond package must be passed by the General Assembly and would then be considered by voters in a general referendum on Election Day in November 2008.

The Governor considers this an investment in higher education by focusing on new construction and renovation projects that will primarily focus on workforce development, enhancing capacity, retaining students, research and providing modern facilities for areas with demonstrated needs such as education, engineering, nursing, business, and the sciences. Many in the General Assembly are supportive of the proposal as an economic development tool to help revitalize the Commonwealth's economy.

The VCCS has 59 projects worth a total of \$338.9 million in the

GOB proposal including two Germanna projects. One project, the third academic building on the Fredericksburg Area Campus in Spotsylvania County is the thirteenth highest VCCS priority and is projected to cost \$28.4 million. The second project is for a maintenance building, also at FAC, and is the forty-third highest project with an anticipated cost of \$1.4 million. Funding for the projects, if the GOB is passed, would likely be appropriated in late spring or early summer 2010. Typically, it takes about a year for the State oversight agencies to approve construction plans and solicit contractors and about two years to construct the facility. We anticipate the academic building would be ready for occupancy for the summer or fall 2013 classes if these timelines continue to hold true.

While it appears the General Assembly supports a bond referendum, the details of the Governor's proposed package may very well change during the legislative process. We will keep you informed of this bill's progress throughout the General Assembly session.

*Source: Rick Brehm*

### Mileage rate change

Effective January 1, the mileage reimbursement rate changed from \$0.485 to \$0.505. The convenience rate will stay the same at \$0.246.

Please remember that to receive the \$0.505 rate for reimbursement, a state vehicle must not be available or accessible and the trip calculator must show that use of a personal vehicle is more cost effective compared to renting a vehicle through Enterprise. The vehicle request form and a printout of the completed trip calculator must be attached to the travel reimbursement voucher. All forms, including the trip calculator, at located at S:\Public\Business Office\Travel. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

*Source: Melissa Sloan*

# Welcome

**Joan Alfasi**, evening test proctor, LGC Testing Center. Joan previously worked at Marymount University in Arlington, in a high school environment, and for the IRS. She has a Bachelor of Arts, English (Cum Laude) from St. Joseph's College in Patchogue, NY, with a minor in Business and Journalism.

Source: Jody Holladay

**Lynn Enders**, Purchasing Assistant, located at LGC, comes to us with a background in graphic design and interior design with related purchasing experience. She has an AAS from NOVA in Interior Design and a BA from American University in Graphic Art. She lives in Spotsylvania and is married with five children.

**Debra Wander**, Receptionist/Cashier, LGC, was previously a receptionist with Spotsylvania County Schools, and she has an AAS from Germanna Community College. She lives in Spotsylvania with her husband and two children and they are all equestrian enthusiasts.

Source: Suzanne Swinson

# CEED Awards

Congratulations and thanks to those who worked on GCC's applications for the Chancellor's E-Learning Enhancement and Development (CEED) grants.

Three of Germanna's proposals were funded—one individually, and two in partnership with other community colleges:

- “**Student Development for Online Learners**” (\$12,712);
- “**VA Foreign Language Classroom Online**” (\$6,000, in partnership with NOVA and SWVCC); and
- “**Teaching Online Project (TOP)**” (\$17,726, in partnership with NOVA, SWVCC, TNCC, and eight other participants).

Source: David Sam



Germanna's Center for Workforce & Community Education, in cooperation with the Virginia Institute of Government, Cooper Center for Public Service, and the University of Virginia, is again offering Local Government Academy classes for the Spring 2008 semester.

All classes will be held at the Fredericksburg Area Campus in Spotsylvania. Topics include: Spanish for City and County Government; Communication and Conflict; Determining Your Personal Code of Ethics; Finding a Work/Life Balance; Continuous Improvement; Open Records, Open Meetings and Other FOIA Requirements; Project Management Fundamentals; Strategic Planning; and Good to Great! **View this link for a detailed brochure.**

“Good to Great!” may be of particular interest. It's scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; is suitable for those in supervisory and leadership roles; and helps to create corporate and organizational solutions and cultures of discipline.

Although the LGA classes are billed as a series for local government employees, many are suitable for state, federal, and public school personnel.

Germanna employees may register at no cost if the class is work related and the employee has approval from his or her supervisor.

Please register at least a week in advance to reserve your seats through the Workforce office at 540-891-3012.

Source: Leigh Morris

# Congratulations

**Alice Doeppe**, Instructor of Nursing, is the recipient of a \$20,000 scholarship award to complete her studies toward the Master of Science in Nursing at George Mason University. Ms. Doeppe is a recipient of a limited number of scholarships which were made available by the Virginia legislature in 2007. She has been teaching in the Nursing department for three years and is a graduate of the GCC associate degree nursing program.

Source: Jane Ingalls

**James Price** has been hired as the new IST Instructional Assistant within Tutoring Services. James is a Germanna graduate and is currently a student at the University of Mary Washington. Following his graduation from UMW, he plans to continue his education at the James Monroe Center with an MS in Management Information Systems.

James has worked in Tutoring Services for the past two years as an IST, math, chemistry, economics, and accounting tutor. In addition to individual instructional sessions, James will conduct computer competency workshops and basic PC skills mini courses at FAC and LGC this semester.

Source: Ann Lyons

**Angela Sawyer** accepted the Dual Enrollment/Veterans Affairs position in the Admissions and Records Office. She will assist with Dual Enrollment schools in the eastern region and will manage the Veterans program for the college. Previously, Angela was the part-time Enrollment Services Specialist. We are fortunate to now have her on a full-time basis.

Source: Rita Dunston

**Noncredit  
 Course Offerings:**

**Tradesmen Classes** - This spring Germanna is offering four courses which allow electricians, plumbers, HVAC mechanics, and gas pipe fitters to become recertified. Classes are being offered at both Culpeper and Fredericksburg. The classes are proving to be quite popular. More classes will be offered throughout the year. So, if you know of a tradesman who needs to be recertified, they can do so at either of our convenient locations.

**Administrative Assistants** - Germanna's Workforce group has created a noncredit certificate for those wishing to expand their capabilities as an administrative assistant. The courses focus on computer, communication, and organization skills. The courses can be taken at either Culpeper or Fredericksburg.

**Manufacturing** - Germanna continues to develop our Industrial Maintenance program which will be offered this fall. In the meantime, Germanna's Workforce group is offering several classes for those in manufacturing. Classes include Statistical Process Control, Lean Manufacturing, Quality Control, and ISO auditor training.

**Farrier** - Germanna is very pleased to be the first community college in the state to offer a Farrier program. If you, or someone you know, would

like to become a journeyman farrier, then this is the program for you. Classes will be held at Eagle Hill Equine Rescue Farm. These classes are open to everyone but are limited to 20 students per class, so we encourage you to sign up soon.

**Governor Kaine's Executive Order 61:** On January 4, Gov. Kaine issued Executive Order 61 transferring funds for the Workforce Investment Act from the Virginia Employment Commission to the State Community College System.

Details and logistics of this change are still being worked on at this time. However, we do know that the Governor is asking the community colleges to form regional workforce networks to address the workforce needs of our region.

This will include a greater involvement with the One-Stop centers in our region. This change is in line with the goals of Governor Kaine's Workforce Development Plan which states:

"Create substantial structural reform through consolidations to reduce administrative costs and streamline and integrate workforce policy and services for business, workers, and job seekers" and "Respond to long-range talent and skill forecasts as well as emergent near-term market and business needs."

*Source: Russell James*



**WOW meeting  
 schedule**

Windows of the World (WOW) is a group of Americans and individuals from other countries who are interested in meeting to exchange ideas and views on global issues. The group will meet the following Sundays from 3 to 6 p.m. in Room 225 at the Fredericksburg Area Campus in Spotsylvania:

**Jan. 27:** Hilal Shah will discuss the culture of Pakistan

**Feb. 24:** Sarah Lyons and Ann Lyons - "A Japanese Adventure"

**Mar. 30:** Rebecca Adamson will discuss the "First Peoples Worldwide Group"

**Apr. 27:** Aseel Ross will discuss her home country of Jordan

All participants are asked to bring a dish or nonalcoholic beverage to share with others.

Please contact Dr. Gayle Wolfe for more information (540-891-3057 or 540-371-8946 or [gwolfe@germanna.edu](mailto:gwolfe@germanna.edu)).

*Source: Gayle Wolfe*

**Taking dual enrollment classes in high school saves time, money**



Nicole Caine, pictured at left, earned fourteen Germanna Community College credits last year as a senior at Stafford High School. The credits transferred to West Chester University of Pennsylvania, where she's majoring in computer science.

As a senior, Nicole took two biology classes, receiving four credits for each, and two English classes, earning three credits for each.

"You can earn credits fast," said Nicole's mother, Jacqui Caine.

"And what really thrilled me," she said, is that the credits transferred to an out of state school."

Melissa Nix of *The Free Lance-Star* writes:

...most say they prefer the dual-enrolled courses to Advanced Placement classes.

"With AP, you have to pass the test to get the credit, and if you don't, you do all the work for nothing," said Stacy Griffith, 17.

With dual enrollment, if students maintain a C or better throughout the course, they

are automatically awarded a number of college credits. Depending on the course, students can earn six, eight or ten credits at year's end.

Some area students are walking out of high school and into their first year of college with twenty or more credits in their pocket. The credits transfer to all of Virginia's community colleges and to many colleges and universities across the country, said Canice Graziano, Germanna's dual enrollment coordinator.

*Source: Michael Zitz Beckham*