

## Richard Bland College: Creating Pathways to Prosperity Since 1961

A Presentation to the Virginia State Council of Higher Education

#### PRESIDENT'S REMARKS



## DR. DEBBIE SYDOW

President



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE



#### General Assembly Establishes Richard Bland College

RBC becomes a "separate college under the supervision, management, and control [of the W&M] Board," which governs the Colleges of W&M 1966



General Assembly
Establishes Virginia
Community College System
"to create a new approach to
providing educational opportunity."

1971

Norris v State Council for Higher Education (SCHEV)

U.S. District Court injunction blocks escalation to a four-year college, claiming it would "frustrate VSU efforts to desegregate."



Richard Bland College Resurrects Intercollegiate Athletics

A new college pathway for in -state student -athletes via NJCAA sports.
Two national championship titles won in less than a decade.

Appeal for Independent Governance

RBC seeks legislative approval for the appointment of a new governing board to advance a new model for higher education.

1960

1962

1966

1969

971

800

2014

2022

2023

1962



General Assembly
Dissolves W&M System
RPI (now VCU) and Norfolk College (now
ODU) gain independence. Christopher
Newport College (now CNU) gained
independence in 1977

1969 11 4-YEAR

General Assembly Approves RBC's "Escalation" to Become a Four-year College

Approved to broaden programming to include upper -level baccalaureate degrees, including BA and BS.



Richard Bland College Opens Residence Halls

To support its university -parallel, transfer mission, Richard Bland becomes the state's only residential two -year college

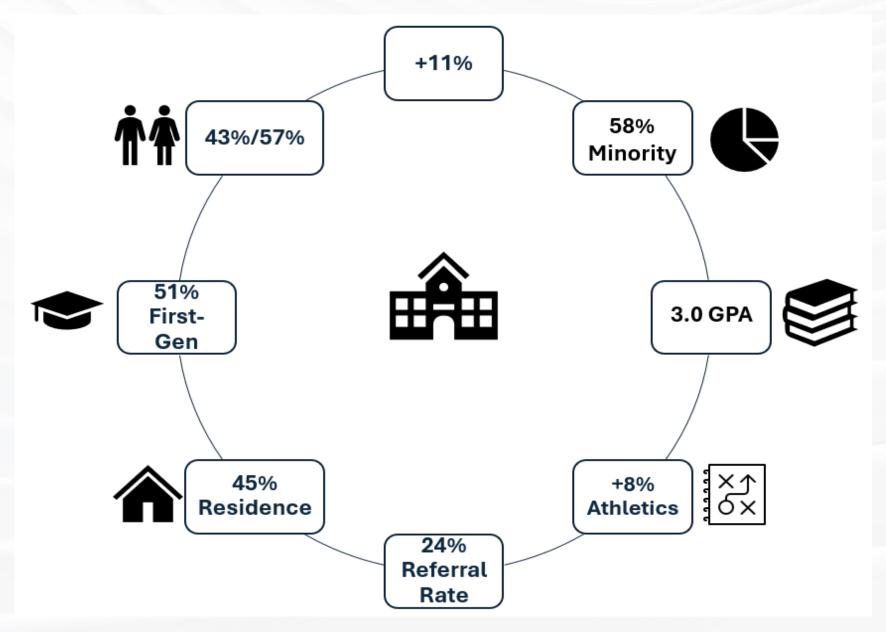


#### DroneUp Opens UAS Flight Academy at RBC

In addition to its 16 advanced manufacturing partners (FAME) that provide "earn and learn" apprenticeships, RBC and DroneUp partner to open a drone flight academy. In addition, 150 acres are set aside as a Business Innovation Park.

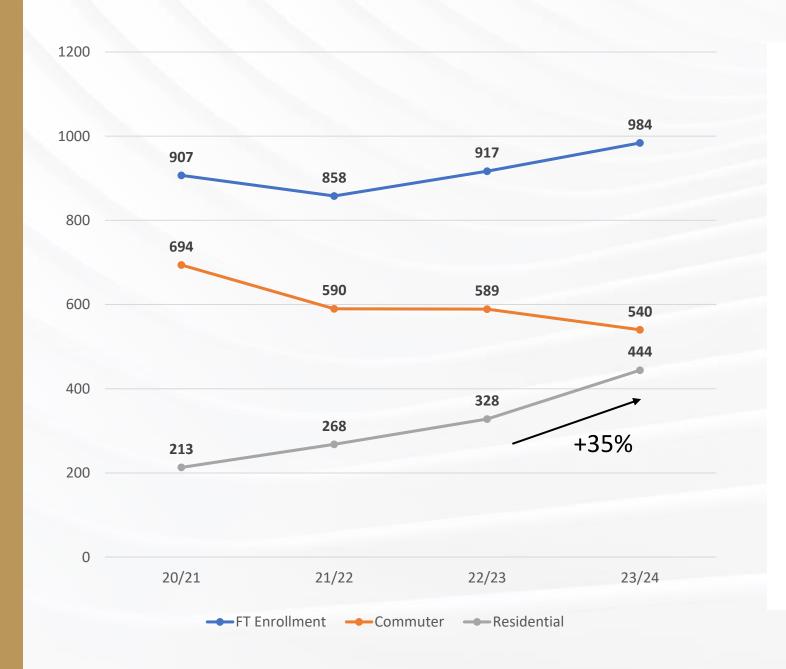


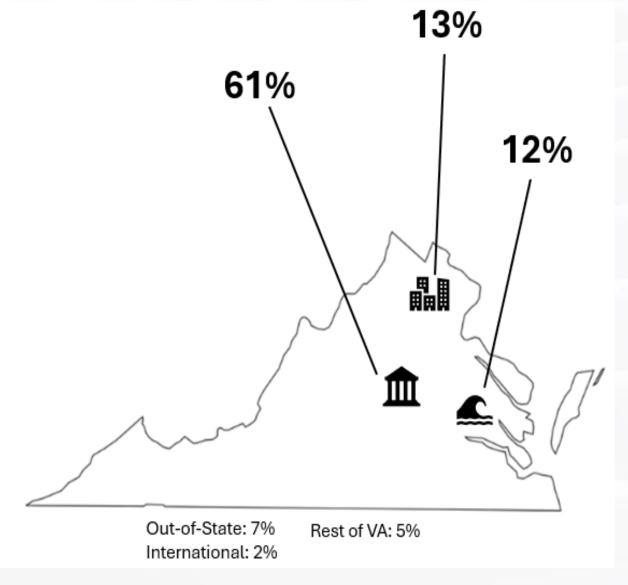
#### FALL 2024 INCOMING CLASS





#### FULL-TIME TOTAL ENROLLMENT

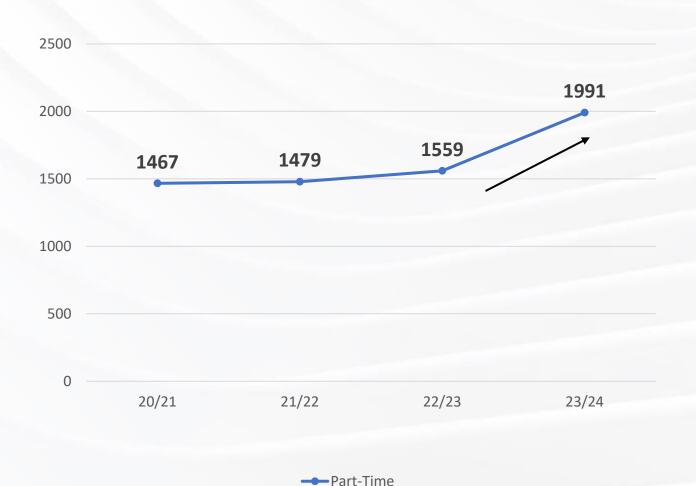






#### PART-TIME TOTAL ENROLLMENT





- 27 Partners
- AS Degree Attainment
- Increase pass-through
- Expansion



# **Spring 2025 Enrollment Update**

12,233

**Credit Hours** 

17.25% increase from Spring 2024

882

**Total Headcount** 

10.81% growth over previous year

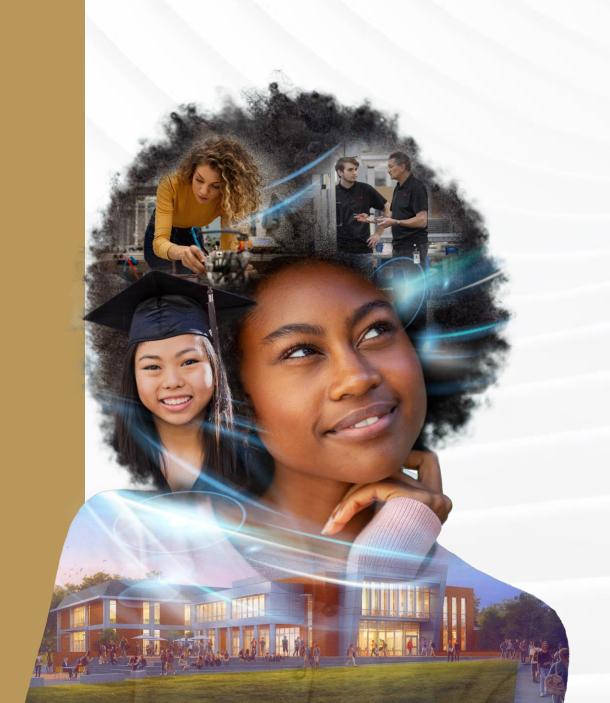
94.5%

**Housing Retention** 

Students returning to campus housing

Our diverse student body includes 470 new students, 263 continuing, 54 from MC/HSC, 67 transfer students, 28 Readmitted students.

#### UNIVERSITY PARALLEL



**ADVANCE (Academics)** 

**CONNECT (University Center)** 

**ELEVATE (Dual Enrollment)** 

**THRIVE (Statesman Athletics)** 

**BELONG (Student Life)** 



## RBC ADVANCE | University-Parallel Experience







#### **Academic Excellence**

RBC curriculum mirrors years 1 and 2 at university, providing a rigorous curriculum PLUS plus extensive scaffolding to ensure student success.

#### **Research Opportunities**

Students engage in hands-on research projects, working alongside faculty and staff.

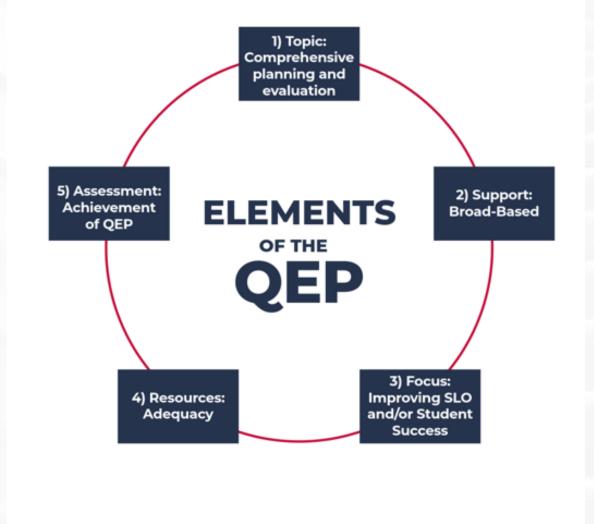
#### **Career Preparation**

Internships, networking events, and career counseling services help students transition smoothly into the professional world.



#### QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN (QEP)

#### **RBC's QEP on Critical Thinking**



- The overwhelming majority of students are meeting or exceeding proficiency in the course learning outcomes most associated with critical thinking.
- More than 80% of students agree that they are given significant meaningful opportunities to develop and demonstrate their critical thinking skills.
- More than 90% of faculty agree that the fiveyear focus on critical thinking has made them more mindful of how they address and assess higher order thinking skills in their teaching.





## **RBC ADVANCE: AIC | Innovative Learning Spaces**



#### **Collaborative Zones**

Designed for group projects, fostering collaboration and teamwork.



#### **Tech-Enhanced Classrooms**|**Labs**

Cutting-edge technology for interactive learning, one-button studios, eSports arenas.



#### **Green Spaces**

Outdoor study areas promote well-being.



## **RBC ADVANCE** | University-College

**EARN A 4-YEAR DEGREE at VSU or VWU WHILE AT RBC** 

**PATHWAYS TO WILLIAM & MARY** 

TRADITIONAL TRANSFER OPPORTUNITIES

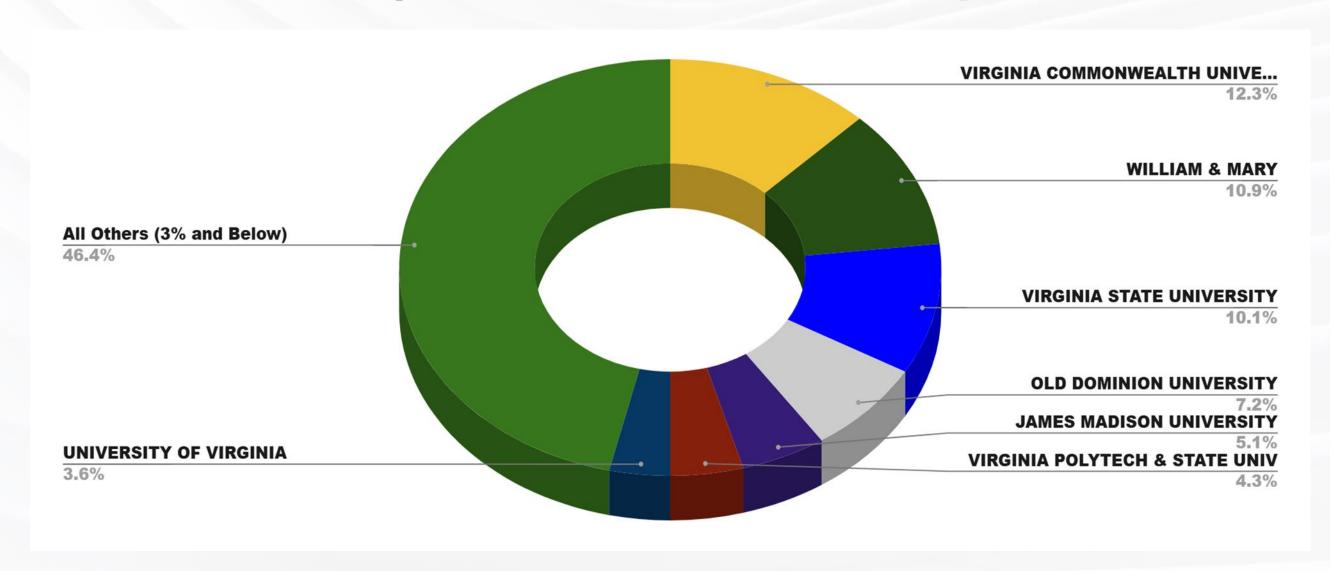
TRANSFER SCHOLARS NETWORK





#### TRANSFORMING HIGHER ED

## **RBC ADVANCE** | RBC 2024 Graduates' Top Transfer Schools





# RBC ELEVATE | Dual Enrollment Degrees

RBC's unique DE program provides three options for students to earn college credit while still in high school, leading to a smooth transition to full-time university studies and an accelerated path to degree completion, saving both time and money.

#### High School | Virtual | RBC

Students begin earning college credits while completing their high school diploma at their high school, virtually, or at RBC.

#### Transition

Seamless transfer to full-time university studies as a junior ... or with a head start on credits.

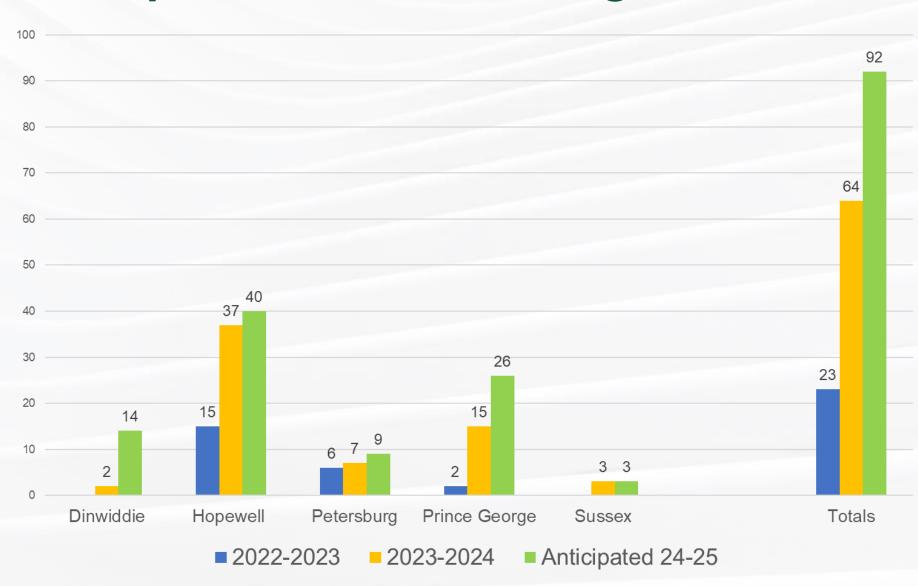
#### University

Accelerated path to degree completion, saving time and reducing tuition costs.



#### TRANSFORMING HIGHER ED

## **RBC ELEVATE** | Dual Enrollment Degrees



## **RBC THRIVE | Athletics**

#### **New Sports Programs**

Introducing exciting new varsity and intramural sports to cater to diverse interests.

#### **State-of-the-Art Facilities**

Investing in modern training facilities and arenas for enhanced athlete performance.

#### **Scholarship Opportunities**

Increasing athletic scholarships to attract top talent and support student-athletes.



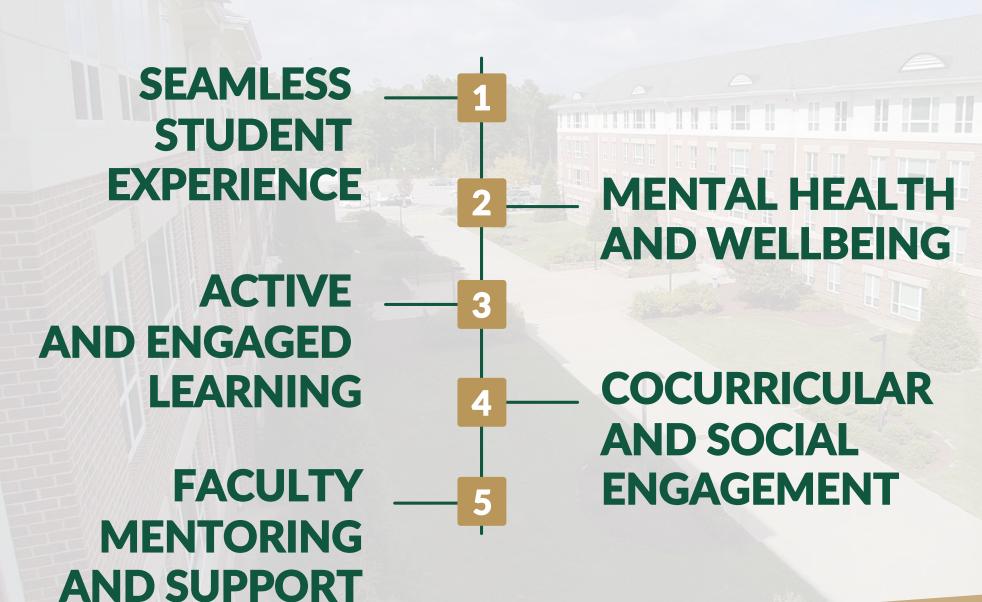
#### TRANSFORMING HIGHER ED

## **RBC THRIVE** | More Sports and Student-Athletes



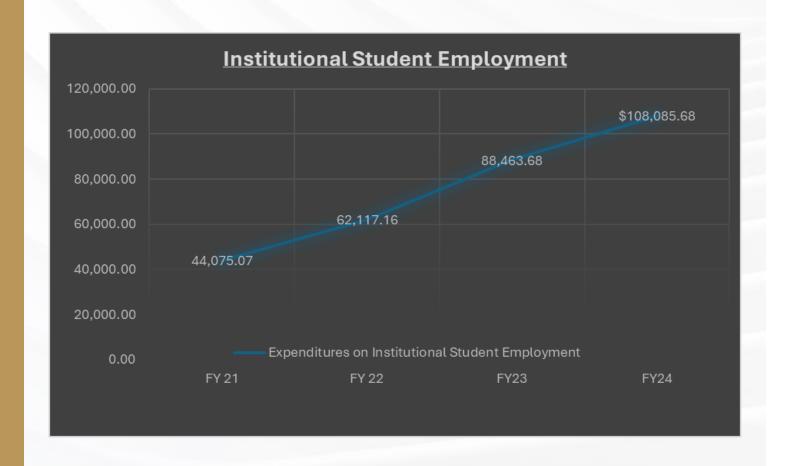


## **RBC BELONG** | Residential Life and Housing





#### MEANINGFUL WORK EXPERIENCES



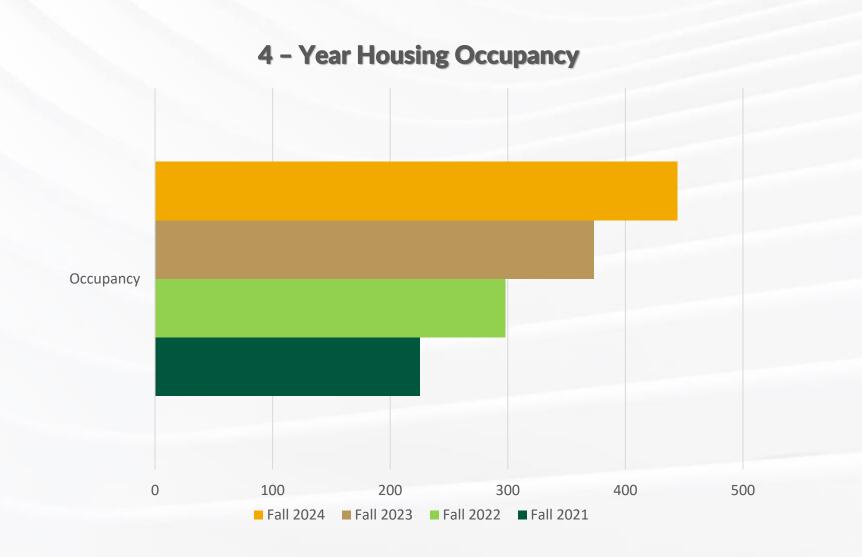
#### **NACE Competencies**





#### TRANSFORMING HIGHER ED

## **RBC BELONG** | Residence Life and Housing







### SIX YEAR PLAN UPDATE

Anticipation of independent board governance

Prioritization of Level Two authority for IT and procurement

Continued Expansion of Student-Work program



#### (PFO) Wetland 15.2 +/- ac Preserve Development Area 27.8 +/- ac Development Area RICHAR BLAND ELEVATED (ATER TALK 14.4 +/- ac Development Area Developmen (1844) Lot7 Development Are (PFO) Wetland Preserve POTENTIAL FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AREA EXISTING RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE CAMPUS CARSON DR

## RBC EXPANDS | Innovation Park

INNOVATION P A R K

RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY

(PFO) Wetland Preserve

#### VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS



## DR. KIMBERLY BOYD

Vice President and Chief Research & Innovation Officer



#### REACH PROJECT

# **Underrepresented and Underserved** (Rural) Student Success Initiative



Create a new virtual mobile marketing and communication guided pathway to reach 1st generation and non-traditional adult learners. "WE come to you."

Conduct outcome mapping to improve student <u>persistence and completion</u> rates to assist with reporting, analysis, qualitative and quantitative outcomes.

Enhanced outreach and engagement component focused on diversity, research and inclusion. Provide industry touchpoints linked with academic offerings and careers

SCHEV funding - \$4.4 (scholarships, student paid work experiences, internships)

USDA DLT funding - \$1 (Bon Secours, Ferrum College, 3 Rural Schools)



#### QUESTIONS?







# Thank you